



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

Pursuant to the Call of the Council President and in accordance with Section 2.6 of the Rules and Procedures of the Watertown Town Council, the members of the Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown are hereby notified of a Special Meeting of the Town Council.

**SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014 AT 6:00PM
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
MINUTES**

1. Roll Call: A Special meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 6:00 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 Mark S. Sideris, Council President. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Council Clerk Valerie Papas and Town Auditor Thomas Tracy.

2. Motions, Orders and Resolutions:

a) [First Reading](#) on a proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget. The Manager provided a brief over view of the Amendment which has been advertised and is scheduled for a Town Council public hearing and vote on May 13th.

3. Communications From the Town Manager:

a) Submission of the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. The Manager read the Budget Message. <http://www.watertown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/364>

The Chair read a [statement](#) with respect to tonight's procedure for a fifteen minute public forum on the submitted Fiscal Year 2015 budget.

The Chair opened up the meeting to the public and recognized:

1. John Ryan – stated that he is disappointed with the proposed budget as it relates to the schools and asked for a change in priorities to put the schools on a good path.

2. Kate Coyne – stated that she is also disappointed in the numbers and noted that it is not a solution to the problems in our schools. She asked that the town change its course now.
3. Meghan O’Connell – asked for a show of hands with respect to those supporting stronger schools in Watertown and wanting to see increased funding.
4. Michael Dattoli – stated that Watertown schools need to be made more of a priority with respect to funding and pointed to the schools in Belmont and Newton as an example for schools that have been made a priority in their respective communities.
5. John Airasian – stated that the schools have been properly funded and that the request is unprecedented.

Denise ____ - stated that she loves Watertown but will not stay if the town does not commit to the schools.

Sarah Ryan – asked that the Council fix the schools with a strong budget this year.

Naomi ____ - stated that supporting schools also raises property prices and indicated that supporting schools benefits everyone in the community.

Chris Lowry – stated that she is disappointed in the budget noting that parents have asked for a reset. She indicated one aspect she finds troubling – the funding of pensions. She stated that the numbers don’t add up and asked to lengthen the timeline to pay off pensions just a few years to help fund the schools.

Michael Shepard, School Committee member – stated that Watertown cannot sustain this and that the kids will fall through the cracks and asked that the school budget be funded right now.

Laura Gibbons – noted that the schools don’t even have a librarian which is embarrassing.

Elonna Megelli – stated that her special needs son is having a better year because of a school volunteer. What will happen when the volunteer leaves. She asked for more money for the schools so kids can thrive.

There being no further comments, the Chair stated that this is just the beginning of the process and thanked everyone for coming tonight.

4. Adjournment: Councilor Woodland moved the adjournment at 7:30 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 Mark S. Sideris, Council President voting in the affirmative.

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 May 13, 2014.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President