



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 10, 2015 @ 6:45 PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 6:45 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 Joe Fair and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:45 PM:** Vice President Corbett moved to go into executive session for the below stated purpose, 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.

a) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation – Workers' Compensation Claim.

b) To discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining with the DPW Union, Town Hall Associates Union, Library Union, Fire Union, Police Patrol Union, Police Supervisors Union, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position.

3. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: 7:15 PM**

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

5. **EXAMINATION OF THE MINUTES:** [February 24, 2015](#). Councilor Piccirilli moved the minutes, 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.

6. PUBLIC FORUM: The Chair recognized:

Virginia Rice, 148 Acton Street – who spoke in support of small neighborhood restaurants receiving liquor licenses.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward agenda item: 9. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS: a) [Consideration and Approval](#) of submitting the Core Program Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The motion was 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.

The Chair recognized the Manager who provided a brief overview of the subject matter. The Chair recognized Dr. Jean M. Fitzgerald, Superintendent of Schools and Michael Shepard, School Committee member. Dr. Fitzgerald noted that the Core Program is primarily for projects beyond the scope of the Accelerated Repair Program, including extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction. MSBA review of Core Program SOIs will begin after the April 10, 2015 deadline. She further stated that the Core Program in question is the High School as indicated in the materials provided and as outlined in the excerpt from the Fiscal Year 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Program correspondence which was submitted on January 30, 2015.

Councilors spoke in support of the submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Councilor Piccirilli move the submission of the Statement of Interest, 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.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

a. Request for an extension of submission – Conceptual Recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Program and the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. Councilor Piccirilli moved to extend the deadline of submission of the conceptual recommendations on the FY 2016-2020 CIP from March 24th to April 14th, and to extend the deadline for submission of the budget from April 14th to April 28th, seconded by Vice President Corbett 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. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION:

a) [Information Presentation](#) on the [Open Space and Recreation Plan 2015 Update](#) - Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning Director /Assistant Town Manager. The Chair recognized Mr. Magoon who provided a brief overview of the Open Space and Recreation Plan 2015 update.

Councilor Falkoff pointed to several action items in the document dating back to 2006 and asked was this ever done, should it be done and asked if the document needed more updating to reflect where we are with the items.

Mr. Magoon stated that his staff may not have been 100% effective in catching everything that needs to be updated. He indicated that they will look over the document again and make changes before hard copies are given to the Town Council.

Councilor Dushku spoke in support of the Tree Inventory and more plantings; as well as looking at land acquisition that may become available.

Councilor Palomba asked about the dog park at Filippello Park and inquired if it would be incorporated into the document as an action item.

Mr. Magoon stated that we are not at the level of saying that there will be a dog park there but that we are considering it.

Councilor Falkoff stated that we should take out things we have no intention of doing.

Councilor Kounelis noted that comments are being made tonight about the draft document and asked that a revised hard copy be made available to the Council for viewing.

Mr. Magoon stated that he will incorporate what has been discussed tonight and make copies for those who want one.

The Chair noted that the matter will be placed on the next Town Council agenda for a public hearing and vote.

9. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS: Previously disposed of.

a) [Consideration and Approval](#) of submitting the Core Program Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Committee on Economic Development and Planning [report/ letters](#) and action on a [re-appointment](#) to the Zoning Board of Appeals – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair. Vice President Corbett read the committee report.

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

Councilor Palomba stated that 4 letters were submitted to the Committee and asked that they be included in the minutes.

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.

Vice President Corbett moved the re-appointment of Ms. Santucci-Rozzi to the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli.

Councilor Dushku stated that while he was very disappointed and disagreed with Ms. Santucci-Rozzi in and with her assumptions on how only abutters have a relevant voice on zoning projects and how she spoke about section 9.05; however he noted that Ms. Santucci-Rozzi made a very wise calculation when she realized that the CVS project would go in anyway regardless of how the board voted and as a result on her work on the board they got a lot of traffic improvements from the developer. He noted that she should not be the whipping post for Watertown's decisions on bad projects and he will support her re-appointment.

Vice President Corbett stated that Ms. Santucci-Rozzi brings to the position a great deal of expertise, is courteous and accessible and very well qualified.

Councilor Falkoff read a [statement](#) in support of the re-appointment of Ms. Santucci-Rozzi.

Councilor Lenk stated that Ms. Santucci-Rozzi has all the qualifications needed for the position and she has been consistently impressed by her skills and professionalism. She noted that board members volunteer their time and hours to undertake detailed work and that she is confident all the volunteers give it their best effort and that she is only sorry that this reappointment has become personal.

Councilor Kounelis stated that she feels badly that this reappointment has turned personal. She noted personal comments being made against councilors as well at neighborhood meetings. She noted that change and growth will happen and that it is not always perfect; but that to take it out on one person is inappropriate.

Councilor Woodland stated that Ms. Santucci-Rozzi is a very qualified individual and not agreeing with the decision of a particular Board is no reason to vilify a board member and that he will be supporting her re-appointment.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that we are very lucky to have Ms. Santucci-Rozzi on the board, as she is a long time member of the Planning Association; she is a Planning Director of another town and she grew up and lives in Watertown. He noted that she is an unpaid volunteer and that he fully supports her reappointment.

Councilor Palomba stated that there is nothing wrong with being critical of someone as long as it is done respectfully. He indicated that we need to evaluate people fully; as ZBA and Planning Board decisions are crucial. He noted that besides knowledge and understanding of zoning codes; we need members who will listen carefully to people and pick up and respond. He stated that the level of criticism this council has shown toward residents who have raised valid questions; maybe we should be thinking of what we say toward people. Councilor Palomba stated that he will vote Present on this re-appointment.

The Chair stated that members of the ZBA and Planning Board are charged with reviewing matters that come before them and that are in accordance with state statutes and town by laws and must be addressed in a manner that are consistent with the laws that are in place. That being said, he noted that we heard from many residents that the regulatory boards need help. He stated that going back to the Pleasant Street vision – that didn't work and that we needed to take another look at it. The Chair stated that we have listened to the people and we shouldn't blame boards and commissions for projects that don't work. He indicated that what we are doing now is to give the boards and commission the tools they need based on community input and that not any one person should be chastised for doing their job as not everyone is going to agree with decisions and letters; but that we need to work together as a community.

The re-appointment of Ms. Santucci-Rozzi was adopted by voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, 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 and Councilor Palomba voting Present.

b. Joint subcommittees of Rules and Ordinances; Public Safety; and Economic Development and Planning [report](#); and action on [special legislation](#); [Map Request Area](#); [Map Site Specific](#) – Kenneth Woodland, Susan Falkoff and Stephen Corbett, Chairs. Vice President Corbett read the committee report.

Councilor Lenk moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Woodland.

Councilor Falkoff asked to amend the report to note that the discussion was postponed from January 13th until tonight.

The report was adopted by unanimous voice vote as amended 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 recused himself from the vote and left the room as he stated that he is serving as a board member on an entity that may benefit from this vote.

Mr. Magoon reviewed the special legislation.

Councilor Woodland stated that the goal of the committee was to maintain the value and equity of the current licenses that are available and to make sure that the accidental market that was created by the post 1930 environment didn't hurt business owners.

Councilor Dushku spoke in support of Bring Your Own Bottles and clarified a misunderstanding around that. Samples ordinances will be discussed on April 21st.

Councilor Dushku proposed an amendment to the language; to take the license for 311 Arsenal Street and put it in another category.

Mr. Magoon suggested to list 4 for specific purposes and make 11 licenses for economic development purposes instead of 10.

Councilor Lenk stated that she would like to see the 11 licenses be unspecified.

Councilor Dushku moved the special act to state legislature as amended, 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, Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative. **It is noted that Councilor Piccirilli had left the room and recused himself from participation and the vote.**

11. NEW BUSINESS – none noted.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

a) Request for Confirmation of reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners. So referred.

b) Request for Confirmation of appointment to the Watertown Housing Authority. So referred.

The Manager announced the Veterans Office will extend hours to Tuesday evening.

The Manager announced that Snow and Ice Expenditure close to 2,000,050. April 14th meeting will propose a transfer of funds.

13. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION: Councilor Falkoff asked what the plans are to deal with the eyesore of the former recycling center.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Palomba announced Family Network - Saturday March 21st – Fair 9:30-11:30 am concert at 11:30 am.

Councilor Palomba announced Helen Robinson Wright benefit fund – Saturday March 21st 8:00 pm, First Baptist Church.

Councilor Palomba announced Family Network trying to assist three homeless families; if anyone can help it would be appreciated.

Councilor Dushku congratulated Watertown Access Corporation for the updates to their website.

Councilor Dushku announced March 15th 2pm – Zumba fund for Lowell School PTO.

Councilor Dushku announced Watertown Education Foundation Dancing with the Stars – May 1st.

Councilor Piccirilli announced – reissued proposal 3rd party review for the school department with minor changes.

The Chair reminded everyone – Meeting on March 30th - Design Guidelines.

The Chair announced April 7th special meeting on the text amendment for signage on Hotel and Pleasant Street Corridor District Rezoning.

The Chair announced a public presentation on the zoning act and municipal regulation of land use – March 19th 6:30 pm – Library.

The Chair announced Boys Hockey State Final and he congratulated the Girls Basketball team for getting to the State final.

15. PUBLIC FORUM:

Pat Gold, Duff Street – thanked the department of public works for their excellent work on snow removal.

Peter Centola, Recreation Director – thanked everyone for thoughts and kindness with respect to his brother, Grant, who recently passed away.

Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – thanked the Town Council for all their hard work and noted that he appreciates the effort even if he does not agree with all the decisions.

16. ADJOURNMENT: there being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Woodland moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm, seconded by Councilor Dushku and adopted by voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, 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 by unanimous voice vote on March 24, 2015.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President