



Watertown Town Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED
OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice-President

Michael F. Dattoli,
Councilor At Large

Aaron P. Dushku,
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016 AT 7:15 PM
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
MINUTES**

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order at 7:15 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building a regular meeting of the Town Council. Those present were Michael F. Dattoli, Aaron P. Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Lisa J. Feltner, Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Vincent Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Others present were Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich, and Town Council Clerk, Marilyn W. Pronovost.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Russ Arrico – Mr. Arrico raised concerns about the implementation of a possible Plastic Bag ban.

Aneta Nedulu – Ms. Nedulu, a former resident, wants to dedicate a space to the members of the Watertown Police and Fire Departments.

President Sideris stated he would forward this request to other Town Council members.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tax Bills - President Sideris mentioned if anyone has a concern about their tax increase, he/she should contact the Board of Assessors. He spoke with Mr. Frank Golden, Chairman of the Board of Assessors, who mentioned that his office would provide assistance and review all disputed assessments.

5. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- a) [Compensation of Clerk of Town Council](#) – President Sideris completed the First Reading of the Ordinance setting the compensation of the Clerk of the Town Council in accordance with sections 2-7 (b) and 2-7 (c) of the Watertown Home Rule Charter. He further stated that this item would be taken up at the next Town Council Meeting.
- b) [Order Approving the Naming of a Private Way as Arsenal Way](#) – Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll provided background on the need for the name change and read the order. Vice-President Piccirilli moved to adopt the order and Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. After a brief discussion of the order, the Town Council unanimously accepted the Order by voice vote.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- a) [Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report](#) – Councilor Falkoff read the minutes of the July 29, 2015 meeting. The Town Council did not report out the minutes previously. Vice-President Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes with the stipulation the notice be attached to the Town Council minutes; motion seconded by Councilor Feltner.
- b) Councilor Falkoff then moved to have the Personnel Office to study how other communities completed the items listed in the Committee’s Report; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously on a voice vote.
- c) [Committee on Rules and Ordinance Report](#) – Councilor Woodland read the minutes of the March 15, 2015 meeting of the Rules and Ordinance Committee regarding the ban on plastic bags and the removal of snow from commercial properties. After the reading, Councilor Woodland recommended the redacting of the March 3, 2015 minutes and the insertion of the [proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance](#). The Committee will schedule public hearings to discuss the Committee’s suggested changes.

Vice-President Piccirilli moved to accept the Committee minutes along with Councilor Woodland’s suggested changes; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously on a voice vote.

President Sideris explained these suggested changes would be taken up at the meeting. The implementation of such changes requires a two-step process:

1. A First Reading of the Proposed Changes
2. Publication of the Public Hearing

7. NEW BUSINESS

President Sideris discussed issues regarding the grandfathering of non-conforming minimum sized two family lots. He wanted to refer the issue to Rules and Ordinance Committee for review of possible zoning changes. Councilor Woodland will add this to the Committee’s agenda for its meeting on February 3.

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- a) Mr. Driscoll stated that two appointments and one reappointment need confirmation for the Watertown Cable Access Corporation Board of Directors. The appointments are Eileen Hsu-Balzer to complete an unexpired term ending on September 15, 2016 and Mr. Christopher MacKenzie whose term would expire on September 15, 2018; the reappointment is Mr. Anthony Carlson whose term would expire on September 15, 2018. The report is automatically referred to the Committee on Education and School system Matters who will interview the candidates and report back to the Committee.
- b) Mr. Driscoll presented an overview of the proposed 2017-2021 Capital Improvement (CIP), a copy of which is available on the town’s website. Major points of the presentation include the following amounts to be spent over the next five years:
 - Proposed improvements total \$139,979,800, an increase of \$1,959,300 from FY 2016-2020
 - Bonding request is \$40,467,200

- Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds Capital Improvement is \$22,142,000 which will now include Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements
- School improvements request is \$9,758,000
- The Street and Sidewalks Improvement request is \$88,715,800
- For specific details, please see the attached [proposed CIP](#).

Councilor Woodland moved that the request be forwarded to the Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously on a voice vote.

- c) Mr. Driscoll reminded members that the last free Flu Clinic would be held on February 5.
- d) Mr. Driscoll discussed the appointment of Lt. Michael P. Lawn to the position of Watertown Police Chief effective January 25, 2016. A formal swearing ceremony will be held at the Watertown Middle School on January 28, 2016.

9. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION /REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

Councilor Dushku stated some recommendations made from a 2013 Report on the Organizational Assessment of the Public Works Department still need implementation.

He also requested a status on the two recommendations of the burial of power lines.

Councilor Dushku further asked for a status of the Dog Park.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Palomba expressed his appreciation for the work Deborah Rosati, Public Health Director, and Lt Dan Unsworth did in bringing Gloucester Police Chief Leonard Campanello and John Rosenthal of P.A.A.R.I. to a community meeting.

Councilor Dattoli wanted to remind all that the last day for requesting a tax abatement is February 1, 2016.

Councilor Dushku invited the public to attend two upcoming meetings of the Committee on Public Works and Safety:

- February 1 – The discussion will include the next steps for the next steps of the stormwater infrastructure and the DPW Organizational Assessment Recommendations
- February 4 – The discussion of a Policy for Complete Streets and the 2016 Roads program

Councilor Feltner thanked the Council for sending her to the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Annual Meeting and Trade Show.

Councilor Palomba invited people to attend Watertown Night at Gore Place on Thursday, January 29, 2016.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

Russ Arrico – Requested a clarification on the 1996 Ordinance that President Sideris discussed earlier. President Sideris stated the referral was to clarify ordinance language and any other information should be obtained from the Assessor's Office.

Patricia Gold – As a member of the Council on Aging, Ms. Gold stated the need for improved services for the elderly in Watertown, such as improved transportation, easier access to the sidewalks, and increased recreational activities.

John O'Boyle – Expressed praise for the Department of Public Works (DPW) except for areas where trees are uprooting the sidewalks.

Russ Arrico – Stated the town needs better tree control especially where it affects the quality of the sidewalks.

12. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

President Sideris requested a Moment of Silence in memory of Carmella Sampson and Richard Cieslik. Mrs. Sampson was the mother Steven, Kenneth, and Sgt. David Sampson, employees of the Town of Watertown. Mr. Cieslik is the father-in-law of Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously on a voice vote.

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 February 23, 2016.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s/MWP