



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

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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Angeline B. Kounelis arrived at 7:33 p.m. 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

Steve Kalmanides – Due to the extension of the curb on Arsenal St., there is an increased possibility of accidents.

Mark Leonard – Spoke in favor of Temporary Lighting for the fields at Arsenal Park.

Nick Anastasiades – Spoke about the problems of parking, especially for the handicapped, on Arsenal St.

Matt Lambo – Spoke in favor of the temporary lighting for the field. He also addressed the traffic on Arsenal St.

Dan Eisenberg – Raised concerns that the lighting at Arsenal Park might affect the quality of life of the neighborhood.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the August 9, 2016](#) Town Council Meeting

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of August 9, 2016 as corrected; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Sideris stated that due to circumstances, he was unable to meet with the Town Manager regarding the evaluation.

He also stated that Dr. Fitzgerald, Superintendent of Schools, has elected to retire on October 7, 2016 and that the schools would be in transition. He stated that there would be a meeting on September 19, 2016 to discuss the process in Council Chamber.

In two weeks, he would announce his selections for the Victory Field Phase II Project.

6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS

Acceptance of Proclamation Dedicating a Memorial Square to [Private Dominic Joseph Russo](#)

Mr. Driscoll introduced Mark Comeiro who requested that the intersection of Forest and Palfrey Streets be named Private Dominic Joseph Russo Memorial Square. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Proclamation; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Discussion and Vote on NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy [WO #2148736](#)

Mr. Steve Magoon, Asst. Town Manager and Director of Department of Community Development and Planning, provided the reason for the notes on the request submitted at the previous meeting. Ms. Maureen Carroll, a representative of Eversource Company, spoke on the petition. President Sideris opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to be heard on this petition; there being none, he closed the public hearing. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the Eversource petition for Hovey St.; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on NSTAR Electric Company DBA Eversource Energy [WO2140732](#)

Ms. Maureen Carroll spoke on the petition. President Sideris opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to be heard on this petition; there being none, he closed the public hearing. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the Eversource petition for Arsenal St.; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Public Hearing and Discussion on the Status of and the Possible Disposition of the Former Branch Libraries

[Link to Part 1 of 3](#) of Report

[Link to Part 2 of 3](#) of Report

[Link to Part 3 of 3](#) of Report

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the efforts to reuse or lease the former branch libraries. President Sideris stated that this hearing relates to the possible sale of the East Branch Library. Mr. Magoon explained the basics of the Request for Proposal (RFP) and the process for the sale of the library. Mr. Magoon answered questions regarding the items of significant interest to the community within the building and the desire to preserve the building.

President Sideris opened the Public Hearing.

Rena Baskins stated she had been on the reuse committee and requested a clarification as to why the town is not obligated to accept the highest bid. Both Mr. Magoon and Attorney Reich stated that the town is permitted to also consider lower bids that better fulfill the needs of the community.

Attorney James Mc Dermott, Attorney for St. James Church, stated that the Church is interested in being part of the process and wanted to clarify if a non-profit could make a bid. He also commented that the 60-day closing process was a tight time schedule.

Edward Kazanjian – 4 Windsor Ave – He spoke of the poor condition of the building and the health concerns of rodents living in it and urged the Council to take some action on the building.

President Sideris closed the hearing and opened it to the Council for comments. Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Manager to issue an RFP to sell the former East Branch Library; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion.

Several councilors commented on the provisions of the RFP. Some issues raised were addressed by amending it. Councilor Piccirilli moved to amend the RFP by extending the closing date from 60 to 90 days after the decision is made. The motion carried on a voice vote of 8 to 1. All Councilors voting in favor of the motion except for Councilor Dattoli who voted in the negative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to amend the RFP so that it indicates prior to publication of the RFP which items will be removed from the property and retained by the Town; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote of 8 to 1. All Councilors voting in favor of the motion except for Councilor Dattoli who voted in the negative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Manager to issue the RFP as amended to sell the former East Branch Library; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion.

Councilor Dattoli asked for a discussion on the motion and moved to include language in the RFP to prohibit the demolition of the East Branch Library; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion failed to carry on a roll call vote of 1 to 8. All Councilors voting against the motion except for Councilor Dattoli who voted in the affirmative.

Attorney Reich requested that an amendment be added to clarify that the Town is not obligated to accept the highest bid and to permit the Town Attorney to make needed changes to the RFP. Councilor Piccirilli moved to amend the RFP by adding clarifying language that the Town is not required to accept the highest bid and to permit the Town Attorney to make any other changes that he feels are necessary; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 8 to 1. All Councilors voting in favor of the motion except for Councilor Dattoli who voted in the negative.

The motion to authorize the Town Manager to issue the RFP as amended to sell the former East Branch Library carried on a roll call vote of 8 to 1. All Councilors voting in favor of the motion except for Councilor Dattoli who voted in the negative.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance amending Title V of the Watertown Code of Ordinances, Public Works, [Chapter 55, Curbs and Sidewalks, Section 55.02, Sidewalk Requirements](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the change regarding planting strips.

- B. Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the Amount of \$6,000.00 to Offset Expenditures Related to the [“Faire on the Square 2016”](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the gift of funds of \$5,000 from the Watertown Savings Bank and \$1,000 from the Rockland Trust to offset expenditures for the Faire on the Square and requested the Council’s favorable consideration. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance and expenditure of the gift of funds; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Economic Planning and Development Report on [Landscaping Plans and Shared Parking Lots](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

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

- B. Committee on Human Services Report on [Temporary Lighting](#) Solutions for Youth Sports at Town Fields – Anthony Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Request the Town Council to authorize the Administration to Move Forward with a Temporary Lights Solution at Arsenal Park.
2. Recommend to the Town Council that the Administration Find Funds in FY17 to Cover the Costs of a Temporary Lighting Solution for the Fall of 2017
3. Recommend to the Town Council that the Discussion of Field Prioritization Policies Come Back to Health and Human Services Committee for Review

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

Councilor Dushku moved to request the Town Council to authorize the Administration to move forward with a temporary lights solution at Arsenal Park; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. Mr. Magoon stated the Conservation Commission, who retains care, custody, and control of Arsenal Park, raised some questions about the change in use of the park and would like to discuss this matter.

Based on this concern, Councilor Dushku moved to amend his previous motion to request the Town Council to authorize the use of temporary lighting at Arsenal Park pending approval of the Conservation Commission while minimizing the impact to abutting residences; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion.

Town Council members raised the following issues:

- ~ The Conservation Commission should be notified because Arsenal Park is under the care of the Commission
- ~ The staff have concerns regarding the implementation of this program
- ~ The abutters need to be notified and heard from regarding this program
- ~ The need to finding a cost sharing method

Councilor Dushku withdrew his motion. Councilor Palomba then moved that the issue be returned to the Committee on Human Services for further discussion and to include the Conservation Committee, appropriate Department heads, Mr. Leonard of the Watertown Youth Soccer Association, to address the issues raised; to explore a cost sharing mechanism for the solution; and to notify neighbors; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Palomba made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that the discussion of field prioritization policies come back to the Human Services Committee for review; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a voice vote of 8 to 1. All Councilors voted in the affirmative except for Councilor Woodland who voted in the negative.

C. Committee on Public Works Report on an Appointment to the [Stormwater Advisory Committee](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

ACTION ITEM: Approve the Appointment of David Jay to the Stormwater Advisory Committee for a Term to Expire on July 15, 2018.

Councilor Dushku read the Committee report. Councilor Palomba moved to accept the report; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. Councilor Dushku moved to appoint David Jay to the Stormwater Advisory Committee for a term to expire on July 15, 2018; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Woodland moved to refer to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances a review of Rule 11 of the Town of Watertown Rules to discuss standards when sending a request to Committee; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 6 in the affirmative and 3 in the negative. All Councilors voted in the affirmative except for Councilors Dattoli, Feltner, and Palomba who voted in the negative.

Councilor Dattoli made a motion to refer to the Committee on Education and School System Matters a request to invite Minuteman High School to present information on being an in-district versus a non-district member and the costs related; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion failed on a roll call vote of 4-5. Councilors Dattoli, Dushku, Feltner, and Palomba voted in the affirmative. Councilors Falkoff, Kounelis, Piccirilli, Woodland, and President Sideris voted in the negative.

Councilor Dushku moved to have the Town Council propose a Joint Committee referral with the Committee on Education and School System Matters and the Budget and Finance Committee of the School Committee to discuss out of district vocational technical school tuitions; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion.

The motion passed on an 8-1 roll call vote. All Councilors voted in the affirmative except for Councilor Falkoff who voted in the negative.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

There were no announcements from the Town Manager.

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

Councilor Falkoff requested an update to the O'Neill Charitable Funds and a diagram or map of the plans for Arsenal Street.

Councilor Feltner requested

- ~ A meeting regarding concerns of how Arsenal Street changes are affecting the residential side along Beacon Park.
- ~ Clarification as to whether any notification was provided for the sidewalk repairs on Franklin St.
- ~ An inventory history of sidewalk paving and repair, in particular as it relates to District B.
- ~ The mitigation measures Hanover and Greystar were taking and a clarification of discrepancies regarding the work being done and those approved for the projects.

Councilor Dattoli requested information that would explain the formula for the Conservation and Preservation Act and how the formula would affect properties as currently assessed.

Councilor Dushku requested a status on the Complete Streets policy.

Councilor Kounelis requested an update on her previously requested items.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Dushku announced that on

- ~ September 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., the Rules and Ordinances and the Ad Hoc Transportation Committees would hold a joint meeting to discuss the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Ordinance.
- ~ September 24, 2016, the Faire on the Square would take place.
- ~ September 29, 2016, the Ad Hoc Transportation Committee would meet to hear a progress report on the Transportation Management Association (TMA) and the Shuttle Bus Program.

Councilor Dattoli announced that on

- ~ September 19, 2016, there would be a meeting in the Council Chamber to discuss an Interim Superintendent.
- ~ September 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., the Education and School System Matters would meet to discuss accessibility to government related content on CATV.
- ~ September 24, 2016, the 5th Annual Armenian Bone Marrow Registry Walk would be held.

Councilor Palomba announced that on

- ~ September 14, 2016, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. James Armenian Church on 465 Mt. Auburn St, there would be a program entitled, “Learn About Addiction – Save a Life”, sponsored by the Church and the Watertown Task Force on Substance Use Disorder.
- ~ September 21, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., Trees for Watertown would hold its annual meeting at Sasaki Associates on 64 Pleasant St.
- ~ September 21, 2016 at 7:00 at St. Patrick’s Church, Watertown Overcoming Addiction would hold the second Annual Vigil to remember those who died because of opioid addiction.
- ~ September 25, 2016 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., a concert entitled Concert Across America to End Gun Violence will be held at Saltonstall Park.

Councilor Feltner announced that on September 23, 2016, she would hold open office hours at the Watertown Free Public Library either outside or in the Raya Stern Trustees Meeting Room depending on the weather.

She also welcomed to the community Saltwoods located on 19D Calvin Rd., a new business making custom farm tables.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the forum.

16. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

President Sideris asked for a moment of silence in memory of Walter E. Ohnemus, Jr., father-in-law to Mr. Driscoll.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 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 September 27, 2016

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s/MWP