



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
Council 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

John J. Lawn, Jr.
District D Councilor

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 - 7:15 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber
Administration Building

ADOPTED MINUTES

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 John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Lawn arrived shortly after the call of the roll. Also present were Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: [March 9, 2010](#) . Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Falkoff moved to Suspend the Rules and move agenda item 6C forward, seconded by Councilor Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

Resolution approving the [Acceptance of Gift](#) of Personal Property from the Family of Mary Hotz of a historic map of Watertown and related documents to the Town of Watertown.

David Russo, Chairman of the Historical Society provided [background](#) to the historic map. Historical Society Committee member, Marilyn Roche was present in the audience as well as family members Dorothy Hotz Colley and Grant Colley. Mary Hotz passed away in 2006.

Councilor Falkoff moved to accept the Gift, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by voice vote.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Committee on Education and School System Matters [report](#) on the School Department's Fiscal Year 2011 budget – Cecilia Lenk, Chair. Following the reading of the report, Councilor Falkoff moved to accept it into record, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

b) Committee on Public Works [report](#) and action on an appointment and reappointments to the Conservation Commission – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. Following the reading of the report, Councilor Lawn moved to accept it into record, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Falkoff moved the appointment of Stan Sadowski, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Falkoff moved the reappointment of Patrick Fairbairn, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

c) Former Branch Library Reuse Advisory Committee [report](#) on former branch libraries - Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr. and Angeline B. Kounelis, Co- chairs. Following the reading of the report, Councilor Kounelis moved to accept it into record, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote.

d) The President's Technology Ad Hoc Committee [report](#) on the development of the Council Technology Plan – John A. Donohue and Cecilia Lenk, Co-chairs. Following the reading of the report, Vice President Corbett moved to accept it into record, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Kounelis made note of a January 6, 2010 Special Town Council meeting in which open meeting laws and conflict of interest laws were reviewed and discussed. She questioned whether all town employees, boards and commission will be issued a town owned lap top. She stated that she will not vote in favor of issuing lap tops to councilors as she has a number of unanswered questions and concerns.

To Councilor Kounelis' concerns, Councilor Piccirilli indicated that Councilors are different than board and commission members who do all their work in board meetings. Councilors correspond with their constituents. Currently that correspondence is taking place from home computers, which are not captured on the town's email address. He stated that once Councilors are issued town owned laptops, the corresponding will be from a town owed email address putting councilors fully in compliance with the public records law and the open meeting laws. He spoke in support of moving forward with the laptops for councilors.

Councilor Palomba asked for clarification regarding the laptops being accessible to the public as noted in the committee report. Attorney Reich stated that it is not the laptops which would be accessible to the public, but the materials and documents on the town owned laptops that are subject to the public records law.

Councilor Lenk apologized for not making that point clearer in the report and noted that perhaps the report can be amended to note that it is the materials on the lap top subject to the public records law and not the actual lap top.

President Sideris suggested that Attorney Reich be involved in future meetings or at least apprised of upcoming meetings and topics of discussions as the group moves forward in fine tuning its recommendations and policies.

Councilor Lenk reminded the public that all meetings are posted in advance and are open to the public.

5. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

a) Informational Presentation and related Resolution on "[Earth Hour](#)" – Katherine Ryan and Councilor Susan G. Falkoff. Following the presentation, Councilor Falkoff read a resolution on Earth Hour and amended the resolution by inserting the word "mitigate" in the fifth paragraph. Councilor Lenk moved to accept the resolution as amended, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.

b) Informational Presentation on American Cancer Society [Relay for Life](#) on June 11-12 at Victory Field – Heather Hoiseth and Marie Tsacogianis. Following the presentation, Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Manager to enter into a licensing agreement for use of Victory Field by Relay for Life, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote.

c) Informational Presentation on [State and Local Matters](#) – Jonathan Hecht, State Representative of the 186th General Court. Following Mr. Hecht's presentation, the Manager concurred that cuts to unrestricted general government assistance, hurt Watertown more than other communities. He noted that while other communities incurred 8% cuts, Watertown faced 16% cuts. He stated that while he is not happy to hear about cuts in local aid at all, a 4% reduction is still better news. Councilors thanked Councilor Hecht for his hard work at the State House. Councilor Hecht announced that he and Congressman Markey will meet with the Watertown/Belmont Chamber of Commerce along with the Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety and the Watertown Democratic Town Committee to co-sponsor a "Community Forum on Energy Efficiency, the Environment, and the Economy" March 31st 7-8:30 pm at the Watertown Free Public Library.

6. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a) Resolution authorizing a [transfer](#) in the amount of \$7,050 from the Fiscal Year 2010 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2010 Purchasing Contracted Services Account in order to fund a Needs Assessment Study of the Town and School telephone systems. The Manager provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Falkoff moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- b) Resolution authorizing a [transfer](#) in the amount of \$100,000 from the Department of Public Works Parks Improvements Account to the Town Capital Projects Account in order to move forward with final design documents, along with a revised budget for the Victory Field Renovation Project. The Manager provided an overview of the project and transfer. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- c) Resolution approving the [Acceptance of Gift](#) of Personal Property from the Family of Mary Hotz of a [historic map](#) of Watertown and related documents to the Town of Watertown. Previously taken up.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETING:

- a) Confirmatory vote on a proposed Order allocating property tax among or between property classes for Fiscal Year 2010. Councilor Donohue moved to Table the matter, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote. President Sideris noted that he will be called a Special Town Council meeting for April 6th at 6:30 to take up the matter. The Manager indicated that tax bills will not go out as planned, but will be delayed until sometime after the vote takes place next week.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a) Charter Commission update. Council President Sideris noted that the first meeting of the Charter Commission took place on March 16th and consisted primarily as a meeting and greet opportunity for all of the members. The next meeting will take place on April 6th at 7:00 pm.
- b) Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Submission Date. Council President Sideris request that a two week extension be granted to the Manager in order to finalize his budget submission. Councilor Falkoff so moved the request, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Due to storm water damage, collection service will be expanded for the next two week for rug collection. Rugs must be cut into 3 feet lengths to qualify for pick up.
2. On street parking ban ends on March 31st.

3. April 13th Rabbits Clinic for cats and dogs.
4. April 9th Yard Waste pickup.

10. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – none noted.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Kounelis thanked the police and public works department for a job well done following the recent rain storm.

Councilor Piccirilli also thanked the fire department for their service to residence in pumping out flooded basements.

Councilor Falkoff reminded residents of Earth Hour – shut off lights between 8:30 and 9:30 pm on March 27th.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

Charles Bering, Conservation Commission member – spoke in concern to these hundred year storms becoming more common and prevalent. He warned homeowners to be better prepared for the frequency of these types of big storms.

13. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, Vice President Corbett moved to adjourn the open session at 9:10 pm and go into executive session in order to discuss strategy regarding the investigation of charges of criminal misconduct and to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and not return to open session following the adjournment of the executive session, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes on April 13, 2010 were adopted as written, by voice vote.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President