



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, JUNE 10, 2014 @ 6:30 PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL: A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 6:30 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber. 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 Attorneys Mark Reich and Joe Fair and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 pm: To discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining with the Town Hall Associates Union as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position. Vice President Corbett moved the executive session as stated above, seconded by Councilor Woodland 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.

3. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: 7:15 pm.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. EXAMINATION OF MINUTES: [May 27, 2014](#). Councilor 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.

6. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – none noted.

8. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

a) [Public hearing](#) and vote on a petition by Zayo Group and Athena Arsenal LLC for the intersection of School and Arsenal Streets requesting permission to install two 4 inch conduits from manhole #02521 approximately 40 feet east to the crosswalks, and install two 4 inch conduits within the crosswalk from the northerly side of Arsenal Street approximately 18 feet and then install four 4 inch conduits across the remainder of Arsenal Street to its southerly side approximately 48 feet to the property line.

The Chair recognized Mr. Steve Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning who provided a brief overview. The Chair opened up the hearing to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

It was noted that the conduit is fiber optics and that the work will take approximately two weeks to complete.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the petition as presented, 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.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward **agenda item 10g**, 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.

10 g) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer in order to fund an Agreement with the Town Hall Associates, SEIU, Local 888 covering the period of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016. The Manager provided a brief overview of a transfer and [amendment I to the budget](#) related to the Town Hall Associates Agreement.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilor Lenk 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.

9. THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND FINANCE:

The Chair read an [opening statement](#) with respect to the budget process.

a) Public Hearing and Votes on the [Fiscal Year 2015 Budget](#) and [Related Matters](#). The Chair recognized the Manager who provided an overview of collective bargaining agreements and the school budget [amendments II and III](#) which have been incorporated into the budget numbers.

The Chair opened up the hearing to the public and recognized:

1. Amy Rich, 17 Nyack Street – spoke in support of more funding for schools now.
2. 3rd grader Eden Sally, 24 Merrifield Avenue – spoke in support of schools being a higher priority.
3. Isaac Van Wessal, Merrifield Avenue - asked the Council not to underfund the schools noting that quality of schools impacts prosperity of the town in the long term.
4. Tamara 48 Barnard Avenue – noted that Watertown families are moving to Newton and Belmont in search of better schools.
5. Anna Yu, Marshall Street – stated that she is disappointed that the schools compromised for less funds. She asked that more funding be provided to schools. She spoke against increasing funds towards pension liability.
6. Debra Neiman, 6 Oliver Street – stated that Watertown has changed and will continue to change with people willing to challenge the status quo. She asked for more funding for schools.
7. Marie Schick, 12 Theruer Park – stated that change happens and it should not be ignored. She asked for more funding for schools.
8. Candice Miller, Westminster Avenue – noted that the town has been apathetic towards public education; Watertown is not meeting minimum standards in education. She stated that we will not go away and will work harder to make our public schools a priority.
9. John Donohue, Standish Road – stated that new growth projects will help fund our schools without burdening the whole community with tax overrides.

There being no further comments, the Chair closed the public hearing.

The Chair recognized Town Auditor Thomas Tracy who read each line item of the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. It was noted that line items not “passed” are automatically adopted.

Councilors Palomba and Dushku passed on the School budget.

Councilor Palomba indicated that he had four motions to increase the school budget but realizes that he does not have the votes on the Council to use that money and therefore he will not bring them forward. He noted that he will continue to find common ground and agreement and he recommits himself for next year’s budget for the schools. He appreciated members of the school department and members of the Watertown Strong Schools who have had an impact on the school budget this year.

Councilor Dushku stated that he is not happy with the amount of money for schools in the budget but that neither side was happy and that means that there was a compromise and we have a ways to go on this. He thanked the police, fire departments for obtaining grants for extra funding which freed up monies for the schools. He thanked the community noting that everyone has heard you and that we will work hard on future agreements that effect the budget. He thanked everyone for being engaged.

Councilor Woodland stated that this is the starting point that puts us sprinting in the right direction.

Councilor Falkoff shared her joy with the large number of engaged parents and also noted her shared concern with large class sizes and indicated her commitment on working on what needs to be done in the future.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that it is commendable for asking for what you need but noted the reality of proposition 2 ½ and that taking on economic development is the path towards more monies. He stated that we all need to work together as a team and the Council is committed to that.

Councilor Lenk thanked everyone who came out tonight to participate noting that this has been very helpful in hearing from parents regarding the challenges and needs and we are committed to make this the best possible Watertown.

The Chair stated that the level of awareness has been raised, which is a good thing. He indicated that he will work with the superintendent to address class size and find a way to help reduce class size. We are one town and we will work together to solve the challenges that face us, he stated.

Councilors Palomba and Dushku withdrew their passes.

The Auditor stated that with the withdrawals as noted, the budget as read has passed.

The Auditor read Other Financing Sources – General Fund. 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.

The Chair called for a five minute recess.

The Manager provided an overview of an amendment to the Water Enterprise Budget related to Town Hall Associate contract.

The Auditor noted that the amendment is already built into these numbers. He read the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund line items. No passes were noted.

The Auditor read Other Financing Sources for the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund. Upon a roll call vote, the budget was adopted unanimously 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 Auditor announced that the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget has passed.

As a procedural matter, Councilor Falkoff moved to reconsider the budget, in the hopes that the motion does not pass, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and defeated 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 negative.

Councilor Lenk moved that the Town Council direct the Manager and Auditor to undertake a third party financial review of the general and special education school budget in order to better understand how to best proceed with future funding to meet the school's needs, seconded by Councilor Kounelis.

Councilor Falkoff inquired if the Council has the ability to do this.

The Auditor indicated that it is within his purview to look at any town budget. Attorney Fair concurred.

Councilor Palomba asked that it be done in cooperation with the school's new business director.

Councilor Lenk stated that it goes without saying.

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.

10. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a) [First Reading](#) on a proposed Order establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2015. The Chair provided a first reading and recognized the Manager who provided a brief overview of the Water and Sewer Rates and Charges and noted the matter has been advertised in the local paper for a public hearing and vote at the June 24th Town Council meeting.
- b) [First Reading](#) on a Proposed Loan Order authorizing the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$2,500,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority for the costs of road, sidewalk and wheelchair ramp reconstruction, and for the payment of other costs incidental or related thereto, including, but not limited to drainage and water service improvements, signing, pavement markings and related work as directed by the Superintendent of Public Works. The Chair provided a first reading and recognized the Manager who provided a brief overview of the Loan Order and noted the matter has been advertised in the local paper for a public hearing and vote at the June 24th Town Council meeting.
- c) [Resolution](#) authorizing the establishment of a Revolving Fund for the Drug Enforcement Task Force lease activity during Fiscal Year 2015. The Manger provided a brief overview of the resolution. Councilor Piccirilli moved the revolving fund, 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.
- d) [Resolution](#) authorizing the establishment of a Revolving Fund for the Commander's Mansion activity during Fiscal Year 2015. The Manger provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Piccirilli 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.
- e) [Resolution](#) authorizing the establishment of a Revolving Fund for the Watertown Free Public Library Printing Program activity during Fiscal Year 2015. The Manger provided a brief overview of the resolution. Councilor Piccirilli moved the revolving

fund, 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.

f) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer in the amount of \$380,000 from various Fiscal Year 2014 accounts to the Fiscal Year 2014 Transfer to Town Capital Projects Account in order to move forward with the re-roofing project and the painting of structural frames (Phase 2) of the replacement of the John A. Ryan Arena roof. The Manger provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodland 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.

g) Resolution authorizing a transfer in order to fund an Agreement with the Town Hall Associates, SEIU, Local 888 covering the period of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

Previously voted.

h) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$2,400 from the Fiscal Year 2014 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2014 Veterans Benefits Account. The Manger provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodland 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.

11. NEW BUSINESS – none noted.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

a) [Appointment of Town Attorney](#) Councilor Lenk moved to confirm the appointment of the law firm of Kopelman and Paige as town attorney, 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) [GIC Memorandum of Agreement](#)

c) [Appointment of Town Engineer](#)

13. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Falkoff inquired as to whether a homeowner who needs to repair a water main is given a list of contractors who are bonded in Watertown.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Palomba announced: June 18th – Comprehensive Review 6:30 Middle School.
June 19th – Watertown Public Transit Task Force 7:00 pm
Coolidge School Apts.

June 26th – Family Net Work Twilight Tunes – Saltonstall Park
June 29th – Watertown Community Gardens real meal 5-7 @
the Good Shepard Church.

Councilor Dushku announced: June 12th – Watertown Education Foundation (WSB) Library
June 21st – Library 5K

15. PUBLIC FORUM – Katie Coyne spoke in support of more funding for good schools with defined visions and high benchmarks and standards.

16. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Woodland moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm, seconded by Councilor Palomba 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 as amended, on June 24, 2014 by unanimous voice vote.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President