



## 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 22, 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 Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, 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. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **EXAMINATION OF MINUTES:** [January 8, 2013](#). 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, Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM:**
  - Ms. Candy Aulenbach, 33 Puritan Road – spoke against proposed improvements to the 552 Main Street Park noting that the proposed design is overbuilt for the lot and diminishes the green space.
  - Genevieve Jones, 68 Jensen Road – echoed the previous speaker's comments and stated that there is no study that says the town needs more playgrounds. She spoke against the added debt to build the playground and indicated existing parking problems in the neighborhood would be made worse.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The Chair indicated that the Martin Luther King, Jr., breakfast that was held on Sunday was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

6. INFORMATION PRESENTATION:

- a) [Informational Presentation](#) on the proposed Park renovations/improvements at 552 Main Street – Peter Centola, Recreation Director. Mr. Centola stated that a meeting was held on December 4<sup>th</sup> which was the seventh meeting on the proposed park renovations. He highlighted the three park components: the tot lot; the spray park; and the hard multi-surface play area. He stated that he recommends that the town move forward with the plans as proposed.

Upon a request from Councilor Woodland, Mr. Centola highlighted some of the seven meetings held on the subject matter. He noted that the design has been scaled back since the first meeting.

The Chair asked Mr. Centola to forward the revised design.

Councilor Kounelis asked Mr. Centola to approximate out of the thirty people who attended the last meeting; how many were in favor of the design.

Mr. Centola approximated half the attendees to be in support of the proposed project.

Councilor Lenk asked Mr. Centola to explain the use of the multi-purpose surface.

Mr. Centola stated that the hard surface, which has been scaled back in size, is designed for diverse playing for young children such as bicycle/tricycle/big wheel riding, in-line skating, ball playing such as basketball, dodge ball. He indicated that the park will not be equipped with lights; so playing will be limited to daylight hours.

Councilor Falkoff asked if Mr. Centola could prepare enhanced graphic pictures of the proposed park and if neighbors could prepare a summary of their objections for the next meeting scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Vice President Corbett indicated that when the Cunniff Elementary School expanded their building; an existing basketball court was removed to allow for the expansion. He spoke in favor of the proposed hard surface.

Councilor Donohue stated that the hard surface has been scaled back due to neighborhood concerns. He indicated that the hard surface is designed for those ten years or younger and is accessible to the handicap. He further stated that the addition of the trees is a great asset and that the facility is something to be proud of.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that the hard surface is important to the younger children and that it is important to have diverse play areas and a comprehensive design. He also stated that it did not make sense to spend money on a study when the Town already knows there is a need for more playgrounds.

Councilor Kounelis asked how much has the hard surface been reduced in size.

Mr. Centola answered; 20% and that he fully recommends moving forward with the hard surface playing area.

Councilor Lenk stated that the design was excellently laid out and that she supports the plan as proposed.

The Chair reminded neighbors to forward their concerns to the Council Clerk in advance of the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 7. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

- a) [Public hearing](#) and vote 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 read the Ordinance and opened the hearing up to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the Ordinance, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Falkoff stated that the change will allow more freedom to walk dogs on Whitney Hill.

Councilor Kounelis asked; what are marked paths.

Councilor Lenk stated that they are referring to walking trails that are maintained by Public Works and that are clear as paths.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that currently there are walking paths and that he envisions that these paths will be maintained. He noted that dogs are walked there now and must be leashed.

**VOTE:** The Ordinance was adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

- b) [Public hearing](#) and vote 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 Town Manager provided a brief overview of the proposed Ordinance. The Chair opened up the hearing to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Falkoff moved the Ordinance, 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, Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Committee on Personnel and Town Organization [report](#) on a Town Organization study; Public Works study; and note taker for subcommittees – Susan Falkoff, Chair. Councilor Falkoff read the Committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Donohue.

Councilor Kounelis noted a point of clarification regarding the report stating that the information she submitted with respect to compensation of neighboring alderman and councilors; was submitted in conjunction with information provided on taking of minutes of subcommittees.

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

Councilor Falkoff moved to refer to Budget and Fiscal Oversight subcommittee the matter of whether Councilors are being appropriately remunerated for the work they do, 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, Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

- b) Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight [report](#) and action on Section 29, 30, 34 and 48 of Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011 and pension funding schedule for FY 2014 – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair. Councilor Piccirilli read the Committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report, 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, Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

The Chair recognized Mr. Thomas Thibaut, Retirement Board Chair – spoke in support of the pension reforms stating that the State adopted the reforms in order to correct inequities in outdated laws. He stated that the Retirement Board accepted the two local options and recommends their adoption; which PERAC noted would have a minimum impact on the funding schedule.

**1st MOTION:** Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council not adopt **Section 29, 30 of Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011**; noting that a yes vote is a vote in support of the Committee’s recommendation not to adopt the local option, seconded by Councilor Kounelis.

Councilor Palomba confirmed that the increase to the funding schedule would be approximately \$232.00 per month, effecting four people with no significant impact nor would it affect the funding schedule.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that the State did not specifically state that it was an inequity it was addressing. He indicated that they are local options only and not a change in the law; with no means testing. The Committee, he noted, saw no overwhelming reason to go against policy to adopt the local options.

Councilor Kounelis stated that she understands the plight of the elderly but the private sector does not receive COLA increases or all of the other associated increases.

Councilor Lenk stated that though the numbers are not large; the pension liability and post employment benefits are very large and unless there is an inequity or a very clear public policy need to fund the local options, it is difficult, in the face of such large numbers to vote for such options.

Councilor Falkoff stated that this is a disagreement of two very worthy opponents. She noted that while Mr. Thibaut is a tireless advocate for retirees; the committee members have put very serious thought into this issue and thus she will support the Committee’s recommendations.

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

**2nd MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Piccirilli move that the Town Council not adopt **Section 48, Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011** noting that a yes vote is in support of the Committee’s recommendation not to adopt the local option, 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, Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

**3rd MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council not adopt **Section 34, Chapter 176 of 2011**, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by a roll call vote of 8 for 0 against and 1 present with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilor Woodland voting present.

The Chair asked for a motion to send a letter thanking the Retirement Board for working with the Town Council in trying to address the pension liability. So moved by Councilor Piccirilli, 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, Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

9. NEW BUSINESS – none noted.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

- a) [Submission of the Fiscal Year 2014 Capital Improvement Program.](#)  
The Manager provided a brief review of the 2014 CIP program. The CIP was referred to the Budget and Fiscal Oversight committee.

11. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Falkoff read a list of [RFI](#) and further included a request for a trash barrel at Whitney Hill.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Donohue announced that on January 27<sup>th</sup> at noon, the annual Spelling Bee will take place at the Middle School.

Councilor Palomba announced that on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, a new book by Alex Liazos, will be introduced at the Main Street Library.

Councilor Palomba announced that a Gun Safety seminar will be presented by Police Chief Deveau along with Representative Hecht and Senator Brownsberger on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm at the Main Street Library.

13. PUBLIC FORUM:

Virginia Rice, Acton Street – forwarded [pictures](#) of the existing park depicting winter sledding which she noted will be lost once the park is renovated.

14. 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 Donohue and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, 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 February 12, 2013.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President