



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, January 11, 2011 at 6:30 pm*
Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber
Administration Building

MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting 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, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Lawn arrived after the call of the roll.
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – 6:30 PM* to consider the purchase, taking, lease, or value of real property. Vice President Corbett moved to go into executive session in order to discuss strategy with respect to litigation noting that having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the town, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Lawn was absent.
3. **RECONVENE OPEN SESSION** – 7:15 PM. All Councilors are present.
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** December 7th. Tabled.
6. **PUBLIC FORUM:** None noted.
7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTES:**

Public hearing and vote on a petition by Comcast requesting permission to trench in asphalt and place a 3-inch conduit from pole #152/2 on Taylor Street trenching in a southerly direction along the curb line to the intersection of Arsenal Street approximately 200 feet, then trenching in a westerly direction approximately 80 feet and trenching 20-feet in a northerly direction to intercept conduit placed by the developer at the newly constructed 26 Arsenal Street – Michael Cooke, Comcast.

It was noted by the Chair that the agenda had a typo omitting the 200 feet and asked Attorney Reich if the petition can go forward for a public hearing, discussion and vote. Attorney Reich indicated that it could go forward as the public has had notice of the matter.

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

Councilor Piccirilli stated that he is satisfied with the progress on the 17 double poles with the work being completed in 30 days. Mr. Cooke stated that he will provide a weekly update noting that the work will be completed in the stated 30 days beginning yesterday. The Manager requested that the weekly updates be sent to his office.

Councilor Lawn asked Mr. Cooke to resolve the issue of the double pole in front of the Police Station. Mr. Cooke stated that phone calls will be made tomorrow regarding the matter.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the petition, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris.

The Chair announced a Snow Emergency for tomorrow morning. School has been cancelled and he noted that all cars must be off the street.

- a) Public hearing and vote on a [petition](#) by NSTAR requesting permission to place approximately 6 feet of conduit in Arsenal Street at manhole# 15881 in order to provide new underground electric service for 14 unit residential building with retail space and elevator at 24/26 Arsenal Street – Maureen Carroll, NSTAR. The Chair recognized Ms. Carroll who provided an overview of the petition. The Chair opened up the hearing to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Falkoff stated that she will be voting Present on matters where she cannot access the links to the agenda.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that Verizon had already pour new concrete on that particular sidewalk relating to the new building at 24/26 Arsenal Street and asked Ms. Carroll if NSTAR is going to disturb this

new sidewalk. Ms. Carroll indicated that the work had already been done under the sidewalk and that all that is left is to make the connection which will not disturb the new sidewalk.

Councilor Piccirilli also indicated that he spoke with Mark Lucas of NSTAR regarding 14 double poles that remain. Mr. Lucas promised that the 14 double poles in question will be removed by the end of March.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the petition, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris and Councilor Falkoff voting Present.

- b) Public hearing and vote on a [petition](#) by NSTAR requesting permission to install approximately 215 feet of conduit in North Beacon Street and Beechwood Avenue from manhole# 9911 and install (1) new manhole #29308 in order to provide underground electric service to a technology building at Perkins School for the Blind – Maureen Carroll, NSTAR. Ms. Carroll reviewed the petition. The Chair opened up the hearing to the public.

Steve Rothstein, President of the Perkins School for the Blind stated that this work is necessary in order to have power to the new Technology Building.

Councilor Lenk asked NSTAR to notify the abutters prior to the work commencing. Ms. Carroll agreed to notify the two abutters.

Councilor Piccirilli asked how this work is to be done given that this is the beginning of the snow plowing season and a blizzard is scheduled for tomorrow. North Beacon was repaved just ten years ago he noted.

Mr. Mee, Superintendent of Public Works indicated that a permit has not been granted and projects during this timeframe are subject to a day-to-day approval basis. He stated that the proposed work should not have any effect on plowing and any work requires the utility companies to draft a letter placed on Public Works stationary notifying the public of the upcoming work.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the petition, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J.

Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris and Councilor Falkoff voting Present.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Committee on Economic Development and Planning [report](#) and action on [re-appointments](#) to the Historic District Commission and a report on the former police station building and municipal lot – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair. Vice President Corbett read the Committee report and stated that the Committee interview Ms. Sternberg and Mr. Steiner for reappointment to the Historic District Commission. The Committee unanimously voted to recommend their reappointments.

Regarding the former police station building, Vice President Corbett indicated that Mr. Magoon will survey town hall departments to assess the need for more space. It was noted that there are 151 municipal parking spaces in the lot with employees requiring approximately 100. Striping is needed. The Committee decided to hold off on specific recommendations on the municipal lot until a decision has been made regarding the former police station building.

The next meeting will take place on January 25th at 11:00 am.

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

Vice President Corbett moved the reappointment of Ms. Steinberger and Mr. Steiner for reappointment, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris.

- b) Committee on Former Branch Library Reuse Advisory [report](#) on re-publishing the Request for Proposals to lease the former branch libraries – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr. and Angeline B. Kounelis, co-chairs. Councilor Piccirilli read the Committee report and noted that the key issues such as renovation costs, lease terms of payments, bid process, building size, and zoning restrictions were discussed at length. The Committee will republish the RFP in March of 2011 to make it more attractive to bidders. Councilor Kounelis moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Donohue asked how many qualified bids were received by the Committee. Councilor Piccirilli replied, none.

Councilor Donohue asked if the Committee has considered changing the direction and putting the properties up for sale. Councilor Piccirilli stated that it was discussed and voted to publish one more time and then explore the option to sell.

Councilor Donohue asked if it makes sense to post a large sign on the building stating that the property is up for bid. Mr. Magoon stated that that is an excellent suggestion.

Councilor Kounelis stated that there is a need out there and that sometimes people are not aware that the building is available and what the options are.

The report was adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris.

Committee on Rules and Ordinances [report](#) on Council Rules – Anthony Palomba, Chair. Councilor Palomba read the Committee report and noted that the Committee will postpone vote on the changes to the Council Rules until the January 25th meeting. Councilor Lawn moved to accept the report, seconded by Vice President Corbett. Councilor Falkoff noted several typos. The Chair indicated that typos will be corrected. The report was adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris.

Joint Committee on Budget & Fiscal Oversight and Human Services [report](#) on the Recreation Department's Capital Project requests – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and John A. Donohue, Jr., Chairs. Councilor Donohue read the Committee report and noted a lengthy discussion on the upgrade of the Victory Field complex as well as other projects with Recreation Director, Peter Centola providing an update to the Committee on past improvements and proposed improvements. The Committee voted to proceed with the project as presented by CDM. An additional meeting will take place regarding the fundraising plan. Councilor Lawn moved to accept the report, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris and Councilor Kounelis voting Present indicating that she did not have a paper copy of the report.

9. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a) [Resolution](#) authorizing a contract term in excess of three years for the purchase of electric supply and related services. The Chair recognized the Manager who provided a brief overview of the resolution. Ms. Phyllis

Marshall, Town Treasurer/Collector provided a summary of the process previously undertaken; noting that this will be the fourth time bringing a contract term to the Council for a vote. Ms. Marshall indicated that she is very hopeful that she will get pricing that will maximize the town's savings. The Manager stated that he is looking to get rates favorable to rates in 2004; and if not, they will stay with the current agreement that runs until 2014. The Manager noted that the town spends approximately 2% of its budget on electricity and natural gas.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris.

10. NEW BUSINESS: None noted.

11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. The President noted that the high school has a new medical science course where a number of students will go to local hospitals to view surgeries.

2. The President announced that the School Committee has approved a student trip to Costa Rica for ten days.

3. The President stated that a report was provided by the Family Center Advisory on daycare for toddlers; noting that Councilors Lenk and Palomba are members of that Committee.

4. The President noted that School Committee member John Portz read the Student Activity Fund Audit; Councilors have received a copy.

5. The President requested referrals to subcommittees on the following matters:

a) 2 items to Public Works Subcommittee: To review procedures for planning parking on road construction projects including any road projects that need to come before the Traffic Commission for review and when projects impact parking; loss parking spaces on Summer Street due to the construction of that street. Vice President Corbett moved to refer items to Committee, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by voice vote.

b) 1 item to Economic Development Subcommittee: To explore the possibility to arrange partnerships with business night time parking. Vice President Corbett moved the referral to Committee, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Palomba voiced his appreciation to members of the Family Center Advisory Committee who met four times and was able to provide a professional and thorough report.

Councilor Donohue stated that the auditor has provided a report noting that the program will have to be subsidized. Councilor Donohue asked what the benefit is to running a daycare for six children with a shortfall of \$60,000 when a middle school sports program is being cut.

The Chair stated that the Advisory Committee has been asked to bring back a better number and explain the benefits to the community for the program.

Councilor Lenk stated that this issue was raised it is something that needs to be justified so that it would not cost the taxpayers any money and why this would not be extended to all town employees who have infants and toddlers. She asked that she hopes the School Committee takes into account all the issues.

Councilor Palomba stated that those questions were discussed in detail by the Committee.

The Manager noted that he previously raised concerns about the proposed program's viability from a financial standpoint and stated that the \$64,000 question is; why are we doing this.

The Manager stated that he hopes that someone will answer that question to the taxpayers as to why we are even looking at this; a lot of time is being spent on something where the value is being questioned he noted.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Request for Confirmation of reappointment of Dr. Strauss to the Board of Health to the subcommittee of Human Services.
2. Submission of the [Fiscal Year 2012 Capital Improvement Program](#).
The Manager reviewed the five page document.

The Manager asked that residents not put out their trash tomorrow, to allow for the removal of snow; there will a one day delay.

13. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

The President stated that the Traffic Commission has instituted new regulations to contractors regarding snow removal and asked the manager to provide councilors with information on how many tickets or warnings have been given.

Councilor Donohue asked to include in the report who the town is using for enforcement officers.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Palomba announced the MLK breakfast hosted by World in Watertown on January 17th.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Mee, to correct a previous comment on a utility petition for Arsenal Street indicated that there is not a conduit placed in the public way.

Mr. Mee indicated that tomorrow morning he will meet with the Police Chief during the roll call on the ordinance regarding snow removal.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked for a Moment of Silence for the shooting victims in Arizona and best wishes to Arizona Representative Gabrielle Giffords in her recovery.

Following the Moment of Silence, Vice President Corbett moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

[Addendum.](#)

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by voice vote on January 25, 2011.

Mark S. Sideris