



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, November 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, 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:** [October 25, 2011](#). Vice President Corbett moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilor Lawn 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 Chair congratulated incumbent Councilors in their re-election as well as newly elected District D Councilor Kenneth Woodland. He also congratulated the Library of Trustees and School Committee who won and noted that he looks forward to working with everyone in the next two years.

The Chair indicated that the Charter Amendments which appeared on the election ballot Tuesday evening were passed by voters. The matter was the subject of an extensive year long public process, he noted. The Chair indicated that the Amendments were also reviewed and approved by the Attorney General, as required by law. Also required by law was the mailing of the full text which was provided to each household. He

noted regretfully that the mailing was delayed and he apologized for that. He noted that he will be looking into what caused the delay and will report the findings to the full Town Council.

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

a) Public Hearing and vote on a [petition](#) by NSTAR requesting permission to install approximately **2 feet** of conduit at pole # 16/34 in Pleasant Street in order to provide new underground electric service for new four story apartment building at 270 Pleasant Street. The Chair recognized Sheila Gillis, NSTAR representative who provided a review of the petition. The Chair opened up the hearing to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that although he has no problem with this petition, a resident did call him with a complaint regarding a light pole which was knocked down on Baptist Walk during hurricane Irene. Councilor Piccirilli indicated that NSTAR needs to disconnect the power to allow the Town to fix the pole. He asked that NSTAR contact the Manager this week on the matter.

Councilor Kounelis spoke in concern with depressions made by trenches and their impact on the streets down the road. She asked that the filling of the trenches be made more secure.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the petition, seconded by Vice President Corbett 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.

b) Public hearing and vote on a [petition](#) by NSTAR requesting permission to install approximately **4 feet** of conduit at pole # 16/18 in Pleasant Street in order to provide new underground electric service for new four story apartment building at 140 Pleasant Street. The Chair recognized Sheila Gillis, NSTAR representative who provided a brief review of the petition. The Chair opened up the hearing to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the petition, seconded by Vice President Corbett 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.

The Chair expressed his appreciation to NSTAR in advance, for getting back to the Manager this week on the Baptist Walk light pole matter.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a) [First Reading](#) on a proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. The Chair recognized the Manager who provided a brief overview of the 8 items within the Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. It was noted that the matter will be advertised in the local paper and placed on the November 22nd agenda for a public hearing and vote.
- b) First Reading on a proposed Order allocating the property tax levy among or between property classes for Fiscal Year 2012.
- c) [First Reading](#) on a proposed Order setting optional tax exemptions for Fiscal Year 2012.

The Manager also provided a brief overview of agenda items b and c noting that the Town, since Fiscal Year 2002 has voted a 175% shift from the residential to the commercial property taxes resulting in a lower tax rate for residents; along with a 20% shift which, if adopted, grants a discount to owner occupied properties. The Manager outlined the various clauses in 100% property tax exemptions over statutory levels. The matters will be advertised in the local paper and placed on the November 22nd agenda for a full public hearing and vote.

First Reading and referral to Subcommittee on a proposed [Ordinance](#) regarding Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Grading. The Chair recognized Steven Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning who provided a brief overview of the proposed Ordinance. He noted that this is the second of three ordinances dealing with Storm Water Management. Councilor Lawn moved to refer the matter to Rules and Ordinances. Councilor Falkoff asked for a friendly amendment to refer the matter jointly to Public Works and Rules and Ordinances for discussion and a report back to the full Council, 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 voting in the affirmative.

8. COMMITTEE REPORT:

- a) Committee on Public Works [report](#) on a Recycling Center; Updates on Coolidge Square Study; Mt. Auburn Street Study and the Roads Program – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. Councilor Falkoff moved to Table the minutes until the next Town Council meeting, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli 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.

9. NEW BUSINESS: None noted.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER: the Chair recognized the Manager who provided an in-depth presentation of the [Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2013](#).

The Chair thanked the Manager and his team for putting together a well done document.

11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Kounelis requested that the Council be copied on all correspondence related to vendors responding to street light repair issues.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Lawn announced that Wood Partners will be before the Planning Board tomorrow night at 7:00 pm regarding a development at Gore Estate property.

Councilor Kounelis announced that the Post Office will hold a public hearing on post office closing on November 10th at 6:00 pm at the Middle School.

The Chair announced that a celebration will be held at the Veterans Post on Grove Street to recognize Veterans Day, Friday at 11:00 am. The public is welcome.

13. PUBLIC FORUM: None noted.

The Chair called for a Moment of Silence in honor of our Veterans.

14. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Donohue moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded Vice President Corbett 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.

Addendum

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted on November 22, 2011 by unanimous voice vote.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President