



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 25, 2011 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, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Lawn arrived shortly after the call of the roll at 7:25 pm. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney, Joe Fair and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** [December 7th](#) and [January 11th](#).
Councilor Piccirilli moved the minutes of December 7th as amended, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by voice 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 Mark S. Sideris in favor.
Vice President Corbett moved the minutes of January 11th, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by voice 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 Mark S. Sideris in favor.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM:**
 1. Thomas Thibaut, firefighter and President of Firefighters Local 1347 – Mr. Thibaut stated that the Fire Chief Orangio submitted two budget

scenarios upon request; both having bad news for public safety. The first scenario calls for level services with a 16 minimum manning level which is three less than what the department wants; the second scenario represents a 5% budget reduction with 5-6 new firefighters being laid off; the closing of station 3 and ladders 2 and 3 out of service. He noted that a 14 minimum manning level should not be the goal.

2. Jim Loughlin, Arsenal Apartments – spoke against a planned parking project by Gilbane Development Company removing many mature and ornamental trees for 22 additional parking spaces; turning the courtyard into a parking lot. He asked that the matter be studied thoroughly by the town. Mr. Loughlin provided [photographs](#) of the existing courtyard.
3. Sossy Nercessian – concurred with Mr. Loughlin and stated that she is concerned over the health and wellbeing of residents of the apartment complex.
4. Ruth Thomasian, Trees for Watertown – also concurred and noted that she had no prior knowledge that 17 trees were to be removed.

The Chair stated that these concerns will be addressed thoroughly and accordingly by town officials.

Vice President Corbett moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward agenda items 7 A, B, & C, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by 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 in favor.

- a) Acceptance of Proclamations honoring [Mr. Anthony DeVincentis](#) and [Ms. Nancy Scott](#) upon their retirement – Council President Mark S. Sideris.

The Chair read and presented a proclamation honoring crossing guard Anthony DeVincentis for his eleven years of service to the children of the middle school. The Chair recognized Sgt. Joseph Diegnan who praised Mr. DeVincentis for his hard work, diligence and dedication.

Mr. DeVincentis received a standing ovation from councilors and audience members and thanked councilors as well as those who came to honor him tonight.

Vice President Corbett moved to accept the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by 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 in favor.

The Chair stated that a proclamation was presented to Zoning Enforcement Officer, Nancy Scott at a retirement party held in her honor. Councilor Kounelis moved to accept the proclamation, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by 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 in favor.

Acceptance of [Proclamation](#) honoring the graduate students of Tufts University's department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning – Councilor Susan G. Falkoff: Councilor Falkoff read the proclamation thanking and acknowledging the graduate students for their hard work and dedication and their receipt of an Outstanding Planning Award for Best Community-Wide project. Planning Director Steve Magoon also praised the Tufts graduate students. Vice President Corbett moved to accept the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by 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 in favor.

Councilor Falkoff acknowledged residents Janet Jameson and Deb Peterson for pursuing the community path project for many years.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICIALS:

a) Update on State and Local Affairs – Jonathan Hecht, State Representative. The Chair recognized Mr. Hecht who provided a summary of 20 bills filed with the State legislature. Mr. Hecht highlighted 5 bills in particular: a bill that closes telecommunication property tax loop holes; a bill to address health insurance liabilities and management of funds; a bill that establishes a parklands commission overseeing parklands and parkways along the Charles River; a bill directing the Department of Public Utilities to address the issue of double poles in communities; and a bill addressing public shade tree pruning by utility companies.

Regarding the state of affairs on Beacon Hill, Mr. Hecht indicated that Governor Patrick is hinting that monies will be added to Chapter 70 and 90 in local aid and cuts to the non education local aide. He noted that it is too early to judge the viability of the plan which will be unveiled tomorrow.

Councilor Kounelis asked that equity issues be addressed in local aide formulas.

- b) Update on the Commission on Disabilities efforts related to Closed Captioning – Stephen P. Corbett, Commission on Disabilities member. Vice President Corbett noted that the commission had its first meeting of the New Year. He announced that all Town Council meetings, going forward, will have closed captioning for the hearing impaired. A full report will be on the February 8th Town Council agenda. Vice President Corbett indicated that Watertown is taking the lead in this endeavor and thanked Ms. Tamarah Green of Watertown Access Channel and George Donohue, member of the Commission on Disabilities for all their work on this issue.

Councilor Lawn moved to accept the verbal report, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by 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 in favor.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Committee on Rules and Ordinances [report](#) and action on the Council Rules – Anthony Palomba, Chair. Councilor Palomba read the Committee report and asked that the matter be re-referred back to Committee and delay action on the matter until the February 8th meeting. Councilor Falkoff 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, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr, John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris in favor.

Councilor Falkoff moved to re-refer the matter to the Rules and Ordinances Committee, seconded by Donohue and adopted by 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 Mark S. Sideris in favor.

- b) Joint Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight and Human Services [report](#) and action on the Recreation Department’s Capital Project requests and fundraising plan – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and John A. Donohue, Chairs. The Chair recognized Councilor Donohue who read the Committee report. Councilor Lawn moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by 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 in favor.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that with a Joint Committee vote of 6 to 0 to proceed and a vote of 5 to 0 finding the fundraising plan acceptable he move the motion that the Town Council recommends that the Victory Field Phase 1 reconstruction project proceed with the plan presented by CDM and staff, and with the financing and fundraising plan and timeline proposed by the Town Manager, seconded by Councilor Lawn.

Councilor Palomba stated that is was his understanding that the proposed project would be part of the Capital Project plan with more discussion.

The Manager stated that the Committee voted to move forward with construction for calendar year 2011. He noted that this timeline was voted two weeks ago at the January 11th Town Council meeting.

Council President Sideris noted that this project will go out to bid for an exact cost and that a first reading on the loan order along with a full public hearing and vote will follow the bid process. He noted that until the project is put out to bid, the Town cannot know the exact cost.

Councilor Palomba noted his appreciation for the explanation on the process.

Councilor Kounelis inquired of the fundraising aspect. She noted that the show of support so far has been from individuals involved with the day to day sports of the community but she hasn't seen it from the general public. She asked for an explanation of how the fundraising schedule will coincide with the bidding process.

The Manager stated that the Town will work through the bidding process while moving forward with fundraising.

Councilor Lenk stated that the Committee voted to move forward because of the substantial benefits to the youth of our community and gender equity issues. She noted that this is an important step in helping the girls' sports teams. Also the project is part of the Town's continued commitment to improve infrastructure and in this case, the improvements are long overdue she stated.

Councilor Piccirilli concurred with Councilor Lenk. He also stated that it was important to him that 4 questions be answered: Is it necessary to do this; is the project environmentally safe; can the Town afford to do it; and is it feasible to fundraise approximately \$1.5 million. Councilor Piccirilli stated that all these questions were answered to his satisfaction.

Councilor Corbett spoke in support of the project stating that a real commitment has been made to reach the goals outlined tonight.

Councilor Lawn spoke in support of the project noting the low interest rates and lower bids the town has received in other projects. He stated that the Town has to stop busing students to other towns for their practices.

Councilor Falkoff also noted that the Open Space Committee highlighted the negative effects of overusing the same depleted playing fields and indicated that the technology involved in turf materials have improved.

Council President Sideris noted that the Town has had one override in the last twenty years, in 1995. He concurred with the previous speakers and stated that this discussion has been ongoing for nearly five years. He noted that an opportunity will be available to hear from both sides.

The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

The Manager reviewed the process noting that on February 16th bid specifications will be available to contractors; with bids due by March 2nd. The Town Council will hold a first reading on the loan order on March 8th followed by a public hearing and vote on March 22nd.

The Manager stated that this project will have three components: donations and grants; a recreation or user fee and utilization of taxpayer dollars. The Manager also indicated the fundraising effort will move forward once the 9 committee members are appointed; which will be comprised of the Recreation Director along with eight residents.

The Manager stated that he is very pleased to announce that the Town has received donations from two prominent corporate citizens in the amount of \$100,000.00 each.

c) Joint Public Works and Rules and Ordinances [report](#) and action on a Stormwater Ordinance – Susan G. Falkoff and Anthony Palomba, Chairs. The Chair recognized Councilor Falkoff who read the Committee report. Councilor Donohue moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Lawn.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Manager to forward the proposed Stormwater Ordinance to the town attorney for review and to be returned to the Town Council for a vote, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by 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 in favor.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- b) Acceptance of Proclamations honoring [Mr. Anthony DeVincentis](#) and [Ms. Nancy Scott](#) upon their retirement – Council President Mark S. Sideris.
- c) Acceptance of [Proclamation](#) honoring the graduate students of Tufts University’s department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning – Councilor Susan G. Falkoff.

[Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer in the amount of \$7,610 from the Fiscal Year 2011 Town Treasurer/Collector’s Full Time Salaries Account to the Fiscal Year 2011 Assessor’s Full Time Salaries Account. The Manager provided a brief review of the transfer. Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by roll call 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 Mark S. Sideris in favor.

8. NEW BUSINESS: the Chair recognized the Manager who brought forward and reviewed a proposed [resolution](#) to allow expenses in excess of available appropriations for snow and ice removal for the remainder of the fiscal year. Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Lawn.

Councilor Falkoff praised the efforts of the Public Works department for implementing a number of cost saving measures for snow removal. Councilor Piccirilli concurred and noted that the recent cost savings measures in plowing have not negatively impacted the quality of snow removal.

The snow and ice removal resolution was adopted by 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 Mark S. Sideris in favor.

9. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

The Chair asked that the Personnel Committee expedite an Evaluation Tool for the manager.

The Chair asked that the Charitable Ad Hoc Committee expedite discussions on the timeline and process for the 2011 Watertown/Harvard/O’Neil disbursements of charitable monies.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Update on the Fiscal Year 2011 [Snow & Ice Removal Expenditures](#).

The Manager stated that Tufts Health Plan and Harvard Pilgrim are in the early stages of discussing a possible merger and noted that at this time, no red flags have been raised and Tufts Health Plan is fully committed to Watertown.

11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – none noted.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS – none noted.

13. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

14. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Donohue moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Councilor Palomba 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 in favor.

[Addendum](#)

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the minutes of January 25, 2011 were adopted on February 8, 2011 by unanimous voice vote.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President