



**Watertown City Council
Committee on Human Services
Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

Members Present: Councilor Tony Palomba, Chair; Councilor Caroline Bays, Vice Chair; and Councilor John Gannon, Secretary

The Committee on Human Services held a public meeting at 6:15pm on March 26, 2025, to discuss the ideal qualities and qualifications of a Director of Human Services.

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Palomba called the meeting to order at 6:15pm and introduced the other committee members present: Caroline Bays, Vice Chair; and John Gannon, Secretary. Also present during the course of the meeting were City Manager George Proakis, Jackie Van Leeuwen, Domenica Puleo, Stephanie Venizelos, Patrick George, Emily Monea, and Deanna Earle.

Chair Palomba stated that the City Council had voted to approve the creation of a Director of Human Services. In accordance with the City Charter, the appropriate City Council committee is charged with reviewing the ideal qualifications for a new appointment for the posting of such a position.

City Manager Proakis stated that he was interested in hearing ideas from the committee members and members of the public. During the meeting, participants spoke of desired qualifications for the position, which included an entrepreneurial spirit, skill at working with people of various backgrounds, experience in the field of human services delivery, experience in dealing with food and housing insecurity, strong management ability, strategic planning capacity, ability to prioritize, experience in running community-based organizations, a suitable educational background, experience in mental health and the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders, creativity, and a dynamic leadership style.

Councilor Bays made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The vote on the motion to adjourn was 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Gannon

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Anthony Palomba,
Chair

Caroline Bays,
Vice Chair

John G. Gannon,
Secretary