



## 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

Aaron Dushku,  
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

Kenneth M. Woodland,  
District D Councilor

### TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014 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 Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, 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. **EXAMINATION OF MINUTES:** [February 25<sup>th</sup>](#). Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of February 25<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM:** The Chair recognized the following:
  1. Eileen Kurboski provided a brief overview of the dangers of [Plastics](#).
  2. Joe Lenvendusky spoke to the issue of bad MBTA service and in support of the town being proactive in addressing the issue.
  3. John Franchot, Birch Road – spoke for the need of more kiosk for Charlie Cards and in support of expanding MBTA service.
  4. Pam Gorgone – stated that MBTA service has gone down hill.
5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

The Chair stated that the School has appointed the following to the Technology and Communication Information Group: Michael Shepard, Robert LaRoche and George Skuse.

6. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

- a) [Public hearing and vote](#) on a Proposed Loan Order authorizing the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Town Manager to borrow monies in the amount of \$300,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority for the construction, reconstruction, and improvements of municipal outdoor recreational and athletic facilities at 552 Main Street Park, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; which sum shall be in addition to the amount of \$183,000, which has previously been appropriated for park improvements and included in the tax levy.

The Chair recognized the Manager who provided a brief overview of the Loan Order. Mr. Peter Centola, Recreation Director also briefly spoke to the issue. It was noted by Mr. Centola that there have been more than eight public meetings on this project and that there was enormous input from the public. Mr. Centola indicated that the proposed outdoor facility is projected to begin in April with a completion date of September. He spoke in support of the fiscally sound loan order and asked for the Council's support.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved the Loan Order as presented, seconded by Councilor Woodland.

Councilor Woodland spoke in support of the project noting the many public meetings that were held and the input from the public. He thanked Mr. Centola on the process and the abutters for their input.

Councilor Lenk spoke in support of the project and thanked everyone who participated in this project which she noted is a great addition and fully accessible park.

Vice President Corbett spoke in support of the project and noted all the public input and dialogue that went into this.

Councilor Kounelis spoke in support of the project noting that it was fully vetted by the BFO subcommittee.

Councilor Piccirilli spoke in support of the project noting the tremendous amount of input from the public.

Councilor Falkoff spoke in support of the project and asked what type of maintenance will be required for the "rain garden".

Mr. Centola and Councilor Lenk spoke to the question and indicated that rain gardens are built to be low to no maintenance.

The Chair echoed the previous comments regarding the amount of input that went into this project from the public and spoke in support of the loan order.

The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Committee on State, Federal and Regional Government [report](#) and action on a proposed citizen resolution in support of the MBTA riding public of Watertown; and the establishment of a task force on public transportation – Angeline B. Kounelis, Chair. Councilor Kounelis read the committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

**ACTION ITEM AND VOTE:** Councilor Kounelis moved to send a letter to Dr. Scott including the six points outlined in the committee report, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Dushku thanked town leaders for addressing this matter and also a thank you to Mr. Joe Levendusky for stepping up to the plate in bringing this to the forefront.

b) Committee on Economic Development and Planning [report](#) and action on appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals; status of the [Comprehensive Plan](#); and Pleasant Street Corridor – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair. Councilor Corbett read the committee report. Councilor Lenk moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Vice President Corbett announced that he will be stepping out of the Council Chamber and recusing himself from discussion or vote on the ZBA appointments in order to avoid any conflict of interest.

## **ACTION ITEMS AND VOTES:**

Councilor Piccirilli moved the re-appointment of Christopher Heep, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative. Vice President Stephen P. Corbett was not present.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the appointment of John Gannon, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative. Vice President Stephen P. Corbett was not present.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the appointment of David Ferris, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative. Vice President Stephen P. Corbett was not present.

Vice President Corbett returned to the Council Chamber and took his seat.

Vice President Corbett moved to formally support asking the Administration to direct Mr. Magoon to draft proposed zoning changes to the Pleasant Street corridor, seconded by Councilor Woodland.

Councilor Palomba asked what kind of changes and would it need to be limited to the Pleasant Street Corridor.

Mr. Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning stated that the 4 changes would be: setbacks; tiered step-backs; access to the river; and designation of areas strictly commercial and that the proposed ordinance would include a first reading and referral back to the planning board for their recommendation.

Councilor Dushku stated that he would like any proposed step-backs in the zoning to happen on both sides of the developments -on the front-side as well as on the back-side (against the neighborhoods or the river). He mentioned the Harvard University development on Western Ave as an example of this. He also stated that he would like to see more pass-through access ways in new residential developments to tie them to the community more -not to create dead-ends.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that these are all recommendations included in the Comprehensive Plan but that it is important to act on this as soon as possible and not wait until the CP process is finished.

Councilor Falkoff and Lenk spoke in support of moving quickly.

Vice President Corbett spoke in support of the draft ordinance being referred back to subcommittee for public input.

Councilor Woodland spoke in support of the proposed changes and thanked Mr. Magoon for addressing the issue with urgency.

Councilor Palomba noted his concern about Arsenal Street and other developments in town.

Councilor Falkoff pointed out that in approving the zoning amendment there would be at least two public hearings; one at the Planning Board meeting and at the Town Council meeting.

The Chair thanked the committee for addressing this issue and stated that what we have on Pleasant Street is not what the Council had envisioned when they supported the Pleasant Street Corridor project. He noted that they had envisioned more of a mixed use spoke in support of reserving some of the spaces for commercial use.

The motion was adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

- c) Committee on Public Works report on a [Dog Park](#) and [Streets and Sidewalks](#) – Cecilia Lenk, Chair. Councilor Lenk read the committee reports. Councilor Woodland moved to approve the report, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

With respect to the dog park, it was noted by Mr. Magoon that the proposed dog park at Walker Pond will happen regardless of a Council vote.

**ACTION ITEMS AND VOTES:**

Councilor Lenk moved that the Town present a detailed proposal, including a budget and timeline, for the establishment of a dog park at How Park and that the Town continue to investigate the possibility of establishing a dog park at Arsenal Park or Filippello, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Lenk moved the proposed list of street/road improvements and overlays, seconded by Vice President Corbett.

Councilor Dushku asked if any of the streets on this list were holdovers from last years' list.

Councilor Lenk stated that the only road left was Union Street and indicated that the committee tries to get the list of roads as early as possible and are on a different process now.

Councilor Palomba indicated that the list was designed to achieve the goal of completing all streets/roads on the list.

The Chair indicated that he raised concern that last year Union Street did not get completed and as a result the committee came up with an achievable plan.

The motion was adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

8. NEW BUSINESS – none noted.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

- a) Request for Confirmation of reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners. So referred.
- b) [Associate Member to the Planning Board](#). The Manager provided a brief overview of a matter regarding appointing an alternate member to the Planning Board.

The Chair spoke in support of referring this back to subcommittee for further discussion.

Attorney Reich read the Zoning Act, Chapter 40A, section 12 and noted that after further study of the matter it was found that such an appointed associate member would not be able to discuss or vote on any matter that was not related to a Pleasant Street Corridor special permit application and that asking a member of the public to volunteer on such a limited basis would not be practical.

Councilor Falkoff asked if the Council could draft a special act for legislation.

Attorney Reich stated yes but more discussion would be needed.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that there needs to be more discussion on this perhaps at the subcommittee level in order to come up with a solution for the Planning Board.

The Chair spoke in support of the referral and to revisit the Planning Board being the special permit authority on the Pleasant Street Corridor.

Councilor Kounelis concurred about going back to a two board process which worked well for many years.

Councilor Lenk concurred with having the matter referred back to committee.

Councilor Palomba moved the referral to the committee of Economic Development and Planning, seconded by Councilor Dushku and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, 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 he has appointed Mr. Dennis Duff to the Logan Advisory CAC committee with Harvey Steiner as an alternate.

#### 10. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Dushku asked for an update on the status of the Stormwater Ordinance; and vacant positions at Public Works of Town Engineer and Finance Officer.

#### 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Kounelis announced a list of projects earmarked in two pending versions of the state's Transportation Bond Bill in the link below:

<http://willbrownsberger.com/forums/topic/transportation-bond-bill-local-projects/>

Councilor Dushku announced a 5k race on April 19<sup>th</sup> with more details to come in the following weeks.

Councilor Dushku announced the Lowell School PTO Auction currently online.

Councilor Palomba announced the following events:

Watertown Community Gardens, Wednesday 6pm at the Middle School.

202 Arsenal Street project, Thursday at 7pm at the Library.

Watertown Education Foundation fundraiser, March 14<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm.

School Committee subcommittee meeting on budget; March 17<sup>th</sup> at the high school.

Music Fest, March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School.

The Chair announced an outdoor concert on April 19<sup>th</sup> with details to be provided in the coming weeks.

#### 12. PUBLIC FORUM:

Gaye Hilsenrath, 36 Mt. Auburn Street – spoke to the issue of a water bill.

13. ADJOURNMENT AND EXECUTIVE SESSION: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Woodland moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm and enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as such discussion in public may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, 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, by voice vote on March 25, 2014.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President