



Watertown Town Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED
OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice-President

Michael F. Dattoli,
Councilor At Large

Aaron P. Dushku,
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016 AT 6:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
MINUTES**

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the Town Council at 6:15 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors Michael F. Dattoli, Aaron P. Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Lisa J. Feltner, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vice President Vincent Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Kenneth M. Woodland arrived at 6:26 p.m. Councilor Anthony Palomba was absent. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:15 P.M.

A. To discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining with the DPW Union, Town Hall Associates Union, Library Union, Fire Union, Police Patrol Union, Police Supervisors Union, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to go into executive session to discuss the Collective Bargaining Agreement; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate – 10 Winter Street; if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to go into executive session to discuss the property at 10 Winter Street; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

C. To discuss strategy with respect to litigation – Workers' Compensation Claim.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to go into executive session to discuss the strategy of Workers' Compensation Claim; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:15 P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Ralph Filicchia – spoke on the need to discuss Transgender issues.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the May 24, 2016 Town Council Meeting](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes as written; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Sideris mentioned two items arose with the School Committee: a new enrollment study, which will be sent to members, and the establishment of a Steering Committee to review space needs plans in the schools with an architect. President Sideris appointed Councilor Dattoli, Chair of the Education and School System Matters Committee, Councilor Piccirilli, Chair of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committee. Mr. Magoon, Assistant Town Manager and Director of Department of Community Development and Planning, was appointed to the Steering Committee by Mr. Driscoll.

President Sideris stated that when the budget was passed, he neglected to provide Council Members an opportunity to comment on the budget.

Councilor Piccirilli stated this was his ninth budget and its passage was the best he has seen in those years. He stated it was gratifying to see the Council’s budget priorities being implemented. He thanked Mr. Driscoll; Mr. Tracy, Town Auditor; and the Department Heads working on the budget. He also thanked the public for letting the Council know their priorities.

Councilor Dattoli stated that he appreciated the work that was done on the budget and the process for enacting it. He agreed with Councilor Piccirilli that the budget was good for the community.

Councilor Feltner stated that she especially appreciated the detail provided by the Schools and that she was looking forward to the future School Master Planning.

Councilor Dushku congratulated the Town Manager and the Town Council for collaborating so well on the budget.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to move up items 9A, 9B, and 9C; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

A. [Resolution Authorizing Transfers in Order to Fund an Agreement with the Watertown Police Association](#) Covering the Period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.

Mr. Driscoll stated the Town needed to fund the agreement completed with the Police Association for a three year period (7/1/2013 – 6/30/2016) and ratified by the Police Association.

Mr. Driscoll highlighted the changes to the agreement:

- Increase of Base Pay
 - * 7/1/2013 – 2.5%
 - * 7/1/2014 – 2.5%
 - * 7/1/2015 – 2.5%
 - * The addition of a new top step 2% more than the current top step
- The Uniform Allowance would be rolled into the base pay and officers would be responsible for the purchase and maintenance of their uniforms
- An increase of 1.5% for defibrillator pay effective 7/1/2014
- Agreement for a policy change in the mandatory use of body armor for officers as well as changes in the Narcan and epi pins policy.

He asked the Council to consider the transfers in accounts from both the FY 2016 and the FY 2017 budgets to cover the costs and requested their support for the transfers.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer \$795,390 from various Fiscal Year 2016 accounts to fund the agreement with the Police Association; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion.

Councilor Dushku stated that he was pleased with the agreement and that the parties worked together. He was especially pleased with the Narcan policy.

President Sideris also thanked the Manager and Union for working so well together on behalf of the community.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer \$562,733 from various Fiscal Year 2017 accounts to fund the agreement with the Police Association; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$25,638 from Various Fiscal Year 2016 Police Department Accounts to the Fiscal Year 2016 [Police Vehicle Replacement Account](#).

Mr. Driscoll presented the need for the transfer and requested the Council's favorable consideration. Councilor Piccirilli moved to complete the transfer of \$25,638; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$22,163 from the Fire Prior Year EMT/DEFIB Account to the Fiscal Year 2016 Transfer to Other Funds Account in Order to Fund the Local Match Requirement for a Federal Fiscal Year 2015 [Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award](#)

Mr. Driscoll presented the need for the transfer to accept the grant funds and complimented Fire Chief Orangio for pursuing this and other grants for the Fire Department.

Chief Orangio stated this grant would allow the Department to replace current SCBA breathing apparatus with equipment that meets current standards.

Mr. Driscoll requested the Town Council's favorable consideration.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to complete the transfer of \$22,163; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

Councilor Dushku congratulated the Fire Department on obtaining the grant.

President Sideris also offered his thanks to the Department for their efforts.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing and Vote on a [Proposed Ordinance Establishing Town Council Salaries](#), with salaries to be established pursuant to Section 2-3 of the Town of Watertown Home Rule Charter for Councilors at \$7,500 per annum and Council President at \$10,500 per annum, effective January 2, 2018.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the Ordinance Establishing Town Council Salaries as presented; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion.

President Sideris opened the Public Hearing; there being no comments, he closed the Public Hearing.

He informed the public that pursuant to the Town Charter, the increase will not take effect until January 2, 2018 when the next Council is voted in.

Councilor Falkoff felt this increase was needed.

Councilor Piccirilli stated the Council has not had a salary increase since 1999, that the amount is modest, and that the Council puts in a lot of effort for community needs; therefore, he would support the ordinance.

President Sideris stated that he would support the ordinance because the current salary is low; the role of the Town Council has evolved requiring more effort; and the increase may attract more people to serve.

The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. Public Hearing and Action on [Proposed Zoning Text Amendments](#).

Gideon Schreiber, Senior Planner for DCPD, presented information regarding the amendments that the Planning Board approved

- Requiring that review materials must be available 14 days prior to the hearing
- Clarifying that two family housing must be on lots of at least 5,000 sq. ft.
- Clarifying the amendment process to make it consistent with Mass. General Laws and correcting a reference.

President Sideris opened the Public Hearing.

Clyde Younger – Asked that each provision be voted on separately and that the vote be delayed until the next meeting so that the public would know the content of the changes.

Mr, Schrieber explained the changes.

President Sideris stated that the changes had been advertised. Attorney Reich stated that notices had been given to all meetings and that the Council was compliant with the law.

Councilor Dushku stated the changes have been worked on for some time and that the subcommittee worked diligently on them.

There being no other speakers, President Sideris closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Council approve the Ordinance amending the Town's Zoning Ordinance; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

Councilor Woodland stated these changes are a demonstration of the Council responding to community concerns. Under the Ordinance, there must be a public meeting that is announced in a timely manner. Details must be publicized prior to the meeting; advertised in traditional media; abutters must be notified; district councilors are involved; and in some cases, a second meeting must be held. He felt these were sensible changes and commended the Committee on their actions.

Councilor Dattoli asked how this affected someone who combined lots. Mr. Schreiber stated that if a lot is assembled than there must be 7,500 sq. ft. in order to build a two family house.

Councilor Dushku stated he too agreed that this change was responsive to community concerns about development.

Councilor Kounelis stated the proposed public hearings are good as they are now becoming part of the process and that this will affect all part of the community.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

D. First Reading on a proposed Order establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2017

Mr. Driscoll presented information regarding the water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2017 and that the public hearing will be in two weeks.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report on Current Enrollment Projections and Physical Space for the District – Michael F. Dattoli, Chair

ACTION ITEM – To Authorize the Continuation of Joint Discussions with School Committee Members and Other Stakeholders Regarding School Space Concerns and Enrollment Projections

Councilor Dattoli read the report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

Councilor Dattoli commented that there seems to be a level of disconnect in the community involvement with school matters and encouraged all to participate in these issues and welcomed their ideas.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the continuation of joint discussions with school committee members and other stakeholders regarding school space concerns and enrollment projections; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. Councilor Falkoff asked if the Action Item was needed. President Sideris clarified that this is different from the original referral and the action item should be considered. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report Regarding Alternative Methods of Preparing Town Council Committee Meeting Minutes – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

ACTION ITEM – To Request the Town Council to Vote to Ask the Town Manager to Work with the Personnel Director to Create a Mechanism for Hiring Freelance Workers to Write Committee Minutes Upon Request of the Committee Secretary.

Councilor Falkoff and Councilor Kounelis read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

Councilor Feltner wanted to add that she too attended this meeting.

Councilor Dattoli stated that Councilor Kounelis is the committee secretary rather than himself who is the Vice-Chair.

Councilor Falkoff moved to change the report to note the correction in status and that Councilor Feltner was an attendee; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion to accept the report as corrected was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the above listed action item; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion.

Councilor Dushku stated his support of this action item and noted the difficulty of participating and taking notes.

Councilor Kounelis agreed with the comment.

Councilor Falkoff stated that although she might be in the minority, she liked taking the notes. She agreed that this motion would allow all councilors to use a method with which they would be comfortable.

Councilor Piccirilli stated his support and thought it was practical; he endorsed the idea of hiring free-lance workers to take minutes.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

C. Committee on Public Works [Report Providing Updates on Various Public Works Matters](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

Councilor Dushku read the Committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

D. Ad Hoc Committee on Technology and Communication Report on the Goals of the Committee, [the Renovation or Complete Change of the Current Website, and the Methods for Accomplishing the Change](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair

Councilor Woodland read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

President Sideris stated that an action item of the report will be posted for the next Town Council meeting.

E. Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation Report on an [Overview of Transportation Demand Management \(TDM\)](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

Councilor Dushku read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- F. Committee on Public Works Meeting Jointly with the Bicycle-Pedestrian Report on [Alternatives to the Proposed Watertown Community Path](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

Councilor Dushku read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

Councilor Dattoli asked when the next meeting would be held and when the next designs would be available. Councilor Dushku stated that the meeting had not been set yet. Mr. Mee, Superintendent of Public Works stated that plans should be available in a few weeks at which time there will be further discussion of the conceptual ideas.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Dushku stated that he would like to be able to add links to agenda items for Committee hearings because attendees are more informed.

President Sideris stated that he would like to send this matter to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances to establish a consistent Council policy that is available to all and does not violate the Open Meeting Law.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the matter of adding links to Committee agendas to the Committee on Rules and Ordinance; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion.

Councilor Woodland clarified his understanding of the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Driscoll stated that he appointed Mr. Steve Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning and Assistant Town Manager, to the Steering Committee to School Facilities Master Plan Study.

13. CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENTS

That the Firm of Kopelman and Paige, PC be [Appointed as Town Attorney](#)

Mr. Driscoll presented a request to confirm the Town Attorney based on the Town's Ordinance requirement of a biennial approval. He stated his reasons for retaining Kopelman and Paige and requested a favorable consideration from the Council.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the biennial approval of Kopelman and Paige as the Town Attorney; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

14. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION /REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

Councilor Kounelis thanked Attorney Reich and Mr. Driscoll for providing a resolution to the Sampson St. property and inquired as to how the land can be used based on the stipulation of easements.

Councilor Falkoff asked for an update on the O'Neill Charitable Trust funds and how they will be used.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Dattoli announced the June 8, 2016 meeting of the Steering Committee on School Facilities Study at the Phillips School at 6:00 pm and encouraged all to become involved.

Councilor Dushku announced

- June 9 – Transportation Planning Forum at the Library
- June 21 – Green Streets Initiative – Town received a grant for street design and the meeting will discuss the pilot planned on Edenfield St.
- June 27 – Transportation Demand Management discussion of a town wide policy
- June 29 – Discussion of Naming of Streets and Squares and Plant Strip policies

Councilor Feltner announced that on June 18 at the First Parish Church from 9:00 – 1:00, the Watertown Police Department will conduct a gun Buy-Back Day for those who wish to dispose of unwanted guns. Gift cards will be provided and no ID's will be required.

Councilor Kounelis announced that on June 23, there will be a stakeholders meeting regarding the Mount Auburn Corridor Study at the Russell Center on Huron Ave., Cambridge from 6:00 - 8:00.

President Sideris announced that June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. The Alzheimer Association is sponsoring the Longest Day to make people aware of how long the day is for those living with Alzheimer's. The community is encouraging people to display purple ribbons, stop by lemonade stands, and take a Hope Lap at Victory Field.

Councilor Dushku announced that the Memory Care Facility for Seniors on 20 Summer St. is sponsoring a Walk in Their Shoes event, a simulation of dementia, on June 20 at 2pm.

16. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers.

17. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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 a voice vote of 8 for, 0 against, 0 present on July 12, 2016.

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Council Vice-President
s/MWP