



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, MAY 27, 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 Valerie Papas, Council Clerk.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. EXAMINATION OF MINUTES:** [May 13th](#). Council Piccirilli moved the minutes, 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** – none noted.
- 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
The Chair stated that the Memorial Day parade on Monday was a wonderful event and thanked all those involved.

MOTION AND VOTE:

Councilor Piccirilli moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward agenda item 8A, seconded by Councilor Falkoff 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.

- 8a) Committee on Economic Development and Planning [report](#) on the [Comprehensive Plan](#); the [Pleasant Street Corridor](#) and [report](#) and action on appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair. Vice President Corbett read the first

committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Falkoff.

Councilor Dushku stated that there were a number of items under a catch all of “miscellaneous referrals”. He stated that he was interested in some of those items; one of which was referred by himself and would have attended had he known that it was on the agenda.

Vice President Corbett noted the concern and stated that it was a fair point.

Councilor Dushku inquired about the process of changing zoning. Mr. Magoon stated that that was strictly a staff selection of properties based on land use map.

Councilor Dushku stated that we might want to consider something a little more participatory.

Councilor Dushku stated with respect to “step backs” from the main street so there is no “canyonization effect” it also pertains to the neighborhood side.

The Chair stated; that can be raised with the Planning Board as this is only a first reading.

The report 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.

ACTION ITEM:

Vice President moved to maintain the present composition of the Planning Board and not add an associate member, 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.

Vice President Corbett read the second committee report on the appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Kounelis 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 ITEMS:

Vice President Corbett moved the appointment of Mr. Chander to the Zoning Board of Appeals, 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 moved the appointment of Ms. Donato to the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Councilor Kounelis 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.

6. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION:

a) [Informational Presentation](#) and update by [Dr. Beverly A. Scott](#), MBTA General Manager. The Chair recognized State Representative Jonathan Hecht who introduced Dr. Scott. Following Dr. Scott's presentation, the Chair opened up the presentation to councilors and the public for comments or questions.

Councilor Palomba asked about a stop in Brighton being put on hold. Dr. Scott stated that it is not off the agenda.

Councilor Lenk asked how to get more routes for the new areas being developed. Dr. Scott stated that it is about service planning and community building with charettes.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that a lot of the millennial do not have cars and more buses are needed during peak hours as Watertown is a working part of the inner city.

Councilor Kounelis echoed the comments of riders; who need reliable and consistent bus service. She commended everyone who has been part of the process.

Christine Logan Kim – stated that she uses the 70 and 57 buses to go the Boston University. Going there is no problem; bus coming home takes too long. She asked that the A line; be put back.

Joe Levendusky – the real proof is what we can do together. He asked for more buses during peak hours and to fix what is wrong now and re-envision the future.

Alexandra Mayher – asked for a dedicated bus lane on Mt. Auburn Street.

Sybella DeCarlo – she stated that she works with employers looking to hire along Arsenal Street and want public transportation for their employees.

Jennyann Burlison – asked if the Watertown yard is a viable place to park the buses and if they can run 70 buses that just come to Watertown.

Bill McQuillan, Boylston Properties – stated that they will be building a hotel on Arsenal Street and stated that we should pay for what we need with respect to bus services; by increasing more contributions to the MBTA for more service.

The Chair asked for a vote to sign on to a letter to the governor regarding the intersection of Mt. Auburn Street Fresh Pond Parkway. So moved by Councilor Dushku, seconded by Councilor Falkoff 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 Chair called for a five minute recess.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a) [First Reading](#) and referral to the Planning Board regarding three proposed amendments to the text of the Watertown Zoning Ordinance and map:

To establish regulations related to the permitting of locations for [medical marijuana](#) facilities in Town, and rescind the previous moratorium; to require [community meetings](#) for projects of a certain size prior to submittal for Board approval; to consider a series of adjustments to the [Pleasant Street Corridor District](#), including increased setbacks, additional step backs, and areas where only commercial uses would be allowed.

The Chair provided a first reading and recognized Mr. Steve Magoon, Community Planning and Development Director who provided a brief overview of the three proposed amendments.

Councilor Falkoff moved the referrals, 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.

- b) [Resolution](#) approving the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the amount of \$1,000 from Watertown Savings Bank to the Watertown Fire Department which will be used to defray some of the costs incurred for the funeral of fallen Boston Fire Lieutenant Edward Walsh. The Manager provided a brief overview. Vice President Corbett moved the resolution, 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 Chair acknowledged and thanked Mr. Dean for the \$1,000 contribution on behalf of Watertown Savings Bank.

- c) [Resolution](#) approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property of a Thermal Imager Camera System and related training on said equipment from Fire Tech and Safety of New England in partnership with Argus Thermal Imagers to the Watertown Police Department. The Manager provided a brief overview.

Councilor Dushku moved the resolution, 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.

8. COMMITTEE REPORT:

a) Committee on Economic Development and Planning [report](#) on the [Comprehensive Plan](#); the [Pleasant Street Corridor](#) and [report](#) and action on appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair. **Previously taken up.**

b) Public Works [report](#) and action on an updated [Summer 2014 Roads Project List](#) and [memorandum](#) – Cecilia Lenk, Chair. Councilor Lenk read the committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Kounelis.

Councilor Falkoff questioned the yearly evaluation of streets. Mr. Mee stated that it should be updated yearly due to extreme winter conditions that have taken a toll on the roads.

Councilor Dushku asked about gas pressure line problems. Mr. Mee noted gas pressure problems at the Lowell School and the Public Works facility and indicated that National Grid stated that there is a problem with one of the lines which is being investigated and resolved.

Vice President Corbett inquired about an amendment to the report.

Councilor Lenk concurred and moved to approve the new list of streets for repair in 2014.

The report as amended 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.

ACTION ITEMS:

Councilor Lenk moved that the public works prepare a priority list of streets for 2015 and forward this list to National Grid to complete gas work on these streets in 2014; and investigate water main/sewer drainage needs, seconded by Councilor Kounelis 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 to approve the Arlington/Orchard/School streets mill overlay as recommended, 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.

c) Public Safety interim [report](#) and [attachment](#) on Management and Operations Study of the Watertown Fire Department – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. Councilor Falkoff read the committee interim report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept 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.

9. NEW BUSINESS – none noted.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

a) [Energy Manager Grant Award](#)

Councilor Dushku moved to refer to Public Works subcommittee; the full time energy manager position, 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.

School budget information will be forwarded this Thursday, May 29th.

11. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Dushku asked for an update on the hiring of a Town Engineer.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Woodland announced – Relay for Life, Saturday at 3pm.

Councilor Palomba announced – Project Literacy event on May 29th at 6:30 Arsenal Park picnic; annual Watertown Citizens for Peace Justice and Equality Sunday at 5:00 pm Coolidge School apartments ACLU guest speaker.

Councilor Dushku announced Saturday night 1st Parish Church dinner. All welcome.

.13. PUBLIC FORUM – Thomas Thibaut Firefighter and President of Local 1347 thanked Mr. Ronald Dean for the generous donation on behalf of the Watertown Savings Bank to the Watertown Fire Department.

14. There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Woodland moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Councilor Lenk 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.

[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 June 10, 2014 by unanimous voice vote.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President