



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

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012 AT 6:15PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MINUTES

- 1. ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 6:15 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., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich, and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.
- 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** 6:15 PM – Vice President Corbett moved to go into executive session for the below stated reason noting that meeting in open session would have a detrimental effect on negotiations, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative. The Chair indicated that the Council will return to open session upon adjournment of the executive session.
 - a) To consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease, or value of real property –**
Wells Avenue parking lot.
- 3. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** 7:15 PM
- 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 5. EXAMINATION OF MINUTES:** [March 27th](#). Councilor Piccirilli moved the minutes, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – praised Michael Donham for his many year of volunteer work on Faire on the Square.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS BY TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

a) Legislative Update - Representatives Jonathan Hecht provided an update on three items:

1. He noted that the State budget is a better budget than last year; but not necessarily a good budget and that he is cautiously optimistic that Watertown will do no worse than the previous year.
2. He noted that Watertown will incur small changes to MBTA bus routes and that the 23% increases in fares will affect the elderly disproportionately. He noted that the letters sent from the Town Council against fare increases and route changes were helpful.
3. He indicated that State awarded projects include the Watertown Charles River dock which will be replaced and improvements to the Greenough Boulevard Intersection.
4. He announced that the Armenian Genocide commencement will take place on April 20th at the State House from 10:30 am to noon.

It was noted by the Chair that State Senator Brownsberger was in the audience.

The Chair stated that the MBTA debt is not going away and that it will be a long term problem. Representative Hecht agreed that the route changes and fare increases were a temporary fix to the MBTA debt and that the problem may even be worse next year.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to Suspend the Rules and bring forward agenda item 9a 9. PRESENTATIONS OF PROCLAMATION: Recognizing [Arbor Day](#) and [Project Literacy](#), seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Vice President Corbett read the Arbor Day Proclamation. Mr. Magoon, Planning Director announced that a ceremony will take place on April 18th at the Hosmer School.

Councilor Donohue moved to accept 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., Kenneth M.

Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Lenk read the proclamation recognizing the 25th Anniversary of Project Literacy. Ms. Laurie Gardner and Susan Viskin thanked the Council for the recognition.

Vice President Corbett moved to accept the proclamation, 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., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

7b) Informational Power Point presentation on the [Riverfront Project](#) – Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Councilor Cecilia Lenk: A complete presentation of the Riverfront Project was provided to the Town Council by Councilor Lenk and Vice President Corbett and placed on the Town’s website.

The Chair noted that Steve Rothstein, President of Perkins School for the Blind was in the audience.

Councilor Corbett provided background information on the 1.65 million dollar Riverfront project which he noted has been permitted and endorsed. The mile long multipath restoration project is a public/private partnership of the following: DCR; Town of Watertown; Perkins School for the Blind; and the Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Fund as well as other groups and individuals.

Councilor Lenk indicated that private donations and a Town commitment of \$100,000.00 are contingent on the State funding an initial \$600,000.00 of one or more of the phases of the project. It was also noted that Perkins School has committed to maintaining the Braille Trail but that the DCR will be responsible for most of the maintenance of the Riverfront trail. Vice President Corbett indicated that there has been talk of approaching local businesses for donations.

The Town Manager stated that the proposed \$100,000.00 Town contribution was looked on favorably by the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committee and was so noted in their report of March 13th. He stated that if the Town Council was in favor of the commitment, a transfer of funds could be placed on the next agenda for discussion and vote. The Manager further noted that the transfer, if adopted, would be placed in the Capital Improvements Project account which allows the monies to cross fiscal years.

The Chair asked for a Sense of the Meeting vote in support of the Riverfront Project. So moved by Councilor Falkoff, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Chair announced that the School Committee and the WEEA Teachers Union voted to ratify a three year contract.

9. PRESENTATIONS OF PROCLAMATION: Recognizing [Arbor Day](#) and [Project Literacy](#). Previously taken up.

10. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

- a) [Public hearing](#) and vote on a proposed Ordinance to Temporarily Modify the Operation of the Administration Building. The Manager provided a brief overview of the proposed Ordinance. The Chair opened up the matter to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Donohue moved the Temporary Summer Hours, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Committee on Human Services [report](#) on a social worker position – Anthony Palomba, Chair. Councilor Palomba read the report and noted that the Committee voted to continue the matter. Councilor Donohue moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.
- b) Public Works [report](#) on proposed street/sidewalk repairs for summer, 2012 – Cecilia Lenk, Chair. Councilor Lenk read the report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to endorse the recommendations of the Committee regarding the 2012 list of streets/sidewalk work, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J.

Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

- c) Public Works and Rules and Ordinances [report](#) on a proposed Ordinance regarding Erosion and Sediment Control and Grading – Cecilia Lenk and John A. Donohue, Chairs. Councilor Donohue read the report. Councilor Donohue moved to accept the report, 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., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

The Chair noted that the proposed Ordinance will be forwarded to Attorney Reich for his review and then published in the local paper prior to a public hearing and vote by the Town Council.

12. NEW BUSINESS: None noted.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER: None noted.

14. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Kounelis asked for a status of repairs to Elton Avenue parking meters and an update on conversations between the Town and St. James Armenian Church officials regarding the former East Branch Library.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Falkoff announced the first yard waste pickup will take place this Friday.

Councilor Palomba announced a State of Fiscal Health presentation at the State House; April 25th at 9:00 am.

Councilor Palomba announced a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Grove Street Community Garden; April 22nd at 1:00 pm.

Councilor Palomba announced a Complete Streets Workshop will be held at the Police Station on April 19th from 6:00pm – 9:00 pm.

16. PUBLIC FORUM:

Pat Gold, Duff Street – stated that the Waverley Avenue/Bradshaw Street curb is too high. She also stated that while the social worker position may sound like a good thing; it may not be and the Town should not jump to conclusions as there are ramifications.

17. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Vice President moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm, seconded by 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., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President 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 by unanimous vote on April 24, 2012.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President