



## 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, JANUARY 11, 2012 AT 7:15PM 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, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas. Councilor Lenk was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ORGANIZATION:**
  - a. **Election of a Vice President:** Councilor Donohue nominated Stephen Corbett as Vice President of the Town Council, seconded by Councilor Woodland.

Councilor Falkoff nominated Vincent Piccirilli as Vice President of the Town Council, seconded by Councilor Kounelis.

Upon a roll call vote on the nomination of Stephen Corbett; the motion was adopted by a 6-2 vote with Councilors Donohue, Palomba, Piccirilli, Woodland, Corbett and Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilors Falkoff and Kounelis voting no.

Councilor Piccirilli thanked Councilor Falkoff for the nomination but noted that he is very happy with the job Councilor Corbett did last term and is happy to support him for another term.

Vice President Corbett thanked Councilors for their support and noted that he considers the position an honor.

b. **Selection of Seating Assignments:** The Chair noted that he has asked Vice President Corbett to select a seating assignment on behalf of Councilor Lenk.

- c. Adoption of [Current Rules](#) of the Town Council as Temporary Rules of the Town

Council. Councilor Donohue moved to adopt the Rules as temporary rules; seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

d. Adoption of prior [Resolution](#) authorizing issuance of Proclamations. Vice President Corbett moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

4. EXAMINATION OF MINUTES: [December 6<sup>th</sup>](#) and [December 15<sup>th</sup>](#). Councilor Piccirilli moved the December 6<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the minutes of December 15<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

5. PUBLIC FORUM: The Chair recognized:

1. Robert Erickson, former Veterans' Agent – spoke in support of the hiring of a full time Veterans' officer and noted that the hiring process has gone on too long and that the town is in violation of Mass General Laws by not having a full time officer.
2. Steve Feldon, Waverley Avenue – spoke in support of hiring a full time Veterans' officer and noted that he has had to appear before the Town Council numerous times fighting on behalf of the Veterans' office.
3. Rick Moralle, Shutt Detachment – noted that currently there is no communication with respect to Veterans' needs with the vacant position. He asked the Town Council to step forward and ensure a person is hired.
4. Joe Couquette – stated that he has heard rumors regarding the hiring of a regional officer, which is illegal. He asked that the Council do the right thing and hire a full time officer for Watertown.
5. Thomas Thibaut, Retirement Board member and firefighter – spoke in support of a full time Veterans' officer and noted that there are many firefighters that are veterans.

6. Marilyn Devaney, 98 Westminster Avenue – spoke in support of the hiring of a full time Veterans’ officer and read a [statement](#) regarding the Charter process.
7. Thomas Thibaut also spoke in support of a SAFER grant program for the Fire Department and noted that Fire Chief must have the permission of the Town Council and Manager in order to apply.

The Manager stated that he is committed to providing the highest level of services for our veterans and that the town will move forward with the hiring of a full time officer but would like to keep all options open with respect to the formation of veterans’ services that Watertown is hosting and that he will speak to the Veterans’ Council before moving forward with further dialogue regarding the matter.

Mr. Erickson acknowledged the push for regionalized services in this area and stated that it will not diminish services or affect the hiring of a full time officer for Watertown. If the district idea will enhance services then it is in Watertown’s favor.

#### 6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

The President read the [Committee Assignments for 2012](#).

The President thanked sponsors of the 2012 Inaugural Ceremony and noted that acknowledgements letters will be sent on behalf of Councilors.

The President stated that the town is well underway in its undertaking of the Superintendent’s search process.

The President read a [statement](#) regarding the Town Charter process.

#### 7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a. First Reading on a proposed [Ordinance](#) amending the Fiscal Year 2012 compensation of the Town Manager. The Chair read the Manager’s compensation which will have a full public hearing and vote on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Committee on Public Works [report](#) on Posting of Hours on Parking Meters – Councilor Falkoff. Councilor Falkoff read the Committee report. Vice President Corbett moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli.

Councilor Kounelis asked if the Wells Avenue municipal lot falls under the 24 hour operation status.

Mr. Mee stated that yes it does although it may not be currently enforced on a twenty four hour operation.

Councilor Kounelis stated that she would not support a 24 hour municipal lot for this location as it functions as parking for four churches in the area.

Councilor Falkoff concurred with Councilor Kounelis and suggested that the Wells Avenue lot be treated like a street meter.

The Chair indicated that the Council has no authority in determining that; as it falls under the jurisdiction of the Traffic Commission.

Attorney Reich concurred with the Chair and stated that the Council can only make a recommendation to the Traffic Commission.

Councilor Piccirilli spoke in support of no policy change but would like the labeling of posting notices to be consistent and noted that in future talks the issue of parking can be discussed within the Economic Development and Planning subcommittee.

Councilor Falkoff moved that the Traffic Officer and Manager clarify the parking rules and whatever they are make the meters reflect that.

Vice President Corbett stated that we should not arbitrarily treat one municipal parking lot different than another and that there should be consistency and suggested that matter be sent back to committee.

Upon a request by Councilor Falkoff to elaborate on the reasoning behind a 24 hour parking lot, Mr. Mee stated that the municipal parking lot should be maintained as a 24 hour operation in order to create greater turnover for businesses and for fairness.

Councilor Palomba asked Councilor Falkoff to accept a friendly amendment that we move to adopt item #1 and re-refer item #2 to subcommittee.

With respect to item #1, Councilor Piccirilli indicated that the updated document by the Traffic Commission has inconsistencies and warrants further discussion at the committee level.

Councilor Falkoff withdrew her previous motion. Councilor Palomba withdrew his friendly amendment.

Councilor Donohue moved to re-refer the matter back to Public Works, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

#### 9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

A. The Manager provided a brief overview of the Submission of the Fiscal Year 2013 Capital Improvement Program. Vice President Corbett moved to refer the CIP to Budget Fiscal Oversight subcommittee, seconded by Councilor Woodland

and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Upon a request from the Manager, Mr. Mee provided a brief overview of the newly installed blue reflective hydrant markers that have been placed off the center line to designate where each fire hydrant is located along the streets. He noted that it was very cost effective at \$44,000.00.

Upon a request from the Manager, Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer a matter regarding Fire Services Charges and pipe sizes to the Public Works subcommittee, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

The Manager stated that a press release have gone out regarding the new emergency service system. Residents who have a listed phone number will receive their emergency notifications automatically. Residents who have cell phones or a blocked landline can sign up online or reaching Chief Orangio by phone.

#### 10. NEW BUSINESS:

The Chair asked for a motion to refer the Council Rules to Rules and Ordinances subcommittee for review and recommendation. Councilor Piccirilli moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

The Chair asked for a motion to refer the Issuances of Proclamations resolution to Rules and Ordinances subcommittee for review and recommendation. Vice President Corbett moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

The Chair asked for a motion to refer the evaluation of the Town Auditor and Council Clerk to Personnel and Town Organization subcommittee. Councilor Donohue moved the matter, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

#### 11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Falkoff read a list of updated [Request for Information](#) for the Town Manager.

Councilor Kounelis read a [request](#) regarding the status of the east branch library.

The Chair asked the Manager to follow up on the SAFER grant.

#### 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Kounelis announced ongoing discussions pertaining to the Trapelo Road project. The timeline should be adhered to so that the project is not delayed she noted.

Councilor Donohue announced the Annual Spelling Bee on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School.

Councilor Palomba announced Martin Luther King Unity Breakfast on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Hellenic Center.

Councilor Falkoff announced public [meeting dates](#) in Newton, Waltham and Cambridge regarding MBTA route changes that will affect Watertown as well as other communities. She asked that the information be posted on the Town website.

Councilor Falkoff moved to refer the matter to the State, Federal and Regional Government subcommittee, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

#### 13. PUBLIC FORUM:

Pat Gold, Duff Street – reiterated her request for a copy of the energy efficiency survey as the Council on Aging undertakes a review of their budget. Ms. Gold also thanked Mr. Mee and Representative Hecht for their assistance in a court case against National Grid regarding damage done by the utility company to the Village condominium property in the amount of \$25,000.

14. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Donohue moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B.

Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, 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 unanimous voice vote on January 24, 2012.

Mark S. Sideris

[Addendum](#)