



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
Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 7:15 pm
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** [April 26th](#). Councilor Donohue moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilor Palomba 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 voting in the affirmative.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM:**
The Chair recognized:
 1. Marina Hebeisen, 170 Worcester – students Marina, Laura and Mattie presented a [petition](#) to the Council requesting the six trees at Victory Field slated for removal not be cut down.
 2. Ruth Thomasian, Trees for Watertown – announced their annual meeting on Thursday, May 19th at 7pm at the Watertown Free Public Library.
5. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**
The Chair announced and congratulated John Lawn for winning the State Representative seat vacated by Peter Koutousian to represent the 10th

Middlesex district. Councilor Lawn expressed his appreciation and his excitement at representing his district at the State House.

The Chair asked that the Personnel and Town Organization subcommittee who is currently looking at a reorganization plan of town departments also look at cost saving measures with respect to job vacancies.

6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS:

- a) Public hearing and vote on a [petition](#) by NSTAR requesting permission to install approximately 168 +/- of conduit in Arlington Street and Wells Avenue from pole # 3/29 to provide new underground electric service at 264 Arlington Street. The Chair recognized Sheila Gillis from NSTAR who provided an overview of the matter.

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

Councilor Piccirilli asked who will be responsible for replacing the sidewalks. Mr. Scott St. Auburn from AJ Martini Contractors indicated that the contractor will replace the sidewalks all the way up to the curb cut on Wells Avenue.

As a follow up, Councilor Kounelis asked how much work will be done on Wells Avenue. Mr. St. Auburn stated that the contractor will cast all new sidewalks along Arlington Street and Wells Avenue leading up to the curb cut on Wells Avenue.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the petition, seconded by Councilor Palomba 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 voting in the affirmative.

7. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

- a) Public hearing and vote on proposed amendments to the [Stormwater Ordinance](#). The Chair recognized Steve Magoon, Planning Director and Ms. Maria Rose, member of the Stormwater Advisory Committee who provided a brief overview of the Ordinance and its intended purpose which is to control the introduction of pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in order to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process.

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

Councilor Piccirilli thanked everyone for working very hard to make this happen; noting that this will have a very positive impact on the water quality of the Charles River for many years to come.

Councilor Falkoff moved the proposed amendments to the Stormwater Ordinance, seconded by Councilor Lenk 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

8. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a) Resolution authorizing a [transfer](#) in the amount of \$10,000 from the Fiscal Year 2011 Town Council Reserve Account to fund Veterans' Benefits for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Manager provided a brief overview of the transfer. The Chair recognized Robert Erickson, Veterans Agent who provided background information on the transfer. Councilor Kounelis moved the transfer, seconded by Vice President Corbett 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- b) Joint Committee on Public Works & Rules and Ordinances [report](#) and first reading on an [Ordinance](#) regarding the Composition of the Traffic Commission – Susan G. Falkoff and Anthony Palomba, Chairs. Councilor Falkoff read the joint report. Councilor Donohue moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Kounelis 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 voting in the affirmative.

The Chair noted that this is a first reading of the Traffic Commission Ordinance and the matter will be advertised for a public hearing on vote to take place on May 24th.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Kounelis noted that Councilor Palomba has forwarded a written report from the Committee on State, Federal and Regional Government which was read as a verbal report and adopted at the last meeting.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:
- a) [Retirement Benefits](#). The Manager reviewed correspondence regarding retirement benefits. The Chair asked for a motion to refer the matter to the subcommittee of Fiscal and Oversight. So moved by Councilor Piccirilli, seconded by Councilor Kounelis 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 voting in the affirmative.
 - b) [Request for Confirmation](#) - Appointment to Board of Appeals. Referred to Economic Development and Planning subcommittee.
 - c) The Manager indicated that the Black Budget Books which have been made available to the Council will be online tomorrow morning for the public. A hard copy will be available for viewing at the Library and Clerk's Office.

11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

The Chair requested the Manager to look into the contract with Comcast with respect to the closing of the Watertown office.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Corbett announced that the Economic Development Study is nearing completion and will be placed on the Town's website in a few days.

As a follow up, the Chair announced a Special Town Council meeting on June 15th to hold a public hearing and vote on an Economic Development study.

Councilor Kounelis announced a joint subcommittee meeting of Public Works and State, Federal and Regional Government regarding Belmont's request to abandon the MBTA Trackless Trolley – May 17th at 7pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber.

The Chair read the upcoming Budget Hearing dates and times.

14. PUBLIC FORUM:

Pat Gold, Duff Street – asked if Watertown has a housing court to handle eviction cases; and if not, can the Town establish one.

Paul Fahey, Lexington Street – asked if recognition can be given to the late and former Council President Louis Andrews.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: To discuss strategy with respect to litigation: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Vice President Corbett moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm and go into executive session in order to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as meeting in open session will have a detrimental effect on the matter, 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

[Addendum](#)

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the May 11th minutes were adopted by voice vote on May 24, 2011.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President