1. Call Meeting to Order.
   Chair Jonathan Ramsay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.
   Chair Jonathan Ramsay led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call.
   
   PRESENT: Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
   Ken Demirs
   Robert Desena
   Gary Lafferty
   Robert Retallick
   Denise Russ
   Rachael Ryan

   ABSENT: Mary Ann Rosa, Vice Chair
   Anthony DiBona

   OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Raimo, Town Manager
   Susan Zappone, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

4. Presentation - Recognitions.
   a. UCONN TAB (Technical Assistance for Brownfields)
      Tyler, UCONN student I am here to explain the work that we did and the final project for you to look at. Our goal was to located sites in
Watertown that met a state definition of a brownfield. The state defines a brownfield as any property that may be abandoned or under utilized where redevelopment or expansion has not occurred to the presence or perceived presence of pollution.

See attached

b. Watertown Foundation Centennial Park
Mark Raimo, Town Manager stated I’m sure everybody is aware that we have started excavating at the corner of Echo Lake Road and Buckingham Street. Before I go any further there are people I would like to thank, being the Town Manager has put me into places where I get to hear a lot of different ideas. We put it together as a thought and I’m hoping that the Town Council will look at this as a leadership opportunity and a legacy opportunity for us to move forward. Mr. Robert Grandpre when I first started, he came to me and said I wanted to clean out the back side of Echo Lake Road and Buckingham Street where the sign is, is a great idea. Bob’s vision for seeing what that piece of property was, it’s actually a half an acre piece of property that the town owns. Which we can now develop and showcase it for our town, that is what I would like to present tonight. Lisa Carew is not here tonight our original thought process was to name it the Watertown Foundation Park. When I was discussing with Lisa Carew, she said it would be great to say our name as the Watertown Foundation Centennial Park. Mr. Joe Masi who is not in attendance today, said it would be such a great to get all our service organizations together and form a super committee so that we could work at individual projects or collaboratively work on a single project to get more bang for our buck and I thought that was a great idea. Council member Rosa who when I first started, she asked me to consider creating a committee to honor our volunteers in town. As I explain these ideas together and move forward with a complete project.

Gary Lafferty asked on the park itself what about all the utilities that are overhead will they transfer them underground at all.

Bob Grandpre answered there are 3 poles there that support the wires. We can move them I can ask Eversource if we can move the wires to install the flag pole.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager added the state gave us some guidance on how we can make this happen. The Park and Rec Department supports this idea for the development of the Watertown Centennial Park.

c. Staff Recognition
Mark Raimo, Town Manager stated I would like to acknowledge Carla Razza Hamel. Carla, who was born and raised in Watertown, has been employed by the town for over 32 years. She started in February 1991 as a part-time employee in the
Assessor and Collectors offices before working full-time in the tax collector's office. She worked as a bookkeeper for the first five years and then as the Assistant Tax Collector for fourteen years. She has been the Tax Collector for the past thirteen years. Carla became a Certified CT Municipal Collector in 1994 and has maintained this designation for almost 30 years. Carla has helped modernize the office during her tenure by introducing new software and implementing collection tools that have ensured the Town's healthy fiscal position.

Aside from her duties as a tax collector, Carla has volunteered on the Town's Safety and Health Committee and Website & Social Media Committee for 14 years. She attributes her success as a collector to her networking with other collectors and her involvement in the Litchfield Tax Collectors Association, where she served as the President for six years. Carla has also served on several committees for both the Litchfield Tax Collectors Association and the CT Tax Collectors Association. Additionally, Carla has been a CCMC Committee Course instructor for over twelve years and was honored with the CTx President's Award in 2018.

During the Tax Collector's annual conference in March 2023, Carla attended a presentation from the State Treasurer Department, Unclaimed Property Division. She learned that Watertown was owed approximately $11,000 in unclaimed funds. With a tax collection rate of 99.6%, her next steps are not surprising. Carla investigated further and found that the Town was owed $25,000 in unclaimed funds, and as of May 12, 2023, the Town received all $25,000.

Mark Raimo awarded Carl with a certificate of excellence in recognition of Carla’s outstanding commitment and diligence to the citizens of the Town of Watertown as her role as tax collector.

5. Public Participation.
Joseph Polletta, State Representative, 43 Lakeview Drive stated he fully supported the park, the Watertown Foundation is a great organization and do amazing things. Mr. Polletta congratulated Ms. Hammel on her recognition. Mr. Polletta talked about the securing the $300,000 grant for a new greenway that is being constructed along the Naugatuck River up from Orange all the way down through the valley coming through Watertown. It will improve the quality of life of the residents here in Watertown but will also provide economic development and a lot of opportunities for people wanting to come here.

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place talked about a temporary office clerk advertised in the job. Ms. Camara sent an email to the council asking for reimbursement for legal expenses regarding the lawsuit on Sealy.
David Mango, 240 Riverside Street stated he carried the petition for the Sealy mattress and wanted Planning & Zoning to make the right decision. Mr. Mango talked about Sealy and starting with a traffic survey and the plans to pass through the State of Ct. Mr. Mango said he has money invested in this and the town should pay the bill.

6. Minutes.
   
a. Special Town Meeting – May 1, 2023

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Rachael Ryan: I move to approve the Special Meeting minutes dated May 1, 2023 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously

b. Regular Meeting – May 1, 2023

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes dated May 1, 2023 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously

7. Chairman’s Report
   
a. Correspondence.

Chair Jonathan Ramsay reminded everyone that there is a referendum on May 23rd and encouraged everyone to vote.

The subcommittee that we created at our last meeting the Senior Tax Relief Subcommittee will he having our first meeting tomorrow evening.

8. Town Manager’s Report.
   
Mark Raimo reported:
- This week we will be signing a municipal agreement for the design projects for the Steele Brook Greenway.
- We have received a letter from the State of Ct and all the project paperwork for the Wilson Street Bridge has been completed and we are expecting one million four hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars and some change for the town within the next couple of weeks.
- A lot of work has been done from the Public Works Department applying for the two hundred and ninety-nine thousand grant will be coming to us for the design portion.
We will have the design and can hopefully move forward. Ours is a significant piece because it will be connecting Waterbury to Thomaston.

- Our Water & Sewer Superintendent David McMahon accepted the job and his first day was today.

9. Subcommittee Reports. – none.


   a. Discussion and possible action on Watertown Foundation Park presentation to be located on the corner of Route 262 and Buckingham Street and formal naming of the park.

      Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Desena: I move to formally name the park to be located at the corner of Echo Lake Rd., (Rt. 262) and Buckingham Street as the Watertown Foundation Centennial Park.

      Chair Jonathan Ramsay stated it's a great name and a great location.

      Motion passed unanimously

   b. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $4,791.72 for Police overtime. Funds received through the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration for reimbursement for participation in their program.

      Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Desena: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $4,791.72 for Police overtime. Funds received through the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration for reimbursement Watertown’s participation in their program.

      Discussion: none.

      Motion passed unanimously

   c. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $12,424.70 for Police Overtime. Funds received through the Statewide Violent Crime Task Force participation.

      Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Desena: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $12,424.70 for Police Overtime. Funds received through the Statewide Violent Crime Task Force participation.

      Discussion: none.
Motion passed unanimously

d. Consider authorizing an appropriation of $20,000 from the Water Sewer Capital Fund and $20,000 Sewer Capital Fund for Legal Services.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize an appropriation of $20,000 from the Water Sewer Capital Fund and $20,000 Sewer Capital Fund for Legal Services for a total of $40,000.

Chair Jonathan Ramsay reiterated it is not coming out of the general fund it is coming out of the funds already in place with the Water & Sewer Department.

Motion passed unanimously

e. Consider authorizing a compensation adjustment to the Assistant Building Official.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize a compensation adjustment of 3 percent for the Assistant Building Official.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager stated this is a shared position with the Town of Thomaston and we have agreed at 2 ½ percent so that we stay consistent with the Town of Thomaston, I would ask you to amend that.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize a compensation adjustment of 2 ½ percent for the Assistant Building Official.

Gary Lafferty stated this won’t cause any conflicts with the other town employees in town.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager stated this is a non-union position, it is an agreement between us and the Town of Thomaston we would like to stay consistent. I will be having the conversation with the Assistant Building Inspector.

Motion passed unanimously

f. Consider a resolution authorizing an appropriation of $4,441 for tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have applied for Tax Refunds pursuant to Section 12-129, Refund of Excess Payments; and
WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommended that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-129; and

WHEREAS, in order to refund taxpayers who have been approved for their refunds, monies must be appropriated into the budget line item to expend the funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appropriates $4,441 to line item 010-50341-043-0102 from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 15th day of May, 2023

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $4,441 for tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

g. Consider a resolution authorizing tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have made applications for property tax refunds in accordance with C.G.S. Section 12-129 Refunds of Excess Payment:

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-1298;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the attached listing of tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 15th day of May, 2023.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

See attached
Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

11. Adjournment.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

__________________________________________

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Approved: ________________________________

Susan King, Clerk