



Watertown Town Council

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris
Council President

Stephen P. Corbett
Vice President

John A. Donohue
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis
District A Councilor

Cecilia Lenk
District B Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.
District C Councilor

John J. Lawn, Jr.
District D Councilor

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 22, 2010 - 7:15 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber
Administration Building

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL: A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to Order at 7:15 pm, in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber. Present for the meeting were Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas. Councilor Palomba arrived after the call of the roll.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: [June 8, 2010](#). Councilor Lawn Moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Councilor Corbett and adopted by voice vote.
4. PUBLIC FORUM: The Chair opened up the public forum and recognized:

Ruth Thomasian, Trees for Watertown – spoke in concern for severely damaged trees due to NStar pruning practices.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward agenda item 7A a) Acceptance of [proclamations](#) honoring retiring Crossing Guards Robert Conti, Sam McNutt and Sandra Peters – Council President Mark S. Sideris. The motion to bring forward the agenda item was seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair recognized Sgt. Joseph Diegnan who provided background on each of the crossing guard recipients; noting their cumulative 30 years of service to our children. The Chair read each proclamation. Vice President Corbett moved to accept the three proclamations, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward agenda item 8A, a) Vote on a [petition](#) by Verizon requesting permission to relocate a joint owned pole#3/22 Arlington Street approximately 10 feet to the north of existing pole# 3/22 in order to provide new access to new parking spaces at 190-192 Arlington Street at the property owner's request. The motion to bring forward the agenda item was seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote. It is noted that the agenda items was Tabled at the June 8th meeting after a public hearing was held on the matter.

The Chair recognized Mr. Callahan who stated that he will do everything in his power to get the poles removed by August.

Councilor Piccirilli read a [statement](#) regarding the disposition of old/double poles, the incomplete list of streets containing such poles and the August 31st removal date. He noted that the town will take action, through the attorney general's office if the August 31st deadline is not met.

Councilor Lenk noted that many other communities are facing the same dilemma with double/old poles remaining in the ground for years. She stated that she is looking for more of an assurance than what she is hearing from Mr. Callahan.

Councilor Kounelis requested that the commitment to have them removed by August 31st be in writing.

Councilor Falkoff asked who the town liaison will be. The Manager indicated that he will handle the matter.

President Sideris told Mr. Callahan that he should know that Watertown means business and that should be conveyed to his superiors.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the approval of the petition, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilor Palomba stated that he voted against tabling of the petition at the last meeting. He noted that he has strong feelings against using a citizen's petition, who followed all the rules, meeting all the standards set forth in the process, but was held up because of this long standing problem regarding old poles. He indicated that this is not how councilors should be using their power; to thwart someone who has followed all the rules.

5. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE on a proposed Order establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2011. The Manager provided an overview of the rates and charges noting a vote of either a one year rate of 4.5% increase or a two year rate of 6.2% increase. The Chair opened up the hearing to the public.

Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – stated that regardless of the formula used and conservation efforts, we are rendered a bill that must be paid regardless.

There being no further comments, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Donohue spoke in support of adopting a two-year formula at a 6.2% increase which will cost ratepayers 5 cents per day increase and gives residents a two year consistency in their rate.

Vice President Corbett noting difficult economic times spoke in support of the one year rate; erring on the one year lower increase.

Councilor Kounelis concurred with Councilor Corbett and stated that there is no benefit to the two year rate.

Councilor Piccirilli reviewed the mathematical calculations between the one and two year rate; noting that the two year rate was the better financial deal for ratepayers.

Councilor Palomba stated that with the two year rate, there is no guarantee it won't go up more in the second year.

Councilor Donohue moved to approve the two year rate, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and defeated 3 in favor and 6 against; with Councilors Donohue, Piccirilli and Falkoff voting in support and Councilors Lenk, Lawn, Corbett, Kounelis, Palomba and Sideris voting against.

Councilor Lenk moved the one year rate increase of 4.2%, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

a) Personnel and Town Organization report and action on the confirmation of appointment of Chairman of the Board of Assessors and on a [reappointment](#) to Board of Assessors – Councilor John J. Lawn, Jr., Chair. Councilor Corbett stated that the Personnel Committee met earlier this evening to interview Mr. Francis Golden for the position of Chairman of the Board of Assessors. Councilor Corbett noted Mr. Golden's eighteen years of experience in assessing and appraising in the towns of Beverly and Stoneham and has worked on previous pilot programs.

Councilor Corbett stated that the Personnel Committee also met to interview Mr. Richard Moynihan for re-appointment to the Board of Assessors. It was noted that the Committee voted unanimously to recommend both, Mr. Moynihan and Mr. Golden.

Councilor Donohue moved to accept the verbal report, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Lawn moved the appointment Mr. Golden, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Lawn moved the re-appointment of Mr. Moynihan, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a) Acceptance of [proclamations](#) honoring retiring Crossing Guards Robert Conti, Sam McNutt and Sandra Peters – Council President Mark S. Sideris. **PREVIOUSLY TAKEN UP.**

b) Resolution authorizing a [transfer](#) of funds in the amount of \$77,190 from various Police Department Fiscal Year 2010 accounts to the Fiscal Year 2010 Police Vehicle Replacement Account. The Manager provided a brief overview of the transfer.

The Chair recognized Police Chief Deveau who spoke in support of the transfer of funds for the purchase of two additional new cruisers to update the fleet.

The Chief recognized Police Officers Leitner and Lewis who spoke to the issue of the many hours of off duty work in reviewing suggestions from officers regarding a top to bottom review of the police department. This was done in conjunction with the move to their new police facility on Main Street. Items such as commitment to roll call/training; review of four sections of patrol routes; painting of cruisers to black/white; and the purchase of flotation devices, life hammer, throw rope and space blank – were all items that addressed safety.

It was noted by Officer Grady that due to upgrades in equipment in the sergeants' vehicles, it was decided that an SUV vehicle would better accommodate the heavier equipment than a standard cruiser.

Officer Collins reviewed the new uniforms which will be used for funerals, memorials, etc.

Councilor Kounelis thanked the Chief for empowering his officers in making improvements to the police department. She noted a transparency concern upon reviewing the police department [trust fund](#) over the last five years. She indicated that the numbers do not correspond.

The Chief noted that the numbers quoted by Councilor Kounelis reflect just how conservative he has been in using the trust fund. He spoke to the concern for the moral of his officers and the

importance of incorporating their suggestions for new uniforms and vehicle painting. Chief Deveau encouraged councilors to visit the new police station or call him with any questions they may have.

Vice President Corbett commended the Chief, noting that it is good to hear of these efforts to address moral; particularly after two and three years of budget cuts.

Councilor Lenk echoed the comments made by the vice president. She thanked the officers for their hard work and indicated that we should support the force as much as possible.

Councilor Palomba commended the research done by the officers for all the ideas and suggestions. He also commended the research done by Councilor Kounelis noting that he wants to make sure the public is informed. He noted that he is sure that the discrepancy can be figured out and resolved.

Councilor Donohue thanked the officers and the chief. He noted how impressed he was and suggested that residents log onto the police department website to view the new uniforms worn by the honor guards.

Councilor Falkoff requested a follow up list of vehicles, noting her confusion in what was to be purchased and what is existing or to be retired from the fleet.

Vice President Corbett moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

The Chair recognized Councilor Lawn, Chair of the Police Building Committee who announced an energy award grant in the amount of \$41,000 the town received from MassCEC Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Awards for the Watertown Police Station project.

c) Resolution authorizing the establishment of a [Revolving Fund](#) for the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force lease activity during Fiscal Year 2011. Town Auditor, Thomas Tracy provided an overview of the fund. Councilor Donohue moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by voice vote.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETING:

a) Vote on a [petition](#) by Verizon requesting permission to relocate a joint owned pole#3/22 Arlington Street approximately 10 feet to the north of existing pole# 3/22 in order to provide new access to new parking spaces at 190-102 Arlington Street at the property owner's request. **PREVIOUSLY TAKEN UP.**

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Sideris announced a new open meeting law training seminar to take place on July 14th at 7pm in the Watertown Savings Bank meeting room.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

Summer concerts to begin this Thursday.

Yard waste collection on Friday.

4th of July holiday in effect for Monday July 5th.

11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Kounelis asked for Federal Law Enforcement Trust fund accounting from 08 to June 22, 2010.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Donohue announced the start of the summer park programs from June 28th until August 20th. For more information: go the town's website and click "Notify Me".

13. PUBLIC FORUM

Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – spoke in support of the two year water/sewer rate noting that half the housing stocks are condominiums; where there is collective thinking. He indicated that he should have stated this earlier in the evening.

Pat Gold, Duff Street – asked if there is a defibulator in the Town Hall. The Manager noted that there in not one currently but he will work with the fire chief to get one.

14. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Donohue moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous vote.

Addendum to minutes.

At a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was resent, the above minutes were adopted as written by voice vote on July 13, 2010.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President