

DRAFT MINUTES

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008 AT 7:15 PM

RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO CHAMBER

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1. ROLL CALL: A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 7:15 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney, Susan G. Falkoff, Jonathan Hecht, Angeline B. Kounelis, John J. Lawn, Jr., Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Mark S. Sideris and Council President Clyde L. Younger. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Joseph Faire and Council Clerk Valerie Papas. Councilor Corbett was absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: April 8, 2008. Tabled by Councilor Devaney.

LATE AGENDA ITEM: The Chair asked for a motion to bring forward a late agenda item. Councilor Devaney moved the request, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Sideris read and presented a proclamation to Newton resident, David Boyajian for being instrumental in Watertown severing their ties with the No Place For Hate program sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League.

Mr. Boyajian thanked the Council for the honor and recognition and stated that Watertown contributed greatly with taking the lead in severing their ties with the ADL which went on to gain the public spot light and become a national issue.

Councilor Devaney announced that the Governor will be recognizing Mr. Boyajian in the near future.

4. PUBLIC FORUM –

Ruth Thomasian, Trees for Watertown - announced a number of upcoming events in celebration of Earth Day.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel and Town Organization Committee update on Evaluation and Compensation related matters for Town Manager – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair. Councilor Lawn provided a verbal committee update on their meeting for April 9, 2008. He noted that discussions continued regarding the Town Manager's evaluation tool and that an additional meeting will be scheduled for April 30th at 6:30 pm. Councilor Sideris moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

B. Public Safety Committee report and action on appointments to the Traffic

Commission – Mark S. Sideris, Chair. Councilor Sideris provided a verbal report on appointments to the Traffic Commission. He noted that both candidates were interviewed. Mr. John Bartley indicated that he plans to continue his work on access of emergency vehicles to public streets. Mr. Airasian stated during the committee meeting that he plans to continue his work regarding on-street parking and to institute more communication between the Traffic Commission and other departments regarding new development. Councilor Sideris moved the reappointment of Mr. John Bartley to the Traffic Commission, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by voice vote. Councilor Sideris moved the reappointment of Mr. John Airasian to the Traffic Commission, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair recognized Mr. Bartley who spoke briefly to the issue of fire apparatus and prohibitive parking.

Councilor Kounelis provided a brief overview of Mr. Bartley's resume.

C. Economic Development and Planning Committee report and action on the following items: appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals and development incentives for the Pleasant Street Corridor – Jonathan Hecht, Chair. Councilor Hecht provided a brief report on development incentives for the Pleasant Street corridor. He noted that he is keeping his report brief as a more comprehensive presentation on the matter will be provided tonight. Councilor Hecht further stated that the committee also met to interview Zoning Board candidate Stuart Bailey and unanimously voted to forward his reappointment to the Council for adoption. Councilor Sideris moved to accept the verbal report, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote. Councilor Hecht moved the reappointment of Stuart Bailey, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.

6. INFORMATION PRESENTATION FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

A. Informational Presentation on Economic Target Area and Expedited Permitting – Gregory P. Watson, Planning Director and Representatives from Massachusetts Office of Business Development and Mass Development. Mr. Watson indicated that the town is currently preparing to undertake applications for a grant under a State's permitting program (Chapter 43D) which will be administered by Massachusetts Office of Business Development. For the purpose of the application, the town is looking at the Boston Scientific site. Both programs make the acquisition and redevelopment of the site more desirable.

Ms. Annamarie Kersten of Massachusetts Business Development provided an overview of the EDIP (Economic Development Incentive Program) program. She indicated that the program consists of a three way partnership between the chosen business, the town and the state. If qualified for acceptance, TIF (Tax Increment Financing) will help offset the

increased tax value on the redeveloped site for a period of between 5 - 20 years and between 5% and 20% of the tax increased cost.

Mr. Watson noted that the first step is to receive approval as an ETA to bring economic development to the Pleasant Street corridor and other areas. Ms. Kersten stated that the town has to have 200 acres to support three million square feet of technology space.

Councilor Hecht stated that targeting the whole town would allow for maximum flexibility.

Councilor Falkoff asked what is an appropriate targeted business and who will make that decision.

Mr. Watson stated that a formal committee will work along with the manager to make those kinds of decisions. Councilor Hecht noted that anything going back to the State, however, will need approval by the Town Council.

Councilor Kounelis stated that she did not receive information similar to what was given to the subcommittee, and would like it sent to her.

Councilor Hecht moved to authorize the Manager to pursue application to the Economic Assistance Coordinating Council's Regional Technology Center to become eligible to become a regional technology area, seconded by Councilor Falkoff.

The Chair indicated that this program is time sensitive.

Mr. Watson stated that all information will be forwarded to the Council.

Councilor Devaney concurred with Councilor Kounelis' comments about the materials.

Councilor Piccirilli indicated that information in the power point presentation is similar to the text which was received by the subcommittee.

The motion expediting the program was adopted by unanimous voice vote of 8-0.

The Chair stated that the planning staff followed the policy directive of the Town Council by moving forward with this program.

Mr. Watson introduced the second phase, Chapter 43D, indicating that the Town may acquire up to \$100,000 for permitting tracking software which must be applied for by the April 30th deadline.

Ms. Nancy Radzevich of Mass Development highlighted the Efficient Permitting Program which encourages municipalities to be more efficient in permitting. Requirements are that the town must designate a building site of at least 50,000 square feet; adopt 43D for that site and have the property owner sign off on participation in the program. Ms. Radzenich reviewed the processes and stated that the benefits include a one time grant of \$100,000 for technical assistance. Applications are due April 30th . Summary sheet of other participating communities are attached.

Councilor Sideris asked what is being proposed for the Boston Scientific site. Mr. Watson stated that no plans have been submitted as of yet – the town only needs to determine a site. Boston Scientific has signed off to participate.

Councilor Devaney asked what the criteria are for a community with respect to monies received. Ms. Radzevich stated that most communities have received what they have requested – up to \$100,000.

Councilor Hecht moved to adopt provision of Chapter 43D for the Boston Scientific property as the selected site and authorize the Manager to enter into agreement if approved and accept the grant for the permitting tracking program, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by unanimous voice vote of 8-0.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A. Acceptance of Proclamation recognizing Arbor Day. The Chair read a proclamation recognizing April 25th as Arbor Day. So moved by Councilor Sideris, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.

B. Resolution authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Cash Settlement of at least \$300.00 received by the Watertown Free Public Library. The Chair recognized the Manager who provided a brief overview of the item. Councilor Sideris moved the acceptance and expenditure of the cash settlement, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. The Chair announcement of the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Hearing dates.

B. The Chair presented a letter for public record, which was delivered to his home. He indicated that if the person who sent the letter does not cease and desist and stop the harassment, he will hire an attorney.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

A. The Town Manager submitted the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget and read his budget message (attached). He indicated that the budget will be advertised in the May 2nd Watertown Tab.

The Manager indicated that the Budget books will be forwarded no later than next week.

The Manager also stated that he is working on and will be forwarding Request For Information in due time as he has been recently distracted by preparations for the fiscal year 2009 budget submission.

10. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Kounelis requested a more recent update on Verizon FIOS. She also stated that she looks forward to her other RFI being completed and forwarded by the Manager.

Councilor Falkoff asked that in commemoration of Earthy Day, the Manager and Council Clerk address a request to "Decrease the Margins" as requested by an Atrium School 4th grader.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Hecht announced an upcoming Planning Board hearing on April 29th at 7pm regarding zoning changes for Pleasant Street Corridor.

Councilor Kounelis announced that she cannot attend the upcoming dedication for the late Lucia Mastrangelo due to it being scheduled on the Greek Orthodox Holiday.

12. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

- 13. ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before the Town Councilor Sideris moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm, seconded by Councilor Hecht and adopted by unanimous vote.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes of April 22, 2008 were adopted as written on May 13, 2008.