



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 24, 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, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Palomba arrived shortly after the call of the roll and Councilor Woodland was absent. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager. Councilor Lenk moved the above noted matter, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., 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:** [June 10th](#). Councilor Piccirilli moved the minutes as amended, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., 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 – 9 a) [Resolution](#) approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property of a brass plaque from Dorothy Noke, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

The Chair recognized the Manager who provided an overview of the matter and introduced artist Dorothy Noke and daughter Hilary Temple, formerly of Watertown. Police Chief Edward Deveau was also present and spoke to the matter.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

6. PUBLIC FORUM: The Chair recognized the following:

1. James Mello, Mt. Auburn Street – spoke to the issue of posting signs of poles not being removed after the announced event is over.
2. Lisa Feltner, Parker Street – submitted and spoke in support of a [petition on a moratorium](#) on large projects along Arsenal Street for up to one year while a master plan is being developed and zoning is being re-written.
3. Rena Baskin, Franklin Street – spoke to the issue of the Arsenal Park signage being too low with an obstructed view. Also stated that the Lowell school front steps are too jagged and large.
4. Roger Erickson, Chester Street – inquired about the disposition of the branch libraries.
5. Nancy Hammett, Riverside Street – spoke in support of the proposed moratorium; comprehensive discussion of the Pleasant Street corridor; forum for corridor wide issues; and put Arsenal Street ahead of the queue out of concern.
6. Barbara Ruskin – spoke in support of the proposed moratorium and concern with the process of the Comprehensive Plan.
7. Jonathan Bockian, Irving Street – spoke in support of the proposed moratorium and concern with events overtaking the community.
8. David Sprogue, Chester Street – spoke in support of the proposed moratorium and making Arsenal Street safer for bicyclist and pedestrians.
9. Michael Hayes, Charles River Road – spoke in support of the proposed moratorium and against development similar to Waltham.

There being no further comments, the Chair closed the public forum and state that the petition will be placed on a future Town Council agenda.

Steve Magoon, Planning and Community Director – state that a moratorium will not stop projects pending or in process before the Town.

Attorney Reich provided back-up of Mr. Magoon’s statement and subsequently revised his opinion in a [letter to the Town Council](#).

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

a. Re-appointment to Stormwater Advisory Committee. The Chair announced the reappointment of David Stokes.

b. Referral to Personnel on COLA adjustment for Town Auditor and Council Clerk. So moved by Councilor Piccirilli, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

8. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

a) [Public hearing](#) and vote on a proposed Order establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2015. The Manager reviewed the revenue side of the Order. The Chair recognized Town Auditor Thomas Tracy who read the proposed rates and charges.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved the proposed water and sewer rates and charges as presented, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

b) [Public hearing](#) and vote 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 Manager provided an overview of the proposed loan order. The Chair recognized Mr. Gerald S. Mee, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works who introduced the new Town Engineer Matthew Shuman.

Mr. Mee stated that roads may be closed partially in order to expedite the road improvements.

The Chair opened up the hearing to the public.

Rena Baskin – asked that the trees be protected during road improvements.

Mr. Mee noted that there is a tree protection clause on major construction projects but that this project is a mill and overlay which is not as intense and that anything at risk will be determined by the Tree Warden and Town Engineer.

There being no further comments, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the loan order, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Palomba asked for regular updates on the progress and targets for each month. He noted that closing of streets is dramatic and he is only hearing of this tonight.

Mr. Mee state that sandwich boards will be displayed and closings will only be partial. Councilors expressed their support for the project and welcomed Mr. Shuman.

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

9. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a) [Resolution](#) approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property of a brass plaque/painting from Dorothy Noke. Previously adopted.

b) [Resolution](#) approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property of a Virtual and Live-fire Training System from Corinne and Wyc Grousbeck of the Grousbeck Foundation to the Watertown Police Department. Police Chief Deveau provided a brief overview.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the Gift, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

c) [Resolution](#) approving the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the amount of \$5,000 which will be used to purchase additional equipment for and training on the Virtual and Live-fire Training System. Police Chief Deveau provided a brief overview.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

d) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$40,000 from various Fiscal Year 2014 Police Department Accounts to the Fiscal Year 2014 Police Vehicle Replacement Account. Councilor Piccirilli moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

e) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer of \$985,000 from the Fiscal Year 2014 Town Council Reserve Account to the Collective Bargaining Stabilization Fund Account. The Manager provided a brief overview. Councilor Piccirilli moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Kounelis moved to refer to Public Works subcommittee – review of protection and maintenance of planting strips, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Dushku moved to refer to Economic Development and Planning subcommittee – a discussion of an accelerated analysis and planning for residential transition zones (industrial and commercial zones that abut residential zones throughout the town) – to include a participatory dialogue with neighborhoods, seconded by Councilor Palomba.

Councilor Falkoff asked that perhaps the motion should be clarified between Councilor Dushku and the Planning Department as she is not sure how it fits in the with Comprehensive Plan process.

Councilor Kounelis asked for clarification as well.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that he is concerned about proceeding with a Comprehensive Plan on the one hand and then proceeding with this on the other hand; as it is not working together in a comprehensive way.

Councilor Lenk stated she is concerned about setting a number of different tracks and duplicating efforts and asked for additional clarification.

Councilor Falkoff stated that perhaps what Councilor Dushku is saying here is that we should fast track some parts of the Comprehensive Plan as more urgent and a priority.

Councilor Dushku explained his thought process with the motion stating that he is trying to get this before the subcommittee with a little more urgency before the long thought process begins with the Comprehensive Plan to head off another project that may come along.

The Chair stated that we have been clamoring for a Comprehensive Plan, and not having had a chance to put the plan together – would like to see the Comprehensive Plan on a fast track which would be the most beneficial way instead of a piece meal approach.

Councilor Kounelis asked about projects in process on Arsenal Street that would be exempt. Mr. Magoon stated: 202 Arsenal Street; the Saab site and the Pirolli property.

The motion was adopted by a roll call vote of 5 for and 3 against with Councilors Dushku, Falkoff, Lenk, Piccirilli, Palomba in favor and Councilors Kounelis, Corbett and Sideris against.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

a) [Proposed Clean Energy Strategies Grant](#). Councilor Lenk moved to refer the grant to Public Works subcommittee, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

b) The Manager asked that a survey by the Commission on Disability be referred to Public Works. So moved the Councilor Kounelis, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

c) The Manager announced the closing of the Town Hall on Thursday, July 3rd at 2pm due to the 4th of July holiday.

12. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Dushku asked for a nutrient report on the sewer shed.

Councilor Falkoff asked what the policy is for Watertown with respect to the Secure Community Act; and if we have implemented this law and what our experience has been.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilor Kounelis announced the following meeting: Proposal for Riverfront Park Restoration along Greenough Boulevard in Cambridge and Watertown Thursday, July 10, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Shady Hill School 56 Coolidge Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Councilor Lenk announced that the date for the opening day ceremony of the Riverfront along the Charles River Road will be announced in the near future.

Councilor Dushku announced a Pleasant Street Corridor meeting on July 1 7pm at the Police Station.

Councilor Dushku announced a charette on public transportation with Dr. Scott; August 6th at 10:00 am at the Arsenal Center for the Arts.

14. PUBLIC FORUM:

1. Rena Baskin – stated that transitional lanes were not mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Sarah Ryan, Paul Street – spoke in support of all discussions on the Comprehensive Plan and the proposed moratorium.
3. Lisa Feltner – asked if water be shut off on Chester Street for more than one day. Spoke in support of a Master plan for Arsenal Street and other streets. Arlington has a moratorium on apartment buildings which was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court.

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, 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 by unanimous voice vote on July 15, 2014.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President