

**MINUTES OF THE
WATERTOWN CITY COUNCIL**
Workshop Meeting Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Steve Washburn
Deborah Everson
Lindsay Guetzkow
Adam Pawelk
Michael Walters

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Steve Washburn called the Watertown City Council Workshop to order at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, 2019 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Council Members present: Washburn, Michael Walters, Deborah Everson, Lindsay Guetzkow, and Adam Pawelk.

City Staff present: City Administrator Shane Fineran, City Engineer Andrew Budde, Utilities Superintendent Doug Kammerer, and Clerk/Treasurer Lynn Tschudi.

2. New Business

A. Capital Storm Pond Maintenance

City Administrator Fineran said in the fall of 2018, council authorized staff to evaluate the storm ponds throughout Watertown. The data would be used to develop a storm pond maintenance plan.

City Engineer Budde said 11 ponds were evaluated by Bolton & Menk staff. They used sonar and probes to determine the amount of sediment in each pond. The worst pond contained 21% sediment; much less than anticipated. Ponds can function with sediment amounts of up to 50%. Budde said nothing should need to be done for the next 20 years. Budde showed council an interactive map of the ponds that were evaluated. He pointed out various encroachment and landscaping issues on neighborhood ponds. These could all pose issues in the future.

Council member Pawelk is pleased that the ponds are not filled with sediment and appreciates the data collected. Everson asked how many storm water ponds are in Watertown. Budde said there are 34 ponds. Everson asked if any of the others would need to be examined. Guetzkow asked about testing the ponds to determine the chemicals present. Washburn brought to the attention of council that some residents are dumping grass clippings into ponds.

Fineran said storm ponds are designed to collect sediment from storm water and discharge the filtered water. He said the city does not manage for water quality. Washburn said residents treat ponds as their backyard and said the city does not have enough resources to enforce the encroachment issues. Pawelk is in favor of educating residents on storm ponds (ex – not mowing up to the water line). Washburn said the state requires a 50 foot buffer strip for the ditches of roads in order to protect water quality.

Walters expressed that the presence of cattails on a pond is an eye sore. Walters would like to see homeowners allowed to clean up the edge of ponds. Guetzkow is in favor of more education on storm ponds. She is also in favor of allowing residents to improve the ponds either mechanically or chemically.

Everson asked Engineer Budde what other cities are doing to address storm water ponds. Budde said they are developing policies to address storm water pond maintenance. Everson said she is pleased with the current quality of the ponds but would like to see policy created to address pond

maintenance by residents.

Pawelk said the reason there is algae on ponds is due to the lack of a buffer strip on lawns.

Washburn directs council to examine the language in the policy. Council discussed and revised some language throughout the document. Discussion on this item will continue in a future worksession.

3. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

Mayor, Steve Washburn

ATTEST: _____
Clerk/Treasurer, Lynn Tschudi