



**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, July 12, 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 28<sup>th</sup>](#). The minutes were Tabled by Councilor Kounelis.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM** – none noted.
5. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:**
  - a) Update on State and Local Affairs - Jonathan Hecht, State Representative. The Chair recognized Mr. Hecht who provided an overview of the State Budget as follows: \$408,000.00 in local cuts will be restored; the Circuit Breaker for Special Education budget will be increased by 50%; schools may receive as much as \$500,000.00 and also receive a \$97,000.00 grant for full day Kindergarten; the Police Department will receive funds for their Mental Health Jail Diversion program; the Library will be level funded and the Council on Aging will receive an increase. Mr. Hecht also indicated that Watertown will be able to set up an OPEB Trust Fund and can invest funds with the larger State fund. With respect to the Home Rule Petition regarding Special Police Officers – Mr. Hecht noted that a hearing is scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> and he will be pushing hard for a quick passage. The dock in Watertown Square which was washed away during a storm seventeen months ago will be replaced by the Department of Conservation and Recreation with a design plan out to bid by the end

of calendar year and construction next spring. Mr. Hecht acknowledged and thanked Representative Lawn and Senator Tolman for all their assistance and hard work on these budget matters.

The Chair opened up the presentation for comments and/or questions.

Councilor Kounelis inquired about the status of the Greenough Boulevard intersection at Grove Street. Mr. Hecht stated that the Department of Conservation and Recreation recognizes that signalization is absolutely needed for this dangerous intersection, but that the signalization is down the road and won't happen anytime soon. He indicated that vegetation management, signage and lighting can be done sooner as a short-term measure.

Councilor Lawn thanked Representative Hecht and Senator Tolman for all their hard work.

The Chair expressed his satisfaction with the work being undertaken on Nonantum Road and indicated that after many years of lobbying for work on this dangerous road, it is finally coming to fruition.

The Manager inquired about double pole legislation. Mr. Hecht indicated that the onus needs to put on the Department of Telecommunications requiring them to analyze what has gone wrong with their double pole system and how it can be improved. Mr. Hecht stated that his unique piece of legislation will do just that; the bill has been heard in committee and he has hopes of real progress on the issue.

The Manager lauded the team approach which has benefited the community and thanked Representative Hecht, Senator Tolman and Representative Lawn for all their hard work and dedication to these issues. The Manager indicated that local aid is critical to the town's budget and reminded everyone that even after the return of the \$408,000.00, the town's local aid reduction is \$2.9 million from the Fiscal Year 2009 level.

- b) [Informational Presentation](#) on the Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee's efforts in accordance with Resolution 2008-38 – Kenneth W. Mirvis, Chair. The Chair recognized Mr. Mirvis who highlighted the committee's work this past year which included Watertown becoming a Green Community; the hiring of an Esco firm, Johnson Control who have completed a town energy audit; the creation of several working groups; public education outreach program; the receipt of \$192,850.00 for Green Community lighting and the receipt of 5 big belly compactors. There being no questions or comments, the Chair thanked Mr. Mirvis for the committee update.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – none noted.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Committee on Public Works [report](#) on Trash Contract and Road Projects – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. Councilors Falkoff and Piccirilli read the report. Councilor Lenk moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli.

Vice President Corbett stated that the report includes a motion to approve the moving of the town's recycling center to the Schick Property which is a temporary site owned by Mt. Auburn Cemetery. He indicated that there was discussion on the matter, but no definitive vote by the Committee.

Councilor Falkoff offered to amend the report by striking the sentence in question, but after further discussion on the matter the report was Tabled.

Councilor Donohue stated that Zero Sort Recycling has a full layout of information in multiple languages and indicated that Public Works may want to look into the matter before hiring a consultant.

Mr. Gerald S. Mee, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works stated that the trash collection contract will be a major change. He further indicated that the RFP includes a poster campaign and will not be cost prohibitive.

The Chair asked Mr. Mee if it would be a burden to put off the action items until the August meeting.

Mr. Mee indicated it would not be a burden.

With respect to the committee report, Councilor Palomba stated that he was confused and asked if sections 1-6 were Council policy guidelines.

The Chair stated that the Council can start to discuss policy guidelines once the report is adopted. He further noted that the report is Tabled pending language change and will come back to the Council in August.

With respect to Sections 1-6, Councilor Falkoff stated that the Committee was recommending that the Council discuss the direction and have Mr. Mee return with a final proposal for Council consideration.

Councilor Piccirilli noted that Councilors have copies of the RFP and that the Administration needs general guidance on how to proceed.

The Chair stated that trash totes will be a big change for residents and therefore the guidelines need a full public discussion.

## 8. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a) [First Reading](#) on a proposed loan order: that the sum of \$460,000 is appropriated to pay costs of purchasing a town-wide telephone system, including the costs of all related hardware and software, and the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to raise this appropriation the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, is authorized to borrow \$460,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Town

Manager is authorized to contract for, accept and expend any federal or state aid, grants, gifts and donations available for the project, provided that the amount of the authorized borrowing shall be reduced by the amount of such aid, grants, gifts and donations received prior to the issuance of bonds or notes under this order; and that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

The Town Manager provided a brief overview of the proposed Loan Order and indicated that the matter will be advertised for a public hearing and vote for the August 9<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS – none noted.
10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER – none noted.
11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – none noted.
12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that the last Charter meeting will take place on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to vote on the Charter amendments.

The Chair stated that applications have been received for the Watertown/Harvard/O'Neil Charitable funds and that the ad hoc committee will be scheduling meeting to review them.

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 8:40 pm, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by unanimous vote with 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.

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 August 9, 2011.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President