

MINUTES

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006 AT 7:15 PM

RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO CHAMBER

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. EXAMINATION OF MINUTES: April 11th. Councilor Devaney moved the minutes as amended, seconded by Councilor Romanelli and adopted by voice vote.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. Audrey Childs, member of the Historical Society was recognized by the Chair and presented copies of a coloring book depicting early Watertown 1630-1776 and a teacher's resource guide to the coloring book for third graders on behalf of the Society.

5. COMMITTEE REPORT:

A. Committee on Human Services report and action on the appointment of Dr. Straus to the Board of Health for a three year term ending on May 15, 2008 – John J. Lawn, Jr., Chair. The Chair recognized Councilor Lawn who read the Human Services Committee report (attached) on the appointment of Dr. Straus. Councilor Lawn moved to approve the report, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote. Councilor Lawn moved the appointment of Dr. Straus, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by voice vote.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS BY TOWN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES:

A. Informational Presentation Update on Proposed Traffic & Safety Improvements at three (3) locations – Gerald S. Mee, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works.

Mr. Mee stated that intersections in question originated from a 1996 request for grant monies under "High Hazard Intersection" list. Since then the funding has slipped away but the intersections have stayed on the priority list. The list in question is slated for 2007-2008 TIP for which a meeting is scheduled this Thursday. Mr. Mee noted that it is not uncommon to wait up to 10 years for such funding.

Councilor Devaney queried if the railroad tracks will be removed as part of the project. Mr. Mee answered in the affirmative.

It was also noted by Councilor Kounelis that the bike path's plan has been extended to 2006.

It was noted by the Manager that monies have increased to \$2.3 million.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A. Acceptance of Proclamations: Arbor Day; Fair Housing Month and Boys & Girls Club 100th Anniversary – Mark S. Sideris, Vice President.

Councilor Sideris read a proclamation on Fair Housing Month.

Councilor Hecht read a proclamation on Arbor Day.

Councilor Lawn read a proclamation on the 100th anniversary of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Councilor Devaney moved to adopt all three proclamations, seconded by Councilor Romanelli and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair recognized Mr. Allen Gallagher, Director of the Watertown Boys and Girls Club who provided a brief history of Watertown's Boys and Girls Club and thanked the Council for the recognition.

B. First Reading – On a proposed Ordinance temporarily modifying the hours of operation of the Administration Building. The Manager provided a brief overview of the proposed ordinance noting that a public hearing has been advertised for May 9th.

C. Resolution accepting a Gift of Tangible Personal Property of landscaping in front of 1 Galen Street from the Watertown Savings Bank. Councilor Kounelis moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Corbett and adopted by voice vote. The Chair suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Watertown Savings Bank President Ronald Dean.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

A. Resolution authorizing a Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement with other Cities and Towns in Massachusetts Emergency Preparedness Region 4B in accordance with G.L.c. 40, s 40A.

The Chair read the resolution.

Councilor Devaney moved to place the matter on the Table, seconded by Councilor Corbett.

Attorney Reich stated that the concern at this point is that Watertown not be left out of the Mutual Aid Agreement and that he advised the Council to move forward with the original resolution as all parties are agreeing on the same terms in its legal form.

Councilor Corbett concurred with the attorney and stated that everyone's risk is the same and that the town has to take some risk in order to take advantage of the greater good.

Councilor Kounelis and Hecht also concurred.

Upon a voice vote, the resolution was adopted.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Chair announced the upcoming budget hearing schedule.

The Chair announced that he will be bringing forward a proclamation "Click it or Ticket" at the next meeting.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

124 Riverside Street was auctioned for \$387,500.

Arbor Day – Friday at Lowell Playground.

Senior Center Yard Sale – May 6th.

Medical Waste Collection - May 6th 9AM – 12 noon.

Follow up on Armenian Genocide sign was not an act of vandalism, but weather related.

Safety Improvements for Nonantum Road – State House May 3rd.

11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Following up on a letter from the Retirement Board, Councilor Devaney requested the Manager take action on the vacant position on the Retirement Board as soon as possible.

Councilor Devaney requested a report of bids for sidewalks and streets.

Councilor Kounelis asked that Crawford Street be included.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Kounelis announced that she will be placing an agenda item for update on recommendations from Melanson & Heath on items 9-11.

Councilor Kounelis announced that she will be placing an agenda item for a review of the proforma for Coolidge School property.

Councilor Hecht noted that the May 3rd meeting at the State House regarding Nonantum Road is not a public hearing but a meeting with State Police on interim measures to the road. He noted that a clarification will be forthcoming.

The Chair announced that the Hall of Fame will host their annual event on May 12th.

13. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Romanelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm, seconded by Councilor Donohue 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 were adopted as written on May 9, 2006.

Clyde L. Younger, Council President