

Administration

To: Common Council, CC: Mayor McFarland

From: Mason Becker, Strategic Initiatives and Development Coordinator

Date: 8-28-24

Subject: Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss development parameters

Background

Mayor McFarland and I wanted to have the chance to discuss with Alders some of the major overarching topics and concerns we have heard over the past few weeks and months, as various development projects have gone through approval processes. We think it is wise to get a clear sense of expectations going forward.

Some of the topics we wish to discuss include creation and use of TIDs, PUDs, mix of housing options, tax credit housing, zoning and future land use (and associated timing with a project), public engagement opportunities, and other related topics.

We are fortunate that the City of Watertown continues to enjoy a good amount of interest from developers and businesses. We wish to continue this while giving a clear picture to interested parties of what options may or may not be on the table. This will help ensure efficient use of staff time and City resources and work to protect the relationships the city builds with developers.

This meeting is planned to be for approximately 30 minutes, and we primarily plan to gauge parameters so we can ensure we are bringing forth projects that align with the council.

Budget Goal

4. Promotes and fosters innovative approaches for community development and growth

Financial Impact

Development choices we make today can have both short-term and long-term impacts on the City's financial health and future opportunities.

Recommendation

We are not looking for formal action at this meeting, we are simply looking for clear direction or consensus from the council on major overarching topics, so that we can get a sense of how to address current and future development inquiries with the City.