



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, JANUARY 8, 2013 @ 7:15 PM
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL 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 Council Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilor 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 the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **EXAMINATION OF MINUTES:** [December 11, 2012](#). Councilor Piccirilli moved the minutes, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilor 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.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM :**

Clyde Younger, 188 Acton Street – spoke against agenda item 9B “electronic distribution of documents” stating that congress has been grappling with this issue for some time and that in his opinion the matter has not been properly vetted.

Ruth Thomasian and Clyde Younger, World in Watertown – invited the Council and the public to Martin Luther King Breakfast on January 21st at 9:00 am at the Greek Hellenic Center.
5. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

The Chair announced that a new procedure to this budget cycle will include the department chairs detailing their budget needs to the School Committee on February 4th.

6. INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS:

a). Status Update on the Riverfront Project Capital Funding – Stephen P. Corbett, Vice President. Vice President Corbett updated the Council on the status of the Riverfront Project noting that the State did not fund the project this year. He noted that while he is disappointed, he is optimistic as Representative Hecht has indicated that there is a new federal program of matching grant monies for land/conservation projects which is tailor made for the Riverfront project. Vice President Corbett noted that the stewardship group will be drafting a letter asking the State to step up and do their part in locating funds for this project and that he would like a Sense of the Council vote to support the letter.

Vice President Corbett moved to authorize the Council President to sign the letter on behalf of the Town from the Riverfront Improvement Stewardship Group addressed to Secretary Sullivan and Commissioner Lambert urging the State to locate the funds to move this project forward, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

It was noted by Vice President Corbett that it is not the intent that the letter be written by the Council.

The Chair indicated his support for the letter.

Councilor Kounelis stated that she would like to see a draft of the letter before authorizing the signature.

On the motion as presented, it was adopted by a roll call vote of 8 for and 1 against with Councilor John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilor Kounelis voting against.

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 issue refunding bonds pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §21A in order to reduce interest costs, in an amount not to exceed Eleven Million Dollars (\$11,000,000), to refund all or any portion of the remaining principal of and redemption premium and interest on the following outstanding bonds of the Town:

<u>Original Amount</u>	<u>Original Issue Date</u>
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\$ 4,103,000

November 1, 2003

\$ 5,263,000

March 15, 2004

\$15,965,000

November 1, 2004

and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that the Town Manager and the Treasurer are each authorized to take any and all other action necessary to carry out the purposes of this Order. The Town Manager provided a review of the proposed loan order to issue refunding bonds for lower interest rates of at least two percent, which he indicated is worthy of a one-time refinance opportunity.

The Chair opened up the public hearing and recognized:

Clyde Younger, 188 Acton Street – who inquired what the savings will be used for.

The Manager noted that this is an opportunity to spend less interest in future years.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the Loan Order, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilor 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. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a). [Resolution](#) preserving the property known as Whitney Hill Park for passive recreation and education purposes. The Chair recognized Councilor Lenk who read the resolution. Councilor Lenk moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Falkoff.

Vice President Corbett asked if this raises any issues with zoning due to it being subdivided from the Public Works lot. Attorney Reich noted that this was reviewed by the Town Planning Director, Steven Magoon, and that there are no issues.

Councilor Palomba asked who will be maintaining this property. The Chair indicated that the Public Works department will be responsible

The resolution was adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilor 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). [First Reading](#) on an Ordinance amending Watertown Code of Ordinances, Title IX, General Regulations; Chapter 91, Animals; Section 91.16: Restraint of Dogs allowing dogs on leashes to be walked in Whitney Hill Park. The Chair provided a first reading on the Ordinance and noted that this will be placed on the January 22nd agenda for a public hearing and vote.

c). [First Reading](#) on an Ordinance amending Watertown Code of Ordinances Title III, Administration; Chapter 31, Boards, Commissions and Departments, Timing and Process of Appointments; Section 31.50: Expiration of Terms to provide for an expiration date for appointments to the Storm-water Advisory Board. The Chair provided a first reading of the Ordinance. The Manager provided a brief overview of the matter. It was noted that the matter will be placed on the January 22nd agenda for a public hearing and vote.

d). [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer of \$2,297 from the Fiscal Year 2013 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2013 Town Auditor Full Time Salaries Account in order to adjust the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget to reflect the previously adopted Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2012 Compensation of the Town Auditor. The Chair provided a brief overview noting that this amends the budget. Councilor Piccirilli moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilor 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.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a). Committee on Public Works [report](#) on Automated Trash and Recycling program; roads/street repairs – Cecilia Lenk, Chair. Councilor Lenk read the report. Councilor Falkoff moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilor 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.

ACTION ITEM: To have the Town Council ask the Administration to develop a plan to potentially provide a second toter for recycling. Vice President moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Donohue asked if another survey can be performed by Republic.

Councilor Piccirilli amended the motion to include an additional recycling survey.

Councilor Falkoff inquired about a timeframe for this. Mr. Mee indicated that Republic can perform another survey by the first meeting in February.

It was noted that the survey will be conducted by a visual inspection of recycling barrels on pickup day.

The motion as amended was adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilor 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 Manager indicated that the timeline for road projects would not be enforced for the summer of 2013 as there are projects left over from 2012 as well as the issue with non-conforming driveways.

Councilor Lenk stated that this was discussed in committee and that it was felt that things needed to move faster; the schedule was presented by Mr. Mee and discussion was that by all staff involved, it was achievable. She noted that she shares the concern but conceptually this is the direction the committee wants to go in.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that they recognize the first year will be painful but that it has to start somewhere; noting the steps have been identified and it is a good first step and half the battle.

Councilor Palomba asked if the dates can be adjusted.

The Manager stated that he concurs with the timeframe laid out in the last page with more dialogue needed with attachment A.

The Chair indicated that it is the intent of the committee to get away from starting these projects in September or October and to keep the timeline aggressive; and do projects early rather than later.

Councilor Lenk stated that this lays out a framework with all the different steps to take and urged everyone involved to try and expedite what needs to be done.

The Chair called for a two minute recess.

b). Committee on Rules and Ordinances [report](#) and action on a [resolution](#) regarding electronic distribution of documents – John A. Donohue, Chair. Councilor Donohue read the committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Kounelis stated that based on the information supplied in the report, she cannot accept it because, in her opinion, it is not factual; in particular the cost to having her documents in paper form and the cost of delivering her packets by the police to her home. She stated that people seeking office will be handicapped by the electronic distribution of documents outlined in the resolution.

The Chair asked Councilor Donohue how he arrived at the approximated dollar figures. Councilor Donohue stated that support staff approximated the number of paper copies provided and the Town Auditor provided the staffing salary figures.

The motion was adopted by voice vote with Councilor John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilor Kounelis voting against.

Councilor Donohue read the resolution. Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Kounelis read a July 7, 2006 speak out from the Watertown Tab and Press. Councilor Kounelis read her June 5, 2007 memo regarding the compensation of the Council Clerk.

Councilor Kounelis stated that she is all for technological improvements but does not want it forced on her or anyone else who wants to serve. She asked where her technical support will come from.

Councilor Palomba asked Attorney Reich how this will effect outside entities in their presentations to the Council.

Attorney Reich stated that this will not affect outside entities and how they present materials or presentations.

Councilor Palomba asked how reimbursement will be made for printing expenses. Councilor Donohue stated that each Councilor has an expense account of \$300.00 per year.

Councilor Palomba asked how the public access to information will change. Attorney Reich stated that it is covered under the public records request by a councilor or member of the public through the Town Clerk's office and there is a printer in the outer office for councilor's use and that this does not change the public's access to documents.

Councilor Palomba asked if an agenda will be provided to the public upon request. Attorney Reich indicate that it was previously stated that there will be an effort to honor requests for an agenda but there is nothing in the law that says that a stack of agendas have to be available for the public in print at the time of the meeting.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that he worked with Councilors Donohue and Corbett to develop the resolution and noted that some of the items being formalized in the resolution came from the adopted Charter changes. He indicated that a lot of data is necessary in running a 103 million dollar town budget and this resolution just formalizes the practices we have been doing over the last few years. One of the budget priority guidelines is to improve the use of the web site by making it more

available and transparent to the public, he noted and the ability to use government issued emails for communication by elected officials and board members is an important and a positive step forward in complying with open meeting laws.

Councilor Lenk stated her support for the resolution noting that the new technology has been very successful. She indicated the data has been timely and given the amount of data processed; this gives efficiency for councilors to do their jobs well.

The Chair stated that this how we have been operating for the past three years and noted that he is very comfortable moving forward with formalizing this policy as it increases access to the general public, which is a benefit.

Upon a roll call vote, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for and 1 against with Councilor John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilor Kounelis voting against.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the issue of formalizing reimbursement expenses to the subcommittee of Rules and Ordinances, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilor 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.

Regarding after hour's technical support, Councilor Piccirilli asked the Manager to address this issue. The Chair asked Mr. Mahoney to assist.

10. NEW BUSINESS - None noted.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER – None noted.

12. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Falkoff requested an update on where we are with the Comprehensive Plan; and a presentation is overdue on the Mt. Auburn Street construction study.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Kounelis announced that street lights have been installed today in Coolidge Square. She noted two lights are not operable and an arm is missing from a pole on Kimball Street.

Councilor Kounelis announced that on January 4th she met with State Representative Jonathan Hecht and Herbert Nolan from the Solomon Fund on improvements to Greenough Blvd. A preliminary plan will be presented to the Town Council.

14. PUBLIC FORUM:

Clyde Younger, 188 Acton Street – suggested that the resolution have the word “certain documents” in order to give Town Council flexibility and that a member of the Town Council ask for a Reconsideration of the vote by noon tomorrow.

Paul Fahey, Lexington Street – he indicated that electronic distribution is the way to go and suggested a reasonable accommodation for those who need it.

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Woodland moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilor 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 voice vote on January 22, 2013.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President