



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
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, November 23, 2010 at 7:15 pm
Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber
Administration Building

MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 7:15 pm, in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Lenk was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** [November 9, 2010](#). The minutes were Tabled by the Chair pending a submitted amendment by Councilor Falkoff.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

William Twombly, World in Watertown – stated that 2,600 copies of a comprehensive resource map in 6 languages have been distributed. He thanked Deb Cobb for her work on this map. The Chair thanked Mr. Twombly and Ms. Cobb for their efforts.
5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a) Committee on Rules and Ordinances report on the Council's [current Rules](#); [proposed Rule changes](#); [Definitions](#) and [Table of Contents](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair. The Chair stated that due to additional amendments being submitted tonight, he suggested that the Committee meet again to rehash these proposed amendments and return with a report and finalized Rules at the next meeting.
 - b) Committee on Economic Development and Planning [report](#) on a Neighborhood Conservation District; changes to the Industrial Districts; and disposition of the former police station and municipal parking lot – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair. Vice President Corbett read the Committee report. He noted that Committee members wanted to

see a Neighborhood Conservation District document that was more advisory in nature and less of a mandate. He indicated that the Committee unanimously voted to have the Planning Department work with the Historic Commission to craft a new document. Vice President Corbett also noted that the Committee voted to support the creation of a new comprehensive plan. Vice President Corbett stated that the Committee will meet again on December 14th at 5:00 pm to discuss the former police station building and the municipal parking lot.

Councilor Falkoff moved to accept the written report, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Committee on Personnel & Town Organization report on a Town Organization plan – John J. Lawn, Jr., Chair. Councilor Lawn provided a verbal update of the Committee's discussion regarding a Town Organization Plan. He noted that 17 departmental heads reporting to the Manager is not an efficient way to run the town's business and indicated that the Committee is looking to create a different structure. Councilor Lawn also indicated that the Committee began initial discussions on a proposal to allow the town to work in tandem with the school department on a number of items including facility management; human resources and finance operations. Councilor Lawn stated that the Committee will meet again on December 14th at 10:00am. The Chair suggested inviting School officials to the meeting. Vice President Corbett moved to accept the verbal report subject to a written report being provided to the Council, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Committee on Budget & Fiscal Oversight [report](#) on the FY 2009 Draft Audit and Section 28 of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010 pertaining to Retirement Pensions – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair. Councilor Piccirilli read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli read key points by the Audit firm noting that the report indicated that Watertown is in a strong financial position as of June 30, 2009 with no significant issues with the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund also in an extremely strong position. Councilor Piccirilli indicated that the Committee voted to have #11 in the Management Letter updated and the School Department respond to the two findings of non-compliance. The Committee recommended that the Council engage Melanson & Heath & Co to perform the FY 2010 audit. Councilor Kounelis moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice

vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

6. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION:

- a) Presentation on the Fiscal Year 2009 [Audit Report](#) and [Management Letter](#)– Frank Biron, CPA, Melanson, Heath and Company, P.C. Mr. Biron reviewed the highlights of the Audit Report. The Chair opened up discussion to the Council.

Vice President Corbett asked what is holding up completion of the audits on a timely basis. Mr. Biron stated the receiving certain support documentation from the town tends to delay the completion of the audits. Vice President Corbett stated that in this day and age, automating the vacation and sick days should be easy to do. Mr. Biron concurred. Regarding the police detail receivable ledger, Vice President Corbett asked if we are seeing a cash deficit. Mr. Biron stated no, but that is what the risk and that he would like more oversight in this area.

The Chair asked where the town is with respect to the Water and Sewer Fund Red Flag policy's deadline of December 31st. Mr. Tracy noted that they are on schedule and will meet the deadline. The Chair asked for a copy of the policy when available. The Chair asked Mr. Tracy to ensure that the audit report is placed on the town's web site.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the FY 2009 audit and the Management Letter as presented, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appoint Melanson, Heath & Co. to perform the Fiscal Year 2010 Audit, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a) Confirmation of Melanson, Heath and Company, P.C. as the Independent Audit Firm for the Town's Fiscal Year 2010 Audit. Unanimously voted.

b) [First Reading](#) on a proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. The Manager provided a brief review of the amendment. It was noted that the Amendment will be advertised and placed on the December 7th Town Council meeting agenda for a public hearing and vote.

c) First Reading on a proposed Order allocating the [property tax levy](#) among and between classes for Fiscal Year 2011. The Manager provided a brief review of the matter. It was noted that the Order will be advertised and placed on the December 7th Town Council meeting agenda for a public hearing and vote.

d) [First Reading](#) on a proposed Order setting optional tax exemptions for Fiscal Year 2011. The Manager provided a brief overview of the matter. It was noted that the Order will be advertised and placed on the December 7th agenda for a public hearing and vote.

8. NEW BUSINESS – none noted.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – none noted.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

a) [Request for Confirmation](#) of reappointments to the Historic District Commission. Referred to the Economic Development and Planning Committee.

11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Kounelis questioned the procedure that refers councilors' names for consideration to the Manager for his appointment to the Commission on Disability. She asked that Attorney Reich review the process.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced the Annual Thanksgiving Day Game on Thursday in Belmont.

The Chair congratulated the Girls Field Hockey Team for another Championship win. He noted that they will come before the Council in the near future for recognition.

The Chair wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

13. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

14. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilor Donohue moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.