



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, June 28, 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. 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:** [June 14th](#) [15th](#) and [21st](#).

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of **June 14th**, 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 voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of **June 15th**, 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 voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of **June 21st**, 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 voting in the affirmative.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM** – none noted.

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** The Council President announced the retirement of Robert Edward Erickson as Veterans' Agent/Webmaster on July 8th. The Chair read a proclamation honoring Mr. Erickson for his many years of service to the community.

Mr. Erickson indicated that his decision to retire was a difficult one and that it was an honor to have served our veterans. He indicated that he enjoyed being the town's Webmaster and has learned so much about municipal government over the years.

The Manager announced a coffee hour for Mr. Erickson on July 7th from 11am – 2pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber and highlighted Mr. Erickson's many accomplishments over the years. Councilors extended their gratitude to Mr. Erickson and wished him well.

Councilor Kounelis moved to accept the proclamation, 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

6. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

a) [Public hearing](#) and vote on a proposed Order establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2012. The Chair recognized the Manager who reviewed the rates and charges and noted that the rates will be the same as last year with no changes. The Manager indicated that pipe size for fire sprinkler service charges are being researched by the Public Works department with a recommendation due by end of year.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved the proposed Water and Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2012, seconded by Councilor Kounelis.

Vice President Corbett stated that while the rates will not increase for this fiscal year; the cost of water to the residents remains very high.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion was adopted by unanimous 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. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Committee on Public Works [report](#) and action on Summer Street – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. The Chair recognized Councilor Falkoff and Councilor Piccirilli who read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Falkoff.

Councilor Palomba made a query on the reconstruction of Waverly between Main and Orchard Streets. Councilor Piccirilli reviewed the work which will include full street restoration work; replacement of water mains/re-alignment of sewer pipes to begin this summer and be completed by November.

The Chair expressed concern with the two action items: adding parking spaces with a cost of \$10,000 and adding meters for the seven new parking spaces between Mt. Auburn and Spring Street; expressing concern that the Council did not weigh in on those matters.

Councilor Falkoff noted that the parking meters are under the jurisdiction of the Traffic Commission, not the Town Council; and that the Superintendent of Public Works assigns money to various road projects.

The Chair was satisfied and stated that perhaps that should have been noted in the report.

Councilor Corbett stated that the meters and recycling issues are a policy matter that should come before the Town Council.

Councilor Donohue stated that he endorses the concept of the two action items as Summer Street is part of the business area and that the recycling matter is very important and needs to move forward.

Councilor Piccirilli noted that the plans were authorized in February.

Councilor Palomba indicated that recycling is a big step and needs a full discussion by the Town Council.

Councilor Kounelis agreed and stated that she wants to participate in the discussion. She stated that meetings are being scheduled during working hours and part time councilors can't always participate at 9am and 11am. She indicated that councilors should make meetings available for the general public to participate in if they so choose as well as elected officials and daytime meetings are inconvenient.

Upon voice vote, the report was adopted 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.

Councilor Corbett moved to accept in concept the addition of seven new parking spaces, 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 voting in the affirmative.

Vice President Corbett moved to accept in concept the new meters, 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 voting in the affirmative.

b) Former Branch Library Reuse Advisory Committee [report](#) and action on proposals received from the former branch libraries RFP – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Angeline B. Kounelis, Co-Chairs. Councilor Piccirilli read the Committee report. Councilor Kounelis moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Donohue.

Councilor Kounelis stated that she concurs with the recommendation to the Manager that the St. James proposal be strongly accepted as it is a natural fit and the proposal is beneficial to the taxpayers of Watertown. Piccirilli stated that St. James indicated a church/community use in their proposal.

The report was accepted upon 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 Manager asked that the Town Council's actions be limited to accepting the report tonight as a full presentation on the matter will take place at the July 12th Town Council meeting.

c) Joint Public Works and State, Federal & Regional Government Committee [report](#) and [proposed letter](#) on Bus Route #71 – Susan G. Falkoff and Angeline B. Kounelis, Chairs. Councilor Falkoff read the Committee report. Councilor Kounelis moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by voice vote with 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.

Councilor Falkoff and Kounelis read the draft letter.

Councilor Kounelis suggested adding language to address concerns regarding paying prior to entering the bus.

Councilor Falkoff stated that there was no consensus on that issue and that those who were concerned with that could write or contact the MBTA to express their views.

Councilor Lenk stated that the draft letter captures the need for changes and issues moving forward.

Councilor Palomba concurred with Councilor Kounelis with having riders paying at Harvard Square instead of when entering the bus.

Councilor Lenk suggested inserting the words “how payments are handled” to the last paragraph.

Councilor Kounelis accepted the added words.

Councilor Donohue moved the letter as amended, 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.

8. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$3,024.00 from the Fiscal Year 2011 Library Full Time Salaries Account to the Fiscal Year 2011 Library Building Maintenance Account. The Manager provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Piccirilli moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Lawn.

Councilor Falkoff questioned the need for a generator and indicated that the library is not a place where people live.

The Manager indicated that it is a safety issue for power outages and a building code requirement for public buildings.

Councilor Lenk expressed concern with where the generator would be located.

Upon a roll call vote, the transfer was adopted by a vote of 7 for, 0 against and 2 Present with Councilors John A. Donohue, 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 and Councilors Lenk and Falkoff voting Present.

b) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$69,994.00 from various Fiscal Year 2011 Police Department Accounts to the Fiscal Year 2011 Police Vehicle Replacement Account. The Manager provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Piccirilli moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Lawn 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.

c) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer in the amount of \$7,263.00 to the Fiscal Year 2011 Fire Department Overtime Account. The Manager provided an overview of the transfer. Councilor Piccirilli moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Lawn.

Councilor Kounelis indicated that the memorandum dated June 27, 2011 stated that the monies would maintain staff of 15 per shift and that she finds that minimum manning number difficult to accept.

Upon a roll call vote, the transfer was adopted unanimously 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.

d) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$44,000.00 from the Fiscal Year 2011 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2011 Public Safety Study Account in order to fund a Public Safety Study in accordance with Honorable Town Council's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Policy Guidelines III B. The Manager provided an overview of the matter noting that of the five firms; Matrix Consulting was chosen. The Chair recognized Travis Miller, Vice President of Matrix Consulting Group who indicated that his firm is comprised of highly experienced local government management consultants specializing in analysis of fire/emergency medical and law enforcement services with more than thirty years of experience working with these key functions and over 250 prior projects.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Lawn 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.

e) [Resolution](#) Renaming the NESWC/Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund. Councilor Falkoff moved the matter, 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 voting in the affirmative.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Personnel and Town Organization [Report](#) on the Town Manager's Review/Compensation and Evaluation Tool – John J. Lawn, Jr., Chair. Councilor Lawn indicated that the Personnel Committee met earlier today and discussed the evaluation tool for the manager. It was noted that the Committee voted unanimously to make minor changes to the dates and goals/objectives and forward the tool by July 1st to be returned to the Council Clerk by July 22nd and to have the Council President provide a Composite Evaluation which will be placed on the August Town Council agenda. Councilor Donohue moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Piccirilli asked that a written report be forwarded to Councilors as soon as possible.

The verbal report 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 Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

- a) [Request for Confirmation](#) – appointment to Planning Board and referral to Committee. The appointment was referred to the Economic Development and Planning subcommittee.
- b) Town Offices closed for the Monday, July 4th Holiday.
- c) Thursday, July 7th Coffee Hour for Robert Erickson.
- d) 1st quarter tax bill in the mail; payment due by August 1st.
- e) Included in Miscellaneous Items regarding the Pan Am Railway; the Manager indicated that Pan Am Railway’s legal department is looking for an official response from the Town of Watertown regarding the abandonment of the railway line.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter indicating that the Town of Watertown knows of no adverse effect that the proposed abandonment and discontinuation of service will have, and does not object to the proposed action, seconded by Councilor Falkoff 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.

- 11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – none noted.
- 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Donohue announced the July 8th deadline for applications for the Watertown/Harvard/O’Neil Charitable funds.

Councilor Lawn thanked Representative Hecht for setting up a tour last Friday with DCR official, Edward Lampert. Councilor Lawn indicated that the tour included the proposed Mt. Auburn Street bike path connector; Greenough Blvd intersection and work being done at the Watertown Square dock and noted that several councilors as well as Senator Tolman were present for portions of the tour.

- 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 9:20 pm, 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 voting in the affirmative.

[Addendum](#)

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, on August 9, 2011.