



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, MAY 24, 2016 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
MINUTES**

1. ROLL CALL

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the May 10, 2016](#) Town Council Meeting

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the minutes as corrected; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sideris wanted to make a referral regarding the Municipal Lien Certificate Fees to the Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight to discuss Municipal Lien Certificate fees. Councilor Piccirilli moved the motion; Councilor seconded it. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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, Section 7(6) of the

General Laws or any other enabling authority for the [costs of construction and reconstruction of streets and sidewalks](#).

Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Sheehan presented information stating that this money would assist in making improvements beyond normal road maintenance. There being no speakers for the Public Hearing, President closed the hearing. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the proposed loan order; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Approving the Acceptance and Expenditure of a [Gift of Funds in the Amount of up to \\$11,500 from the Watertown Police Foundation](#) to Fund Two Community Policing Initiatives.

Mr. Driscoll made a presentation stating that the funds would be used for a gun buy-back event and for the purchase of two motorized bicycles. Councilor Piccirilli moved the approval of the resolution; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. First Reading 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 \$3,088,891, in addition to the \$224,400 previously appropriated by vote of this Council on November 24, 2015, under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, for the purpose of paying [costs of partial window/door replacement at the Watertown Middle School, 68 Waverley Ave, Watertown, Massachusetts](#), including the payment of 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 may be eligible 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 any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; provided further that any grant that Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) forty-eight and forty-seven one hundredths percent (48.47%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided that 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.

Mr. Driscoll provided information regarding the proposed loan order for the first reading and stated that there would be a public hearing and vote on June 7, 2016.

- C. Resolution authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$8,500 from the Fiscal Year 2016 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2016 [Veterans Benefits Account](#).

Mr. Driscoll made a presentation on the need for an additional \$8,500 to be provided for Veterans Benefits. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of funds resolution; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report on the [Interviewing Candidates for the Appointment or Reappointment of Members to the Planning Board with the Following Action Items](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

Councilors Falkoff and Woodland read the report. Councilor Palomba moved to accept the report; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion.

Councilor Woodland moved to alter the report by striking out the sentence: "Councilor Woodland commented to Mr. Shaw that he felt Mr. Shaw had interviewed well but had been hostile to the developer during the RMUD process" and replacing it with: "Councilor Woodland commented to Mr. Shaw that he felt Mr. Shaw had interviewed well but noted there had been opposition during the RMUD process." Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The amendment was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

The motion to accept the report as amended was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) To confirm Gary Shaw for appointment to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2019.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appoint Gary Shaw to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2019; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- 2) To confirm Fergal Brennock for reappointment to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2017.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appoint Fergal Brennock to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2017; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- 3) To confirm Jeffrey Brown for reappointment to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2018.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appoint Jeffrey Brown to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2018; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- 4) To confirm John Hawes for reappointment to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2018.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appoint John Hawes to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2018; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- 5) To confirm Janet Buck for appointment to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2019.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appoint Janet Buck to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2019; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- 6) To refer matters of communication and education between the boards, and with the public, that were raised during the interviews, back to the Economic Development and Planning Committee for further discussion.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the matters of communication and education between the boards, and with the public, that were raised during the interviews, back to the Economic Development and Planning Committee for further discussion; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Consideration and Action on the Following Items:

- 1) Public Works – Recommend that the Town Council ask the Dept. of Public Works to go forward with implementing the plan for lower Common St. with some minor modifications as discussed and with additional minor tweaks at the discretion of the Department. Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the above action item; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion.

Councilor Feltner asked if the tweaks related to the parking lot. Councilor Dushku stated that the parking lot was not part of the discussion.

Councilor Woodland asked what the budget implications for lower Common St. were. President Sideris stated that the Superintendent of Public Works is working the Committee on Public Works and the public to create a plan. Then the Town Manager would present the plan to the town and determine the funding source.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- 2) Human Services – Create a \$25.00 fee for residents obtaining a Watertown dog park tag.
- 3) Human Services – Have the fees for a Watertown dog tag park go into a special revolving fund for enforcement and maintenance of Watertown dog parks.

President Sideris stated that he would like to take up Items 2) and 3) together. He asked for a motion to refer these items back to the Administration for a report and then for a vote by the Town Council. He asked the Town Attorney to elaborate on the need for this action. Attorney Reich stated that these items included administrative components and that the establishment of the revolving fund would need to be voted on by the Council in accordance with Chapter 44 §53 (e) 1/2 .

Councilor Falkoff stated that she did not favor the fee and asked that when these items are referred back to the Committee that the fee be discussed again.

Councilor Palomba stated that the Ordinance is being referred back because the changes are larger than the just Dog Park regulations. The fees were supported by the Administration and he was unaware of how to revive the fee issue.

Councilor Feltner suggested a friendly amendment to reduce or eliminate the fee for seniors and the disabled. President Sideris stated that this is something the Administration can consider.

Councilor Dattoli stated he favored the fee and the creation of a revolving fund.

Councilor Falkoff asked for a clarification between the Ordinance and the Dog Park Rules. She offered a friendly amendment that the fee be set by the Administration rather than the stated \$25 fee.

Councilor Dushku stated that a motion was missing from the action items relating to the Dog Park Rules. Councilor Palomba stated that it was an oversight on his part.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the question; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion. A roll call was completed to move the question. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8 – 1. All Councilors voted in favor of the motion, except for Councilor Falkoff who voted in the negative.

Councilor Falkoff raised a point of order regarding her friendly amendment. Attorney Reich stated that the amendment was not acted upon and that the debate had ended.

The motion to refer the items back to the Administration was voted upon and was adopted on a voice vote of 8 – 1. All members voted in the affirmative, except for Councilor Falkoff who voted in the negative.

- 4) Human Services – The draft of the revised Animal Control Ordinance be referred to a joint committee of Human Services and Rules and Ordinances.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the draft of the revised Animal Control Ordinance be referred to a joint committee of Human Services and Rules and Ordinances; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- 5) Public Works – Upon Council approval of the new How Park dog park rules, request that the DPW make a replacement sign that lists the rules and provides contact information for the Animal Control Officer.

Councilor Dushku moved to table the action item; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- 6) Public Works – Ask the Health, Public Works, and Recreation Departments to meet and make a plan for how to design an accessible entrance to the dog park so that residents do not need to travel through How Field, consulting with the town's ADA Compliance officer as needed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the above action item; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- 7) Public Works – Ask the Health, Public Works, and Recreation Departments to come up with cost estimates and a recommendation for resurfacing the dog park.

Councilor Palomba moved to adopt the above action item; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

[Appointment of Town Attorney](#)

Mr. Driscoll requested the Town Council to consider the reappointment of the firm of Kopelman and Paige, PC as the Town Attorney. President Sideris stated that the vote will be taken up at the June 14, 2016 meeting.

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

There were no requests for information.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Kounelis announced that on

- Wednesday, June 1, DCR would be hosting the second meeting of the Mt. Auburn Street Corridor Project at the Shady Hills School, Coolidge Avenue, Cambridge.
- Thursday, June 2, the Cambridge Greening Project will be meeting as it relates to Greenough Boulevard from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Russell Youth Center at 680 Huron Avenue.

Councilor Feltner announced she would be holding Office Hours at the Watertown Public Library, Raya Stern Trustees Room.

She also announced a Senior Center Paint Night fundraiser on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Falkoff stated that she hoped residents would attend the Memorial Day Parade.

Councilor Dushku announced

- There is a need for a new member of the Stormwater Advisory Committee
- On Thursday, May 26, there will be a Public Works meeting regarding How Park
- On Thursday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a DCR meeting of the Watertown-Cambridge Greenway Project
- On Monday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m., there will be a meeting on the third floor meeting room to discuss Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

- On Monday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, the School Committee will be presenting the results of the School Enrollment Study

Councilor Palomba stated that the Plastic Bag Ordinance will be reviewed at the Special Town Council Meeting on June 7.

He also stated that on Thursday, June 16, The Department of Community Development and Planning, the Watertown Transit Task Force, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation are planning a forum on Municipal Transportation Planning at the Library at 7:00 p.m.

Councilor Kounelis stated that the meeting on June 2 at the Russell Youth Center will consider the Bike Path.

Councilor Falkoff announced that on June 9, at 6:15 p.m., there will be a meeting of the Economic Development and Planning Committee regarding Affordable Housing.

President Sideris announced that there will be a Special Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 31 at 5:55 p.m. to consider the First Readings of the Plastic Bag Ordinance and the Councilors' Salaries.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

Pat Gold – Duff St. – Thanked President Sideris for returning the action items to the agenda.

Burt Greenburg – Duff St – spoke of the number of volunteers that volunteer at the Senior Center without any recognition.

14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

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 a voice vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on June 14, 2016

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s/MWP