



## 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 12, 2015 @ 6:15 PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL: A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 6:15 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Kounelis arrived shortly after the call of the roll. Vice President Corbett was absent. Also present were the Town Manager Michael Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:15 PM: Councilor Woodland moved to go into executive session for the below stated purpose, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

a) 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; and to discuss strategy with respect to litigation (Fire Union – MUP-15-4376; and Civil Action No. 1581CV01551 ), as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining and litigating positions.

b) To consider the value of real estate - 570 Arsenal Street.

3. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:15 PM

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. EXAMINATION OF THE MINUTES: [April 7<sup>th</sup>](#); [April 14<sup>th</sup>](#) and [April 28<sup>th</sup>](#).

#### VOTE ON APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES:

Councilor Piccirilli moved the April 7<sup>th</sup> amendment, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by 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.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the balance of April 7<sup>th</sup> minutes as written and as amended by the previous vote, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by 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 in the affirmative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the addendum in accordance with Rule 7.7.4, (required to be re-formatted as an attachment) as presented by Councilor Dushku, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilor Falkoff opposed.

**VOTE ON APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES:**

Councilor Piccirilli moved the April 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by 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.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to the balance of the April 14<sup>th</sup> minutes as written and as amended by the previous vote, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by 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.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the addendum in accordance with Rule 7.7.4 (required to be re-formatted as an attachment) as presented by Councilor Dushku, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris in the affirmative and Councilor Falkoff opposed

**VOTE ON APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES:**

Councilor Piccirilli moved the April 28<sup>th</sup> minutes as written, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by 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.

**6. PUBLIC FORUM:**

John Yobaccio – 65 Bacon Street – spoke in opposition to the Bacon Street dog park noting that it is a complete disturbance to the neighborhood with barking and violations of the rules of the park.

**7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Asked for a motion to refer to the subcommittee on Rules and Ordinance a discussion on how we would like to see minutes as we go forward and if there are any changes need to be made. Moved by Councilor Piccirilli, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by 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.

## 8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION:

a) [Informational Presentation](#) on the Residential Exemption and Small Commercial Exemption; and Consideration of filing a Home Rule Petition to increase the Residential Property Tax Exemption in Watertown - Francis J. Golden, Chairman of the Board of Assessors.

Following the presentation of the Residential Exemption; Councilors made the following comments:

Councilor Kounelis stated that she has been advocating for this for many years and spoke in support of having the flexibility.

Councilor Piccirilli stated made clear that the strategy was that the Council request a Home Rule Petition to be given the whole 30% amount in order to have the flexibility to decide what number between 20% and 30% the Council might choose and that there are other factors involved in the decision.

Councilor Palomba stated that he needs more time to look this over before he registers his support for this and noted that he does not subscribe to the belief that owners will not pass the extra cost on to renters.

Councilor Lenk stated that moving forward with a Home Rules petition is important to have that flexibility. It is a real balance but that we need to have the flexibility.

The Chair stated his concern about jumping into something without knowing the ramifications and noted that he is not 100% sure he is ready to vote to send this to the legislature.

Councilor Piccirilli urged caution but noted that it is an important tool to have in the tool box.

Councilor Dushku spoke in support of voting for a Home Rule petition tonight.

Councilor Woodland spoke in support of moving forward with the Home Rule petition.

Councilor Palomba stated that this is a learning opportunity and moved that it be sent to subcommittee. The motion was not seconded.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the resolution in the form of an Act increasing the exemption for certain residential real property in the town of Watertown at the maximum 30%, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilor Palomba voting no.

Following the presentation of the Small Commercial Exemption, Councilors made the following comments:

Councilor Kounelis stated that only 10 communities take part in this and they are small communities and stated that she would want a clarification on the independent contractors, aspect.

Councilor Piccirilli started that 128 parcels eligible for this exemption and the other towns that have adopted this are different from Watertown in that they are rural towns.

Councilor Dushku stated that a Braintree news article had indicated that the impact was not as great as they had hoped and asked if we can change the limits in the requirements for eligibility.

Councilor Falkoff stated that she would have a concern that this might become an incentive to not hire employees.

Councilor Lenk concurred with both Councilor Kounelis and Falkoff and expressed concern about the ability to distinguish between the independent contractor and also the burden of the monitoring of this.

Councilor Palomba stated that the question is – is it beneficial to our town and moved to refer the discussion to subcommittee, seconded by Councilor Dushku.

Councilor Kounelis stated that the other communities are not in our peer group and that she did not think it would work for Watertown.

Councilor Woodland stated that he did not see any negatives in sending this to subcommittee.

The motion was adopted by voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Cecilia Lenk, Anthony Palomba, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilor Kounelis voting no.

## 9. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

a) [Public hearing](#) and vote on a proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. Steve Magoon, Planning Director and Assistant to the Town Manager provided an overview of the matter.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the budget amendment as presented, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by 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.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Falkoff stated that she read about innovative programs in Gloucester for opiate addiction and asked for a referral to subcommittee. Councilor Palomba stated that the subject matter is already in subcommittee and noted that he will address the issue when the committee finds time to meet.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade at noon.

Budget Black books are available.

12. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Kounelis stated that she looks forward to a resolution to Sampson and Calvin Road and a response to a pending item regarding planting strips.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Lenk announced: May 16<sup>th</sup> Mass Audubon program – 1-2:30 pm, Arsenal Mall.

Councilor Dushku announced: BYOB discussion at subcommittee May 13<sup>th</sup>; May 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm HS lecture hall - free Narcan training and dinner; June 4<sup>th</sup> Transportation meeting 6:30pm library.

Councilor Lenk announced: public works subcommittee – May 14<sup>th</sup> at Tufts Building – 7-9 pm Café Room - on road projects.

14. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilor Woodland moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by 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.

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 voice vote on May 26, 2015.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President