



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023 AT 7:00 PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET

MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.org.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344
- D. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

1. Roll Call

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the City Council at 7:00 pm. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building.

Vice President Piccirilli read the roll call, in attendance were Councilors John M. Airasian, Caroline Bays, John G. Gannon, Nicole Gardner, Lisa J. Feltner, Emily Izzo, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris.

President Sideris noted that Councilor Palomba would be late to the meeting arriving at 7:06 PM. Also present were George J. Proakis, City Manager, and Joseph Fair, KP Law.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Forum

No requests noted.

4. President's Report

President Sideris stated that he had the opportunity last week to attend a retirement party to honor Captain Ray Dupuis who served the community, after 38 years of dedicated service in the Police Department. He wished Captain Dupuis and his family the best and that the party was very well attended and that he appreciated all of his dedicated service to the City of Watertown.

5. Public Hearing and Vote

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order Authorizing the Sum of \$2,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of Constructing, Reconstructing, Paving, Repairing or Otherwise Improving Streets and Sidewalks, Including Improving

Underground Ducts and Conduits and Paying All Other Costs Incidental and Related to such Street and Sidewalk Work; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

President Sideris invited City Manager George J. Proakis to provide background information.

Manager Proakis stated that the proposed loan order was part of the adopted conceptual recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and that the Council approved the list of streets to be included in the Fiscal Year 2023 Road Program.

President Sideris opened the public hearing, hearing none, the forum was closed.

President Sideris asked for a motion, so moved by Vice President Piccirilli, seconded by Councilor Feltner.

Councilor Feltner stated that for the record and several discussions on the item that the budget should be increased for streets and sidewalk appropriation.

Motion accepted unanimously by roll call vote.

President Sideris noted that Councilor Palomba arrived at the meeting at 7:06 PM.

B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Order Authorizing the Sum of \$1,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of Replacing the Turf at Victory Field, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

President Sideris read the item and invited City Manager Proakis to speak on the proposed loan order.

Mr. Proakis stated that this project is consistence with the FY 2023-2027 CIP for the Victory Field Turf Replacement project within Recreation & Parks budget. As discussed in the past, when this came forward in the 2023 CIP, one of the items discussed in the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committee was ensuring that this particular field replacement timed appropriately with the other significant amount of work, upgrades and improvements adjustments being done on parks and playgrounds. He stated that city management took a close look to figure out how and when was best circumstances to do this. Part of the key was the Victory Field Phase II project was funded in a previous years' CIP is scheduled to be done in the spring and summer of 2024, it was agreed upon in community process to replace the grass in the oval with a new grass field and replace the oval and the track. The best timing to move forward on this project is June and July timeframe this year.

Mr. Proakis introduced Mr. Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works to share the history of the project and referenced a questions and answers document that was shared with the council.

Mr. St. Louis stated that the funds will be utilized for the design, engineering, construction, and construction administration services associated with the removal of the existing turf and installation of new turf, as well as all associated costs.

Victory Field is Watertown's most well used recreation area and open space, is a 14.2-acre park and athletic complex and is home to Watertown high School varsity sports, activities, and graduation ceremonies.

Victory Field turf was originally installed in the fall of 2011. The field consists of a 14" section and includes 10" of base stone, 2" of top sand and 2" of crumb rubber infill and a turf pile height (pile height is the length of each "Blade" of grass in the field) of 2 ½" and is broken and worn down.

The field has been in service for twelve years and outlived its useful life and has engaged the services of design consultant, Tighe & Bond, to assist with the best practice, most sustainable and best technology available and in order to replace the field and to restore the GMAX Test scoring, a standardized test for impact attenuation (*aka* fall protection), has started to decline along with the wear of the synthetic turf, requiring additional maintenance and application of infill. In the past year, crumb rubber has been added to be in compliance with GMAX.

The proposal is to install a new synthetic surface that will be a hybrid turf suitable for a multi-use field with an organic infill. The new infill is an organic/sand infill made from southern yellow pine. The new infill is an upgrade over the current crumb rubber, which is made of recycled tires. The infill is designed to improve traction, reduce artificial turf heat compared to the existing crumb rubber, and provide a lasting surface for the city that can accommodate the numerous competitive high level athletic sports per season. It also replaces an inorganic rubber substance that is often tracked away from the field, and often requires additional investment to continually replace the infill with additional rubber material. With a yellow pine infill, the regular replacement of infill will be sourced from a renewable organic source and will break down naturally when an athlete inadvertently takes some home on the bottom of their shoes.

The old synthetic turf will be rolled and delivered to a recycling facility. We have mandated as part of the specifications that full documentation of the turf removal, trucking and delivery to a recycling plant be provided by the contractor. Crumb rubber will similarly be brought to a facility for reuse as applicable.

Natural infills lower the surface temperature. Although we have not had to suspend play on our existing field due to heat, this new field will be cooler. We anticipate that the new infill will drop field temperatures by 20 degrees during summer heat waves, versus the current crumb rubber field infill.

Mr. St. Louis referenced photographs of the field for perspective.

Even the most well-designed and well-maintained natural grass fields need time to rest and recover from use. Watertown has limited field space to operate very popular sports. For example, this year the football team (that typically will play in wet weather) played on the Victory Field turf on Friday September 30th. The next morning (10/1) teams are practicing on the field. Then, youth football uses the field on Sunday. The following day, the field hockey team played a home game on the same surface. In a circumstance like this, a rainstorm on Friday night could turn a grass field into mud, with weekend practices further damaging the field. But Monday, the field hockey game would be on a surface with muddy grass or cancelled all together. A turf field does not have this challenge.

Mr. St. Louis concluded his presentation with answers to questions that there are no other proposed turf fields planned, it is an in-kind maintenance issue, replacing only the existing asset that the city has invested in the past.

Mr. Proakis provided additional perspective and stated that he is fairly new in the community and worked in two other communities in the planning field - zoning and parks and open space design in Somerville and Lowell. Somerville looked at converting four different fields to artificial turf, they converted three fields, and they had some healthy discussions each time about where grass and where turf belong.

He stated that he understands there is evolution in the conversation with concerns and that there was a lot of discussion on when BB&N's proposed their artificial turf field of crumb rubber field. This field may be used at certain times and has added to our total field use - added as artificial.

His approach to the issue was a maintenance issue, replacing existing field and replacing with artificial turf with artificial turf is something that needs to be done. Beyond 10 plus years of artificial turf field, and in order to meet the standard, you have to adding more crumb rubber and he too comes from a town that family members use a crumb rubber field, and he has pieces of crumb rubber in his home from the field.

Mr. Proakis remarked that there is a moment to have the conversation about the need to do this, and that we have reached the moment, timing is right. He had conversations with those that are not agreeing with the position that we should replace artificial turf with turf. Many met in his office, and he had interactions and emails that were also sent to council as well on the topic issue.

He stated that as the manager, his perspective includes respect for environmental goals of the city and all of what we are doing for environmental impacts of being a local government. One of the things he is proudest of is, working in a community that is a leader and the council deserves the credit for that circumstance.

As the manager, it is his role to look on balance on a number of issues and make with best recommendation that he can make to the council. At the end of the day, it is the council that takes the vote, it's their determination to borrow the money. He looked at the professional advice and community input, and the best recommendation is that Watertown needs a single artificial turf field to be able to operate the set of sports and recreational programs that we need to support. The question before us is we need one or do without the one, we need the one, all evidence establishes that need.

This field is our primary location for our sports team and in a community our size, without a significant number of grass fields to choose from and that in 2011, moving toward artificial turf then, made the most sense and nothing has changed with circumstances around that original council decision.

Substantial technological advancement in artificial turf have been made in the past decade, such as artificial turf with the organic pine infill and environmental improvement to the pad helps with the way the field operates.

While embracing our environmental goals, best environmental circumstance, the project went out to bid and that we are doing our due diligence around the low bidder, it is likely we will use this bidder, if the council chooses to vote for the funding. The low bidder has committed to brock pine infill, buying new field from Shaw Company in Georgia that sells field and is committed to returning the old field to Shaw, that would be turned into pads, this meets the requirements of our standards. Shaw has worked a lot on their processing to provide a field to meet the bid spec of not having PFAS.

He was asked about the circumstances in other communities that operate on grass, of note is all other Middlesex league competitors operate most sports on artificial turf, Stoneham is building three artificial turf fields with their new high school.

When asked to look at Springfield and other communities that operate a substantial number of organically managed grass field; we actually do operate a substantial number of organically managed grass fields and one artificial turf field and that will continue should the council take the vote this step. What we do not have is the ability to rotate sports between these fields in a way to operate with just grass fields.

When asked what will happen tonight if the council chooses not to vote for this loan order, he stated that city management would continue to operate the field we have. In order to do that we would have to spend \$20,000 this year to buy additional crumb rubber pieces for the field to hold it together for another year. This project couldn't happen next year because of Victory Field Phase II. The year after we could look at options at that point.

When asked about all grass circumstance looks like, if we were to remove this turf field and replace natural grass field, we could not operate the sports on it that operate now. From an equity and parity perspective of sports teams and because there aren't enough fields or land to purchase.

Mr. Proakis concluded that in order to meet environmental goals and on balance given this circumstance that he is very comfortable with the proposed loan order, it's right for our community. He thanked President Sideris for the time and Mr. St. Louis for his presentation.

President Sideris opened the public hearing, those that wished to speak would have two minutes per Council rules.

Speakers in-person who support the project included Superintendent of School Dede Galdston, School Committee members, School Athletics Director, School sports coaches, parents, and student athletes and residents.

Speakers in-person and zoom participates who spoke against the project due to their concerns for the environment included many residents, parents, grandparents, climate, and environment activists. Also, an email was read into the record that was sent during the public hearing from Jeanne Trubeck – on behalf of the Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee WEC3 in opposition to the project.

Recreation Director Peter Centola thanked the Council President and Council members, City Manager Proakis and Superintendent Gregory St. Louis for their consideration and presentation of the project. He stated that he has been working for the town since he was 16 years old and has never been as proud as he is tonight and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and that he supports the project.

Dean Poillucci, a resident who grew up in Watertown, moved and came back, and is a parent and a chemical engineer by training. He stated that has been involved in many sustainable projects and understands the concerns and that turf is the way to go given our infrastructure needs. He recommended that if approved, insure contractually that we are getting what we are paying for, solicit independent testing, do not take the word of affidavits, get independent testing when executing the contract and confirm the details on materials and recycling of the product, protect what we are buying.

Libby Shaw, zoom guest spoke about advances that Watertown has made regarding environmental issues. She agreed with the suggestion that the material of the turf product be tested by an independent company and are PFAS free.

President Sideris closed the public hearing and there were no other speakers.

President Sideris asked for a motion from the council, so moved by Vice President Piccirilli, seconded by Councilor Feltner.

President Sideris thanked everyone who contacted the council by email and phone on both sides of the issue and he hadn't been able to reply to everyone yet. He also appreciated the discussion and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, especially the student athletics and parents in particular as they made the choice for their children.

President Sideris allowed for council members comments.

Vice President Piccirilli read the following: The decision to approve the replacement of the artificial turf is something I have wrestled with for the past two years. The Council's responsibility is to look at the entirety of the demands from our community, to weigh pros and cons, to carefully consider risks and benefits, and make decisions based on data and facts. Not all of these factors carry the same weight, and part of our difficult job is to consider which ones are to be weighed more heavily than others. I understand and respect the concerns that some of us have about the risks associated with artificial turf, and that each of us will have different assumptions about what an acceptable risk is. For this maintenance project, what is being proposed today is a better product than what was available in 2011, and I am satisfied, after doing much research, that it reduces our risks to a minimal level. In 2011 I said that I would not vote for the project if I thought it would create a health risk to our children or the public.

Tonight, I will vote for this project because I believe it is our best option and does not represent a health risk to our children or the public.

Councilor Airasian thanked everyone for attending and being active and involved in this important issue for the community. He stated that he supports the project and after listening to the testimony from the school members regarding equity and inclusion, he was more committed to supporting the replacement of the turf. He again thanked everyone for contacting him, whether it was in support or in opposition, but that most members of the community agreed that the project should move forward. His perspective was about balance and looking at the big picture, and that he considers Watertown is a "top class suburban city."

Councilor Izzo read the following: I am planning on supporting this. I believe it would be such a disservice to the student athletes in this city to take this playing field away from them. If we do not approve the loan order and replace the field with the more organic option, you are in fact voting to just use more rubber infill, which is worse for the athletes and the environment. And we would be spending \$20K on a worse option. It also sounds as though, the students will be playing on turf anyway, whether they have to practice at BB&N or another turf surface, we will just be inconveniencing them.

Also, based off the comments we have heard tonight, it will disproportionately impact female athletes, as the surface at BB&N is not ideal for field hockey players, or moving the team to the oval. I used to play field hockey in the oval, and your games may be cancelled if it rains, but your practices won't be, Ms. Donahue will make you power through. I would be hesitant to support replacing every grass field throughout the city with a turf surface, but this is already a turf field, the field is old, it needs replacing and the useful life is over, and our athletes deserve an updated field, and this vote is about them.

Councilor Gardner read the following: Thank you to the many residents (and even students) who reached out to share your views, by mail, phone, and in person. It has been helpful to hear your thoughts, for and against replacing Victory Field with more artificial turf.

You gave me a lot to think about, and from my conversations, I know that reasonable and well-intentioned people can see this issue in very different ways.

My husband and I had two kids who were HS and college athletes. It was a very big part of their lives during that time, and of ours. I know first hand the important role sports can play for some during school and well beyond.

Our challenge is that Watertown has limited space for sports. Replacing Victory Field with grass would likely require us to rethink the use of our other fields, perhaps investing in bleachers, and maybe even renting field time from neighboring towns. Changes like these could create complexity. Re-installing more artificial turf seems like a simpler solution on the face of it.

That said, I will vote NO on this request, and I'd like to take a moment to explain why.

First - our community has repeatedly expressed its commitment to sustainability and a healthy environment.

- We say it in our Charter, Comprehensive plan, Energy and Climate Plan, and the City Council's 2023 budget priorities

- We show it in our solar ordinance and our investments in our net zero schools

Installing artificial turf will consume a tremendous amount of new fossil fuels and water.

It will create a heat island.

It will shed methane, a potent greenhouse gas, microplastics, and chemicals.

There are currently no recycling facilities for artificial turf. Who knows if there will be at the end of its life or if this will go to landfill?

The bottom line is that artificial turf contributes to climate change - something we must slow for our children's sake. Grass fields do not.

Second - I am concerned about the health impacts of artificial turf on children playing on the field.

The plastics used contain PFAS, which are linked to cancer, birth defects, and other serious health issues.

Exposure is easy. It can happen through the skin, inhalation, and ingestion, all risks for kids playing on the artificial turf.

And because children's bodies are still developing, they are considered more vulnerable to exposure to PFAS.

PFAS are called "forever chemicals" because they don't break down over time. This means any PFAS we create now will be doing damage for generations to come.

The bottom line is that artificial turf can create long term health risks for our children. Grass fields do not.

As I see it, the harms of artificial turf -- the health risks and the safety impact of climate change -- will be here forever. We need to prioritize the health and safety of our children, and their children's children.

Therefore I can't vote yes for more artificial turf in our community. We should not do this. I encourage us to work together to find another way to safely meet the important sports needs of our kids.

Councilor Bays thanked everyone for caring about our town. She stated that she was not in support of the project, and she would be voting no on the project. She explained that the town was borrowing money and we must consider the whole town and felt the project wasn't financially viable. She further stated that she was concerned about forever plastics, environmental impacts, and the safety of artificial turf.

Councilor Gannon stated that he supports the appropriation of the bond and spoke about the history of Watertown's open space areas and that space is limited. He noted that to his knowledge, and while researching other communities, no other community was removing/transforming artificial turf to a natural grass field. On balancing the needs of the community and the environment, the Victory field facility allows for seven sports on the field and other family activities, and the field allows equal opportunity for male and female school athletics. Further, he took notice of the manager's comments that the artificial turf materials are the most environmentally friendly possible, it is safer and that the vendor includes organic materials and there is the ability to recycle the old turf. He concluded that this project is the best option for the community.

Councilor Feltner L. Feltner read the following: I want to thank everyone who took the time to write many, many emails or call about Victory's stadium renovation and the implication of tonight's vote on artificial turf. I appreciate your passion and thoughtful comments and research. Just a quick reminder: I initiated the conversation to make creating a town climate action plan a top budget priority guideline for the manager, so this issue is important to me.

I looked into the examples and news reports shared with us about communities that have imposed a moratorium on artificial turf or are managing all-grass fields. Most all of the concerns focused on contamination of their drinking water supply, because those turf fields were located on top of an aquifer, or next to a well, or a wetland, or they had inadequate drainage (none of which applies to us here), and all of them either had another turf field to use *-because they made an exception to keep artificial turf for their high schools-* or they had many other existing grass field options available, I read from 20 to 900 acres, which we clearly do not have in Watertown, in which they were able to rotate their use.

So as much as I appreciate a lot of the examples, feelings that "other towns have done this so we can too, we're leaders", you have to put things into context and look at the details and look at the facts of what we are limited with here.

As much as we might all want to say, "no more plastic for any reason", it's just not realistic, even as we are striving hard to improve sustainability, including in our schools and what we're hoping to select in our next turf field and infill. Even if we wanted to say "yes" to all-grass, based on what I read we would have to *at least* triple the number of grass fields that we have now, and then take at least a year or two to grow turf, then add top-quality maintenance and increase ongoing maintenance, to make this wish at all viable. And then there's the practical matter of competing with all other schools' sports on artificial turf to fully support athletics; you need an understanding of what it means for athletics today.

So, it's clear what the consequences of a No Vote mean, and it does not make sense for Watertown. Voting No means you are basically in favor of dismantling our schools' athletics programs and further disrupting our Recreational programming for all ages, including youth soccer. We already have many moving parts with our school building projects, impacts to Moxley Field, Phase 2 of Victory Field on deck, our Arsenal Park renovation -I worry about Cross Country team there too. These are just facts, they're not excuses. We're growing and greatly improving our town, and we need to come to grips with that.

I know this has increasingly become a heated debate in more places than Watertown, and it's driving a wedge between school athletics, school committees, councilors, and other stakeholders. But when I look at all the facts, I don't see a choice other than to support replacing our Victory Stadium Field with new, improved artificial turf. Then I hope we can turn our attention to the fact that Watertown has too little acreage and too

Councilor Palomba read the following statement: Before I read my statement, I wish to state that I do not know any environmental zealots in this room. What I do know and who I highly respect are those who have committed their time and energy to addressing climate change, an existential threat to our city and nation.

Councilor Palomba's comments on the Appropriation for Resurfacing Victory Field with Artificial Turf City Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 28.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this important issue. It is not unusual for residents to disagree on a public policy or funding question. However it becomes more difficult when both groups of people have the same goal in mind - the safety and well-being of our young athletes and community at-large and the sustainability of our environment. We have from parents with children and from those without children speaking for and against the loan order.

I want to thank those you took the time to share their concerns about the need for Victory Field to be resurfaced and the important role it plays in supporting our high school athletes in the late spring, late summer, and fall, clocking nearly 800 hours, as well as for our Watertown youth programs, adult sports and community organizations. There is no doubt there is a need for a resurfaced field as the surface of Victory Field is hardening as the life of the artificial turf is reaching its end. The plastic grass is coming apart and releasing microplastics into the air and water. Some have pointed out the use of BrockFILL, instead of crumb rubber, is environmentally friendly and would keep the turf cooler.

Thank you to the School Committee and the Administration for sharing their rationale for supporting the replacement of the artificial turf with more artificial turn and the Q and A they provided. I should note the four page memo did not specify who would recycle the exiting turf and crumb rubber.

I also want to thank the many residents who contacted me and who provided copies of studies and reports regarding negative aspects of artificial turf. I have had the opportunity read them carefully. It is the information that you have shared that leads me to vote against this appropriation. I do not want to enumerate all the reasons I have decided to take this vote, but I would like to mention a couple, such as increase injury, less cost of water to maintain the turf over time.

1) While there new environmental friendly infill products, such as BrockFill, the reality is that the plastic grass, the green blades of plastic turf, is not environmentally friendly. Rather it contains toxic chemicals. Here we are talking about PFAS or Per- and Poly fluoro alkyl substances, often referred to as 'forever chemicals'. These chemicals have been linked to

a) range of health diseases included high cholesterol, thyroid disease, cancer, impaired and neurodevelopment.

b) They can accumulate in the body

c) Can leak into the air and the water.

d) Exposure can be through inhalation, dermal absorption, and ingestion.

e) States throughout the country are banning PFAS in certain products, and there is a bill in the Massachusetts Legislature to do the same.

2) The second point I would like to make has to do with climate change. Watertown has proven itself to be a leader in the state in addressing climate change by taking concrete action, both through legislation and policy – think our solar ordinance, community aggregation program, two net-zero schools and third in the works, passage of the stretch code, increased recycling programs and a new compost initiative, purchase of electric vehicles, and more. Most importantly we have a Climate and Energy Action Plan and a directive from our City Manager that all department heads consider how their department can implement the Plan while in the process of creating their budget.

After all this how can we conceive to replace artificial turf with more artificial turf?
Three points:

1) There are no facilities the U.S. that can recycle plastic grass. Where does the material go, material that as we said includes toxic chemicals that can leach into water supplies. As one author stated "the plastic carpets and rubber crump infill are often dumped or sent back to landfills in a form that is even more environmentally problematic."

2) Compared to grass, which is absorbs CO2 and releases oxygen, artificial turf does the exact opposite – the manufacturing, installation and service of turf releases CO2 and methane – greenhouse gases.

3) Finally, fields of artificial turf are heat islands, one of the targets of the Climate and Energy Plan – specifically the goal of "reducing the impact of existing heat islands on Watertown neighborhoods by taking action to enhance green space, shading, water features and reflective surfaces".

Additional two points after lessening to those here tonight.

1) The supposed recycling of plastic grass that is done in a way to produce more useable recycled grass still includes PFAS. We are making more PFAS from and product that includes PFAS.

2) If the turf purchased by the City is tested and has PFAS, what will the City do?

Will we remove it to protect our children and environment?

For these main reasons – the PFAS in plastic grass and the effects of artificial turf on our climate I oppose this appropriation to replace VF with artificial turf – I do so for the benefit of our children and our community.

Finally I urge the administration to look into alternatives to artificial turf, starting with Chip Osborne Organics a New England-based company that specializes in organic playing fields. Let Watertown join other communities, like Wayland and Sharon, professional and college teams, and move away from artificial turf. WE

NEED TO MOVE FORWARD, NOT BACKWARD.

Councilor Gardner commented that she agrees with a suggestion that the manufacturer prove that the materials tested are PFAS free.

Mr. St. Louis stated that the department's contract documents included information that the samples materials tested are PFAS free.

President Sideris said the council is responsible for decisions based on information that was provided, some attending tonight will be happy and some attending will be unhappy about tonight's vote. He provided examples of neighboring Cambridge that is building additional new fields because of the demand of sport for student athletes and numerous recreational uses. He stated that he understands that we all have concerns about health, environment and concerns about our children, parents understand the issues and they choose to give this opportunity to be able to compete with other communities and they voiced their support of the project. He also remarked that he is the father of a field hockey player who practiced in Waltham on turf with Coach Donahue. Information shared tonight about other communities included another town that currently does not have artificial turf but are in the process of building three new turf fields. He stated that he supports the project wholeheartedly and that he believes that it is the right decision for Watertown given the infrastructure and that it is the right time to move forward with the project.

Council President Sideris asked Councilor Piccirilli to call the roll, which passed 6-3.

Lisa Feltner – Yes

John Gannon – Yes

Nicole Gardner - No

Emily Izzo - Yes

Anthony Palomba - No

John Airasian - Yes

Carolyn Bays - No

Mark Sideris - Yes

Vincent Piccirilli - Yes

President Sideris recessed the meeting for two-minutes.

6. Motions, Ordinances, Orders, and Resolutions

A. Vote to Endorse the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee's Recommendation on the Trash/Recycling Contract.

President Sideris asked the City Manager Proakis to provide a brief update on the item that was introduced at the previous council meeting on February 14th.

Mr. Proakis stated that the Watertown Solid Waste Advisory Committee provided a framework on the operational side in a three-page document - completion regarding the upcoming solid waste hauling contract and a separate list with their committee's recommended changes to the Republic contract.

President Sideris asked for a motion, so moved by Vice President Piccirilli and seconded by Councilor Gannon.

Councilor Palomba asked for clarification on disposal of electronic devices, recycling rates, audits on recycling products, cost of totes.

Gregory St. Louis provided further clarification and the value and benefits for clean recycling products and rates based on percentage in commodities,

Councilor Palomba stated he appreciated the hard work and complimented the committee and the Department of Public Work's Recycling Coordinator Anya Pforzheimer and appreciated the information.

President Sideris motioned to endorse the recommendations; motion adopted unanimously on voice vote.

B. First Reading on a Proposed Loan Order authorizing the sum of \$1,380,000 is appropriated to pay costs of demolishing and removing existing tennis courts and basketball courts, constructing a new tennis court, basketball court and prefabricated multi-purpose rink system, and making other improvements to the courts and related facilities at Moxley Field, including court surfacing, a new court lighting system, site improvements and all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

Mr. Proakis provided an update on the project that he introduced at the January 10th Council Meeting. This project was originally approved in the 2016 CIP and is the oldest remaining CIP item. The project went through the vetting and bid process and the construction costs came in at \$1,380,000 matches the budget.

This is a first reading; no action will be taken until the public hearing on March 14th.

C. Resolution authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$698,425 from the Fiscal Year 2023 City Council Reserve Fund to various Fiscal Year 2023 Departmental Accounts in order to move forward with proposed improvements at the Parker Annex Building.

Mr. Proakis stated this was a transfer of \$698,425, for 124 Watertown Street, the former Parker School, and would be used to help ready the building for occupancy of the Public Building Department that currently leased space and after the space study is complete, to move other recommended city departments into the building.

Council President Sideris asked for a motion, so moved by Councilor Piccirilli; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by roll call vote.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding ARPA Funds Action Items:

President Sideris introduced the report.

Vice President Piccirilli read the report, motion to accept the report as written, so moved by Vice President Piccirilli, motion seconded by Councilor Gannon.

After Council members discussion, the report was accepted by motion was adopted unanimously on voice vote.

1. That the City Council move the maximum \$10 million into "revenue replacement" for reporting purposes as soon as possible.

President Sideris asked for a motion to accept the action item – so moved by Vice President Piccirilli, motion seconded by Councilor Gannon, motion was adopted unanimously on voice vote.

2. That the City Council agree to use the application process as described.

President Sideris asked for a motion to accept the action item – so moved by Vice President Piccirilli, motion seconded by Councilor Gannon, motion was adopted unanimously on voice vote.

3. That the City Council agree to use the assessment criteria as described.

President Sideris asked for a motion to accept the action item – so moved by Vice President Piccirilli, motion seconded by Councilor Gannon, motion was adopted unanimously on voice vote.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None noted.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Trees in the Delta "Go Green" for March - The trees in the delta will be lite-up green starting tomorrow: - To bring awareness of National Kidney Month, a time when communities across the country raise awareness about kidney disease - St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 17th.

YardArt Watertown is the entire month of April 2023! YardArt is a community-wide celebration of creativity and fun in front yards, porches, and windows all over Watertown. All residents, families, organizations, clubs, classes, artists, and businesses are invited to create something to be viewed from the street or sidewalk. It can be an assemblage, a sculpture, an art project, a lighting arrangement—let your imagination run free! Installations will be on display the entire month of April. It's easy, fun, and free to get involved Learn more and sign up today at mosesianarts.org/yardart

Thank you! I just wanted to thank our Public Safety Departments - Police and Fire, and the DPW, Public Buildings for keeping Watertown safe and services running during the recent weather/snow events. great job and thank you!

10. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

None noted.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None noted.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

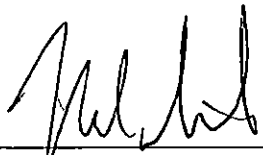
President Sideris opened the forum and acknowledged Elodia Thomas, 67 Marion Road. Ms. Thomas voiced her frustration and noted the persistence audio and equipment issues in the chamber while watching from home.

As there were no other speakers, the forum was closed.

13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

President Sideris asked for motion to adjourn; so moved by Vice President Piccirilli; seconded by Councilor Feltner; motion was adopted unanimously on voice vote at 10:20 PM.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of 7 for, 0 against, 0 present on ~~February 28~~, 2023.
March 16



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 7:00 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
Administration Building, 149 Main Street

List of Documents

1. Agenda Item - Proposed Order to pay for costs of Constructing, Reconstructing, Paving, Repairing or Otherwise Improving Streets and Sidewalks – George J. Proakis, City Manager – February 14, 2023 – Item 5A.
2. Agenda Item - Proposed Order to pay costs of Replacing the Turf at Victory Field – George J. Proakis, City Manager – February 8, 2023 – Item 5B.
3. Endorse the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee's Recommendation on the Trash/Recycling Contract - George J. Proakis, City Manager – February 1, 2023- Item 6A.
4. Agenda Item – Proposed Order to pay costs of demolishing and removing existing tennis courts and basketball courts, constructing a new tennis court, basketball court and prefabricated multi-purpose rink system, and making other improvements to the courts and related facilities at Moxley Field –George J. Proakis, City Manager – February 23, 2023 - Item 6B.
4. Agenda Item – Request for a transfer of funds to move forward with proposed improvements at the Parker Annex Building –George J. Proakis, City Manager – February 23, 2023 - Item 6C.
5. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding ARPA Funds – Vincent Piccirilli, Chair - February 21, 2023 -Item 7A.

Addendum to the
Minutes of the February 28, 2023
City Council Meeting



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER

AGENDA

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344
- D. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

-
1. ROLL CALL
 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 3. PUBLIC FORUM
 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 5. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE
 - A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order Authorizing the Sum of \$2,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of Constructing, Reconstructing, Paving, Repairing or Otherwise Improving Streets and Sidewalks, Including Improving Underground Ducts and Conduits and Paying All Other Costs Incidental and Related to such Street and Sidewalk Work; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.
 - B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Order Authorizing the Sum of \$1,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of Replacing the Turf at Victory Field, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.
 6. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Vote to Endorse the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee's Recommendation on the Trash/Recycling Contract.
- B. First Reading on a Proposed Loan Order authorizing the sum of \$1,380,000 is appropriated to pay costs of demolishing and removing existing tennis courts and basketball courts, constructing a new tennis court, basketball court and pre-fabricated multi-purpose rink system, and making other improvements to the courts and related facilities at Moxley Field, including court surfacing, a new court lighting system, site improvements and all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.
- C. Resolution authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$698,425 from the Fiscal Year 2023 City Council Reserve Fund to various Fiscal Year 2023 Departmental Accounts in order to move forward with proposed improvements at the Parker Annex Building.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding ARPA Funds

Action Items:

- 1. That the City Council move the maximum \$10 million into "revenue replacement" for reporting purposes as soon as possible.
- 2. That the City Council agree to use the application process as described.
- 3. That the City Council agree to use the assessment criteria as described.

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

10. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. PUBLIC FORUM

13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE
MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u> Arrived at 7:06PM	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Arrived 7:06 PM		
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve a Loan Order of \$2,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of Constructing, Reconstructing, Paving, Repairing or Otherwise Improving Streets and Sidewalks, Including Improving Underground Ducts and Conduits and Paying All Other Costs Incidental and Related to such Street and Sidewalk Work.



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

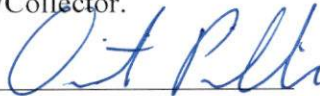
Order # 9

2023 - 0-9

ORDER TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF FUNDS TO PAY COSTS OF STREETS AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

ORDERED: That the sum of \$2,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of constructing, reconstructing, paving, repairing or otherwise improving streets and sidewalks including improving underground ducts and conduits and paying all other costs incidental and related to such street and sidewalk work; and that to meet this appropriation, the City Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That a copy of said Order be forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at the regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on February 28, 2023.



City Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

DATE: February 14, 2023

RE: Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order – REVISED

As a follow up to the submitted request for the proposed loan order on tonight's City Council Agenda, item 6A Streets & Sidewalks Loan Order, attached please find the revised minutes from the November 1, 2022, Committee on Public Works report with recommendations on the 2023 Local Road Construction. The Honorable City Council adopted the recommendations at the December 13, 2022, Council Meeting.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Gregory M. St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works
Thomas P. Watkins, Director of Administration and Finance, Public Works
Matthew Shuman, City Engineer
Steven Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning/Assistant City Manager
Melissa Morrissey, City Treasurer/Collector

CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve a Loan Order of \$1,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of Replacing the Turf at Victory Field, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto.



Watertown City Council

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Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

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Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

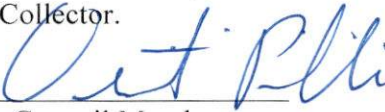
Order # 10

2023 0-10

ORDER TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF FUNDS TO PAY COSTS OF VICTORY FIELD TURF REPLACEMENT

ORDERED: That the sum of \$1,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of replacing the turf at Victory Field, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That a copy of said Order be forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at the regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of 6 for, 3 against, and 0 present on February 28, 2023.



City Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager *GJP*

Date: February 8, 2023

RE: Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order

Attached please find correspondence from Gregory M. St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works requesting that the necessary actions be taken to authorize the Treasurer to borrow the \$1,500,000 as outlined and approved in the FY 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for the Victory Field Turf Replacement project listed within Line 147 under Recreation & Parks of the CIP.

I respectfully request the attached proposed Loan Order of \$1,500,000 be placed on the February 14, 2023 City Council Agenda as a First Reading.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Gregory M. St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works
Thomas P. Watkins, Director of Administration and Finance, Department of Public Works
Matthew I. Shuman, City Engineer
Steven T. Magoon, Director, Community Development and Planning/Assistant City Manager
Thomas J. Tracy, City Auditor/Assistant City Manager for Finance
Melissa A. Morrissey, City Treasurer/Collector
Peter Centola, Recreation Director



28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-1775
p: 617-345-9000 f: 617-345-9020
hinckleyallen.com

Jay Gonzalez
(617) 378-4256
jgonzalez@hinckleyallen.com

February 9, 2023

George J. Proakis
City Manager
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

RE: Draft Loan Order – Victory Field Turf Replacement Bonds

Dear George:

As requested, I suggest the following form of loan order to approve the borrowing of funds to pay costs of replacing the turf at Victory Field:

ORDERED: That the sum of \$1,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of replacing the turf at Victory Field, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

The order must be published at least five days prior to the holding of a public hearing with respect to the order and its final passage and requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the City Council, as in the case of any other loan order for bonds.

Please call me if there are any questions about the suggested proceedings.

Sincerely,

Jay Gonzalez



CITY OF WATERTOWN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
124 ORCHARD STREET

Gregory M. St. Louis, PE
Superintendent

(P) 617-972-6420
(F) 617-972-6402

TO: Mr. George Proakis, City Manager

FROM: Mr. Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works

DATE: February 1, 2023

RE: Department of Public Works - Loan Order Request: Victory Field Turf Replacement

The Department of Public Works respectfully requests that the necessary actions be taken to authorize the Treasurer to borrow the \$1,500,000.00 as outlined and approved in the FY 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for the Victory Field Turf Replacement project listed within Line 147 under Recreation & Parks of the CIP.

These funds will be utilized for the design, engineering, construction and construction administration services associated with the removal of the existing turf and installation of new turf, as well as any and all associated costs.

Recently, the Department of Public Works engaged the services of design consultant, Tighe & Bond, to assist with the necessary design and engineering of the turf replacement at Victory Field. The existing turf was installed in the Fall of 2011 and has thus been in service for over 12 years. As such, the useable life of the turf has reached its end. The fibers of the turf are worn, leaving the surface with less height to provide infill, resulting in a harder field and impact for the City's student-athletes.

The infill of the proposed new turf will be of organic material (currently there is a crumb rubber application) and a shock pad will be installed underneath to further reduce the impact to student-athletes and restoring the required GMAX ratings.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

FY 2023 - FY 2027 CIP General Fund

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	TOTALS	FY '23			FY '24		FY '25		FY '26		FY '27	
117												
118	Property/Building											
119	Boiler Replacement (2)	200.0	200.0	BR								
120	Heavy Duty 4x4 Forklift (Lull)	100.0			100.0	BE						
121	Rough Terrain Forklift	95.0							95.0	BE		
122	PROPERTY/BUILDING SUBTOTAL	395.0	200.0		100.0		-		95.0		-	
123												
124	Parks & Forestry											
125	Gazebo at Saltonstall Park	150.0	150.0	BR								
126	Swap Loader	200.0	200.0	BE								
127	Tree Chipper	75.0			75.0	BE						
128	Utility Truck	65.0			65.0	BE						
129	Farm Tractor	80.0									80.0	BE
130	Backhoe	140.0									140.0	BE
131	4x4 Landscape Dump Truck	160.0									160.0	BE
132	PARKS & FORESTRY SUBTOTAL	870.0	350.0		140.0		-		-		380.0	
133												
134	TOTAL DPW - TR	825.0	225.0	TR	150.0	TR	150.0	TR	150.0	TR	150.0	TR
135	TOTAL DPW - BE	3,177.0	230.0	BE	870.0	BE	202.0	BE	465.0	BE	1,410.0	BE
136	TOTAL DPW - BR	5,600.0	2,350.0	BR	1,250.0	BR	2,000.0	BR	0.0	BR	0.0	BR
137	PUBLIC WORKS SUBTOTAL	9,602.0	2,805.0		2,270.0		2,352.0		615.0		1,560.0	
138												
139	RECREATION & PARKS											
140	Tot Lot/Court Resurfacing as needed	550.0			100.0	TR	150.0	TR	150.0	TR	150.0	TR
141	Victory Field (Phase III) Field House Addition	4,000.0	4,000.0	BR								
142	Filippello Park (Grove) Batting Tunnel	0.0	0.0	TR								
143	Resurface Basketball Courts/ Lowell & Saltonstall	50.0	50.0	TR								
144	Victory Field: Lacrosse Wall Ball	50.0	50.0	TR								
145	Howe PK: Design, Plygrd Equip, and resurface	100.0	100.0	TR								
146	Howe PK: Install Plygrd Equip, and resurface	500.0	500.0	BR								
147	Victory Field Turf Replacement	1,500.0	1,500.0	BR								
148	Bemis: Design, Plygrd Equip, new surf. & spray park	125.0			125.0	TR						
149	Bemis: Install Plygrd Equip, new surf. & spray park	800.0			800.0	BR						
150	Special Needs baseball/softball diamond	600.0			600.0	BR						
151	Filippello (Grove) Design, plygrnd equip and resurface	100.0					100.0	TR				
152	Filippello (Grove) Install plygrnd equip and resurface	600.0					600.0	BR				
153	Lowell Design Playground Equip & resurface	100.0							100.0	TR		
154	Lowell Install Playground Equip. & resurface	600.0							600.0	BR		
155	Filippello (Arlington) Design, plygrnd equip & resurface	100.0									100.0	TR
156	Filippello (Arlington) Install plygrnd equip & resurface	700.0									700.0	BR
157	RECREATION & PARKS SUBTOTAL	10,475.0	6,200.0		1,625.0		850.0		850.0		950.0	

Victory Field Turf Replacement Questions and Answers

What is the current status of Victory Field?

Victory Field, Watertown's most well used recreation area and open space, is a 14.2 acre park and athletic complex that is situated in the center of Watertown. Victory field is home to Watertown high School varsity sports, activities and graduation ceremonies.

Victory Field has been a topic of conversation and community process in recent years, focused on necessary upgrades to the facilities. The most significant forthcoming upgrade, called Victory Phase II, is completing design, based upon an extensive community process a few years ago. This work will be completed in the spring and summer of 2024. Victory Phase II includes the replacement of the Victory track and the grass inside of the oval, amongst other upgrades. The oval grass will be replaced with new natural grass. Upon completion of the design documents for construction, the City will hold one more community meeting on Phase II, to review the status of the project, design details based on the original plan, and the schedule for construction. A planned Victory Phase III, with upgrades to the field house and press box is now scheduled for 2026. Design and community meetings on this phase will begin in 2024.

In addition to this larger park overhaul program, there has been an item on the City's capital plan for the replacement of the artificial turf field that is used by Watertown's football, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer and baseball teams. This is a scheduled maintenance upgrade, to replace the current artificial turf on the playing field. This maintenance project, limited to the existing artificial turf area, is scheduled for June of 2023.

The information below is focused on the turf field replacement project.

Why do we need to replace the artificial turf field in 2023?

Victory Field was originally installed in the fall of 2011. The field consists of a 14" section and includes 10" of base stone, 2" of top stone and 2" of crumb rubber infill and a turf pile height (pile height is the length of each "Blade" of grass in the field) of 2 ½". The field is drained by perforated piping within the base stone which discharges to the municipal drainage system.

The field has been in service for twelve years and has provided the Town with years of service. The useable life of the synthetic turf surface has reached its end. The fibers of the synthetic turf are worn and are brittle and breaking. This leaves the surface with less height to provide infill, which in turn makes the field harder and increases the impact to athletes. GMAX Test scoring, a standardized test for impact attenuation (aka fall protection), has started to decline along with the wear of the synthetic turf, requiring additional maintenance and application of infill.

What is being proposed?

To address the aging field and take corrective measures to address fall protection, the proposed improvements to the field begin by removing the existing synthetic turf and infill.

The proposal is to install a new synthetic surface that will be a hybrid turf suitable for a multi-use field with an organic infill. We will also be installing a shock pad underneath the synthetic turf to reduce the potential impact to athletes and to restore required GMAX ratings. The infill and shock pad that we are specifying includes a top-of-the-line shock pad with a 25-year warrantee.

What is this infill?

The new infill is an organic/sand infill made from southern yellow pine. The new infill is an upgrade over the current crumb rubber, which is made of recycled tires. The infill is designed to improve traction, reduce artificial turf heat compared to the existing crumb rubber, and provide a lasting surface for the City that can accommodate the numerous competitive high level athletic sports per season. It also replaces an inorganic rubber substance that is often tracked away from the field, and often requires additional investment to continually replace the infill with additional rubber material. With a yellow pine infill, the regular replacement of infill will be sourced from a renewable organic source and will break down naturally when an athlete inadvertently takes some home on the bottom of their shoes.

What will happen to the old field?

The old synthetic turf will be rolled and delivered to a recycling facility. We have mandated as part of the specifications that full documentation of the turf removal, trucking and delivery to a recycling plant be provided by the contractor. Crumb rubber will similarly be brought to a facility for reuse as applicable.

Will this really be more environmentally sustainable than the existing field?

While there is no definitive opinion on the environmental risks and benefits of an artificial turf field, the City is making decisions to balance the use of the field as a high-intensity athletic facility with the need for sustainable and resilient solutions. Existing field elements will be recycled to the extent possible, and the new field will have organic infill that is renewable and reduces heat impacts.

Will this really reduce heat compared to the existing field?

Yes, Natural infills lower the surface temperature. Although we have not had to suspend play on our existing field due to heat, this new field will be cooler. We anticipate that the new infill will drop field temperatures by 20 degrees during summer heat waves, versus the current crumb rubber field infill.

Are there other benefits to organic infill?

With the new base pad, the field will be better designed to address impact injuries from a fall.

Why can't we replace this field with natural grass?

The Victory Field turf is used for high school football, lacrosse, field hockey, soccer and baseball. In addition, the field is used by many other youth organizations and leagues. Even with the new BBN fields, there is still limited practice and play space in Watertown.

Even the most well-designed and well-maintained natural grass fields need time to rest and recover from use. Watertown has limited field space to operate very popular sports. For example, this year the football team (that typically will play in wet weather) played on the Victory Field turf on Friday September 30th. The next morning (10/1) teams are practicing on the field. Then, youth football uses the field on Sunday. The following day, the field hockey team played a home game on the same surface. In a circumstance like this, a rainstorm on Friday night could turn a grass field into mud, with weekend practices further damaging the field. But Monday, the field hockey game would be on a surface with muddy grass or cancelled all together. A turf field does not have this challenge.

Recently, community members have noted that some major league sports teams are advocating to play their sports on natural grass. But, these teams have multiple practice fields, allowing them to rest their primary grass field for game day. Watertown cannot do this. Teams need both practice and play time on this field on a daily basis.

Is the artificial turf area expanding? Are any trees being removed?

No. This project simply replaces the existing turf in the same location as the current turf.

Will there be any other changes?

City staff is currently reviewing the design to determine if there should be changes to the sewed-in permanent lines and logos on the field and/or the design of the pitching mound. Otherwise, the field will operate as it has in past years.

Is the city planning to install any more artificial turf fields?

The grass inside the Victory oval will remain as grass. There is no other plan to build an artificial turf surface in Watertown at this time. Any new open space reconstruction projects will undergo a substantial community process. We are planning in the coming year to improve Irving Park, Moxley Court, Filippello Splash Pad and Upper Saltonstall Park. None of these projects introduces any new artificial turf. We will also be kicking off a process later in 2023 to design the newly purchased Walker Pond area. With extensive community input, there may be the opportunity for additional recreation use at this site. Any decision about field surfaces will be determined as a part of the community conversations about this new resource.

Currently, the only artificial turf project in front of the city is this maintenance proposal to replace and upgrade the existing turf at Victory Field.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve a Resolution authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$698,425 from Fiscal Year 2023 Budget City Council Reserve Fund Account #0111152-570780 to the Fiscal Year 2023 -Transfer To Capital Projects:

IT Dept.- Parker School 0193059-596511 - \$307,375
Capital Project - DPW- Parker Sch. Parking Lot 0193059-596502 - \$250,000
Public Buildings Personnel- Overtime 0119551-510130 - \$10,000
Public Buildings Supp. & Serv. - Electricity 0119552-520211 - \$17,750
Public Buildings Supp. & Serv. – Gas 0119552-520213 - \$18,500
Public Buildings Supp. & Serv.- Contracted Services 0119552-530303 - \$28,800
Public Buildings Capital-Improvements/Bldg. Renov. 0119558-510130- \$66,000
to the Parker Annex Building, 124 Watertown Street.



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

RESOLUTION # //

2023 R-//

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the transfer amount of \$698,425 from Fiscal Year 2023 Budget City Council Reserve Fund Account #0111152-570780 to the Fiscal Year 2023 - Transfer To Capital Projects:

IT Dept.- Parker School 0193059-596511 - \$307,375
Capital Project - DPW- Parker Sch. Parking Lot 0193059-596502 - \$250,000
Public Buildings Personnel- Overtime 0119551-510130 - \$10,000
Public Buildings Supp. & Serv. - Electricity 0119552-520211 - \$17,750
Public Buildings Supp. & Serv. - Gas 0119552-520213 - \$18,500
Public Buildings Supp. & Serv.- Contracted Services 0119552-530303 - \$28,800
Public Buildings Capital-Improvements/Bldg. Renov. 0119558-510130- \$66,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector


Council Member

I hereby certify that at the regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on February 28, 2023.


City Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 
Date: February 23, 2023
RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request

The attached transfer of funds is based on discussions regarding efforts in pursuing improvements to the Parker Annex Building.

Therefore, in order to move forward with the proposed improvements, I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the February 28, 2023 City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

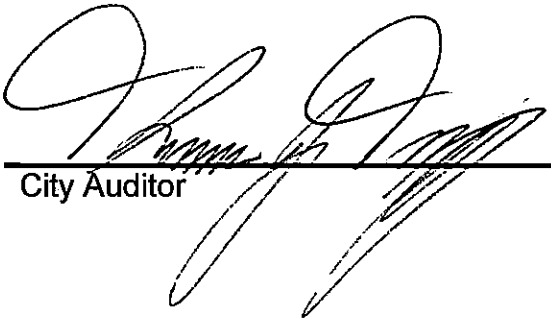
cc: Steven T. Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning/Assistant City Manager
Thomas J. Tracy, City Auditor/Assistant City Manager for Finance
Melissa A. Morrissey, City Treasurer/Collector
James F. Kane, Jr, Director of Public Buildings
Christopher L. McClure, Chief Information Officer
Gregory M. St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works

Transfer Amount \$698,425

From:	FY 2023 City Council- Council Reserve 0111152-570780	\$	698,425
To:	FY 2023 Transfer To Capital Projects - IT Dept.- Parker School 0193059-596511	\$	307,375
	FY 2023 Transfer To Cap Proj. - DPW- Parker Sch. Parking Lot 0193059-596502	\$	250,000
	FY 2023 Public Buildings Personnel- Overtime 0119551-510130	\$	10,000
	FY 2023 Public Buildings Supp. & Serv. - Electricity 0119552-520211	\$	17,750
	FY 2023 Public Buildings Supp. & Serv. - Gas 0119552-520213	\$	18,500
	FY 2023 Public Buildings Supp. & Serv. - Contracted Services 0119552-530303	\$	28,800
	FY 2023 Public Buildings Capital- Improvements/Bldg. Renov. 0119558-510130	\$	66,000

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy and appropriate fiscal year.

2/24/23
Date



City Auditor

City Council
Reserve
Balance

2,081,611

**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to Endorse the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee's
Recommendation on the Trash/Recycling Contract.



CITY OF WATERTOWN

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
124 ORCHARD STREET
WATERTOWN MA 02472

Gregory M. St. Louis, PE
Superintendent of Public Works

(P) 617-972-6420
F) 617-972-6402

TO: George Proakis–City Manager

FROM: Gregory St. Louis, PE – Superintendent of Public Works
Anya Pforzheimer – Recycling and Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: Watertown Solid Waste Advisory Committee Memo of completion regarding the upcoming solid waste hauling contract.

DATES: February 1, 2023

The Watertown Solid Waste Advisory Committee has met with the DPW's Recycling Coordinator to discuss suggestions and recommendations they have for Watertown's future solid waste hauling contract, which is up for renewal in FY24. Over the past five meetings, the Recycling Coordinator has provided our current contract extension, the previous contract, additional changes that have been proposed, as well as other city-wide recycling and diversion changes that have occurred in the past year.

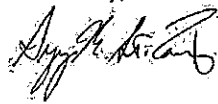
- The committee members were asked to provide recommendations and suggestions for the FY24-FY27 hauling contract.
- The Superintendent shared with the committee that the DPW feels strongly that Republic Services continues to have the ability to meet our solid waste and recycling goals, as well as provide the personalized service that residents expect. The committee did not advise the need to go out to bid for a new vendor for this contract negotiation.
- The time frame of three years was also discussed and approved as appropriate, considering new technology and recycling innovations are happening more rapidly, and a three-year contract gives Watertown both stability and flexibility.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee has reviewed and approved the changes that were implemented during the FY23 one-year extension, which will be brought forward as changes the DPW wants to include in the new contract.

- The committee also reviewed and approved additional suggestions that the Recycling Coordinator presented as asks for the new contract. These recommendations and asks, as well as the previous changes, are attached as a separate document.
- Collectively, the committee has stated that they feel that the contract negotiations are in good hands moving forward with the Superintendent and Recycling Coordinator, and they are comfortable deferring to the DPW for the logistics and content of completing the contract with Republic Services.

We appreciate the committee's role in this process, and we look forward to getting a new hauling contract signed in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg St. Louis", written in a cursive style.

Gregory St. Louis, PE
Superintendent of Public Works

Republic Contract changes as reviewed, commented, and approved by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee

3-year Contract (FY24-FY27)

Existing changes to be kept:

- 25 weeks of yard waste collection
- 3 days of Recycle Center
- Free e-waste drop-off
- 3 days of City barrel collection
- Residents pay for White Goods/ TVs directly through Republic
- Residents paying for bulk collection directly through Republic
- Separate recycling pass through cost

Proposed Changes:

- Separate recycling pass through cost
 - Greenworks Vs. Casella—price analysis for pass through costs
- Cardboard compactor for Recycle Center
 - Either revenue sharing for this material or shared cost on compactor
 - Decrease need for total hauls per year
- Recycling cost sharing
 - Potential to do material audit at GreenWorks to better assess the types of materials we are generating and how those would be beneficial to Greenworks for cost sharing.
- Max price per bulk/white goods of \$45
- Municipal buildings recycling collection expansion—add these collections to a commercial route.
 - Mixed Recycling 5 yard for DPW yard
 - Mixed Recycling 5 yard for Schools
 - Would replace multiple totes at each location
- Recycling contamination audit of residents 2x a year for educational improvements
- Agreed upon rate for 96 gallon recycle totes with educational sticker on top to help with contamination. Transition to these, moving forward.
- Sponsor at least 2 zero waste events per year. Trash/recycling collection and staff to help man waste stations.
 - Faire on the Square
 - Recycling Event

Year 3 Goals:

- Expand Resident call center transitioning to Republic for missed curbside pickups (FY25 goal)
 - Implement Republic app for missed pickups that goes directly to Shane/ driver supervisor, rather than a national call center.
- Electric pickup trucks for staff- hybrid if unavailable.
- If there is option for electric collection trucks, we would like to be first City to pilot.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL
MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding the ARPA Funds.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL
MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve action item – That the City Council move the maximum \$10 million into "revenue replacement" for reporting purposes as soon as possible. - Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding the ARPA Funds.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL
MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve action item – That the City Council agree to use the application process as described. - Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding the ARPA Funds.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL
MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve action item – That the City Council agree to use the assessment criteria as described. - Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding the ARPA Funds.



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report of the Meeting of February 21, 2023

The Committee convened on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber. It was a hybrid meeting, with remote participation by Zoom, and was broadcast by WCATV. Present were Vincent Piccirilli, Chair; Emily Izzo, Vice Chair and Nicole Gardner, Secretary. Also present were Councilors Lisa Feltner, Caroline Bays, and John Gannon. Roughly 20 residents attended the meeting by zoom and in person. City Manager George Proakis was unable to attend, but he submitted an email with comments (Attachment A).

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussion to set priorities for the federal funds from the American Rescue Plan, specifically to 1) develop guidelines for interested parties to submit proposals for ARPA funding and 2) develop criteria for the Committee to use for evaluation and prioritizing proposals for ARPA funding. The Committee was not soliciting proposals for specific ARPA projects at this meeting.

Discussion of guidelines for submitting proposals

The Committee began by reviewing City Manager Proakis's email on information to be collected. All recommendations were agreed to and some additional ideas were added.

Information the Committee would like to receive is:

1. Applicant name
2. Contact person (if applicant is an organization)
3. Contact email address
4. Contact phone number
5. Project name
6. Amount of ARPA funds requested to run the project
7. Matching funds available for the project from other sources:
 - a. Source of funds
 - b. Amount
 - c. Are funds guaranteed or if not, likelihood
8. Other sources of funds that could be used for the project other than ARPA funds:
 - a. Source of funds
 - b. Amount
 - c. Are funds guaranteed or if not, likelihood
9. Minimum funds needed to make the project worth doing
10. Recommended project manager (i.e. City department, non-profit entity. Note that if a non-profit entity is proposed as project manager, they should submit the proposal.)

11. A narrative description of the project. This can vary from a simple description of an idea being recommended by a resident, to a proposal being submitted by a department or other entity. If possible it should include:
 - a. A detailed budget
 - b. A timeline for the project: encumbrance of funds by December 31, 2024, how soon can it start, key milestones, how long will it take to execute, and expenditures of funds complete by December 31, 2026
 - c. Any resources required in addition to the ARPA funding
 - d. Metrics for success of the project
 - e. Outputs / outcomes
 - f. What will be the overall benefit (financial or otherwise) to Watertown residents
 - g. How the project meets the City's ARPA proposal criteria (to be published on the city webpage)

The Committee would like to use the following process for proposal submissions:

1. They are to be submitted on our City ARPA Webpage whenever possible; residents and organizations may also submit them by email or on paper if needed.
2. Users will enter all data elements other than the project narrative into a google form on the webpage, and they'll attach the narrative on the webpage as well.
3. The City will post all proposals on the website, in the order received, so that there is full transparency for the public.

The Committee would like the City staff to support the process as follows:

1. Create an input form for the webpage.
2. Create an email address for people who need to email their submission rather than using the input form.
3. Ensuring all paper and email submissions are entered into an input form so they are visible to the public and the Committee.
4. Post all proposals on the ARPA webpage in the order in which they are received.
5. Once the submission form is on the website and ready for use, publicize that the 2 month proposal window is open and provide the link, using all possible channels.

Discussion of criteria for assessing proposals

The following criteria were developed together by the Committee, the Councilors attending, and the public. They fall into 4 categories: Practicalities, Benefits, Financial, and Strategic

Practical:

1. Can the project meet the deadlines for encumbrance no later than December 31, 2024 and expenditure in full by December 31, 2026?
2. Does the applicant demonstrate that they are qualified and have the capacity to execute the project?

Benefits to residents:

1. What number of residents are being served?
2. Does the project serve the most impacted residents?
3. Are the benefits long term and over what period?

Financial:

1. Does the project leverage other sources of funding so we get more bang for our buck?
2. Is there a funding cliff and if so what is the plan to deal with it when it comes?
3. Does the project address the unintended impact of COVID on our City's ability to maintain the service levels expected?

Strategic:

1. Is the project aligned with our Comprehensive Plan and our Charter Preamble?
2. Are we ensuring a variety and a balance of spending across priorities and needs?

Other issues discussed

The Committee discussed possibly using a survey to get public feedback once proposals were in. This could be using the website, or FlashVote. The Committee will come back to this at a future meeting.

The Committee agreed that it would be prudent to recommend that the City Council move the maximum \$10 million into "revenue replacement" for reporting purposes as soon as possible, as recommended by Hannah York of Clifton/Larsen/Allen at the February 1st Community Forum.

The Committee briefly discussed the possibility that some proposals with broad support might be approved for action before all funding decisions were taken.

Chair Piccirilli reminded the public of the process going forward, namely that the Committee would:

1. Create a page on the City website to provide ARPA information and to enable residents to make recommendations.
2. Invite suggestions and recommendations from both residents and from City departments.
3. Synthesize the input and assess it against the proposed criteria.
4. Develop a draft set of recommendations.
5. Share the draft recommendations publicly and invite community feedback and further input from the City Administration.
6. Revise the Committee's recommendations accordingly, and submit a proposal to the full City Council for debate and vote.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Gardner made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, that the Committee recommend the City Council move the maximum \$10 million into "revenue replacement" for reporting purposes as soon as possible. Voted 3-0.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Gardner made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, that the Committee recommend the City Council agree to use the application process as described above. Voted 3-0.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Gardner made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, that the Committee recommend the City Council agree to use the assessment criteria as described above. Voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm on a unanimous vote.

Report prepared by Nicole Gardner

Attachment A - City Manager George Proakis email February 14, 2023

ARPA application

Proakis, George <gproakis@watertown-ma.gov>

Tue 2/14/2023 2:49 PM

To: Piccirilli, Vincent J <vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov>

Dear Councilor,

Thank you for continuing to lead the process of determining how to spend Watertown's ARPA funds. As I mentioned when we last spoke on the phone, I will be returning from a vacation on Tuesday February 21st, and unable to join the committee meeting to discuss the ARPA funds application process.

So, I want to just share a few thoughts. Feel free to share this with the committee:

- A. The process should allow anybody with an idea to provide it – but should acknowledge that sometimes the person submitting the idea may have no method to execute it. I encourage us to invite applicants to share information about which government agency or non-profit partner may possibly execute an idea. But, after receiving all these applications, there may be a need to review to ensure that the proposed entity (especially if it is a city department) has the staffing capacity to take on the project.
- B. In general, I recommend that the City Council ask applicants for the following information:
 - a. Contact info
 - b. Amount of ARPA funds they need to run the project
 - c. If there are any matching funds available from other sources
 - d. If there are other sources of funds that could be used to fund this project instead of ARPA
 - e. If the project is still worth doing if it is only partially funded (i.e. what is the minimum necessary to make it worth doing the project)
 - f. Who should operate the project (city agency or a non-profit – and who is it)
 - g. Narrative about the project
 - h. How it meets ARPA goals
 - i. What will be the overall benefit (financial or otherwise) to Watertown residents
- C. Proposals will come with a wide range of ideas. Hopefully, we can use the ARPA web page to identify what is and what is not an eligible project, as well as provide access to the application. Our IT team is ready to help with this effort with the guidance of the council on the particulars of the application.
- D. I will make sure that city staff submit their own proposals for items such as water/sewer upgrades, etc. We will probably also submit a placeholder for high school cost overruns, as we keep an eye on the overall school cost.
- E. We have total funding in an amount of about \$10.5 million. There will be some funds that we will need to use for the administration of the program by CLA. The City Council should consider moving the maximum \$10 million into 'revenue replacement' for reporting purposes, even if the Council decides to use those funds for efforts that are permitted under any of the other categories.
- F. After the application process is complete, you will likely need to group together some repetitive and similar applications as you do reviews.
- G. We also have the FlashVote tool available at that point if you are interested in using it to get public feedback as you look to rank your priorities

I hope this info is helpful for the meeting on the 21st. If you have more questions, just ask. Otherwise, I'll also see you at the committee meeting on the 22nd to discuss the CIP.

Thanks,
George

George J. Proakis
City Manager
City of Watertown, Massachusetts
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
gproakis@watertown-ma.gov
Phone: 617-972-6465



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: February 23, 2023

RE: Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order

Attached please find correspondence from Gregory M. St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works requesting that the necessary actions be taken to authorize the Treasurer to borrow the \$1,380,000 as outlined and approved in the FY 2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for the Moxley Field Court Renovations & Lighting project.

I respectfully request the attached proposed Loan Order of \$1,380,000 be placed on the February 28, 2023 City Council Agenda as a First Reading.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Gregory M. St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works
Thomas P. Watkins, Director of Administration and Finance, Department of Public Works
Matthew I. Shuman, City Engineer
Steven T. Magoon, Director, Community Development and Planning/Assistant City Manager
Thomas J. Tracy, City Auditor/Assistant City Manager for Finance
Melissa A. Morrissey, City Treasurer/Collector
Peter Centola, Recreation Director



28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-1775
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hinckleyallen.com

Jay Gonzalez
(617) 378-4256
jgonzalez@hinckleyallen.com

February 23, 2023

George J. Proakis
City Manager
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

RE: Draft Loan Order – Moxley Field Court Renovation Bonds

Dear George:

As requested, I suggest the following form of loan order to approve the borrowing of funds to pay costs of the Moxley Field court renovations and lighting project:

ORDERED: That the sum of \$1,380,000 is appropriated to pay costs of demolishing and removing existing tennis courts and basketball courts, constructing a new tennis court, basketball court and pre-fabricated multi-purpose rink system, and making other improvements to the courts and related facilities at Moxley Field, including court surfacing, a new court lighting system, site improvements and all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

The order must be published at least five days prior to the holding of a public hearing with respect to the order and its final passage and requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the City Council, as in the case of any other loan order for bonds.

Please call me if there are any questions about the suggested proceedings.

Sincerely,

Jay Gonzalez



CITY OF WATERTOWN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
124 ORCHARD STREET

Gregory M. St. Louis, PE
Superintendent

(P) 617-972-6420
(F) 617-972-6402

TO: Mr. George Proakis, City Manager

FROM: Mr. Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works

DATE: February 23, 2023

RE: Public Works Dept. - Loan Order Request: Moxley Field Court Renovations & Lighting

The Department of Public Works respectfully requests that the necessary actions be taken to authorize the Treasurer to borrow the \$1,380,000.00 as outlined and approved in the FY 2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for the Moxley Field Court Renovations & Lighting project.

These funds will be utilized for the construction, construction administration services and potential construction contingency costs associated with this project. As outlined in the enclosed letter from project engineering firm CDM-Smith, the \$1,380,000.00 will be utilized as follows:

Item	Amount	Remarks
Funding Request	\$1,380,000.00	FY23 Conceptual Recommendation 1
Construction Bid Amount	\$1,070,000.00	Quirk Construction Low Bid
Construction Administration/ Construction Services	\$68,000.00	CDM Smith Services during construction
Construction Contingency	\$242,000.00	Remaining Value

On February 15, 2023 three bids were received and opened by the Purchasing Office. The lowest and most eligible bid was from Quirk Construction in the amount of \$1,070,000.00. Construction Administration services, to be performed by CDM-Smith, amount to \$68,000.00. The remaining \$242,000.00 is being recommended to be carried by CDM-Smith, to cover any potential unexpected and unforeseen conditions which may result in change orders as this project moves forward.

Work on this project includes demolition, clearing, removals and disposal of existing tennis and basketball courts, furnishing one new tennis court, one new basketball court, one new pre-fabricated multi-purpose rink system, court surfacing, new court lighting system, segmental retaining wall, fencing, site furnishings, seeding and landscaping of the Moxley Field.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to Adjourn.