

**CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
June 5, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith Presiding

Present: Council Member Patrick J. Hickey
Council Member Clifford G. Olney III
Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce
Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero
Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

Also Present: Kenneth A. Mix, City Manager
Justin Miller, Esq. Harris Beach PLLC, Interim City Attorney (via
videoconference)

City staff present: James Mills, Patrick Keenan, Scott Weller, Logan Eddy

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 17 - Approving 2023-24 Operating Budgets, City of Watertown, New York
- Resolution No. 18 - Establishing Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2023-24
- Resolution No. 19 - Approving 2023-24 through 2027-28 Capital Program Budget, City of Watertown, New York
- Resolution No. 20 - Establishing Annual City Fees and Charges Schedule
- Resolution No. 21 - Adopting the Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees for Fiscal Year 2023-24
- Ordinance No. 1 - Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, §301-17 Water Rates and Charges, §301-19 Fire Service Charges and §301-28 Bulk Water Charges
- Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2023 - A Local Law amending Sections 253-17 Of the City of Watertown Code of the City of Watertown

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Mayor Smith opened the adjourned meeting from May 15, 2023.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 17 - Approving 2023-24 Operating Budgets, City of Watertown, New York

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York has met and considered the Proposed Budget for the City of Watertown for Fiscal Year 2023-24 and it has conducted public hearings on the Proposed Budget and has determined that revenues and appropriations for the several funds in the Budget for 2023-24 will be amended as indicated in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Detail of Changes in Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance Appropriations to the Proposed Budgets, which detail is attached and made a part of this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York that it hereby adopts the Budget for the City Government for Fiscal Year 2023-24 in the total amount of \$74,910,999 of which in the General Fund \$42,422,137 is to be raised by estimated revenues

other than real property taxes, \$2,095,077 is to be appropriated from fund balance, \$4,459 is to be appropriated from the sidewalk program reserve, \$11,400 from the debt reserve, \$20,089 is estimated to be received from omitted taxes and \$9,882,928 is to be raised by the real property tax levy. In adopting the Budget, the City Council hereby appropriates \$74,910,999 for all operating funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in adopting the Budget, the City Council hereby appropriates \$10,750,375 for all reserve funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in adopting the Budget, the City Council approves the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Detail of Changes in Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance Appropriations to the Proposed Budgets, which is attached and made a part of this resolution.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 18 - Establishing Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York has adopted the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 to be in the amount of \$54,436,090, and of this amount \$9,882,928 is to be raised by taxes on real estate and \$20,089 is to be collected in omitted City taxes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the tax on real estate in the amount of \$9,903,017 is hereby levied and the rate to produce \$9,882,928 of this levy is hereby established at \$8.7871 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, and the remaining \$20,089 is to be collected in omitted taxes.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 19 - Approving 2023-24 through 2027-28 Capital Program Budget, City of Watertown, New York

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York has met and considered the Proposed Budget for the City of Watertown for Fiscal Year 2023-24, including the Proposed Capital Program for the years 2023-24 through 2027-28 and has conducted public hearings on the Proposed Capital Program Budget, and has determined that the projects as listed in the Proposed Capital Program shall constitute the Capital Program Budget with the exception of any changes referenced herein this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York hereby adopts the Capital Program Budget for the years 2023-24 through 2027-28.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 20 - Establishing Annual City Fees and Charges Schedule

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS City Council established a City Fees and Charges Schedule for the City of Watertown, as authorized by Local Law No. 2 of 2016, and

WHEREAS Local Law No. 2 of 2016 requires that the “City Fees and Charges Schedule” be established at least annually by the City Council of the City of Watertown through a budget resolution, and

WHEREAS through budget deliberations, fees being collected by the City have been reviewed for the FY 2023-2024 and is reflected in the City Fees and Charges Schedule,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby adopts the City Fees and Charges Schedule attached and made a part of this Resolution for FY 2023-2024.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Olney indicated that he was contacted by an individual with disabled children and wondered if there would be a discount for disabled children using the pool.

Mr. Mix explained that typically the only differential in fees were for City and non-City residents.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 21 - Adopting the Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Council has held budget meetings to review the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget and approves a 3.75% increase to the current Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby adopts the Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees chart that is attached and made part of this resolution, effective July 1, 2023, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to start individual employees at the step he/she determines to be appropriate at the time of hire.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 - Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, §301-17 Water Rates and Charges, §301-19 Fire Service Charges and §301-28 Bulk Water Charges

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council that Chapter 301 of the Code of the City of Watertown is hereby amended by deleting Sections 301-17 (A), (B), (D), (E) and (H), Sections 301-19 and Sections 301-28 and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the City Council that the Code of the City of Watertown, Chapter 301 is hereby amended by adding thereto new Sections 301-17 (A), (B), (D), (E) and (H), Section 301-19 and Section 301-28 as follows:

301-17. Water Rates and Charges.

The rate for both domestic and industrial metered water within the City of Watertown shall be as follows:

A. Meter rates:

(1) Quarterly meter rates

<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rate [(per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons))]</u>
First 1,200 cubic feet (8,976 gallons)	\$ 45.02 per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons)
Over 1,200 cubic feet (8,976 gallons)	\$ 30.43 per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons)

(2) Monthly meter rates

<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rate [(per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons))]</u>
First 400 cubic feet (2,992 gallons)	\$ 45.02 per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons)
Over 400 cubic feet (2,992 gallons)	\$ 30.43 per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons)

B. Minimum charge for City use:

(1) Quarterly charge for City use

<u>Meter Size (inches)</u>	<u>Cubic Feet</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Minimum Charge</u>
5/8	900	6,732	\$ 40.51
3/4	1,500	11,220	63.15
1	2,700	20,196	99.65
1 1/2	5,100	38,148	172.66
2	8,400	62,832	273.05
3	15,900	118,932	501.20
4	26,400	197,472	820.60
6	51,900	388,212	1,596.31
8	84,000	628,320	2,572.79
10	120,000	897,600	3,667.90

(2) Monthly charge for City use

<u>Meter Size (inches)</u>	<u>Cubic Feet</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Minimum Charge</u>
5/8	300	2,244	\$ 13.50
3/4	500	3,740	21.05
1	900	6,732	33.22
1 1/2	1,700	12,716	57.55
2	2,800	20,944	91.01

3	5,300	39,644	167.07
4	8,800	65,824	273.54
6	17,300	129,404	532.11
8	28,000	209,440	857.60
10	40,000	299,200	1,222.64

- D. Where water is supplied to premises situated outside the City and not covered by contract, the rates for both domestic and industrial metered water shall be as follows:

<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rate [(per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons))]</u>
First 1,200 cubic feet (8,976 gallons)	\$ 54.02 per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons)
Over 1,200 cubic feet (8,976 gallons)	\$ 36.52 per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons)

- E. Minimum Charge Quarterly for outside City use:

<u>Meter Size (inches)</u>	<u>Cubic Feet</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Minimum Charge</u>
5/8	900	6,732	\$ 48.62
3/4	1,500	11,220	75.79
1	2,700	20,196	119.58
1 1/2	5,100	38,148	207.20
2	8,400	62,832	327.67
3	15,900	118,932	601.40
4	26,400	197,472	984.72
6	51,900	388,212	1,915.57
8	84,000	628,320	3,087.35
10	120,000	897,600	4,401.47

- H. Partial tax exemption rates:

- (1) For those customers who qualify under the partial tax exemption for real property of aged persons and who reside within the City of Watertown, the quarterly basis on which they will be billed for water usage shall be the amount of water actually used by such a property owner. The rates set forth in §301-17A, B and C shall not apply to these property owners.
- (2) The rates set forth within this subsection shall only apply to that portion of a residence which is actually inhabited by the elderly property owner who qualifies for the partial tax exemption of real property. If other portions of the residence are occupied by nonqualified rate payers, they shall pay the standard City rates.
- (3) The rate structure for this subsection shall be as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Charge</u>
1	\$ 4.51
2	\$ 9.02
3	\$ 13.53
4	\$ 18.04
5	\$ 22.55

6	\$ 27.06
7	\$ 31.57
8	\$ 36.08

301-19. Fire Service Charges.

The charge for fire service pipes shall be as follows:

Monthly Charges		
<u>Size of Service (inches)</u>	<u>Inside City</u>	<u>Outside City</u>
2	\$ 4.06	\$ 8.12
3	\$ 8.23	\$ 16.46
4	\$ 11.86	\$ 23.72
6	\$ 23.87	\$ 47.74
8	\$ 35.72	\$ 71.43
10	\$ 47.72	\$ 95.44

301-28 Bulk water charges.

A. The charges for water obtained from the bulk fill station at the Water Treatment Plant, 1707 Huntington Street, or through fire hydrants, if proper permits have been obtained and authorization has been given by the Department for such use, or from any other authorized source within the City shall be as follows:

(1) Zero to 1,000 gallons: \$ 7.91

(2) For each additional 100 gallons or fractional portion thereof: \$0.79

B. There shall be a minimum charge of \$7.91 plus a service and processing fee of \$2.50 for each bill sent to a consumer or user of bulk water. Bills shall normally be sent once per month for each month in which water is obtained. Payment is due within 30 days from the date of the invoice. Failure to pay the outstanding balance within 30 days will result in termination of service. There shall be a fee of \$10 to reinstate the bulk-fill-station account after the outstanding balance has been paid in full.

And,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 2023, after it has been published once in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown, or as the City Manager directs.
Seconded by Council Member Patrick J. Hickey

Motion for unanimous consent moved by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Patrick J. Hickey and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing ordinance and carried with all voting yea except for Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith voting nay.

LOCAL LAW

Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2023 - A Local Law amending Sections 253-17 Of the City of Watertown Code of the City of Watertown

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

A Local Law to amend Section 253-17 of the City of Watertown Code of the City of Watertown.

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on this amendment on June 19, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. in the City Council Chambers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York that §253-17 of the City Code of the City of Watertown is modified to read as follows:

C. Rates.

(1) The basis for the normal sewer service charge shall be the volume of water consumed from the Public Water Supply System by the individual property owner. The rates for both domestic and industrial metered sewer service within the City of Watertown shall be as follows:

(a) Quarterly meter rates:

<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rate [(per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons))]</u>
First 1,200 cubic feet (8,976 gallons)	\$39.50 per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons)
Over 1,200 cubic feet (8,976 gallons)	\$23.05 per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons)

(b) Monthly meter rates:

<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rate [(per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons))]</u>
First 400 cubic feet (2,992 gallons)	\$39.50 per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons)
Over 400 cubic feet (2,992 gallons)	\$23.05 per 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons)

(c) Minimum charge for quarterly inside City use:

<u>Meter Size (inches)</u>	<u>Cubic Feet</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Minimum Charge</u>
5/8	900	6,732	\$ 35.55
3/4	1,500	11,220	54.32
1	2,700	20,196	81.97
1 1/2	5,100	38,148	137.27
2	8,400	62,832	213.30
3	15,900	118,932	386.13
4	26,400	197,472	628.07
6	51,900	388,212	1,215.65
8	84,000	628,320	1,955.31
10	120,000	897,600	2,784.83

(d) Minimum charge for monthly inside City use:

<u>Meter Size (inches)</u>	<u>Cubic Feet</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Minimum Charge</u>
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5/8	300	2,244	\$ 11.85
3/4	500	3,740	18.11
1	900	6,732	27.32
1 1/2	1,700	12,716	45.76
2	2,800	20,944	71.10
3	5,300	39,644	128.71
4	8,800	65,824	209.35
6	17,300	129,404	405.22
8	28,000	209,440	651.77
10	40,000	299,200	928.28

(2) Elderly Exemption

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Charge</u>
1	\$ 3.95
2	\$ 7.90
3	\$11.85
4	\$15.80
5	\$19.75
6	\$23.70
7	\$ 27.65
8	\$ 31.60

And,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the Sewer Service Charges shall be instituted with the sewer bills dated on or after July 1, 2023 and contained on all bills, and

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Local Law shall take effect immediately upon its being filed in the Office of the Secretary of State.

Seconded by Council Member Patrick J. Hickey

Motion was made by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing local law for Monday, June 19 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 6:40 p.m. by motion of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders
City Clerk