



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 10, 2017 AT 7:15 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER 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, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., 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 at the Public Forum.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the December 13, 2016 Town Council Meeting

Councilor Piccirilli moved to table the consideration of the December 13, 2016 minutes; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sideris congratulated Mr. Chris Hayward, Watertown Tree Warden, who was named Tree Warden of the Year by the Massachusetts Tree Warden Association. He thanked Mr. Hayward for his service to the town.

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 \$259,400, Under and Pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or Any Other Enabling Authority, for the Purpose of Paying Costs of [Replacing and Installing Carpets at the Watertown Free Public Library](#)

Mr. Driscoll introduced Ms. Leone Cole, Director of the Watertown Free Public Library, who provided information on the need for the carpet replacement.

President Sideris opened the Public Hearing. There being no speakers, President Sideris closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the loan order for \$259,400 as presented; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion. After a discussion by the Council, Mr. Driscoll presented the method of financing and requested the Council's favorable consideration. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

First Reading on a Proposed Animal Control Ordinance to be Adopted Pursuant to the Provisions of G.L. c. 140 Addressing the Keeping and Management of Dogs, Cats, and Other Animals in the Interest of Protecting Public Health and Safety as well as the Health and Safety of the Subject Animals. This Ordinance Shall Replace in its Entirety the Existing Ordinance Found as [Title IX, Chapter 91, Animals, of the Watertown Code of Ordinances](#).

President Sideris completed a first reading of the Ordinance.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report on [Insurance for Elected Officials and OPEB Recommendations](#) – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Chair
ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Requests and Encourages the Town Manager to Continue the Long-Standing Policy of Finding Paid Elected Officials Eligible for Participation in Watertown's Plan of Insurance in Accordance with the Applicable Laws and Regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to that the Town Council request and encourage the Town Manager to continue the long-standing policy of finding paid elected officials eligible for participation in Watertown's plan of insurance in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion. Councilor Falkoff moved to amend the motion by deleting the word "finding" and inserting in its place the words "making a finding that"; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a voice vote of 8-1. All members voting in favor of the motion except for Councilor Dattoli who voted in the negative.

- B. Committee on Economic Planning and Development Report on [Small Business Tax Exemption, Increase of Tax Shift, and Fees for Liquor Licenses](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Not Adopt the Small Business Tax Exemption
2. That the Town Council Not Proceed with a Home Rule Petition to Increase the C-I-P shift to 185%
3. That the Town Council Set a Supplemental Fee for a Common Victualler All-Alcohol License at Two Times the Base Fee
4. That the Town Council Waive a Supplemental Fee for a General Premises License for the Arts Center at 321 Arsenal Street.

Councilor Piccirilli read the Committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. After a discussion, the motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council not adopt the Small Business Tax Exemption; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council not proceed with a Home Rule Petition to increase the C-I-P shift to 185%; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council set a supplemental fee for a Common Victualler All-Alcohol License at two times the base fee; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. After a discussion of the issue, the motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli recused himself from the next item for discussion. Councilor Woodland moved that the Town Council waive a supplemental fee for a General Premises License for the Arts Center at 321 Arsenal Street; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. During the discussion, several questions were raised regarding the Arts Center's license for which answers were not readily available. President Sideris asked for a motion to table the item. Councilor Dattoli moved to table the discussion of the action item; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5 for, 2 no, and 1 present. Councilors Dattoli, Feltner, Kounelis, Palomba, and President Sideris voted in the affirmative; Councilors Falkoff and Woodland voted in the negative; Councilor Dushku voted present; and Councilor Piccirilli recused himself.

Councilor Feltner moved to refer the matter back to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote 7 for, 1 against. Councilors Dattoli, Dushku, Falkoff, Feltner, Kounelis, Palomba, and President Sideris voted in the affirmative; Councilor Woodland voted in the negative; and Councilor Piccirilli recused himself.

- C. [Committee on Education and School System Matters Report on Increasing Accessibility to Government related Content with Watertown Cable Access TV](#) – Michael F. Dattoli, Chair
ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Draft a Letter In Support of the “Balser Bill”

Councilor Dattoli read the Committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. Due to insufficient information and changed circumstances regarding the Balser Bill, Councilor Piccirilli moved to table the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. Councilor Palomba moved to table the action item for the report; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the matter back to the Committee on Education to continue the discussion based on updated information relating to

new legislation, and to provide clarification of what the Town Council is supporting; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

D. Committee on Federal, State, and Regional Government Report on [Early Voting](#)
– Angeline B. Kounelis, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Instruct the Administration to Ask the Town Clerk and Staff to Examine What Resources Will be Needed to Facilitate and Improve the Early Voting Process Moving Forward.
2. That the Town Council Instruct the Administration to Ask the Town Clerk and Staff to Examine the Logistics of Expanding Early Voting.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council instruct the Administration to ask the Town Clerk and staff to examine what resources will be needed to facilitate and improve the early voting process moving forward; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council instruct the Administration to ask the Town Clerk and staff to examine the logistics of expanding early voting; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Dattoli moved for a temporary short-term moratorium on new and existing cellular antenna applications, petitions, and permits with a suggested expiration date of June 30, 2017 to allow time for the Town to undertake an RFP planning process as voted on in April, 2013; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. Attorney Reich suggested that the discussion be delayed until the next meeting due to the complexity of the issue.

After a discussion on the need for more information by Council members, President Sideris exercised his prerogative to end the discussion on the topic. He stated this item required a significant discussion, that the item was not placed on the agenda, and that there could be implications with the federal Telecommunications Act.

Councilor Falkoff moved to refer to the Committees on Public Safety and Public Works a discussion on the winter all night parking ban; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a voice vote with all Councilors in favor of the motion, except for Councilor Dushku who voted present.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Request for Confirmation of Appointment and Reappointments to Cable Access Corporation Board of Directors

Mr. Driscoll requested that appointments and reappointments to the Cable Access TV Corporation be referred to the Committee on Education and School System Matters. Under Charter rules, this is an automatic referral.

Mr. Driscoll also stated that on January 14, 2017, that tires without rims, paper shredding, and styrofoam would be recycled at the Recycling Center.

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

Councilor Palomba asked for a clarification as to when an item should appear as an Action Item on the agenda. Attorney Reich stated when a Committee asks the Town Council to take an action, the public needs to be notified to satisfy the Open Meeting Law. When a Committee is fact-finding or developing a policy, Administrative officials may assist and such activity does constitute an action item.

Councilor Piccirilli asked for an update of the spreadsheet listing the number of students living in large developments.

Councilor Dushku asked for the status of the Complete Streets policy, especially as it relates to the development of a working group.

Councilor Falkoff asked for an update on double poles. She also stated that a resident, praising the tree lights at Watertown Square, asked if they could stay lit in the evenings until later in the year when it doesn't get dark until after 5 or 6 PM.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Feltner announced that on Friday and Saturday January 20-21, she would be attending the MA Municipal Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show. On January 21, 2017, she would be participating in the march on Boston Common.

She also announced that on Sunday, January 29, 2017, there would be an all-elementary spelling bee and that there was financial aid available.

Councilor Palomba announced that on Monday, January 16, 2017, a Unity Breakfast honoring Martin Luther King would be held at the Hellenic Center on Bigelow Street starting at 8:30 a.m.

Councilor Dushku announced three meetings:

- ~ Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on January 11, 2017, the Planning Board would be meeting regarding the Arsenal Project seeking approval of a Master Plan Special Permit.
- ~ Thursday at 5:30 p.m. on January 12, 2017, the Committee on Transportation would be meeting to discuss further the development of the Transportation Management Association (TMA), the Shuttle Bus, and the regulations relating to Transportation Demand Management (TDM).
- ~ Monday at 6:30 on January 23, 2017, the Committee on Public Works would be discussing the Adopt an Island policy and Organic Composting.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Forum

14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Palomba moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 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 vote of 9 for, 0 against, 0 present on January 24, 2017.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order, January 5, 2017 Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council (Item 6)
2. Proposed Title IX, Chapter 91, Animals, of the Watertown Code of Ordinances.(Item 7)
3. Report of the Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Meeting on December 12, 2016 relating to Insurance Benefits for Elected Officials and OPEB Recommendations (Item 8A)
Attachment A: Watertown Post Retirement Benefits Plan, Actuarial Valuation Report June 30, 2015
4. Report of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Meeting on December 7, 2016 relating to Small Business Tax Exemption, Increasing the Commercial/Industrial/Personal Property tax shift from 175% to 185%, and Supplemental Fees for Liquor Licenses (Item 8B)
5. Report of the Education Committee Meeting on September 26, 2016 relating to increased accessibility to government related content with Watertown CATV (Item 8C)
6. Report of the Committee on State, Federal, and Regional Government Meeting on December 6, 2016 regarding the early voting process (Item 8D)