



# 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

Cecelia Lenk,  
District B Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.  
District C Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,  
District D Councilor

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015 @ 6:00 PM**  
**RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER**  
**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
**MINUTES**

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 6:00 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, Anthony Palomba, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 PM:** To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel – Town Manager, Michael J. Driscoll.
3. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:15 PM**
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
5. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Michael Dattoli, Carroll Street – spoke in support of the Regional Mix Use, asking that the Town take their time and be deliberate; and include as much public input as possible.

Elodia Thomas, Marion Road – expressed disappointment with the Athena Plan and aspects of Athena’s presentation.

Marsha Cirio, 13 Bay Street – asked that the Council amend the AODD with respect to the garage.
6. **PRESIDENTS REPORT:**

The Chair provided a reminder that this Saturday is Small Business Saturday.
7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:**
  - a) [Consideration and action](#) on a proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. The Chair recognized the Manager who provided an overview of the proposed amendment noting that previously the Department of Revenue had not certified the new growth and the Council had held a hearing and closed the hearing and voted to continue the matter to tonight with the new growth number of \$2,223,012, which has now been certified for fiscal year 2016. Councilor Piccirilli

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

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTES:

a) [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 \$224,400 under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a schematic design study for a potential partial window/door replacement project at the Watertown Middle School, located at 68 Waverly Avenue, Watertown, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the Town has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Committee. The Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the Town to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Town and the MSBA.

The Chair recognized the Manager who provided an overview of the loan order. Dr. Fitzgerald, School Superintendent, Mr. Charles Kellner, Director of Business Services and Mr. Carter, Middle School Principal provided a presentation of the window replacement project.

The Chair opened up the public hearing and recognized:

Eleanor Donato, Middle School teacher – spoke in support of the project noting issues with the old windows.

Elodia Thomas, 67 Marion Road – stated that the estimate went from 300,000 to 2.9 million and asked why the increase.

Jane Evans, Middle School teacher – spoke in support of the project noting issues with the old windows.

Councilor Piccirilli spoke on the disparity between earlier estimates and the current costs.

The Chair stated that two estimates have been received. He noted that tonight is only the design aspect of the project.

Councilor Lenk spoke in support of the project noting that this is an important step to take.

Vice President Corbett asked if this is for all the windows in the building. Mr. Jay Francione stated yes, 207 windows.

Councilor Woodland spoke in support of the project as necessary and important.

Councilor Dushku stated that he is proud to support the project and the teachers and children affected by the leaking windows.

The Chair noted that he fully supports the project and stated that it is prudent to take care of our school buildings.

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

The Chair asked for a motion to move forward agenda item 9A. So moved by Councilor Piccirilli, seconded by Councilor Dushku and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Anthony Palomba, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth Woodland, 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 and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the amount of \$2,970 from the Watertown Police Foundation which will be used to purchase ten (10) two-way portable radios for communication purposes in the event of an emergency at any of the Public Schools. The Manager provided a brief overview of the matter. Councilor Piccirilli moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Anthony Palomba, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.
- b) [Public Hearing and vote](#) on a proposed Order allocating the property tax levy among or between property classes for Fiscal Year 2016. The Chair recognized Frank Golden, Town Assessor who provided an informational presentation on the matter.

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

Councilor Kounelis spoke in support of a 25% shift.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the 175%-20% shift, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by a roll call vote of 7 for and 2 against with Councilors Aaron

Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Cecilia Lenk, Anthony Palomba, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilors Woodland and Kounelis voting against.

- c) [Public Hearing and vote](#) on a proposed Order setting optional tax exemptions for Fiscal Year 2016. The 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 Kounelis recused herself from discussion and vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the exemptions as presented, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Cecilia Lenk, Anthony Palomba, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative. Councilor Kounelis recused herself.

#### 10. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a. First Reading on an Ordinance amending the Town Manager's compensation. The Chair provided a first reading. A public hearing and vote will take place at the next Town Council meeting.

#### 11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Committee on Economic Development and Planning report on a Demolition Delay Ordinance – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair. Vice President Corbett read the report. The Chair noted that an [updated report](#) will be forthcoming and will be attached.

#### 12. NEW BUSINESS:

The Chair asked for a referral to Rules and Ordinances regarding requiring project plans and intentions by developers be forwarded to planning department at least two weeks prior to their presentation and placed on the website. So moved by Councilor Palomba and seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Cecilia Lenk, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

#### 13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

- a. Observance of Thanksgiving and closing of Town Hall.
- b. Beginning of off street parking ban,
- c. Tree lighting ceremony and reception.
- d. Annual Holiday open house at Commanders Mansion.

#### 14. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Falkoff requested an update on inspectional services.  
Councilor Kounelis requested an update on Calvin Road and Sampson Street.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Palomba – Saturday 10-11:30 Church of Good Shephard – free Holiday photos.

Councilor Dushku – November 30<sup>th</sup> – Greenway Bike Path presentation. Atrium School.

Councilor Falkoff – Training on ALICE – Police Station – December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

16. PUBLIC FORUM:

Elodia Thomas, 67 Marion Road – will we hire someone to manage traffic.

17. 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 Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Cecilia Lenk, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth 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 Order was adopted by a vote of   9   for,   0   against, and   0   present on August 9, 2016.

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Mark S. Sideris, Council President  
s/MWP