

MINUTES

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008 AT 7:15 PM

RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO CHAMBER

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1. ROLL CALL: A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 7:15 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors Stephen P. Corbett, Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B, Kounelis, Jonathan Hecht, John J. Lawn, Jr., Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Mark S. Sideris and Council President Clyde L. Younger.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: May 13, 2008 Tabled.

A. Councilor Devaney moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward agenda item 6A Acceptance of Proclamation honoring Gregory P. Watson and Barbara Zenn Rediker, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair read and presented a proclamation to Gregory P. Watson for his years of service as Planning Director (attached). The Chair noted Mr. Watson's dedication, zeal and interest in the execution of his duties and always his willingness to go the extra mile when called upon.

The Chair, Councilors and the Manager made note of Mr. Watson's utmost professionalism, his knack for learning quickly, his easy going and pleasant demeanor and the many accomplishments that he and his planning staff have brought to the community that will help move Watertown forward for some time to come.

Mr. Watson thanked the Council and the Manager for the recognition and stated that it was his privilege to serve the community.

The Chair read and presented a proclamation to Barbara Zenn Rediker. Ms. Pat Gold provided a brief background of Ms. Rediker's accomplishments through the Council on Aging noting her commitment to seniors.

Ms. Caryl Fox, Council on Aging Director also thanked Ms. Rediker for being so instrumental in the establishment of the Brigham House and the Senior Center.

Councilors thanked Ms. Rediker for her commitment to community and wished her well in her move to her new community of Lexington, where she will retire in her golden years.

Ms. Rediker thanked the Council for their kind words and stated that the last 27 years in Watertown were a privilege and a pleasure to work with the dedicated staff of the Senior Center.

Councilor Sideris moved to accept the two proclamations, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Personnel and Town Organization Committee report on an Evaluation Tool for

the Town Manager – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair. The Chair recognized Councilor Corbett who reviewed the re-drafted evaluation form, specifically Section C. A compromise was

made to retain four criteria already in the section and eliminating four. Councilor Corbett stated that a chart was also included in the packet comparing eleven communities with respect to the salaries of other managers. It was noted that the current proposed salary for Mr. Driscoll will place him in the median range. Regarding the car allowance – 6 communities pay cash equivalent for a vehicle; 4 provide a vehicle and 2 provide neither cash nor vehicle. A cash value of \$4,000 per year was placed on the manager’s vehicle. Lastly it was noted that the average salary of the eleven communities was \$147,788 while the proposed increase for Mr. Driscoll will be \$145,445. Councilor Hecht moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Kounelis asked if the vehicles in other communities were driven during business hours only or on a 24 hour basis. Councilor Corbett stated that he will try to find that answer out.

Councilor Hecht moved to accept the evaluation form and proceed according to the schedule, with completed evaluations due two weeks from tonight, followed by a composite drafted by the Council President, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

5. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND

EMPLOYEES:

A. Report and Referral to the Economic Development and Planning Subcommittee

regarding the Pleasant Street Corridor Zoning District – Gregory P. Watson, Community & Planning Director. The Chair recognized Mr. Watson who provided a brief overview of the Pleasant Street Corridor Zoning District Ordinance. He noted that the public hearings were very well attended by the community with a lot of good comments taken in and changes made to the draft of the ordinance as a result of those comments. He indicated that the Ordinance is sufficient to be forwarded to the subcommittee for their deliberations. Councilor Hecht stated that the subcommittee plans to hold several more meetings on this matter in order to hear from all the various stakeholders and others and think through the provisions and to bring the matter back to the Town Council for a public hearing on July 8th. Councilor Hecht moved to send the Ordinance to the subcommittee of Economic Development and Planning, seconded by Councilor Corbett and adopted by voice vote..

6. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- B. Acceptance of Proclamation honoring Gregory P. Watson and Barbara Zenn Rediker. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED AND ADOPTED.
- C. First Reading on a proposed Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2008 Compensation of the Council Clerk. The Chair provided a first reading and noted that the item will be advertised for a public hearing and vote for the June 10th Town Council meeting.
- D. First Reading on a proposed Ordinance amending the Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008 Compensation of the Town Manager. The Chair provided a first reading and noted that the item will be advertised for a public hearing and vote for the June 10th Town Council meeting.
- E. First Reading on a proposed Order establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2009. The Manager provided a brief overview of the agenda item noting that the proposed rate for water usage will increase by 3.35% while the sewer charges will remain the same. A full discussion and review will take place at the budget hearings on June 5th followed by an advertisement and public hearing and vote for the June 10th Town Council meeting.
- F. First Reading on a Proposed Loan Order authorizing the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Town Manager to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$14,221,257 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority for the costs of constructing, originally equipping and furnishing a new police facility. The Manager provided a brief over view of the proposed Loan Order totaling \$14,221,257 and noted that the Loan Order will be advertised for a public hearing and vote at the June 10th Town Council meeting.
- G. Resolution authorizing a transfer of \$731,025 from various Fiscal Year 2008 Accounts to various Fiscal Year 2008 Snow and Ice Removal Accounts in order to fund the Snow and Ice Removal Deficit. The Manager provided a brief overview of the transfer. The Chair recognized Town Auditor, Thomas Tracy who clarified the difference in the Workers Compensation account and the current balance within the Worker's Compensation Account which is at \$87,000 due to a recent transfer into the account from Myer Workers Compensation Insurance Company.

Councilor Sideris moved to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilor Hecht.

Councilor Hecht asked if the Town Council Reserve Account has enough monies to handle the upcoming collective bargaining agreements. The Manager noted that the Council Reserve Account will be used by and large.

Councilor Hecht asked about the commitment to the post employment budget and can we add to the fund. The Manager stated that it is his intention for a transfer into that account – but won't come close to last years transfer amount.

Councilor Hecht stated that we have a big hill to climb but it's something we have to make an effort to do.

The Manager clarified the two dollar difference on the memorandum cover sheet and the transfer sheet.

The transfer was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Request for Confirmation of Board of Election Commission Appointment – previously Tabled.

The Chair noted that the Town Council is in receipt of a letter from candidate David Downes withdrawing himself from a lawsuit regarding the last town election. Attorney Reich concurred and stated that the documents will be filed with the Court. Councilor Sideris moved to refer said appointment to the State, Federal and Regional Government subcommittee for review and report back, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Chair announced that the Watertown Education Foundation will hold an annual board meeting on June 12th at 6pm at the Lowell School.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

1. The Manager indicated that the Church Hill Lane property will be auctioned on June 18th.
2. The Manager made note of communication from Councilor Lawn regarding the Haartz Mason property.

10. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Kounelis asked for the following information regarding the Manager's vehicle:

Date placed into service

The Current odometer reading

Number of gallons of gas the vehicle has been issued by DPW pumps

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Lawn announced that the Building Inspector will be conducting a site inspection of the Haartz Mason property to address concerns expressed in a recent Letter to the Editor and Zoning will also inspect site across from the property regarding possible parking violations. A follow up will be provided at the June 10th meeting.

Councilor Devaney announced that the author of the letter to the editor was her sister and that follow up information should be sent to her.

Councilor Devaney announced that a flyer was placed on the windshields of cars parked at the Town hall regarding the collapse of the Twin Towers on 9/11. She stated that she resents the author's implications and wants a letter sent to the author regarding the distribution of the flyer and what the laws are regarding placement of such flyers on private vehicles.

Councilor Falkoff announced that Mr. Dan Driscoll will not be available to attend a Public Works subcommittee until after July 4th due to his hectic work schedule. She noted that she will contact him to schedule a meeting after that date.

Councilor Devaney moved that a letter be sent to the two names on the flyer, seconded by Councilor Kounelis.

Councilor Kounelis asked for a legal opinion regarding the placement of such a letter on private vehicles on town property.

Attorney Reich stated that he would have to investigate past practice regarding leafleting allowed on municipal property versus handing the flyer out, which is a protected first amendment right as well as past practice regarding public meetings at the Library on the subject matter and other points of view.

The Chair asked that Attorney Reich report back with an answer at the next meeting.

The Town Manager asked that no letter be sent out to the authors until this matter has been investigated with the Police Chief on whether there is an ordinance or how the practice works with flyers on private vehicles.

12. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

- 13. ADJOURNMENT** Councilor Sideris moved to adjourn the Town Council meeting and reconvene a meeting of the Whole and Finance to continue budget hearings, seconded by Councilor Hecht and adopted by voice vote.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present the above minutes of May 27th were adopted as written, on June 10, 2008.