



# 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, JULY 12, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M.  
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
MINUTES**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Vice-President Piccirilli called to order a regular meeting of the Town Council at 6:30 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors Michael F. Dattoli, Susan G. Falkoff, Lisa J. Feltner, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent Piccirilli, Jr., and Kenneth M. Woodland. Councilor Aaron P. Dushku, arrived at 6:35 p.m. President Sideris was absent. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session – 6:30 PM

To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate – former east and north branch libraries; if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

Councilor Dattoli moved that the Council go into executive session to discuss the above topic; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

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

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**5. PUBLIC FORUM**

Marylouise Pallotta Mc Dermott – Spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission regarding [Filippello Park](#).

Marilyn Pettito Devaney – Member of the Governor’s Council spoke about a [“Support Our Police”](#) gathering.

**6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Minutes of the [June 7, 2016](#), [June 14, 2016](#), and [June 28, 2016](#) Town Council Meetings

Councilor Woodland moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2016 as corrected; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Woodland moved to approve the minutes of June 14, 2016 as corrected; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Woodland moved to approve the minutes of June 28, 2016 as written; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice-President Piccirilli stated that there would be no President's Report as President Sideris was unable to attend. He reminded Councilors that the Town Manager's evaluation needed to be in by July 22, at 2:00 p.m.

8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Informational Presentation on proposed improvements to the [Filippello Park Grove Street Entrance](#) – Glen Howard, CDM Smith

Mr. Driscoll introduced Mr. Magoon, Assistant Town Manager/Director of the Department of Community Development and Planning, who provided some background regarding the process of planning the park and some potential grants that may be available to the community. Mr. Glenn Howard, of CDM Smith, presented information regarding the park design and provided a cost estimate for the park's completion.

Mr. Howard recommended that if the Town Council wants to continue with the proposed design that a 50% design development suitable for a meeting with the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) and then to incorporate their suggestions. The project will also investigate grants such as the Stanton Grant and PARC Grant.

Councilor Dattoli thanked all participants for working on the design. He asked about the parking and was informed that 15 new spaces would be added. He asked about the lighting. Mr. Howard stated that some would be refurbished but the entire lighting plan has not yet been resolved.

He asked for estimates regarding the grants. Mr. Howard stated that previous grants were about \$200,000 from Stanton and \$250,000 from PARC.

Councilor Dushku thanked the participants. He asked if the pavement around the basketball courts needed to be retained. Mr. Howard stated that because the area was a former landfill that is capped, this should not be changed. Water runoff on the sides will use the current drainage pattern. At the entrance road, water will be cross loped to the existing swale. The park designers would like to use the dog park area itself as the acceptable infiltration system.

Mr. Howard confirmed for Councilor Dushku that the sidewalk along the park will continue as it is today and not be terminated at the entrance.

Councilor Woodland asked what FUTSAL was. Mr. Howard stated it was a type of soccer played on a hard surface court with nets.

Councilor Woodland complimented Mr. Howard for meeting with the community, providing good communication, and listening to the community concerns. The designs reflects this consideration.

Councilor Falkoff asked about the Mount Auburn Hospital Parking lot and the drainage issues. Mr. Howard stated that it goes to the swale. Councilor Falkoff stated that as this lease may be running out, this issue may be part of the negotiations.

Councilor Falkoff stated that many are enthusiastic about the plan.

Councilor Kounelis raised concerns about having sufficient parking throughout the park to address usage needs. She also stated that because the snow dump usually requires the basketball courts to be refurbished annually, this issue needs consideration. She asked about maintenance of the dog parks and the estimated costs. Mr. Howard stated that usually dog owners are good with basic general maintenance but that in dry spells spray downs may be needed. Councilor Kounelis stated that if this is done and piping is used, this could disturb the subsoil.

Councilor Feltner asked about how the loose equipment would be stored. Mr. Howard stated that there was no storage in the plans. Mr. Centola, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that there were several methods being discussed and that there are ways to accommodate the needs.

Councilor Falkoff stated that maybe a Friends of the Dog Park group could be established to assist with the maintenance.

Councilor Dushku stated his pleasure with the plans. With regard to parking, he is inclined not to add too much parking to encourage the environmental conditions.

Mr. Centola stated that perhaps the Mount Auburn parking lot could be used on weekends, as it is not in use during that time.

Councilor Kounelis stated that there is a ten-year sunset to the Mt. Auburn Hospital Parking lot, and it is probably into its fourth year of the lease.

Councilor Palomba asked what is the timeline for the park. Mr. Howard estimated sometime in 2018. A large factor is the schedule for the grants. Councilor Palomba thanked all who participated.

Councilor Piccirilli stated he was looking forward to voting on the revised proposal with the dog park. He stated that this is a situation of teamwork creating the best results.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. First Reading on Proposed Changes to the Existing Commercial [Snow Ordinance](#).

Councilor Piccirilli stated that this reading is a change in the snow ordinance affecting commercial properties, that a legal ad will be in the paper, and that the ordinance will be taken up at the next Town Council meeting.

B. Resolution Authorizing A Transfer Of Funds In The Amount Of \$220,400 From Various Fiscal Year 2016 Electricity And Gas Accounts To The Fiscal Year 2016 [ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund Account](#).

Mr. Driscoll presented the need for the transfer. He asked for the Council's favorable consideration. Councilor Dattoli made a motion to move \$220,400 from various Fiscal Year 2016 electricity and gas accounts to the Fiscal Year 2016 ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund Account; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion.

Councilor Falkoff asked if the money represented savings due to energy efficiencies the Town has implemented. Mr. Driscoll stated the amounts may be due to energy savings and/or an energy growth of less than 3%.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

C. Resolution Authorizing A Transfer Of \$25,000 From Various Fiscal Year 2016 Full Time Salaries Accounts To The Fiscal Year 2016 Transfer To Town Capital Projects Account In Order Move Forward With The [Restoration Of The Administration \(Town Hall\) Building's Historic Exterior And Interior Wood Doors And The Replacement Of The Doors' Hardware](#).

Mr. Driscoll presented information stating the reasons for the transfer and requested the Council's favorable consideration. Councilor Falkoff moved to authorize a transfer of \$25,000 from various Fiscal Year 2016 full time salaries accounts to the Fiscal Year 2016 transfer to town capital projects account in order to move forward with the restoration of the Administration (Town Hall) Building's historic exterior and interior wood doors and the replacement of the doors' hardware; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion.

Councilor Kounelis thanked the Town Manager for listening to Mr. Clifton Willoughby who was concerned that the doors be preserved for the building.

Councilor Dattoli asked how the doors would be preserved. Mr. Tracy explained the outer doors will be removed and worked on while the interior doors will be worked on on-site.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- D. Resolution Authorizing A Transfer Of \$38,000 From Various Fiscal Year 2016 Salaries Accounts To The Fiscal Year 2016 Transfer To Town Capital Projects In Order To Move Forward With [Upgrades At The John A. Ryan Skating Arena](#).

Mr. Driscoll provided information regarding the transfer request and asked for the Council's favorable consideration. Councilor Dattoli moved to authorize a transfer of \$38,000 from various Fiscal Year 2016 salaries accounts to the Fiscal Year 2016 transfer to town capital projects in order to move forward with upgrades at the John A. Ryan Skating Arena; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

Councilor Feltner stated that if the Community Preservation Act were adopted, that the Town Hall doors and the Ryan Skating Rink upgrades could be supported with those funds.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- E. Resolution Authorizing A Transfer Of \$413,000 From Fiscal Year 2016 Debt Retirement Accounts And A Fiscal Year 2016 Full Time Salaries Account To The Fiscal Year 2016 Transfer To [Town Capital Projects Account In Order To Purchase Three Department Of Public Works Capital Equipment Items](#).

Mr. Driscoll provided information regarding the transfer request and asked for the Council's favorable consideration. Councilor Dushku moved to authorize a transfer of \$413,000 from Fiscal Year 2016 debt retirement accounts and a Fiscal Year 2016 full time salaries account to the Fiscal Year 2016 transfer to Town Capital Projects Account in order to purchase three Department Of Public Works capital equipment items; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- F. Resolution Authorizing A Transfer Of \$55,000 From The Fiscal Year 2017 Debt Retirement Short Term Interest Account To The Fiscal Year 2017 Transfer To Town Capital Projects Account In Order To [Purchase Department Of Public Works Central Motors Diagnostic Tools And Computer Equipment](#).

Mr. Driscoll provided information regarding the transfer request and asked for the Council's favorable consideration. Councilor Dattoli moved to authorize a transfer of \$55,000 from the Fiscal Year 2017 Debt

Retirement Short Term Interest Account to the Fiscal Year 2017 transfer to Town Capital Projects Account in order to purchase Department Of Public Works central motors diagnostic tools and computer equipment; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

#### 10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Economic Planning and Development Report on [Affordable Housing](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council proceed with the changes to Affordable Housing Requirements in the Watertown Zoning Ordinance per the Housing Partnership memo dated 5/14/16, as amended by their memo dated 6/23/16.

Councilors Falkoff and Woodland read the committee reports for the 5/14/2016 and 6/23/2016 meetings. Councilor Falkoff stated that while the report is very detailed, she felt the suggested changes were a significant step for increasing affordable housing at both the 80% and the lower income levels. She encouraged the Council to accept the recommendations.

Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the report.

Councilor Dushku thanked the Committee and Housing Partnership. He stated that the changes are a sensible and thoughtful approach for the community. He, however, wished that something had been done to assist the middle-income group in addition to providing for those who fall into the legally mandated affordable housing group.

He also stated he was happy to see that those requirements imposed on the RMUD group will now apply throughout the community. He would also like to see the increased energy requirements for the RMUD applied to other town development projects.

Councilor Feltner stated that she had attended many of the Housing Partnership meetings and found them informative and that she was happy with the 100% cash payment requirement.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Dattoli moved that the Town Council proceed with the changes to the Affordable Housing Requirements in the Watertown Zoning Ordinance per the Housing Partnership memo dated 5/14/16, and as amended by their memo dated 6/23/16; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli informed the public that this item will be brought to a first reading for the August 9, 2016 meeting at which time, the Council will vote to refer the changes to the Planning Board.

B. Committee on Public Works Report on [Criteria for Memorial and Dedications, Treatment of Planting Strips, and Updates of Pending Matters](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) To accept Mr. Comeiro's Proposed Plan for Approving a Veteran's Memorial
- 2) To Take No Action on Developing Criteria for Non-Veteran Memorials and Dedications
- 3) To Insert in §55.02 of the Watertown Code of Ordinances, Subsection i) to read: In the case of selective sidewalk repairs, where there is no curb to create a barrier, the Superintendent of Public Works shall have discretion on whether to plant grass or restore asphalt (or other similar treatment) as the border between the sidewalk and the street.

Councilor Dushku read the report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Dattoli moved to accept Mr. Comeiro's proposed plan for approving a veteran's memorial; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Falkoff moved to take no action on developing criteria for non-veteran memorials and dedications; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Kounelis moved to insert in §55.02 of the Watertown Code of Ordinances, Subsection i) to read: In the case of selective sidewalk repairs, where there is no curb to create a barrier, the Superintendent of Public Works shall have discretion on whether to plant grass or restore asphalt (or other similar treatment) as the border between the sidewalk and the street; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that the vote was not to amend the ordinance but to move the change forward so that it would be provided a first reading and then would be subject to a public hearing.

Councilor Palomba clarified that the change is not to eliminate planting strips but to provide the Superintendent of Public Works the leeway to decide if the planting strip should be paved.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

C. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report on a [Format for Taking Council Minutes](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair

ACTION ITEM: Request the Council President to Mandate the Format Suggested in the Report for All Town Council Committee Reports and that it should be on Town Council Letterhead

Councilor Woodland read the Committee report. Councilor Woodland remarked that this is a goal of the Committee to make the minutes look professional, to produce them in a standardized format, and to indicate that the minutes reflect official Town Council business. He further explained that under §11.6 of the Town Council Rules, the President is the one who has the ability to standardize the format.

Councilor Palomba moved to accept the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

Councilor Dushku stated the format needed to use less space for the introductory part of the minutes.

Councilor Piccirilli reminded members that the motion was to accept the report.

Councilor Palomba asked what the definition of summary was for purposes of the minutes. Councilor Woodland stated that this is subjective and Councilors should complete that section as they feel is appropriate.

Councilor Feltner stated the intent was to have the summary on one page to save time reading minutes aloud at the Town Council hearings.

Councilor Piccirilli stated and Attorney Reich agreed that the summary would need to be in compliance with the Open Meeting Law requirements for a summary.

Councilor Kounelis stated that the Summary would need to include the motions, who made them and seconded them. She commented that there is stationery without Councilor's names that could be used. She felt that it is not always known when the report will be read.

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

Councilor Woodland moved that the Council President mandate the format suggested in the report for all Town Council Committee Reports and that it should be on Town Council letterhead; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion.

Councilor Falkoff asked for a clarification as to whether there was a difference between a summary and minutes. Councilor Piccirilli stated the minutes are a summary that must be consistent with the Open Meeting Law. Attorney Reich stated that there could be a cover

summary but that the minutes must follow the Open Meeting Law requirements.

Councilor Feltner stated that the intent was to create two items – a summary of the meeting that could be used as a description of the meeting to help shorten meetings when reports are read aloud. The actual minutes with any documentation could be attached to the summary document. This is an attempt to balance transparency with brevity.

Councilor Palomba asked if the Open Meeting Law had different sections relating to minutes and guidelines for a summary. Attorney Reich stated the law has a section relating to minutes which requires that the minutes must list the date, time, and location of the meeting, those present and absent, a summary of the discussion of each subject, a list of documents and exhibits used at the meeting, and a list of the decisions made and actions taken, including any votes. He stated that many confuse minutes with a transcript, which is not required.

Councilor Woodland stated that he would like to withdraw his motion because the Town Council Rules do not state that town Council approval is necessary. Town Council President Sideris can develop a format and mandate its use for Town Council meetings.

Councilor Falkoff stated the question seems to be whether or not a summary is the same as minutes and this question needs to be clarified.

Councilor Feltner stated that there was a difference with the format and the minutes. The summary was to represent only the minimum of what was indicated in the Open Meeting Law.

Councilor Piccirilli felt that the question may be overworked and that this motion is really a matter of a uniform format that should be on letterhead.

Councilor Dushku stated that he liked the detailed reports because it is important to keep people informed.

Councilor Dattoli stated that he liked the format, that everyone was capable of capturing the essence of the meeting, and that the Committees could all make it work.

Councilor Falkoff moved to have all minutes on letterhead; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. Councilor Piccirilli stated that there was a motion already on the floor.

Councilor Palomba stated the Council could agree with the format with members making their suggestions to President Sideris. He also stated that he felt detail was necessary to be provided so that the community could understand the reasons for the Council's decisions.

Councilor Piccirilli suggested a friendly amendment. Councilor Falkoff moved to accept the amendment; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. Councilor Piccirilli called for a vote on the motion to request that the Council President mandate the format for all Town Council Committee reports and that it should be on Town Council letterhead. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

D. Committee on Transportation Report on [TMA Planning and Policy and TDM Programs](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

Councilor Dushku read the Committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report with a correction to be made on page 2 from town-wide TMA policy to town-wide TDM policy; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. It was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

## 11. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Palomba requested a referral to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning to discuss what went wrong with the CVS landscaping and how to prevent this in the future; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion.

Councilor Woodland stated that he thought this matter had already been addressed and resolved.

Councilor Kounelis agreed and stated that the irrigation had failed and that the plantings will be replaced based on the weather conditions.

Councilor Falkoff stated this is not the first time that the landscaping plan has failed. She further stated that Mr. Hayward, the Tree Warden, supports a fuller discussion of the issue. Councilor Falkoff mentioned that there is a need to create a mechanism for following up on landscaping plans.

Councilor Dushku agreed that this mechanism could anticipate any community concerns.

Councilor Palomba stated that Mr. Hayward was contacted and he agreed that there is a need for a broader discussion of landscaping plans and ways to ensure better compliance.

Councilor Woodland stated that the current process seems to be working well. There have been two issues in several years and in both instances they were addressed and rectified. He stated there are other issues of more importance that the community should be addressing.

Councilor Piccirilli asked Mr. Magoon for his comments. Mr. Magoon stated there are sufficient controls and tools in place to address such issues.

Councilor Feltner believed this would be a good opportunity to discuss the issues and provide information to the public.

Councilor Palomba stated that he would like to withdraw his motion and replace it with a motion for the Committee on Economic Development and Planning to discuss how to better ensure compliance with landscaping plans approved by the Planning Board. Councilor Falkoff seconded the withdrawal of the initial motion and she seconded Councilor Palomba's replacement motion.

Councilor Falkoff stated that although Mr. Hayward responded well to the situation, there was no public discussion. She felt that due to the amount of correspondence received, it was reasonable to discuss the matter.

Councilor Woodland stated that because there would be no tangible result and because the Department did not need any further guidance, he was opposed to the motion.

The motion to refer the matter to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning to discuss how to better ensure compliance with landscaping plans approved by the Planning Board was passed on a voice vote of 7-1. All Councilors voted in favor of the motion except Councilor Woodland who voted in the negative.

#### 12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Driscoll stated that Anne-Marie Gagnon has been appointed as Director of Senior Services effective August 8, 2016. He presented her qualifications for the position.

#### 13. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION /REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

Councilor Dattoli thanked Mr. Driscoll for the update of the hiring of the Senior Center Director and asked for an update on the hiring of a Transportation Planner.

Councilor Falkoff asked when the next semi-annual review of pending litigation would occur. She also requested an update on the O'Neil Charitable Funds.

Councilor Feltner asked what the timeframe is for hiring the new code enforcement officer. She also requested an update on the design of and the timeframe for the closing of Beacon Park at Arsenal St. She further suggested that the Town Council Clerk keep track of requests for information to keep the Council accountable and to reduce having individuals revisit issues/requests.

Councilor Dushku requested an update on the GSA fence on Greenough Boulevard.

#### 14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Feltner announced that the Library is looking for volunteers to do some gardening at 1:30 on Sunday, July 17. She also stated that there is a

sign on Nichols Avenue showing the landscaping design for the LINX project.

Councilor Palomba announced the beginning of the Summer Family Nights sponsored by the Recreation Department and the Police on July 15 starting at 6:30 p.m.

Councilor Dushku announced

- ~ July 13 – The scheduled Public Works meeting is canceled
- ~ July 13 – Athena Health is making a presentation to the Planning Board
- ~ July 14 – An outdoor concert featuring Sunny and Her Joy Boys
- ~ July 18 – Athena Health is presenting their transportation plan
- ~ July 26 – Committee on Transportation will discuss TDM at 6:00 in Council Chamber
- ~ July 26 – Committee on Public Works will discuss parking meter technology at 7:30 p.m.
- ~ For gardeners, to obtain a gardening spot at the Arsenal Park community garden, contact [info@watertowngardens.org](mailto:info@watertowngardens.org)

Councilor Palomba announced that on July 13 at 5:00 at the Library, there would be a Coalition meeting to discuss the opiate crisis – Watertown Access to Treatment, Education, and Resources. The group will be discussing their events for September and November.

#### 15. PUBLIC FORUM

Burt Greenberg – Spoke on the discussion of the minutes format

Patrick Walsh – Remarked that this was his first meeting and that he was impressed with the meeting.

#### 16. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Falkoff moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 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, 0 present on August 9, 2016.

---

Mark S. Sideris, Council President  
s/MWP