



**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, August 9, 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, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Palomba was absent. 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>](#) and [amendment, July 12<sup>th</sup>](#) , [19<sup>th</sup>](#) and [August 2<sup>nd</sup>](#).

Councilor Donohue moved to accept the minutes of June 28<sup>th</sup> as amended, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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 July 12<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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 last set of Charter Review Commission minutes of July 19<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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 August 2<sup>nd</sup>, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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

Mr. Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – stated that the Village Condominiums consists of 308 households that encourage recycling. He indicated that the proposed trash/recycling policy will burden citizens and could impact the Village with a lack of understanding on logistics. He asked that the Council represent all citizens in Watertown.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to Suspend the Rules in order to move forward agenda items: **9A and 8A**, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a) Acceptance of a [Proclamation](#) honoring Ms. “Molly” Gong Haoqun – sponsored by Councilors Falkoff and Palomba.

The Chair recognized Councilor Falkoff who read and presented the proclamation to Ms. Haoqun. Ms. Haoqun thanked the Council for the honor and stated that she has learned so much and made so many friends while visiting Watertown.

Councilor Falkoff moved to accept the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

- a) [Public hearing](#) and vote 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 Chair read the proposed loan order. The Manager provided a brief overview of the matter noting that the Town received three proposals by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Mr. Webb of Webb Consulting Firm provided a brief presentation and stated that the least costly vendor, MD Communications, was chosen to create a new level of communications with town and school employees who will be able to talk to each other in a simple matter. He noted that RCN and the Town will provide the fiber optic cable and MD Communications will provide an additional savings of between \$15-30,000.00 for the town.

The Manager reviewed the financials and indicated that the \$460,000 loan order will be financed over five fiscal years and is \$99,000.00 less than what was discussed in the Budget and Fiscal Oversight subcommittee.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved the loan order, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

- a) Informational Presentation by St. James Armenian Apostolic Church on their thoughts regarding the reuse of the former East Branch Library in advance of the full Council's consideration of how to proceed with the East Branch Lease.

The Town Manager provided a brief overview of the matter. The Chair recognized Mr. James McDermott who indicated that the Church's Architect has noted the nearly \$2 million in structural improvements needed to the building. Mr. McDermott stated that given the extensive damage, the Church cannot consider a lease as the economics will not work under the current proposal. Mr. McDermott state that the Church may come back when final figures are available and asked that the Town reconsider their plans for a lease and selling the property instead.

There being no questions or comments, the Chair thanked Mr. McDermott for the presentation.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- a) Update on Town Manager's Evaluation: the Chair announced that the Town Manager's Composite will be presented at the September 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting and not tonight due to the fact that the Manager had been out of town and not able to meet to discuss the evaluations.
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:
- a) Revised Public Works Committee [report](#) for Trash and Recycling Issues – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. The Chair recognized Councilor Falkoff who read the revised portion of the report. Councilor Falkoff moved to accept the revised report, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:
- b) Motion to adopt Trash and Recycling policy guidance items 1 to 6 for the DPW to develop its plan.

The Chair recognized Councilor Falkoff who stated that the new trash collection policy would allow each household a large trash toter and a large recycling toter. Councilor Falkoff read items 1-6 in the Public Works Committee report.

The Chair stated that he wanted to make sure that the Council had a full discussion on this matter before guidance is given to the Superintendent of Public Works.

Councilor Lawn spoke against a policy that requires residents to call the Public Works department for bulky items left at the curb each week.

Mr. Mee, Superintendent of Public Works indicated that one of the proposals could include a trash pickup with a side loader which will take bulky items each week from residents. However, Mr. Mee stated that the Committee had discussed a single stream program to encourage recycling and limit the bulky items by having a cost associated with it.

Councilor Lenk stated that she looks forward to a new system in place, but that people have gotten used to putting out bulky items. She stated that in the town of Newton, 5 bulky items are allowed each week with a call placed to the town in advance. She noted that moving forward she would like to have a phased in approach and not institute something abruptly.

Councilor Donohue asked if the new recycling center can take bulky items; and asked about a sticker program for bulky items.

Mr. Mee stated that he can phase in a plan; but transporting bulky items to a recycling center can be difficult for people.

Vice President Corbett stated that this should be rolled out in a reasonable, affordable and acceptable way so as not to encourage illegal dumping.

Councilor Kounelis stated that single stream recycling should not be burdensome or inconvenient. She asked, how is the average resident going to deal with smaller bulky items when they have become accustomed to putting these items out to trash. She noted that she cannot support items 1-6 as written.

The Manager stated that item 9C and #4 will result in further dialogue with no firm decision being made and with a referral to subcommittee for more discussion.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that there is a need to give guidance to the DPW on how to write a plan so that a contract can be awarded. He noted that tiered fees for bulky items can be discussed in subcommittee.

Councilor Lenk stated that a certain number of bulky items should be allowed each week for free with a restriction placed on large scale clean outs.

Councilor Lawn stated that we should not make this complicated.

The Chair stated that we cannot burden departments that are already understaffed. He further indicated that residents will see this as another tax imposed on them and urged that the subcommittee come up with a reasonable compromise.

The Manager suggested that the Council vote the items that are acceptable, such as item 2 – no selling of bags;

Vice President Corbett suggested voting general issues but hold separate for referral: fees, fines, and enforcement issues.

Pat Gold, Duff Street – stated that the Village is not protected against others who dump goods in their dumpsters, such as tires, white goods, etc. She asked that the Council consider the Village and their predicament before making a decision on banning bulky items from weekly trash pickups.

Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – concurred with the dumping issues.

Councilor Falkoff stated that item 4 is not just about bulky items but how to handle people who don't follow the rules. She suggested that a spokesperson from the Village provide a presentation to the Council regarding their concerns about illegal dumping.

**MOTION:** Councilor Falkoff moved to approve the 6 policy guidance items except those related to fees, fines and bulky items, seconded by Vice President Corbett.

Councilor Donohue indicated that the new trash system is being established to help control costs and save taxpayers monies.

Vice President Corbett added that this is about changing people's habits with bulky items; many nonprofits will gladly take these items.

**VOTE:** The Motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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) Motion to refer the review and updating of rules, regulations, ordinances and fines covering residential and business trash disposal to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer item C jointly to Public Works and Rules & Ordinances, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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](#) on the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Process. The Chair recognized Councilor Lenk who read the resolution. Councilor Donohue moved to adopt the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Process, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Kounelis asked that the Administration make sure that Watertown is represented and kept apprised of the Belmont Street/Trapelo

Road reconstruction project that is being undertaken by the Town of Belmont. She noted that the Town of Belmont has also requested that Templeton Parkway become a one-way street.

Councilor Kounelis asked that the Administration make sure that Watertown is kept apprised of any developments or meetings regarding a proposal to close two post offices in Town.

#### 11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

1. The last Summer Concert is scheduled for this Thursday.
2. Yard Waste Dates: August 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.
3. Check has been received from the Wheelabrator settlement
4. Fire Chief Orangio had been appointed by Governor Patrick to head the Madeline Amy Sweeney Civilian Bravery Committee 2011.

#### 12. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – none noted.

#### 13. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Chair announced the following:

The Watertown Community Foundation's 8<sup>th</sup> year in sponsoring Block Parties with funding up to \$200.00 per party.

The Watertown Community Foundation is accepting applications for \$500.00 grants for the Watertown Riverfront.

Several former members of the Watertown Girls Field Hockey team are running in the Nike Marathon San Francisco in honor of retired firefighter Mike Nichols. Donations are welcome.

#### 14. PUBLIC FORUM

Rena Baskin – stated that residents can Free Recycle their unwanted bulk items.

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Donohue moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, 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 by unanimous voice vote on September 13, 2011.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President