

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
October 20, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce Presiding

Present: Council Member Robert O. Kimball
Council Member Clifford G. Olney III
Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero
Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen
Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce

Also Present: Eric F. Wagenaar, City Manager
Kristen E. Smith, Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC, City Attorney

City staff present: Erica Anderson, James Mills, Michael Lumbis, Thomas Compo, Dana Aikins, Erica LeClerc, Scott Weller

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Appointing Jessica Henry to the Transportation Commission
- Resolution No. 2 - Appointing K. Colin Burns to the Board of Assessment
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena, Figure Skating Club of Watertown
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena, Watertown Minor Hockey Association
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grant Agreement with the Watertown Urban Mission for the 2025 Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grant Agreement with United Way of Northern New York for the 2025 Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program
- Resolution No. 7 - Adopting the Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 Annual Action Plan
- Resolution No. 8 - Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sub-Recipient Agreement with Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the 2025 Homebuyer Program
- Resolution No. 9 - Approving the Agreement Between the City of Watertown and Loomacres Wildlife Management to Establish and Administer a Winter Crow Roost Dispersal Program
- Resolution No. 10 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund Budgets to Eliminate and Add Certain Positions in the Police Department
- Resolution No. 11 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2024-25 General Fund, Risk Retention Fund, Tourism Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Library Fund and Self-funded Health Insurance Fund Budgets
- Resolution No. 12 - Accepting a Dental and Vision Proposal from Guardian for the 2026-2027 Plan Years
- Resolution No. 13 - Accepting a Proposal from UMR for Third-Party Administrative (TPA) Services of our Medical Plan for the 2026-2028 Plan Years
- Resolution No. 14 - Accepting a Pharmacy Proposal from ProAct for the 2026-2028 Plan Years
- Resolution No. 15 - Accepting an Ancillary Voluntary Coverage Proposal from Guardian

- Ordinance No. 1 - Amending the Code of the City of Watertown § 310: Zoning Article III – District Uses, Article VII – Supplemental Regulations and Article XVI – Definitions Regarding Marijuana Dispensaries, Retail
- Tabled Resolution - Accepting Bid for Demolition Project – Various Properties – Buckley’s Excavating & Landscaping LLC
- Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – September 2025
- Sales Tax Revenue – September 2025

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 6, 2025 and work session of October 14, 2025, was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Patrick Hickey, Pawling Street, offered his support for Council to approve Resolution No. 1.

Stanley Campany, Public Square, asked that the City adopt a new policy regarding keeping the sidewalks clear of snow during the winter months, especially on the main corridor streets. He indicated the sidewalks on Arsenal Street are in disrepair as well. He mentioned there have been problems on Peanut Park so he hoped the Police could do nightly walkarounds in the downtown area.

Jonathan Phillips, Mill Street, discussed his concerns with former Mayor Smith and the City’s direction under his leadership. He also spoke about the homeless situation, noting people are living in vacant structures and shopping carts are being stolen from properties to carry their personal belongings. He also expressed concern over the price of the City’s garbage stickers compared to the price of the County’s garbage bags.

Frank Battista, Palmer Street, asked Council to exclude the Coffeen Street house from the property demolition resolution, stating that he wants it to go to public auction because it has value. He discussed his frustration with the City and Code Enforcement in regard to this property and recalled the history of this property within that neighborhood.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Appointing Jessica Henry to the Transportation Commission

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, hereby appoints the following individual to the Transportation Commission with a term that expires March 1, 2028.

Jessica Henry
512 Davidson Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 2 - Appointing K. Colin Burns to the Board of Assessment

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, hereby appoints the following individual to the Board of Assessment with a term that expires August 30, 2029.

K. Colin Burns
114 Flower Ave. W
Watertown, NY 13601

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Pierce thanked both Ms. Henry, from Resolution No. 1, and Mr. Burns for expressing their interest in serving on these boards.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Approving Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena, Figure Skating Club of Watertown

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns and operates a Municipal Arena, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown desires to promote recreational activities at this community recreational facility, and

WHEREAS the Figure Skating Club of Watertown expressed its desire to enter into a one-year Agreement for ice time at the Municipal Arena to support their programs, and

WHEREAS an agreement between the City and the Figure Skating Club was previously presented at the August 18, 2025, City Council meeting but was defeated at that time due to concerns expressed by the organization regarding the Watertown Minor Hockey Association's lower bulk rate for ice, and

WHEREAS staff has continued discussions with the Watertown Minor Hockey Association, and the Figure Skating Club has now agreed to the attached agreement, which addresses their guaranteed ice time, and

WHEREAS the rates charged under this agreement remain consistent with the City Council-approved fee schedule for ice rental, and beginning next year, staff will rework the ice fee structure to achieve greater parity with the actual cost of ice time and ensure consistency across all user groups,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby approves the Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena between the City of Watertown and the Figure Skating Club of Watertown, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager or their designee is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 4 - Approving Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena, Watertown Minor Hockey Association

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns and operates a Municipal Arena, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown desires to promote recreational activities at this community recreational facility, and

WHEREAS the Watertown Minor Hockey Association expressed their desire to enter into a one-year Agreement for ice time at the Municipal Arena to support their programs, and

WHEREAS an agreement between the City and the Watertown Minor Hockey Association was previously presented at the August 18, 2025, City Council meeting but was defeated at that time due to concerns expressed by the Figure Skating Club of Watertown regarding the Watertown Minor Hockey Association's lower bulk rate for ice, and

WHEREAS City staff engaged in extensive discussions with the Watertown Minor Hockey Association regarding the need to increase ice rental rates, but the organization was already too far committed in planning and scheduling for this season to accommodate higher rates, and

WHEREAS both the City and the Watertown Minor Hockey Association entered into this year's Agreement in good faith, and the Council has determined it is appropriate to grandfather the existing hockey rates for one final year, with staff to rework the ice fee structure beginning next year to ensure greater parity with the cost of ice time and consistency across all user groups,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby approves the Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Minor Hockey Association, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager or their designee is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Olney stated that he received an email from Mr. Cushman today expressing concern that the Watertown Minor Hockey Association's proposed contract has less ice time but the same fee. He added that this brings equity in fees closer to the Figure Skating Club.

Mr. Wagenaar noted that the President of the Watertown Minor Hockey Association has agreed to the proposed changes to the contract and pointed out that this group is still getting a better deal than the Figure Skating Club. He clarified for Council Member Olney that Mr. Cushman is not the President of the Watertown Minor Hockey Association.

It was noted that each member of Council received the same email from Mr. Cushman and further discussion ensued regarding the amount of ice time and related fees in comparison to the higher fees charged to the Figure Skating Club.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Scott Weller discussed the renegotiation process further and noted that he will work with the two groups next year to achieve more equality in the fees.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except for Council Member Clifford G. Olney III voting nay.

Resolution No. 5 - Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grant Agreement with the Watertown Urban Mission for the 2025 Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City of Watertown's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for program year 2025 includes support for the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project, and

WHEREAS the Action Plan identifies the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry activity to be \$8,000 in funding for food and associated supplies, and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Urban Mission for the CDBG funds has been drafted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Grant Agreement with Watertown Urban Mission for the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Grant Agreement and all contracts associated with implementing the award to the Watertown Urban Mission for the Food Pantry Project.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting yea except for Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen voting nay.

Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grant Agreement with United Way of Northern New York for the 2025 Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City of Watertown's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2025 includes support for the Food 4 Families Program in the Watertown City School District, and

WHEREAS the Annual Action Plan identifies the Food 4 Families activity to be \$8,000 in funding for food and associated supplies, and

WHEREAS the recipient of funds for the Food 4 Families Program will be the United Way of Northern New York, Inc., and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and United Way of Northern New York, Inc. for the CDBG funds has been drafted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Grant Agreement with United Way of Northern New York, Inc., for the Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Grant Agreement and all contracts associated with implementing the award to United Way of Northern New York, Inc. for the 2025 Food 4 Families Program.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 7 - Adopting the Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 Annual Action Plan

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS on May 4, 2020, the City Council adopted a resolution approving the City's Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2020 for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and

WHEREAS the approved plan included various projects including an owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program, a homebuyer program, a sidewalk project, ADA ramp replacement project, a smoke detector program, a point-in-time outreach and education initiative, a Zoning Ordinance update, Housing stabilization program, food for families, and planning administration, and

WHEREAS three of the projects came in under budget and one is proposed for elimination, necessitating an amendment to the plan to reflect the various adjustments, and

WHEREAS, the City will use the reprogrammed money to add one new project to the plan, the Burlington Street Reconstruction Project, which will supplement Entitlement funds programmed for that project in the City's 2023 Annual Action Plan, and

WHEREAS Staff conducted outreach efforts with local constituency groups and the City Council held a public hearing on October 6, 2025, to solicit public comments regarding the proposed amendment, and

WHEREAS the draft amendment to the 2020 Annual Action Plan was completed and published on September 3, 2025, and was made available to the public for review and placed in various offices at City Hall, at the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, at the Watertown Housing Authority offices and on the City's website, and

WHEREAS a 30-day public comment period for the draft amendment to the 2020 Annual Action Plan was held between September 3, 2025, and October 3, 2025, after a notice of the comment period was published in the *Watertown Daily Times*,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby adopts the Amendment to the City of Watertown's CDBG Program Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2020, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution and authorizes the submission of the amendment to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 8 - Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sub-Recipient Agreement with Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the 2025 Homebuyer Program

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City of Watertown's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2025 includes a Homebuyer Program that allocates funding for the purchase and rehabilitation of approximately five (5) housing units to income eligible homebuyers within the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the Annual Action Plan identifies the Homebuyer Program to consist of \$215,000 in funding for the purchase, rehabilitation, administration, and program delivery, and

WHEREAS Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. will serve as the Sub-Recipient of the funds for program administration, and

WHEREAS a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the City of Watertown and Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the CDBG funds has been prepared,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Sub-Recipient Agreement with Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the 2025 Homebuyer Program, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Sub-Recipient Agreement on behalf of the City Council for the 2025 Homebuyer Program.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Olney asked that this program be explained for the public's benefit.

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis explained that this program was approved as part of the 2025 CDBG Annual Action Plan and it provides funding for first-time homebuyers to purchase homes within the City. He said that Neighbors of Watertown will do the administration of the program, accept applications and distribute the grant funding. He added that Neighbors of Watertown does offer first-time home ownership classes to help guide individuals through the process.

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

Resolution No. 9 - Approving the Agreement Between the City of Watertown and Loomacres Wildlife Management to Establish and Administer a Winter Crow Roost Dispersal Program

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to work with Loomacres Wildlife Management regarding professional services to help alleviate the nuisance of crows within the City and to administer a crow roost dispersal program, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has an urban crow roost that is a threat to human health and safety, causes damage to buildings and cars, and results in associated cleanup costs, and

WHEREAS Loomacres Wildlife Management uses multiple hazing methods, including distress calls, pyrotechnics, remote-controlled aircraft, and lasers with the objective of reducing winter crow roosts, and

WHEREAS Loomacres may also employ lethal methods on a limited basis to reinforce the non-lethal techniques, and

WHEREAS by using these strategies, the crows should relocate to an alternative, more suitable roosting site, reducing local conflicts associated with an urban crow roost,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement prepared by Loomacres Wildlife Management to establish and administer a crow roost dispersal program, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the options for years two and three of this three-year agreement are subject to future budget appropriations in Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Manager to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Kimball asked is there is a way to determine whether this program is working in reducing the number crows.

Mr. Wagenaar explained that the harassment efforts are working to move the crows out of areas of the City that are more heavily travelled by foot into other areas.

Council Member Shoen asked if there has been any feedback from downtown business owners.

Mr. Lumbis indicated that the City is receiving fewer complaints about the crows.

Mayor Pierce recalled when she worked daily in the State Office Building and the issues that the crows caused on the sidewalks and the children's playground. She agreed that there have been fewer complaints since starting this program.

Council Member Olney mentioned that he received a suggestion from a person recommending that homeowners not pick up their leaves in their yard because it is better for butterflies, caterpillars, and other insects. He asked if the City has an ordinance requiring the leaves to be picked up in yards.

Code Enforcement Supervisor Dana Aikins advised that the only ordinance is regarding disposal of leaves into the street.

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

Resolution No. 10 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund Budgets to Eliminate and Add Certain Positions in the Police Department

WHEREAS on June 2, 2025 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26, of which \$58,342,043 was appropriated for the General Fund, and

WHEREAS the FY 2025-26 General Fund Budget for the Police Department included the position of Secretary, and

WHEREAS the Police Chief recommends the elimination of the Secretary position and the addition of a Principal Account Clerk to better reflect what the current employee in the position duties and responsibilities are,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the elimination and creation of the following positions within the respective Fund and Department

<u>GENERAL FUND:</u>	<u>Eliminate</u>	<u>Add</u>
Police Department (A.3120.0120)	Secretary	Principal Account Clerk

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby makes the following changes to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund Budget to fund the change in positions:

A.0000.0909 Fund Balance	<u>\$ 3,400</u>
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A.3120.0120	Police – Clerical	\$ 2,600
A.3120.0810	Police – NYS Retirement	\$ 600
A.3120.0830	Police – Social Security	<u>\$ 200</u>
Total		<u>\$ 3,400</u>

There was no introduction.

Resolution No. 11 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2024-25 General Fund, Risk Retention Fund, Tourism Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Library Fund and Self-funded Health Insurance Fund Budgets

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS on June 3, 2024 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25, and

WHEREAS certain Fiscal Year 2024-25 expenditure lines for the General Fund, Risk Retention Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Library Fund and Self-Funded Health Insurance Fund are overdrawn,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts and makes the following adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budgets for the General Fund, Risk Retention Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Library Fund and Self-funded Health Insurance Fund Budgets:

GENERAL FUND

Expenditures

A	1010	460	LEGISLATIVE BOARD	Materials and Supplies	\$	125
A	1010	810	LEGISLATIVE BOARD	Employee Retirement System	\$	300
A	1210	810	MAYOR	NYS Retirement	\$	350
A	1230	430	MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE	Contracted Services	\$	1,150
A	1230	460	MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE	Materials and Supplies	\$	11,850
A	1230	850	MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE	Health Insurance	\$	12,350
A	1315	840	COMPTROLLER	Workers' Compensation	\$	250
A	1345	110	PURCHASING	Salaries	\$	1,175
A	1345	120	PURCHASING	Clerical	\$	1,825
A	1345	465	PURCHASING	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	150
A	1345	810	PURCHASING	NYS Retirement	\$	375
A	1355	110	ASSESSMENT	Salaries	\$	4,925
A	1355	175	ASSESSMENT	Health Insurance Buy-out	\$	2,800
A	1355	465	ASSESSMENT	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	825
A	1364	430	PROPERTY ACQUIRED	Contracted Services	\$	1,475
A	1364	440	PROPERTY ACQUIRED	Fees, Non-employee	\$	2,400
A	1410	430	CLERK	Contracted Services	\$	2,050
A	1410	465	CLERK	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	125
A	1420	430	LAW	Contracted Services	\$	100

A	1420	440	LAW	Fees, Non-employee	\$	15,625
A	1430	110	CIVIL SERVICE	Salaries	\$	1,275
A	1430	450	CIVIL SERVICE	Miscellaneous	\$	300
A	1430	840	CIVIL SERVICE	Workers' Compensation	\$	19,400
A	1435	110	HUMAN RESOURCES	Salaries	\$	175
A	1435	465	HUMAN RESOURCES	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	925
A	1435	810	HUMAN RESOURCES	NYS Retirement	\$	575
A	1440	410	ENGINEERING	Utilities	\$	275
A	1440	465	ENGINEERING	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	2,775
A	1490	110	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Salaries	\$	2,000
A	1490	410	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Utilities	\$	1,550
A	1490	420	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Insurance	\$	875
A	1490	440	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Fees, Non-employee	\$	2,950
A	1490	455	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	1,075
A	1490	810	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	NYS Retirement	\$	950
A	1620	150	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Overtime	\$	13,125
A	1620	175	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Health Insurance Buy-out	\$	125
A	1620	430	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Contracted Services	\$	200
A	1620	450	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Miscellaneous	\$	300
A	1620	460	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Materials and Supplies	\$	27,500
A	1620	465	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	2,325
A	1620	810	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	NYS Retirement	\$	2,800
A	1620	830	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Social Security	\$	300
A	1620	840	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Workers' Compensation	\$	275
A	1640	110	CENTRAL GARAGE	Salaries	\$	325
A	1640	120	CENTRAL GARAGE	Clerical	\$	1,500
A	1640	150	CENTRAL GARAGE	Overtime	\$	2,575
A	1640	175	CENTRAL GARAGE	Health Insurance Buy-out	\$	600
A	1640	410	CENTRAL GARAGE	Utilities	\$	3,325
A	1640	440	CENTRAL GARAGE	Fees, Non-employee	\$	275
A	1640	460	CENTRAL GARAGE	Materials and Supplies	\$	19,375
A	1670	450	CENTRAL PRINTING & MAILING	Miscellaneous	\$	150
A	1680	110	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Salaries	\$	1,750
A	1680	430	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Contracted Services	\$	67,750
A	1680	455	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	75
A	3120	110	POLICE	Salaries	\$	2,300
A	3120	140	POLICE	Temporary	\$	4,550
A	3120	150	POLICE	Overtime	\$	203,325
A	3120	155	POLICE	Holiday Pay	\$	13,675
A	3120	175	POLICE	Health Insurance Buy-out	\$	1,100
A	3120	180	POLICE	Roll Call Pay	\$	3,975
A	3120	185	POLICE	On-call Pay	\$	17,625
A	3120	195	POLICE	Clothing/Cleaning Allowance	\$	2,250

A	3120	250	POLICE	Other Equipment	\$	7,850
A	3120	420	POLICE	Insurance	\$	625
A	3120	430	POLICE	Contracted Services	\$	103,575
A	3120	440	POLICE	Fees, Non-employee	\$	5,400
A	3120	450	POLICE	Miscellaneous	\$	6,425
A	3120	810	POLICE	NYS Retirement	\$	925
A	3120	840	POLICE	Workers' Compensation	\$	28,500
A	3410	110	FIRE	Salaries	\$	9,800
A	3410	120	FIRE	Clerical	\$	2,450
A	3410	130	FIRE	Wages	\$	16,850
A	3410	150	FIRE	Overtime	\$	216,000
A	3410	191	FIRE	Sick Leave Incentive	\$	7,075
A	3410	430	FIRE	Contracted Services	\$	216,775
A	3410	455	FIRE	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	56,150
A	3410	840	FIRE	Workers' Compensation	\$	130,175
A	3620	110	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Salaries	\$	325
A	3620	120	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Clerical	\$	3,850
A	3620	130	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Wages	\$	12,000
A	3620	150	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Overtime	\$	10,000
A	3620	810	CODE ENFORCEMENT	NYS Retirement	\$	2,500
A	3620	830	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Social Security	\$	900
A	5010	130	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Wages	\$	19,725
A	5010	150	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Overtime	\$	2,525
A	5010	230	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Motor Vehicles	\$	9,700
A	5010	250	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Other Equipment	\$	63,600
A	5010	410	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Utilities	\$	37,975
A	5010	465	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	2,475
A	5110	150	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Overtime	\$	8,500
A	5110	230	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Motor Vehicles	\$	5,175
A	5110	420	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Insurance	\$	1,150
A	5110	440	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Fees, Non-employee	\$	19,375
A	5110	460	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Materials and Supplies	\$	29,875
A	5110	840	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Workers' Compensation	\$	37,100
A	5110	850	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Health Insurance	\$	10,000
A	5142	110	SNOW REMOVAL	Salaries	\$	3,625
A	5142	130	SNOW REMOVAL	Wages	\$	54,375
A	5142	150	SNOW REMOVAL	Overtime	\$	53,150
A	5142	250	SNOW REMOVAL	Other Equipment	\$	32,475
A	5142	410	SNOW REMOVAL	Utilities	\$	250
A	5142	430	SNOW REMOVAL	Contracted Services	\$	21,275
A	5142	450	SNOW REMOVAL	Miscellaneous	\$	550
A	5142	460	SNOW REMOVAL	Materials and Supplies	\$	21,875
A	5142	465	SNOW REMOVAL	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	6,675

A	5142	810	SNOW REMOVAL	NYS Retirement	\$	19,175
A	5142	830	SNOW REMOVAL	Social Security	\$	5,725
A	5184	110	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Salaries	\$	4,000
A	5184	130	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Wages	\$	1,750
A	5184	150	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Overtime	\$	200
A	5184	420	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Insurance	\$	9,800
A	5184	810	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Employee Retirement System	\$	625
A	5184	830	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Social Security	\$	250
A	5186	130	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Wages	\$	5,625
A	5186	150	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Overtime	\$	10,250
A	5186	410	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Utilities	\$	151,175
A	5186	430	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Contracted Services	\$	29,950
A	5186	465	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	7,450
A	5186	810	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	NYS Retirement	\$	1,600
A	5186	850.0015	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Health Insurance - IBEW Plan	\$	5,075
A	5630	110	BUS	Salaries	\$	350
A	5630	120	BUS	Clerical	\$	1,475
A	5630	150	BUS	Overtime	\$	8,400
A	5630	175	BUS	Health Insurance Buy-out	\$	1,725
A	5630	410	BUS	Utilities	\$	1,925
A	5630	460	BUS	Materials and Supplies	\$	21,600
A	5630	840	BUS	Workers' Compensation	\$	6,025
A	7020	110	RECREATION ADMINISTRATION	Salaries	\$	2,125
A	7020	120	RECREATION ADMINISTRATION	Clerical	\$	3,625
A	7020	410	RECREATION ADMINISTRATION	Utilities	\$	600
A	7020	420	RECREATION ADMINISTRATION	Insurance	\$	650
A	7020	430	RECREATION ADMINISTRATION	Contracted Services	\$	1,475
A	7020	810	RECREATION ADMINISTRATION	NYS Retirement	\$	3,050
A	7110	130	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Wages	\$	11,275
A	7110	150	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Overtime	\$	8,175
A	7110	410	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Utilities	\$	4,750
A	7110	440	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Fees, Non-employee	\$	175
A	7110	455	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	3,500
A	7110	465	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	2,550
A	7110	830	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Social Security	\$	450
A	7140	140	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Temporary	\$	24,950
A	7140	150	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Overtime	\$	5,900
A	7140	430	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Contracted Services	\$	3,775
A	7140	450	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Miscellaneous	\$	400
A	7140	455	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	850
A	7140	465	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	4,350

A	7140	810	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	NYS Retirement	\$	3,925
A	7140	830	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Social Security	\$	475
A	7141	420	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	Insurance	\$	1,325
A	7141	455	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	3,950
A	7180	140	SWIMMING POOLS	Temporary	\$	5,775
A	7180	410	SWIMMING POOLS	Utilities	\$	10,475
A	7180	420	SWIMMING POOLS	Insurance	\$	2,225
A	7180	430	SWIMMING POOLS	Contracted Services	\$	10,000
A	7180	450	SWIMMING POOLS	Miscellaneous	\$	1,275
A	7180	455	SWIMMING POOLS	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	25
A	7190	110	GOLF COURSE	Salaries	\$	9,150
A	7190	410	GOLF COURSE	Utilities	\$	6,850
A	7190	440	GOLF COURSE	Fees, Non-employee	\$	1,900
A	7190	450	GOLF COURSE	Miscellaneous	\$	150
A	7190	455	GOLF COURSE	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	5,725
A	7190	465	GOLF COURSE	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	1,175
A	7265	110	ICE ARENA	Salaries	\$	17,275
A	7265	130	ICE ARENA	Wages	\$	79,050
A	7265	140.0452	ICE ARENA	Temporary - concessions	\$	31,225
A	7265	150	ICE ARENA	Overtime	\$	19,575
A	7265	150.0452	ICE ARENA	Overtime - concessions	\$	300
A	7265	410	ICE ARENA	Utilities	\$	500
A	7265	430.0452	ICE ARENA	Contracted Services - concessions	\$	2,200
A	7265	455	ICE ARENA	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	6,900
A	7265	465.0452	ICE ARENA	Equipment < \$5,000 - concessions	\$	2,200
A	7265	810	ICE ARENA	NYS Retirement	\$	13,700
A	7265	810.0452	ICE ARENA	NYS Retirement - Concessions	\$	3,150
A	7265	830	ICE ARENA	Social Security	\$	7,675
A	7265	830.0452	ICE ARENA	Social Security - concessions	\$	2,350
A	8020	410	PLANNING	Utilities	\$	275
A	8020	440	PLANNING	Fees, Non-employee	\$	75
A	8020	460	PLANNING	Materials and Supplies	\$	50
A	8140	110	STORM SEWER	Salaries	\$	175
A	8140	130	STORM SEWER	Wages	\$	37,300
A	8140	150	STORM SEWER	Overtime	\$	8,375
A	8140	455	STORM SEWER	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	1,675
A	8140	465	STORM SEWER	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	1,550
A	8140	830	STORM SEWER	Social Security	\$	1,825
A	8140	850	STORM SEWER	Health Insurance	\$	6,400
A	8160	120	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Clerical	\$	600
A	8160	410	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Utilities	\$	25
A	9050	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Unemployment Insurance	\$	48,675

A	9060	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Health Insurance - Retirees	\$	110,575
A	9730	700	OTHER EXPENSES	Bond Anticipation Note - Interest	\$	5,875
A	9788	600	OTHER EXPENSES	Lease - Principal	\$	23,975
A	9788	700	OTHER EXPENSES	Lease - Interest	\$	500
A	9950	900	OTHER EXPENSES	Capital Fund Transfer	\$	280,000
TOTAL					\$	<u>2,923,550</u>
A	1315	120	COMPTROLLER	Clerical	\$	(16,600)
A	1355	130	ASSESSMENT	Wages	\$	(25,100)
A	1440	110	ENGINEERING	Salaries	\$	(105,825)
A	1440	120	ENGINEERING	Clerical	\$	(9,650)
A	1440	430	ENGINEERING	Contracted Services	\$	(50,025)
A	1640	430	CENTRAL GARAGE	Contracted Services	\$	(31,950)
A	1680	130	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Wages	\$	(34,175)
A	1680	250	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Other Equipment	\$	(115,000)
A	1990	430	CONTINGENCY	Contracted Services	\$	(855,000)
A	3120	130	POLICE	Wages	\$	(116,975)
A	3120	850	POLICE	Health Insurance	\$	(132,250)
A	5010	140	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Temporary	\$	(25,250)
A	5010	430	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Contracted Services	\$	(73,050)
A	5010	460	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Materials and Supplies	\$	(28,125)
A	5010	850	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Health Insurance	\$	(7,075)
A	5110	130	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Wages	\$	(20,175)
A	5110	430	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Contracted Services	\$	(90,850)
A	5110	455	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	(26,350)
A	5142	455	SNOW REMOVAL	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	(30,350)
A	5184	430	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Contracted Services	\$	(76,600)
A	5630	130	BUS	Wages	\$	(36,875)
A	5630	140	BUS	Temporary	\$	(51,350)
A	5630	230	BUS	Motor Vehicles	\$	(310,000)
A	5630	250	BUS	Other Equipment	\$	(50,000)
A	5630	430	BUS	Contracted Services	\$	(50,000)
A	5630	465	BUS	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	(67,375)
A	5650	430	CITY PARKING FACILITIES	Contracted Services	\$	(23,650)
A	7140	460	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Materials and Supplies	\$	(11,475)
A	7180	460	SWIMMING POOLS	Materials and Supplies	\$	(10,000)
A	7190	250	GOLF COURSE	Other Equipment	\$	(88,250)
A	7265	460	ICE ARENA	Materials and Supplies	\$	(33,675)
A	8020	110	PLANNING	Salaries	\$	(59,675)
A	8020	120	PLANNING	Clerical	\$	(8,350)
A	8020	430	PLANNING	Contracted Services	\$	(216,275)
A	9065	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Medicare Reimbursements	\$	<u>(36,225)</u>

TOTAL \$ (2,923,550)

RISK RETENTION FUND

Revenues

CS	.0909	Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>\$ 45,000</u>
Total			<u>\$ 45,000</u>

Expenditures

CS	1930	430	RISK RETENTION	Judgements & Claims	<u>\$ 45,000</u>
Total					<u>\$ 45,000</u>

TOURISM FUND

Revenues

CT	1113		<u>\$ 26,150</u>
Occupancy Tax			
Total			<u>\$ 26,150</u>

Expenditures

CT	9510	900	TOURISM	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$ 26,150</u>
Total					<u>\$ 26,150</u>

WATER FUND

Expenditures

F	1950	430	REAL PROPERTY TAXES	Contracted Services	\$ 25
F	8310	110	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Salaries	\$ 2,150
F	8310	120	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Clerical	\$ 3,275
F	8310	130	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Wages	\$ 3,650
F	8310	250	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Other Equipment	\$ 3,450
F	8310	410	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Utilities	\$ 100
F	8310	420	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Insurance	\$ 75
F	8310	440	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Fees, Non-employee	\$ 575
F	8310	450	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Miscellaneous	\$ 875
F	8310	455	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 100
F	8310	465	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Equipment < \$5,000	\$ 475
F	8320	410	SOURCE OF SUPPLY, POWER & PUMPING	Utilities	\$ 174,025
F	8320	420	SOURCE OF SUPPLY, POWER & PUMPING	Insurance	\$ 275
F	8320	440	SOURCE OF SUPPLY, POWER & PUMPING	Fees, Non-employee	\$ 25
F	8320	455	SOURCE OF SUPPLY, POWER & PUMPING	Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 725
F	8330	150	WATER PURIFICATION	Overtime	\$ 2,075
F	8330	410	WATER PURIFICATION	Utilities	\$ 143,350
F	8330	420	WATER PURIFICATION	Insurance	\$ 4,350
F	8330	850	WATER PURIFICATION	Health Insurance	\$ 1,575
F	8340	110	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Salaries	\$ 3,925
F	8340	150	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Overtime	\$ 17,950

F	8340	460	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Materials and Supplies	\$ 25,150
F	8340	840	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Workers' Compensation	\$ 1,625
F	9040	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Worker's Compensation	\$ 1,075
TOTAL					<u>\$ 390,875</u>

F	1990	430	CONTINGENCY	Contingency	\$ (140,000)
F	8320	430	SOURCE OF SUPPLY, POWER & PUMPING	Contracted Services	\$ (24,000)
F	8320	465	SOURCE OF SUPPLY, POWER & PUMPING	Equipment < \$5,000	\$ (31,800)
F	8330	430	WATER PURIFICATION	Contracted Services	\$ (38,875)
F	8330	460	WATER PURIFICATION	Materials and Supplies	\$ (104,675)
F	8330	465	WATER PURIFICATION	Equipment < \$5,000	\$ (49,950)
F	8340	850	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Health Insurance	\$ (1,575)
TOTAL					<u>\$ (390,875)</u>

SEWER FUND

Expenditures

G	8110	110	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Salaries	\$ 2,150
G	8110	120	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Clerical	\$ 3,275
G	8110	130	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Wages	\$ 3,500
G	8110	150	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Overtime	\$ 175
G	8110	250	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Other Equipment	\$ 3,450
G	8110	440	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Fees, Non-employee	\$ 575
G	8110	450	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Miscellaneous	\$ 1,350
G	8120	110	SANITARY SEWER	Salaries	\$ 225
G	8120	150	SANITARY SEWER	Overtime	\$ 2,750
G	8120	230	SANITARY SEWER	Motor Vehicles	\$ 73,475
G	8120	410	SANITARY SEWER	Utilities	\$ 3,300
G	8120	430	SANITARY SEWER	Contracted Services	\$ 6,075
G	8120	465	SANITARY SEWER	Equipment < \$5,000	\$ 19,750
G	8120	840	SANITARY SEWER	Workers' Compensation	\$ 7,200
G	8120	850	SANITARY SEWER	Health Insurance	\$ 5,400
G	8130	110	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Salaries	\$ 4,225
G	8130	150	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Overtime	\$ 1,150
G	8130	410	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Utilities	\$ 63,025
G	8130	440	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Fees, Non-employee	\$ 7,600
G	8130	465	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Equipment < \$5,000	\$ 5,100
G	9040	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Worker's Compensation	\$ 1,475
G	9060	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Health Insurance - Retirees	\$ 58,564
G	9065	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Medicare Reimbursements	\$ 5,100
G	9950	900	OTHER EXPENSES	Transfer to Capital Fund	<u>\$ 200,000</u>
Total					<u>\$ 478,889</u>

G	1990	430	CONTINGENCY	Contracted Services	\$	(115,000)
G	8110	850	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Health Insurance	\$	(4,050)
G	8120	460	SANITARY SEWER	Materials and Supplies	\$	(14,139)
G	8130	250	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Other Equipment	\$	(205,475)
G	8130	460	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Materials and Supplies	\$	(134,550)
G	8130	850	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Health Insurance	\$	(5,675)
Total					\$	(478,889)

LIBRARY FUND

Expenditures

L	7410	110	LIBRARY	Salaries	\$	4,450
L	7410	120	LIBRARY	Clerical	\$	16,225
L	7410	410	LIBRARY	Utilities	\$	4,425
L	7410	430	LIBRARY	Contracted Services	\$	350
L	7410	850	LIBRARY	Health Insurance	\$	10,325
L	9040	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Worker's Compensation	\$	525
L	9060	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Health Insurance - Retirees	\$	19,050
L	9065	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Medicare Reimbursements	\$	3,225
Total					\$	58,575

L	1990	430	CONTINGENCY	Contracted Services	\$	(35,000)
L	7410	130	LIBRARY	Wages	\$	(23,575)
Total					\$	(58,575)

SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

Revenue

MS	1270			Shared Service Charges	\$	(83,614)
Total					\$	(83,614)

Expenditures

MS	1710	420	SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE	Insurance	\$	11,175
MS	1710	440	SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE	Fees	\$	3,025
MS	1710	465	SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	75
					\$	14,275
MS	1710	430	SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE	Contracted Services	\$	(14,275)
					\$	(14,275)

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Pierce explained that this resolution was prepared by the City Comptroller as part of the process for filing the Annual Financial Report with the NYS Comptroller, as well as the preparation of the financial statements for the independent audit.

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

Resolution No. 12 - Accepting a Dental and Vision Proposal from Guardian for the 2026-2027 Plan Years

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS Mercer serves as the City of Watertown's benefits broker and has completed a competitive review process for Dental and Vision coverage for the 2026-2027 Plan Years, and

WHEREAS the City has received a total of six (6) competitive proposals for Dental and Vision coverage for the 2026-2027 Plan Years, and

WHEREAS Dental and Vision coverage is provided to City employees at no cost to the City, and

WHEREAS it is the recommendation of the City Staff that the City of Watertown accept the proposals presented by Mercer for Dental and Vision coverage for City employees through Guardian,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, hereby accepts the two-year proposal to provide Dental and Vision coverage through Guardian to City employees at no cost to the City, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager or their designee is hereby authorized and directed to execute any Agreement pertaining to this proposal on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mr. Wagenaar confirmed for Council Member Kimball that there is no cost to the City and this coverage is optional for City employees.

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

Resolution No. 13 - Accepting a Proposal from UMR for Third-Party Administrative (TPA) Services of our Medical Plan for the 2026-2028 Plan Years

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS Mercer serves as the City of Watertown's benefits broker, and they have completed a competitive review process for Third-Party Administrative (TPA) services of our Medical Plan for the 2026-2028 Plan Years, and

WHEREAS the City has received a total of three (3) competitive proposals for Third-Party Administrative (TPA) services of our Medical Plan for the 2026-2028 Plan Years, and

WHEREAS it is the recommendation of the Health Insurance Review Advisory Committee that the City of Watertown accept the proposals presented by Mercer for Third-Party Administrative (TPA) services of our Medical Plan for City employees,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, hereby accepts the three-year proposal to provide Third-Party Administrative (TPA) services of our medical plan for the 2026-2028 Plan Years through UMR, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager or their designee is hereby authorized and directed to sign any Agreement pertaining to this proposal on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 14 - Accepting a Pharmacy Proposal from ProAct for the 2026-2028 Plan Years

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS Mercer serves as the City of Watertown's benefits broker, and they have completed a competitive review process for Pharmacy coverage for the 2026-2028 Plan Years, and

WHEREAS the City has received a total of four (4) competitive proposals for Pharmacy coverage for the 2026-2028 Plan Years, and

WHEREAS it is the recommendation of the Health Insurance Review Advisory Committee that the City of Watertown accept the proposal presented by Mercer for Pharmacy coverage for City employees through ProAct,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, hereby accepts the three-year proposal to provide Pharmacy coverage through ProAct to City employees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager or their designee is hereby authorized and directed to sign any Agreement pertaining to this proposal on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 15 - Accepting an Ancillary Voluntary Coverage Proposal from Guardian

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS Mercer serves as the City of Watertown's benefits broker, and they have completed a competitive review process for Ancillary Voluntary Coverage for Management employees, and

WHEREAS the City has received a total of four (4) competitive proposals for Ancillary Voluntary Coverage, and

WHEREAS it is the City's recommendation that the City of Watertown accept the proposal presented by Mercer for Ancillary Voluntary Coverage for management employees, and bargaining units at their discretion, through Guardian at no cost to the City,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, hereby accepts the proposal to provide Ancillary Voluntary Coverage for employees through Guardian at no cost to the City, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager or their designee is hereby authorized and directed to sign any Agreement pertaining to this proposal on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting yea.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 - Amending the Code of the City of Watertown § 310: Zoning Article III – District Uses, Article VII – Supplemental Regulations and Article XVI – Definitions Regarding Marijuana Dispensaries, Retail

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby amends the City Municipal Code § 310, Zoning as follows, with **bold** text added and struck through text eliminated:

§ 310-18. Use Table

	D	UMU	NMU	C	R	PC	IND	P&OS
Marijuana Dispensaries, Retail				S SUP				

and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Chapter § 310 of the City Code of the City of Watertown is amended as follows, with **bold** text added and struck-through text eliminated:

§ 320-75. Marijuana Dispensary, Retail

A. On-site Consumption

(1) **No on-site consumption of Cannabis Products shall be permitted at a Marijuana Retail Dispensary.**

(2) **On-site Cannabis Consumption Lounges are prohibited.**

B. Hours of Operation: A Marijuana Retail Dispensary shall not be allowed to operate between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

C. Proximity to other uses:

(1) **A Marijuana Retail Dispensary shall not be located on the same road and within 500 feet of a building and its grounds occupied exclusively as school grounds, as defined in Section 409(2) of the New York State Education Law. The distance between the dispensary and the school shall be measured from the door of the Marijuana Retail Dispensary to the property line of the school.**

(2) **A Marijuana Retail Dispensary shall not be located on the same road and within 200 feet of a building and its grounds occupied exclusively as a house of worship.**

The distance between the dispensary and the house of worship shall be measured from the door of the Marijuana Retail Dispensary to the property line of the house of worship.

and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Chapter § 310-150 (C) is amended as follows, with **bold** text added and struck-through text eliminated:

MARIJUANA DISPENSARY, RETAIL

A business that is registered to operate in the State of New York that ~~sells or otherwise distributes marijuana.~~ **engages in the Retail Sale of Cannabis Products.**

MARIJUANA

All parts of the plant of the genus Cannabis, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or resin. Cannabis does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination. Neither hemp nor cannabinoid hemp are included.

CANNABIS PRODUCTS

Cannabis, concentrated Cannabis, and Cannabis-infused products for use by a consumer.

CANNABIS CONSUMPTION

The use of a cannabis product in, on, or by the human body for the product's cannabinoid content.

RETAIL SALE OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS

To solicit or receive an order for, to keep or expose for sale, and to keep with intent to sell, made by any licensed person, whether principal, proprietor, agent, or employee, of any Cannabis or Cannabis Products.

ON-SITE CANNABIS CONSUMPTION LOUNGE

Any person or business that is licensed under the provisions of New York State Law to permit adult-use on-site consumption of cannabis products at a specified location.

and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this amendment shall take effect as soon as it is published once in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown or printed as the City Manager directs.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III

Motion was made by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing ordinance for Monday, November 3, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

OLD BUSINESS

Tabled Resolution - Accepting Bid for Demolition Project – Various Properties – Buckley’s Excavating & Landscaping LLC. *(Introduced October 6, 2025; tabled; appears in its entirety in the 2025 Minutes Book on page 3-4 of the 10/6/2025 minutes).*

Motion was made by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero to remove the foregoing resolution from the table. Motion was seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council Member Kimball said he appreciates Mr. Battista’s interest in saving one of these properties, but the property is currently in limbo and the potential for new ownership may take years. He noted that the City is trying to mitigate a hazard and further explained why he would be voting in support of this resolution.

Council Member Ruggiero expressed her concerns with demolishing these properties, noting that they are privately owned and not eligible to be put in a public auction, and she mentioned that the City has sued other property owners for not paying their taxes. She suggested putting fencing around the property to secure it until the City can take ownership.

Council Member Olney questioned the policy and procedure followed prior to determining that a property is a candidate for demolition. He stressed that he is not comfortable with the process that the City is currently using, especially since the City does not own these properties, and thinks there is a better way.

Mr. Wagenaar assured Council Member Olney that City staff is following New York State statute to deal with significantly blighted homes.

Mr. Aikins explained the scoring system used to determine the status and condition of vacant houses and the steps within the procedure. He also noted this is a part of NYS statute and must be followed in order to give due process to the property owner.

Further debate ensued regarding the condition of these properties and whether the City should proceed with demolishing them. The City Attorney was asked whether the City was entitled to insurance money from the homes that were a subject of a fire. She said that she would have to research further but that the City will go after the cost of the demolition regardless of whether there is insurance involved. She advised that, if it is not paid, the property will have a lien put on it and the City could take the property.

Council Member Shoen stated that he does not like the process but would like the two properties that are already on the ground cleaned up. He asked that the demolition bids be done separately for each property in the future.

In response to Council Member Shoen's comments about the delay in proceeding with a new tax sale process, Mr. Wagenaar advised that staff are close to developing the new process and will present it at a future work session.

Council Member Olney discussed the issues with the City cleaning up the properties and the additional precautions and testing needed for hazardous materials. He suggested having a work session to discuss an early intervention solution for homes in need of rehab prior to them getting to this severe of a condition.

Mayor Pierce said she appreciates the interest in getting the properties back on the tax rolls but noted this is blight and that tackling blight was a goal of this Council. Noting that the tax sale certificate process can take up to two years, she said these properties will be in even worse condition at that point.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and was defeated with all voting nay except for Council Member Robert O. Kimball and Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce voting yea.

STAFF REPORTS

Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – September 2025

A report was available for Council to review.

Sales Tax Revenue – September 2025

A report was available for Council to review.

NEW BUSINESS

Protest Held on Public Square

Council Member Kimball mentioned a protest held in the City last weekend and that many vehicles were driving by too fast, revving their engines, causing exhaust smoke and making noise. He pointed out that there were approximately 1,500 people there and not one of them did anything to deserve any sort of negative feedback from the citizens of Watertown. He suggested the City may need to provide a safer way for individuals to protest and exercise their right to free speech.

Hydro Revenue Work Session

Council Member Kimball said he was disappointed, but not surprised, to learn that the money from the hydro power plant will be much lower than hoped. He said the City is not going to bring in the amount of money that had been suggested in the report provided to Council, so plans need to be made to deal with the loss of \$3-4 million.

Library Book Sale

Council Member Kimball announced that the Friends of the Library are holding their annual book sale, which is a fundraiser for the library and used to buy new books.

Boo at the Zoo

Council Member Kimball noted that the zoo had a busy weekend holding this highly attended event. He also mentioned a recent article in the NY Times featuring Zoo NY at Thompson Park.

Thompson Park Golf Course

Council Member Kimball advised that the golf course has closed for the season, noting that the course was still in good condition and he enjoyed his time golfing there. He said this will need to be a topic for discussion later in the year or the beginning of next year.

Request for Resolutions

Council Member Olney said that he requested three resolutions to be included in this agenda and was disappointed that it did not happen. He asked if they will be included in the next meeting.

Mr. Wagenaar said that he will see what the Council directs him.

Council Member Olney said that it is in his right to request a resolution be added to the agenda and that it does not have to be through a majority vote. He made reference to his belief that this was in the charter.

Attorney Smith said she would have to look at the charter.

Hydro Revenue Work Session (continued)

Council Member Olney said there was a misunderstanding when a comment was made that a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) was the same as what was presented by Skip Trimble and the Hydro Committee three years ago. He said that he discussed his proposal for an ESCO with Mr. Jain prior to the work session and was told the City was not financial able to do the ESCO and has neither a \$200 million line of credit to trade in the energy market, nor the critical expertise. He further explained that is why Mr. Jain suggested to him to proceed with a CCA so that was what was presented during the work session. He discussed the CCA option further and disagreed with the information received in an email from the Department of Public Services. He went on to argue that there is an opportunity to make between \$1-\$4 million per year with a CCA by implementing it now.

Request for Charter Review Resolution

Council Member Olney said he asked for a resolution to initiate a charter review, but it was not put on the agenda for this meeting. He said his goal was to start a discussion about the type of government the City has and to consider changing to a strong mayor form of government. He said he also thinks the best model for the City is to increase the number of members of Council to nine and have one member elected from each of the six wards, two to run at-large and the Mayor to run at-large, stressing this would be a more balanced and fair approach to running the City.

FOIL Request

Council Member Olney expressed his concern about a FOIL request from former Mayor Smith for all the emails from electronic devices for the period of 1/1/2020 – 9/1/2025. He went on to discuss the NYS Police Investigation into certain members of Council and his frustration with recent responses that he received regarding his own FOIL requests for unredacted legal bills and a traffic stop involving former Mayor Smith. He said he has received denials for these requests, suggesting the information is being hidden from him, and expressed concern that the Mayor is the appealing officer for FOIL.

Charter Commission

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned the charter review which was done recently but did not pass the referendum process. She asked for the report of the findings from the Charter Commission to be distributed to members of Council.

First Presbyterian Steeple

Council Member Ruggiero said she attended a celebration of the completion of the steeple rehabilitation project. She discussed the process of the reconstruction, noting there was a presentation outlining the massive amount of work undertaken as well as the generous donations that were given towards the project.

NYS Grange Foundation Annual Session

Council Member Ruggiero announced that she spoke at this event in the Mayor's absence, which was held in Watertown this year. She said it was an impressive meeting and an interesting organization.

Privilege of the Floor Comments – Price of Garbage Stickers

Council Member Shoen noted that the dump charges a minimum fee of \$10, and he thinks the City's cost is fair considering the garbage is picked up at your property.

Privilege of the Floor - Shopping Carts

Council Member Shoen indicated that he had sent a request to members of Council proposing to ban shopping carts on City streets and sidewalks but only received a response from the Mayor.

Electricity Mandates

Council Member Shoen advised that NYS is banning the use of fossil fuels in new home construction in 2026. He expressed concern that this will increase the cost of electricity, and the current supply network might not be able to handle the demand. He suggested allowing the use of propane gas within the City of Watertown.

Needle Distribution

Council Member Shoen said he received positive feedback regarding his comments at the last meeting disagreeing with the distribution of free needles.

Thompson Park Golf Course (continued)

Council Member Shoen also mentioned that the course had closed for the season and discussed his experience of golfing there during the season. He said that, if the City is going to continue to run the golf course, then there needs to be a decision well in advance so that tournaments can plan appropriately.

Boo at the Zoo (continued)

Mayor Pierce said she attended this event this weekend with her family and that it drew a great crowd, noting it was a good way to support the zoo.

Meeting of County and City Representatives

Mayor Pierce announced that there was a meeting between County and City representatives to discuss issues that affect both municipalities jointly. She indicated that the County presented data on the homeless situation and is willing to discuss this topic further at a future Council work session.

VFW 100th Anniversary

Mayor Pierce announced that the VFW will be celebrating their 100th anniversary and all members of Council are invited to the event.

Halloween House Decorating Contest

Mayor Pierce advised that voting for her Halloween house decorating contest is now open and will continue to run through November 3. She said the public can visit her Facebook page for a list of the eligible houses.

Hydro Revenue Work Session (continued)

Mayor Pierce thanked Council Member Olney for setting up the work session with Mr. Jain regarding hydro revenue. Referring to an earlier comment made by Council Member Olney about an email from the Department of Public Services, she explained that staff reached out to this agency regarding the CCA program and their response was that it was not lucrative for municipalities. She said there is more research to be done on this.

Request for Resolutions (continued)

In regard to Council Members directing the City Manager to do certain things, Mayor Pierce said that she assumes the City Manager is operating under the resolution passed in 2022. Stating she had a copy of it with her, she further explained that, in the resolution, Council had agreed that the City Manager will not take directives from one single Council Member and there will be consensus before the City Manager is asked to take action on something. She said she is not certain whether it is in the charter that a member of Council can ask for a resolution, noting this resolution is contradictory to that.

FOIL Request (continued)

Mayor Pierce explained that one of the responsibilities of Mayor is to be the FOIL Appeals Officer and she follows legal guidance when responding to FOIL appeals. In regard to the specific incidents referred to by Council Member Olney, the legal precedent was to deny the appeal because it was a sealed court case.

Attorney Smith explained that it was a request for a record related to a criminal matter which was sealed by the court, citing the criminal procedure law. She further explained that when a matter is closed with no charges brought against it, then it is typically sealed by the court.

Motion was made by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero to move into Executive Session to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property when publicity would affect the value thereof and to discuss the employment history of a particular individual.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:39 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:03 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 9:03 p.m. by motion of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Robert O. Kimball and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders
City Clerk

DRAFT