



Watertown City Council  
**TUESDAY**, September 12, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

Discussion Items:

1. Restore NY Communities Initiative Grant
  - Michael A. Lumbis, Planning and Community Development Director
2. Thompson Park Splash Pad Update
  - Erin E. Gardner, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

September 7, 2017

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From: Michael A. Lumbis, Planning and Community Development Director  
Subject: Restore NY Communities Initiative Grant

On September 15, 2017, the Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) is expected to publish a Request for Proposals for Round 5 of the Restore New York Communities Initiative. The Restore New York Communities Initiative provides local governments with financial assistance to support economic development and revitalize neighborhoods and urban centers. The program encourages community development and neighborhood growth through the rehabilitation, reconstruction, deconstruction and demolition of blighted structures.

The proposal due date is December 15, 2017. However, any municipality that wishes to apply for the grant must officially submit an "Intent to Apply" form to ESD no later than October 13, 2017. If the grant program and guidelines are similar to last year, the maximum possible award under the program would be \$500,000 and a 10% project match would be required. A municipality may only apply for Restore NY funding for one project.

Eligibility last year was limited to projects that included demolition, deconstruction, rehabilitation and/or reconstruction of vacant, abandoned, condemned and surplus properties. Last year, the City applied for funding on behalf of the owners of the Masonic Temple for a restoration project that involved the replacement of the portico roof, restoration of two supporting columns, construction of a new entrance, and basement window replacement. The project is currently in the design and approval stage.

Earlier this week, Staff received a proposal from Brian Murray of Doolittle and Hall, LLC, requesting that the City consider the Lincoln Building for the grant application. The application would be for the next phase of the redevelopment and would include building improvements such as a vertical platform lift, a new stairwell and a new elevator.

There are no other projects identified at this time; however, Staff was hoping to use the work session to discuss other potential project ideas.