



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, September 27, 2011 at 7:15 pm
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
Administration Building

MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Mark S. Sideris. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas. Councilor Lawn arrived shortly after the call of the roll.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** [September 13th](#). Councilor Piccirilli moved the minutes as written, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM:** The Chair recognized:

Jim Loughlin, 465 Arsenal Street – read a [statement](#) thanking all those involved in opposition to a proposed parking lot at the Arsenal Apartments. He indicated that the project was withdrawn by the contractor without prejudice. He thanked the Planning Department for their assistance.

Councilor Palomba moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward 6a, seconded Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Mark S. Sideris.

6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS:

Acceptance of Proclamation - Watertown Open Studios weekend: Councilor Palomba read a proclamation recognizing October 1st – 2nd as Open Studios weekend. Artist, Laura Segal thanked the Council for the recognition. Councilor Falkoff moved the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Fiscal Year 2011 Composite Evaluation of the Town Manager. The Chair read the composite evaluation and asked to refer the Town Manager's evaluation and contract to Personnel and Town Organization. Vice President moved the referral, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

The Town Manager noted his appreciation for the time and feedback from the evaluations and indicated that he looks forward to continuing his work with the Council in providing the highest level of services for the best utilization of tax dollars.

The Chair stated that the weather held up for the Faire on the Square event and noted his appreciation to all those who helped. He indicated that the numbers of those volunteering for the event have dwindled over the years and asked that the annual event be referred to Economic Development and Planning subcommittee to discuss and recommend to the full Council its future and whether or not a formal committee should handle the planning and coordination. Vice President Corbett moved the referral, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

a) 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Committee on Public Works & Rules and Ordinances report on rules and ordinances regarding Waste Collection – Susan G. Falkoff and Anthony Palomba, Chairs. Councilor Falkoff read the report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

8. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a) [Resolution](#) Authorizing a Contract Term in Excess of Three Years for Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Collection, Removal & Transportation Procurement. The Town Manager provided a brief overview of the resolution noting that proposals were reviewed by Ms. Marshall, Mr. Mee and Mr. Magoon. The Manager indicated that a negotiation of competitive pricing is ongoing for a consistent schedule of trash pick-up and moving toward single stream recycling while maintaining a recycling center.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Falkoff.

Councilor Donohue stated that it will be very difficult for residents to participate in a bi-weekly recycling schedule with the new trash policy. He stated that in order for the new trash/recycling policy to be successful; it needs to be convenient for residents to participate in and indicated that the Newton saw a 15% increase in their weekly recycling pickup.

Councilor Lawn concurred that bi-weekly recycling will pose a difficulty to residents once the new trash contract goes into effect. He noted that weekly recycling pickup will help make the new trash policy more efficient and asked that the administration take another look at the contract.

Phyllis Marshall, Treasurer/Collector stated that the new contract is cost effective and emulates the existing schedule which will bring the best service for the best dollars.

DPW Superintendent, Gerald S. Mee, Jr., stated that the tote capacity will increase from an 18 gallon tote to a 64 gallon tote.

Vice President Corbett concurred with Mr. Mee in that the large tote capacity will help incentivize recycling for residents and inquired if the Town wanted to change the contract with respect to a weekly pick-up, do we know what the cost would be.

Ms. Marshall indicated that weekly recycling was not discussed.

Councilor Piccirilli stated the subcommittee discussed this quite a bit today at its meeting. He noted that the whole idea behind this new program is to save money and going to a 64 gallon tote is going to give people a lot more flexibility. He indicated that going to a weekly recycling system right away will cost more and if we want to save money, we want to keep with bi-weekly pick-up for now. If we can increase the recycling from the current 20% to 40% in the next few years then we could go to a weekly recycling pick-up without an

increase in cost to the town. He stated that we need to walk before we can run and see where we are a year from now.

Councilor Palomba stated that while he is concerned about a 5 year contract, he is in support of it and asked that if the contract can be amended, if need be.

Ms. Marshall stated that the successful bidder will have to purchase new trucks and will most likely amortize the cost over the term of the contract and that a five year contract will provide the town will more flexibility and is in the best interest of the tax payers.

Councilor Donohue stated that if the town wants residents to triple their recycling volume; a 64 gallon toter won't be enough for a large family and noted that the program will be more successful if it is easier for residents to participate in and encouraged a weekly pickup.

Councilor Lenk agreed and stated that the town should start with weekly recycling to make it more effective and come up with a fair policy to dispose of bulky items.

Councilor Lawn stated that the Council seems to be on the same page with their concerns and indicated he is leery of entering into a 5 year contract due to the fact that the town is going down uncharted waters with a new trash policy. He asked the Administration to look into a short term contract keeping with the bi-weekly pickup for now.

The Manager stated that the cost of the containers has to be amortized and spreading it out over five years is more cost efficient.

Councilor Lawn indicated that perhaps the town could buy the containers on their own.

Ms. Marshall stated that several companies make the containers and that she can look into that cost.

Councilor Kounelis stated that she wants to ensure any containers purchased today would be viable down the road. She further stated that residents are unclear on how this will transpire and stated for the record that she could not attend the noon meeting. She indicated that there needs to be an educational aspect and participation from the residents and spoke in support of the bi-weekly recycling pick-up.

The Chair stated that the Council is not deciding tonight if we want weekly or bi-weekly recycling and asked Attorney Reich for an opinion.

Attorney Reich stated that the resolution calls for the Manager to enter into a contract with a term of up to five years; the discussions at this point are ongoing with the vendor and that there are mechanisms for which the terms of the contract can be amended without the town being held hostage.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that giving the Administration the flexible of five years is in the best interest of the town.

Councilor Palomba indicated that there is a cost benefit to the town in a five year contract but what that cost benefit is we just don't know at this point. He indicated that he supports the concept but wants to know the rational for the number of years whether it be three years or five.

Mr. Mee indicated that this is difficult to answer that due to the RFP process, but that the contract was chosen because of the cost of purchasing the vehicles to the vendor.

The Manager asked that the resolution be Tabled and brought forward on October 11th.

Councilor Falkoff moved to Table the resolution, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by an 8-1 roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilor Palomba voting against.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a) [Resolution](#) authorizing the filing of a Special Act concerning the appointment of Special Police Officers in the Town of Watertown. The Town Manager provided a brief overview of the resolution and noted that the matter has had its 3rd reading in the State legislature. The Chair recognized Attorney Reich who noted that the resolution would formalize a vote taken on July 13, 2011 regarding the matter. Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Mark S. Sideris.

b) Acceptance of Joint Committee on Economic Development and Planning and Public Works [report](#) on cell towers from September 13, 2011– Stephen P. Corbett and Susan G. Falkoff, Chairs. Councilor Falkoff moved to accept the report, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Mark S. Sideris.

10. NEW BUSINESS- none noted.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The Manager announced: Flu Clinic dates and the 2nd quarter Tax Bill due by November 1st.

The Manager elaborated on a letter sent to himself and the School Committee which suggested that the school children were getting a less than satisfactory education this year due to the town's failure to negotiate a teachers' contract. He noted that the letter contained erroneous information regarding planned field trips. The Manager read an excerpt from a letter sent by the Chairman of the School Committee in response to the misstatements in Ms. Segal's letter and noted that the school committee will not accept a contract which will result in a loss of jobs going forward and will act prudently and responsibly for the students of Watertown. The Manager lastly stated that it is critical that both sides negotiate in good faith and that any proposed MOA needs to be fair to the tax payers and most importantly in the best interest of the school children of this community.

12. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Falkoff read a [list of RFI](#).

The Chair concurred with the list of items and noted that Verizon has not made good on their promise to mill and overlay both sides of Pleasant Street; nor put a permanent patch on Hunt Street. He asked why and when will this get done.

Councilor Lawn indicated that the last of the double poles have been removed from Pleasant Street and paving is set for October.

The Manager indicated that Superintendent Mee will follow up with a memorandum.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Kounelis announced a meeting regarding the Trapelo Road project - October 19th at 7pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber.

Vice President Corbett announced an Art Exhibit produced by individuals with disabilities beginning this Saturday and available for viewing for the next two months at the Library.

Councilor Palomba announced a meeting regarding Bus Route 71 - on October 5th at Mt. Auburn Hospital at 6:30 pm.

Councilor Palomba announced a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on September 28th at 10:00 am at the Watertown Greenway 550 Arsenal Street.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

Pat Gold, Duff Street – praised the Manager’s excellent evaluation and thanked everyone for working together for a better community.

Jim Smith, 61 Bridge Street – spoke in support of single stream recycling and the issuance of green tickets for those failing to comply noting that the City of Brighton has strict compliance laws which helped cleaned up their streets. Regarding Pleasant Street, he asked, where is the contractor, Newport Company, if they worked in Brighton or Boston they would be fired.

15. [EXECUTIVE SESSION](#): There being no further business to come before the Council; Vice President Corbett moved to go into executive session at 9:30 pm to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the town. It was noted that the Town Council will not return to open session following the adjournment of the executive session. The motion was seconded Councilor Donohue and adopted by unanimous vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

[Addendum](#)

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted on October 12, 2011 by unanimous voice vote.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President