

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
January 3, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Joseph M. Butler, Jr. Presiding

Present: Council Member Cody J. Horbacz
Council Member Stephen A. Jennings
Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso
Council Member Mark C. Walczyk
Mayor Butler

Also Present: Sharon Addison, City Manager
Robert J. Slye, City Attorney

City staff present: Matthew Roy, James Mills, Eugene Hayes, Justin Wood, Fire Chief Herman, Erin Gardner, Brian Phelps, Amy Pastuf, Michael Lumbis, Geoffrey Urda

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Approving Salary Structure and Annual Pay Increase for Watertown Housing Authority Employees
- Resolution No. 2 - Approving Agreement for Services for Vision and Dental City Employee Plan, Relph Benefit Advisors
- Resolution No. 3 - Authorizing the Sale of Fire Department 1986 E-One Pumper Truck
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving Purchasing Policy Revisions
- Resolution No. 5 - Designating Depositories of City Funds for 2017
- Resolution No. 6 - Finding That Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, Section 310-9.2, Health Services Districts Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment
- Public Hearing Ordinance - Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, Section 310-9.2, Health Services Districts

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2016, was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Stephen A. Jennings, seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Christine Penrose, General Manager of Best Western, addressed the chair concerning the recent sign constructed in front of the hotel. She asked Council to consider a license agreement allowing the sign to remain at its current location.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Butler asked the City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning amending the Code of the City of Watertown, Section 310-9.2, Health Services Districts

Mayor Butler declared the hearing open at 7:30 p.m.

Michael Lumbis advised that it is not necessary for the Jefferson County Planning Board to review the proposed zoning text amendment and suggested Council remove the third paragraph regarding this in the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Butler declared the hearing closed at 7:31 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Approving Salary Structure and Annual Pay Increase for Watertown Housing Authority Employees

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

WHEREAS in conformity with the requirements of the New York State Public Housing Law § Section 32, Sub Division 1, compensation for Watertown Housing Authority employees can be fixed only upon the approval of the local legislative body, which is the City Council of the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the Watertown Housing Authority has reported that based on a comparability review of salaries for their employees with prevailing local government salaries, it is the desire of the Watertown Housing Authority Board to authorize a one percent (1%) cost of living increase for all employees effective January 1, 2017, and

WHEREAS the position of Confidential Assistant to the Executive Director replaces the position of Executive Assistant and has been approved by the Civil Service Commission, and

WHEREAS by resolution adopted on December 15, 2016, the Watertown Housing Authority Board approved a one percent (1%) cost of living increase for all employees, effective January 1, 2017, by modification to its existing salary structure,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the 2017 salary structure for all employees of the Watertown Housing Authority which contains a one percent (1%) cost of living increase, effective January 1, 2017, salary structures are attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of the resolution to the Watertown Housing Authority.

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 2 - Approving Agreement for Services for Vision and Dental City Employee Plan, Relph Benefit Advisors

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS on November 7, 2016, City Council approved renewing the vision and dental coverage for City employees with Relph Benefit Advisors for another year effective January 1, 2017, and

WHEREAS in order to comply with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, Relph Benefit Advisors will administer the COBRA plan on our behalf,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement for Services with Relph Benefit Advisors, attached hereto and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute this Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Butler noted this employee benefit is at no cost to the City.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Authorizing the Sale of Fire Department 1986 E-One Pumper Truck

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has a surplus 1986 E-One Pumper Truck, the description of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

WHEREAS this truck may have some value best determined by on-line auction,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby authorizes the sale, by on-line auction, of the surplus Fire Department E-One Pumper Truck, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final acceptance of such bids shall constitute acceptance of the same by the City Council.

Seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Jennings questioned whether there would be a potential bidder or if it would be sold for scrap.

Dale Herman, Fire Chief, explained there were no bids for the last pumper that went to an auction so it was donated to Jefferson Community College. He noted this pumper cannot be sold as a compliant fire

apparatus but a construction firm or farmer may be interested in it due to the size of the motor. He indicated there is some scrap value to it.

Amy Pastuf, Purchasing Manager, advised that it should be sold for scrap if there are no bidders.

Mayor Butler asked that a memo be given to Council with an estimated scrap value if there are not any bidders.

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

Resolution No. 4 - Approving Purchasing Policy Revisions

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

WHEREAS on July 20, 2015, the City Council approved the latest revision to the City's Purchasing Policy, and

WHEREAS the City's Procurement Policy has been established and adopted by the City Council, and

WHEREAS our Purchasing Policy has been updated in order to comply with Federal and State requirements to include all Federal Government Agencies,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Purchasing Policy for the City of Watertown, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution.

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Ms. Pastuf explained that the only changes made were to bring the policy in compliance with Federal and State requirements. She clarified this was a result of a recent audit.

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

Resolution No. 5 - Designating Depositories of City Funds for 2017

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

WHEREAS Section 30 of the City Charter requires the City Council to designate each year at its first meeting some incorporated bank or banks or trust company located in the City of Watertown for the deposit of all moneys belonging to the City,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following banks be and they are hereby designated as depositories of the City of Watertown, New York for the year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017:

Community Bank, N.A.

Key Bank
WSB Municipal Bank

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Bank, N.A., Key Bank and WSB Municipal Bank each be required to either execute a bond, deliver to the City of Watertown, New York, approved collateral or to deposit at a mutually agreed upon depository approved collateral of a value up to TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000).

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

Mayor Butler recused himself and left Council Chambers because he is an employee of Community Bank.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except Mayor Joseph M. Butler, Jr. abstaining.

Mayor Butler returned to Council Chambers.

Resolution No. 6 - Finding That Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, Section 310-9.2, Health Services Districts Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, has before it an Ordinance amending the text of Section 310-9.2, Health Services Districts of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Watertown to allow “Offices” as a permitted use, and

WHEREAS the City Council must evaluate all proposed actions submitted for its consideration in light of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and

WHEREAS the approval of the text amendment would constitute such an “Action,” and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that the proposed text amendment is an Unlisted Action as that term is defined by 6NYCRR Section 617.2, and

WHEREAS to aid the City Council in its determination as to whether the proposed text amendment will have a significant impact on the environment, Part 1 of a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that:

1. Based upon its examination of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and comparing the proposed action with the criteria set forth in 6NYCRR Section 617.7, no significant impact is known and the adoption of the text amendment will not have a significant impact on the environment.

2. The Mayor of the City of Watertown is authorized to execute the Environmental Assessment Form to the effect that the City Council is issuing a Negative Declaration under SEQRA.

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form.

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

OLD BUSINESS

The Ordinance “Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, Section 310-9.2, Health Services Districts”. *(Introduced on 12/19/2016; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2016 Minutes Book on page 12 of the 12/19/2016 minutes).*

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

BE IT ORDAINED where the City Council of the City of Watertown has submitted an application to amend Section 310-9.2, Paragraph B, Health Services Districts of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Watertown to allow “Offices” as a permitted principal use, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown reviewed the proposed zoning text amendment to Section 310-9.2, Paragraph B of the Zoning Ordinance at its December 6, 2016 meeting and unanimously adopted a motion recommending that City Council approve the amendment as proposed, and

~~WHEREAS the Jefferson County Planning Board reviewed the proposed zoning text amendment at its December 27, 2016 meeting pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law Section 239-m, and~~

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on the proposed zoning text amendment on January 3, 2017, after due public notice, and

WHEREAS the City Council has made a declaration of Negative Findings of the impacts of the proposed amendment according to the requirements of SEQRA, and

WHEREAS the City Council deems it in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Watertown to approve the requested amendment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the following permitted principal use is added to §310-9.2 Health Services Districts, Paragraph B:

B. (8) Offices.

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

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

Motion was made by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso to amend the foregoing ordinance to remove the third paragraph within the ordinance regarding the proposed zoning text amendment being reviewed by the Jefferson County Planning Board. Motion was seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council Member Horbacz said that amending the Health Services District does take into consideration the surrounding area taxpayers and the future of the City of Watertown despite what the opposition has said. He questioned whether there is a need to have so much of the City zoned as Health Services. Noting the Zoning Ordinance is over 30 years old, he recommended reexamining zoning throughout the City to determine if other changes need to be made.

Council Member Jennings stated he is in favor of retaining the Health Services District but noted it should be flexible.

Council Member Walczyk commented that he is happy to welcome a new business into this neighborhood.

Mayor Butler agreed and indicated the financial business fits within the neighborhood.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Past Year on Council

Council Member Horbacz commented that he is honored to have completed his first year in office and said he had great colleagues and staff to work with. Mentioning he has learned a lot this year, he said he looks forward to having a good 2017 and hopes to keep the momentum moving forward.

Council Member Walczyk agreed with Council Member Horbacz, stating it was a pleasure and honor to serve on Council in 2016. He pointed out that even when Council is not in agreement, everyone always has the people of Watertown's best interest at heart and he looks forward to working in 2017 to make Watertown a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Speed Limit and Parking on Public Square

Council Member Horbacz advised that he spoke to the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the speed limit and possibility of changing parking downtown. He reported the DOT said there is a process that the City can go through and he would like to explore this further.

Shooting Range on Huntington Island

Council Member Walczyk asked if the City has ever looked into relocating the shooting range and developing that property.

Mayor Butler questioned whether some of this area is zoned as parkland. He asked if Council could get a memo regarding the zoning of this parcel, as well as the Police Chief's opinion on this.

Ms. Addison said this is a resource that she would want to protect because the City needs the range for qualifications, noting it is difficult to use other ranges and there is not a place to relocate it within the City.

Sewall's Island Cleanup

In response to Council Member Walczyk's inquiry, Mr. Lumbis provided an update on the cleanup process for this property. He mentioned the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is managing this grant and the final remediation plan should be ready in the Spring or Summer with the cleanup completed by the end of this year. He confirmed that a portion of the land is dedicated as parkland and a portion of it is zoned commercial and discussed the need for a cap in order for commercial development.

Bus Advertising - Lamar

Ms. Addison responded to Council Member Walczyk that Lamar was contacted regarding advertising on the City buses but has not responded back.

Water Analysis Press Release

Mayor Butler mentioned a press release was issued today reporting there were negligible amounts of lead in the water recently tested. He said the problem seemed to be isolated to certain dwellings but the City will continue to follow this.

Best Western Sign

Mayor Butler said he reviewed the details of this and because this is an unusual occurrence, he supports proceeding with a license agreement to allow the sign to remain on City property. He stressed the agreement should ensure the City is not responsible for the cost of relocating it in the future if work ever needs to be done in this area of the property.

Council agreed.

Accomplishments of the Year

Mayor Butler mentioned there has been a lot of momentum in the City from a development standpoint, discussing the funding received from the CFA process for the Lincoln Building and DOT proceeding with the Western Boulevard Extension. He added that he plans to go to Albany with the City Manager at the end of January to express some of the City's priority projects and to lobby for a connecting road from South Massey to Waterman Drive.

Ice Arena – Public Skating

Mayor Butler advised that he recently visited the Ice Arena and was very pleased with the experience. He commended Parks and Recreation Superintendent Erin Gardner and her staff.

Motion was made by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings to move into Executive Session to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property when publicity would affect the value thereof.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council moved into Executive Session at 7:39 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by motion of Council Member Mark C. Walczyk, seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders
City Clerk