

AGENDA

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006 AT 6:15 PM

RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO CHAMBER

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1. ROLL CALL: A regular meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber. Present for the meeting were Councilors Stephen Corbett, John A. Donohue, Jonathan Hecht, Angeline B. Kounelis, John J. Lawn, Jr., Stephen E. Romanelli, Vice President Mark S. Sideris and Council President Clyde L. Younger. Also present was the Council Clerk. Councilor Devaney was not present for the roll call. Councilor Sideris moved to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to non union personnel, seconded by Councilor Hecht and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:15 PM

3. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION – 7:15 PM

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. EXAMINATION OF MINUTES: May 23rd, May 30th, June 13th and June 21st.

Councilor Romanelli moved to accept the minutes of May 23rd, May 30th, June 13th and June 21st, seconded by Councilor Hecht. Councilor Devaney amended the motion by Tabling the minutes of June 21st. Adopted, as amended, by voice vote.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

The Chair opened the public forum and recognized:

1. Thomas Thibeaut, Chairman of the Watertown Contributory Retirement Board – stated his disappointment with the Manager's decision not to reappoint Wayne MacDonald to the Retirement Board, a 20 year veteran. He also spoke in disappointment with being denied access to the resumes of the candidates applying for the position of the 5th member of the Retirement Board. He noted that as Chairman of the Watertown Contributory Retirement

Board, he has the right to view the resumes. He further stated that the Council should have copies of the resumes as the Council will be confirming this appointment.

2. Bill Acker, out of state resident, spoke in concern with an incident on June 15th when he asked for assistance to look up on the internet a music service. He received no help and then asked two teenagers for help and did receive some help from them. He was then approached by a Library Supervisor and was asked to stop using the computer. He was then asked to leave. The police arrived and told him that he could not access the young adult area without the supervisor. He forwarded emails as part of his documentation regarding the incident and asked that someone look into the issue.

3. Sue Temper, Springwell – thanked the Council for a letter that was sent to the House Speaker regarding legislation in support of home based nursing care for the elderly.

Councilor Sideris moved to bring forward agenda item 10A A. Acceptance of Proclamations: Doreen Munger Dawson, Relay for Life, seconded by Lawn and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair read and presented a proclamation to Ms. Doreen Munger Dawson. Councilor Sideris moved to accept the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Corbett and adopted by voice vote. Ms. Dawson thanked the many people involved in making the event an overwhelming success. Ms. Dawson noted that Luminary Night has been re-scheduled for July 6th at 8:30 pm.

The Chair gave a special thanks to E. Joyce Munger for her dedication to so many community events.

Councilor Sideris moved to allow Relay for Life to hold its annual event next year, subject to their renewal of their license agreement with the town, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by voice vote.

7. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

A. Public hearing and vote on a proposed loan order authorizing the Town Treasurer with the Approval of the Town Manager to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$1,385,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of purchasing departmental equipment for the Fire Department, Police Department, Skating Arena and Department of Public Works.

The Chair recognized Fire Chief Mario Orangio, who spoke regarding the request to purchase a ladder platform truck in the amount of \$650,000; Police Chief, Edward P. Deveau who spoke to his request to purchase the Integrated CADS/RMS System in the amount of \$305,000; the Public Works Superintendent, Gerald S. Mee who spoke regarding his request to purchase a dump truck in the amount of \$145,000, a building truck in the amount of \$48,000, a Toro cemetery truck in the amount of \$33,000, a highway chipper in the amount of \$49,000, and a Toro field truck in the amount of \$26,000; and Thomas Walsh, Ryan Skating Rink Manager who spoke on a request to purchase a skating arena ice resurfer in the amount of \$110,000.

The Manager elaborated on the financing of the loan order.

The Chair opened up the hearing to the public and recognized:

Mr. Richard Hoover, Irving Park – inquired if there were any monies available from Homeland Security for the purchase of this list of equipment. It was stated that no funds were available from Homeland Security for the purchase of equipment.

Regarding the time line, the Chair asked why certain school safety needs were not considered with this loan order so that the work could be done this summer. The Manager noted that he is making an effort to move that work on the bleachers and other safety improvements up and have the work done while students are out of school.

Councilor Hecht noted that it would be a good idea in the future, if capital improvement program items are discussed at the subcommittee level before they go into the capital improvement program in order to facilitate a good exchange with department heads rather than here before the full council and at a end of the process.

Councilor Sideris moved to approve the loan order, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Committee on Rules and Ordinances report – Jonathan Hecht, Chair. Councilor Hecht read a brief interim report on ongoing subcommittee matters (attached). Councilor Sideris moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Romanelli and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Lawn moved to bring forward a late agenda item, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Lawn stated that his subcommittee on Human Services met earlier this evening to interview Mr. John J. Leary to the Housing Authority and moved the report and the appointment, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by voice vote.

9. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS BY TOWN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES:

A. Informational presentation from the Watertown No Place for Hate Committee. Committee members, Police Officer Dave Sampson and William Twombly provided an update on their work on the grassroots program where diversity is celebrated and hatred is not tolerated. The program has recently received certification. An upcoming meeting will be held on July 13th. An exhibit is on display in the foyer of the Administration Building.

The Chair called a three minute recess.

B. Informational presentation on proposed Water & Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2007 – Christopher P.N. Woodcock, Woodcock and Associates Inc. Mr. Woodcock provided a lengthy power point presentation and related handouts (attached). Mr. Woodcock elaborated on Fiscal Year 2007 expenses and estimated revenues; usage estimates; proposed rates and charges; and billing frequency. Four rate options and three sewer system fees options were presented to the Town Council (attached). It was noted that a public hearing and vote has been advertised for the July 11th Town Council meeting.

10. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A. Acceptance of Proclamations: Doreen Munger Dawson, Relay for Life. Previously adopted.

B. Confirmation of Melanson & Heath and Co. as the independent audit firm for the Town's Fiscal Year 2006 Audit. The Chair recognized the Town Auditor, Thomas Tracy who elaborated on correspondence he forwarded to the Town Council and noted that due to the new financial system, it is not in the best interest of the town to change independent audit firms at this time and recommends the reappointment of Melanson and Heath.

The Chair spoke in support of bidding out the work and having fresh eyes looking at the town's financing and putting the work out to bid.

It was noted by the Town Auditor that Melanson and Heath have been doing the audits since 1994. He noted that periodically the town does go out to bid on this and this would be the year that the town would do that, but due to the town's new financial system he does not recommend it for this year.

Councilor Devaney spoke in support of changing audit firms from time to time.

Councilor Corbett concurred but moved to accept Melanson & Heath as the independent audit firm for the Town's Fiscal year 2006 audit only and plan to bid the work out for FY 07, seconded by Councilor Hecht and adopted by voice vote.

C. Vote to approve Other Financing Sources as outlined in the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget. It was noted by the Town Auditor that this was inadvertently not brought forward during the budget vote. Mr. Tracy explained what Other Financing Sources were, specifically free cash. Councilor Romanelli moved to approve Other Financing Sources, seconded by Councilor Hecht and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

D. Resolution approving a transfer in the amount of \$23,500 from Fiscal Year 2006 Library Electricity Account to the Fiscal Year 2006 Library Replacement of Equipment Account in order to fund three book drops. The Manager provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Sideris moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Romanelli and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

E. Resolution approving a transfer in the amount of \$12,227 from the Fiscal Year 2006 Police Full Time Salaries Account and Police Indemnification Account to the Fiscal Year 2006 Police Replacement of Equipment Account in order to fund the purchase of two departmental copiers for the police department. The Manager provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Sideris moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Romanelli and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

F. Resolution approving a transfer in the amount of \$47,900 from the Fiscal Year 2006 Police Full Time Salaries Account to the Fiscal Year 2006 Police Vehicles Replacement Account in order to fund the purchase of two Police cruisers. The Manager provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Sideris moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Chair provided a verbal update from the Council's June 21st work session regarding goals and priorities which included improving teamwork, promoting mutual respect, and addressing town issues such as a parking structure, recycling center, police station, street and sidewalks. Other issues which were discussed included better communication and transparency in our government, the closing of branch libraries, assessing zoning issues, allowing for more budget choices, ensuring the community that we are looking ahead toward the future and making the Charles River a focal point for the town..

The Chair announced that Faire on the Square will take place on Saturday, September 30th.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- A. Request for confirmation, Planning Board
- B. Request for confirmation, Zoning Board of Appeals

The Chair spoke in support of the phasing in of new board members rather than a whole sale change which can be disruptive.

C. Request for confirmation, Watertown Contributory Retirement Board. The Manager provided an overview of the appointment process.

Councilor Sideris moved to refer the Watertown Contributory Retirement Board appointment to the Budget & Fiscal Oversight Committee, seconded by Councilor Donohue.

Councilor Devaney stated that this is the first time in the history of the retirement board, someone has been removed. She noted that it is the first time someone, a 20 year members is being punished for doing a good job for our retirees. Councilor Devaney stated that the Council is owed a justification on why the Manager cannot support this person. Councilor Devaney moved the reappointment of Wayne MacDonald.

Upon a roll call vote to refer the matter to the Fiscal & Budget Oversight Committee, it was adopted by a 7-2 vote with Councilors Devaney and Romanelli voting no.

The Manager reviewed the dates of the Summer Concerts.

The Manager requested to be excused from the June 29th work session. Councilor Sideris moved the request, seconded by Councilor Romanelli and adopted by voice vote.

The Manager reviewed a recent article regarding the Brigham House.

12. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Romanelli asked why the Conservation Commission appointment was not brought forward and requested that it be brought forward at the next meeting.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS – none noted.

14. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilor Sideris moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 pm, seconded by Councilor Romanelli and adopted by voice vote.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted on July 11, 2006 by voice vote.

Clyde L. Younger