



## 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

Aaron Dushku,  
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 8, 2014 AT 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 Aaron Dushku, 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:** [March 25<sup>th</sup>](#). Councilor Piccirilli move the minutes, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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** - none noted.
5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** The Chair stated that the School Committee met last night regarding this year's budget. Information will be forwarded to Councilors for their perusal.

The Chair announced the passing of Mr. John Bartley, who served on numerous town boards and commissions over a fifty year span. A Moment of Silence will be held at the end of the meeting.

### 6. PRESENTATIONS OF PROCLAMATIONS:

- a) **Acceptance of Proclamation:** recognizing the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the [Unitarian Church](#). The Chair recognized Councilor Dushku who read the proclamation which was presented to Reverent Mark Harris. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Dushku and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a) [First Reading](#) on a proposed Ordinance Modifying the Hours of the Administration Building. The Town Manager provided a brief overview of the subject matter which will be published in the local paper for a public hearing and vote on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

b) [First Reading](#) and referral to the Planning Board of a Zoning text amendment proposed by Athena Arsenal LLC to amend the Arsenal Overlay Development District (AODD) of the Watertown Zoning Ordinance. Community Planning and Development Director, Steve Magoon provided an overview of the proposed amendment.

Councilor Palomba asked what the biggest changes were. Mr. Magoon stated that the amendment provided more flexibility in retail uses; sets out a master plan approval process; and allow for an additional parking garage.

Councilor Kounelis asked for a snap shot on parking. Mr. Magoon stated that it redistributes parking on the site.

Councilor Palomba move to refer the proposed amendment to the Planning Board, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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) [An Order](#) Transferring Care, Custody and Control of a Portion of the Former Browne School Property to the Town Manager to be Held for and Dedicated to Playground and Recreation Purposes. The Manager provided a brief overview of the Order. Councilor Woodland moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Lenk stated that she fully supports the Order and applauds Mr. Centola for applying for the excellent reimbursement of funds. Upon a roll call vote the Order was adopted by unanimous vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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.

d) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer of \$577,265 from the Fiscal Year 2014 Town Council Reserve and various Accounts to various Fiscal Year 2014 Snow and Ice Removal Accounts in order to fund the Snow and Ice Removal Deficit. The Manager provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Falkoff stated that she received an email from a resident concerned with the amount of the salting of roads.

Councilor Dushku asked what the balance of free cash would be. The Manager noted; just shy of \$1.5 million after the transfer.

The transfer was adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 Falkoff moved to refer the DPW plowing practices to Public Works subcommittee for discussion, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight [report](#) and action on recommendations on the FY 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program and [report](#) and action on School Special Education Funding and related issues – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Chair.

Councilor Piccirilli read the Committee report's 22 numbered recommendations. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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.

**MOTION:** Councilor Piccirilli moved all 22 recommendations and the recommendation that capital spending should not exceed 8% of the fiscal year 2015 budget, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Palomba stated that he supports increasing the school budget. He further indicated that he hopes the Council can revisit the guideline regarding establishing the 7.5 – 8% for CIP. He noted that there is a relationship between capital budget and the operating budget. Take a hard look at how much interest we pay. There is a need in the public schools and that if there is council reserve monies left he hopes it can be used for the schools. He indicated a need for public hearings on Victory Field.

Councilor Dushku spoke regarding Victory Field and thanked Mr. Centola for the public forums but noted there are pros and cons to turf. He asked where the innovative Stormwater controls are for the outside edges of the turf.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that the Committee has not seen any conceptual design plans for phase II and that there will be a full presentation first.

Councilor Dushku asked; where is the dog park and why isn't it part of the CIP?

Councilor Piccirilli stated that the dog park is not part of the capital improvement program but will be done with existing funds and that they are waiting for a proposal from the departments.

Councilor Dushku asked about solar panels for town buildings. Councilor Piccirilli state that is part of the charge of the on-call architect. Mr. Magoon concurred.

Councilor Dushku stated that he is concerned and that while he has pride in our parks; schools are most important and that he would like to see more discussion on the guidelines for setting the budget on the capital improvement program and adjustments for schools.

**VOTE:** The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Dushku moved to refer the CIP and percent allocation for capital improvement program back to the BFO committee for reconsideration, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 read the second report. Councilor Lenk moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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) Committee on Personnel and Town Organization [report](#) on Town Organization – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. Councilor Falkoff read the committee report and asked that a sentence be inserted as an amendment to the report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the [report as amended](#), seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 Falkoff moved the recommendation, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Palomba stated that he is concerned that the department heads are already stretched and that adding additional responsibilities will only pull them off their already busy plate and will then need to backfill.

The Chair stated that the Division of Local Services report strongly suggested that the town hire an Assistant Town Manager but due to financial constraints that cannot

happen at this point. He noted that the concern by Councilor Palomba is valid and that the Council will revisit this in 6 months to see how it is working out.

Councilor Kounelis stated that a former Personnel Director and an Assessor was also an assistant to the manager; it was tried in the past and it should be tried here.

Councilor Dushku asked if the Manager is moving forward with filling the vacant Health Director position. The Manager stated that posting the position is imminent.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

a) [Consideration](#) of submitting the Core Program Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The Manager provided an overview of the statement of interest. The Chair recognized Superintendent of Schools Jean Fitzgerald and School Committee member Michael Shepard who provided a [power point presentation](#). Watertown High School Headmaster Shirley Lundberg highlighted the seventeen point facility constraints/limitations.

The Manager read page 21 of the report and noted that scenarios A1 and A2 – cost strategy; doesn't solve the high school problems but is more interested in B and B1 and questioned whether only the high school will be looked at and not the other schools, including the Hosmer.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated that it this is an independent look and that using their metrics it was stated that the high school is in the worst shape but if accepted into the pipeline; at that point; if the town needs a feasibility study or a master plan and Town Council decides they do not want to move forward then it's over but the SOI should be approved to get the opportunity to save 50% on the master plan. She noted it is a win/win situation.

Councilor Piccirilli agreed that the town needs to get into the pipeline and at this point the town is not even invited to the party. He noted that Belmont and Newton have received hundreds of millions of dollars in matching funds and that Watertown is late to the game. Every year we wait is another year that other communities are getting funding for school construction and Watertown is not.

Councilor Lenk spoke in support of moving forward and thanked school officials for clarifying that this will be for all the schools in the district and not just the high school.

The Chair concurred in moving forward on this process.

Councilor Piccirilli read and moved the following:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, prior to the closing date, the Honorable Town Council of Watertown, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest, Core Program Request, dated before the April 11, 2014 closing date for the Watertown

High School located at 50 Columbia Street, Watertown, MA 02472, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

Priority #7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

Description: potential new school;

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by a unanimous roll call vote of 9 for, 0 against and 0 present with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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.

#### 10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

Announced and congratulated Superintendent of Public Works, Gerald S. Mee, Jr., and all the members of the Department of Public Works on being selected as APWA's Exceptional Performance Award in Adversity winner for the year 2014. It was noted that Mr. Mee will be attending the 2014 International Public Works Congress and Exposition in August to receive the award recognizing this worthy achievement.

The Chair congratulated Mr. Mee and his department for the prestigious award.

#### 11. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION – none noted.

#### 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Dushku announced: a reminder to residents of the road race next Saturday; announced that this Friday, at the state house there will be an event to memorialize the Armenian Genocide; and an ESSM meeting next Tuesday at 7pm in the Council Chamber.

Councilor Lenk announced that Watertown Community Foundation hosting a volunteer day – Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>. Go the WCF.org to sign up.

Councilor Kounelis announced a neighborhood meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm Arsenal Mall to discuss a proposed Hotel at the former Saab.

The Chair announced that students designed a Watertown Strong Flag to honor first responders that will be raised on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am; Parent Child Home Program will initiate a Turn- off the TV Tuesdays.

13. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

The Chair called for a Moment of Silence in memory of Mr. John Bartley.

14. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Woodland moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 April 22, 2014.

Mark S. Sideris