

MINUTES

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006 AT 6:00 PM*

RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO CHAMBER

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1. CONTINUATION OF THE 2007 BUDGET HEARINGS – 6:00 PM*

2. ROLL CALL – 7:15 PM: 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 Corbett, Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney, John A. Donohue, Jonathan Hecht, Angeline B. Kounelis, John J. Lawn, Jr., Stephen E. Romanelli, Mark S. Sideris and Council President, Clyde L. Younger. Also present were the Council Clerk, Valerie Papas, Town Manager, Michael J. Driscoll, and Town Attorney, Mark Reich.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. EXAMINATION OF MINUTES: May 9th. Tabled.

5. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Public hearing and vote on a proposed Loan Order that \$630,035 is appropriated for the design and construction of sewers, sewerage systems and sewage disposal facilities; that to meet this appropriation the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Town Manager is authorized to borrow \$630,035 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Town Manager is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and financial assistance agreement with the Authority with respect to such loan; that the Town Manager is authorized to contract for and expend any federal, state or other aid available for the project, including any grant related to such project from the Authority; and that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

The Chair recognized the Town Manager who provided an overview of the Loan Order. It was noted that 75% of the Loan Order (472,526) is interest free and 25% (157,509) will come from a grant.

The Chair recognized Superintendent of Public Works, Gerald S. Mee, Jr., who provided an overview of the scope of work which includes sewer replacement on Cottage Street; rehabilitation of sewer lines on Spring and Arlington Streets; rehabilitation of manholes; redirection of sump pumps; internal inspection of sewer manholes; internal inspection of sewers; field investigation of infiltration and engineering and design and construction services.

The Chair opened up the hearing to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Devaney moved to approve the Loan Order, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Committee of the Whole report: public hearing and vote on the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget and Related Matters.

The Chair recognized Councilor Devaney who used her Charter Privilege to Table the vote on the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget and Related Matters until June 13, 2006. She stated that this Tabling of the budget will not cause any impediment as the Charter states the budget must be adopted by June 30th.

The Chair recognized Dr. Hiersche, School Superintendent who elaborated on the hardship of Tabling the School Budget noting due notice to school employees.

Councilor Devaney stated that she will exempt the School budget from being Tabled.

Attorney Reich stated that exempting the School budget is permissible.

The Chair read his opening statement for the public hearing and vote on the proposed budget (attached).

The public hearing on the proposed budget was opened to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

The Town Manager brought forward an amendment to the budget revising the budget to \$87,577,055 which addressed elementary class sizes.

Councilor Sideris moved to continue the public hearing and vote on the Town budget to a special meeting, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote with Councilor Devaney voting no.

The Chair recognized the Town Auditor who read the bottom line School budget in the amount of \$29,268,564, as amended.

There was a discussion on an \$118,000 shortfall for technology, classroom equipment and supplies.

Councilor Hecht spoke in support of recommending an additional \$30,000 from Council Reserve and a resolution in support of additional funding if state funds become available from Chapter 70.

Councilor Donohue moved to reallocate \$30,000 from Council Reserve to the School budget, seconded by Councilor Romanelli.

Councilor Sideris objected to the motion noting that he is against taking up the budget bit by bit.

The Chair recognized School Committee member, William Oates who spoke in support of the additional funding noting the sooner the schools receive the monies, the better.

The Chair spoke in support of voting the Education Appropriate at \$29,298,564 and allow the Manager to handle the transfer. Councilor Hecht further asked the Manager to seek other funds to address the \$118,000 shortfall.

The motion to adopt the School Budget in the amount of \$29,298,564 and ask the Manager to seek other funding was moved by Councilor Donohue, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by unanimous vote.

Councilor Sideris moved to call a Special Town Council meeting on May 30th, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote.

B. Ad Hoc Charitable Committee report and action on Harvard/O'Neil Charitable Awards – Mark S. Sideris, Chair. Postponed.

C. Ad Hoc Committee on Recycling Center report on disposition of Recycling Center – Mark S. Sideris, Chair. The Chair recognized Councilor Sideris who read his committee report (attached) which stated that the Committee will meet with state official to better understand the parameters of Filippello Park. Councilor Sideris also made note of suggestions from Mr. Piccirilli (attached) regarding the role of a recycling center. Councilor Sideris moved to approve the committee report, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Hecht asked that the Ad Hoc Committee do a thorough look at the town's needs for a recycling center with input from the DPW Superintendent and the Recycling Advisory Committee and return with data within a 30 day timeframe. The Chair added the Conservation Commission to that list.

D. Committee on Economic Development and Planning report on improvements to Coolidge Square – Stephen Corbett, Chair. The Chair recognized Councilor Corbett who read the committee report regarding the need for a feasibility study for improvements to Coolidge Square. It was noted that the committee voted 2-0 in favor of the study. Councilor Sideris moved to accept the report (attached), seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Corbett moved to request to the Town Manager to appropriate \$150,000 to retain a consultant to address the improvements as outlined in the report, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

8. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS BY TOWN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES:

A. Informational Presentation and Update on State meeting regarding Chapter 70 funding – Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney, Councilor. The Chair recognized Councilor Devaney who read a report of Chapter 70 funding (attached).

9. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A. Resolution authorizing the establishment of a Revolving Fund for the Commander's Mansion Activity during Fiscal Year 2007. Due to the Tabling of the budget, Councilor Sideris moved to Tabled the resolution, seconded by Councilor Romanelli and adopted by voice vote.

B. Resolution authorizing a transfer in the amount of \$321,616 from various Fiscal Year 2006 accounts to various Fiscal Year 2006 Snow and Ice Removal Accounts in order to fund the Snow and Ice Removal deficit. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

C. Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to accept Easements on 555 Pleasant Street, Watertown from Repton Place, LLC. Councilor Romanelli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hecht and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A Review of correspondence from Deutsche Internationale School/Boston.

The Chair stated that he received an unsolicited letter from the German International School inquiring on the availability of the Browne School (attached). The Chair asked the Council how they wanted to handle the inquiry.

Councilor Lawn moved to send a letter back stating that the property is not available as it will be the site for a new police station, seconded by Councilor Romanelli and adopted by voice vote with Councilor Kounelis and Devaney voting no.

Councilor Devaney stated that she would like to see another site for the Police Station and would not want to end dialogue on the matter.

Councilor Donohue stated that he has forwarded a disclosure form to the Town Clerk noting that he has a sister on the police force and that he can speak and vote on any police matter that does not directly affect his sister's salary.

Councilor Lawn also stated that same as he has a brother on the police force.

Councilor Donohue objected to any discussion of the Browne School other than to discuss the construction of a new police station.

A. Vote to establish a citizens' review committee on revised compensation for Councilors and School Committee Members. The composition of the committee would be determined by the Council President. The Chair announced that the members will be Phillip Pane, Chair; Businessman Paul Derboghosian and Chamber of Commerce Director, Brenda Fanara. Councilor Sideris moved the appointment of the members, seconded by Councilor Corbett and adopted by voice vote. Councilor Hecht asked that a clear directive be given to the group.

Councilor Hecht spoke in favor of a review of Councilors and School Committee Members salaries and suggested that the citizens review committee also be asked to consider other ways to increase the Council's effectiveness, such as hiring additional staff to support Councilors.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The Town Manager announced the summer hours of the Administration Building.

The Town Hall will be closed on Memorial Day.

The Manager asked that Police Chief Deveau be recognized in order to dispel rumors of an incident at the Cunniff School.

The Chair recognized Chief Deveau who stated that an incident at the Cunniff School involving an explosive device and graffiti were not related to gang activity.

12. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Kounelis requested that the Manager provide an informational presentation on the original Brigham House lease agreement prior to the renegotiated lease and receipts that have been generated through lease and real estate tax payments.

Councilor Donohue noted that an Inventory of vehicle report was compiled and no meeting has been scheduled to the discuss matter.

Councilor Lawn questioned why no meeting has taken place on the material which took two weeks of man hours to compile.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS – none noted.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

Officer Charles Dupruis thanked the Council for moving forward with the police station at the Browne School .

Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – stated that a recent showing of Ragtime at the new Arts Center is sold out. He spoke in support of the high level of entertainment and extended show times available.

Lisa Faltner, Parker Street – due to a zoning matter on Parker Street she asked that condo conversions be referred to the Economic and Planning Committee for study as there are no zoning laws for this.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilor Sideris moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm, 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 were adopted as amended by voice vote on June 27, 2006.

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Clyde L. Younger, Council President