



TOWN OF  
WATERTOWN  
Town Council

Administration Building  
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Elected Officials:

Mark S. Sideris, Council President  
Stephen B. Corbett, At Large  
John A. Donohue, At Large  
Susan G. Falkoff, At Large  
Angeline B. Kounelis, District A  
John J. Lawn, Jr., District D  
Cecilia Lenk, District B  
Anthony Palomba, At Large  
Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., District C

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009 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 Stephen P. Corbett, Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Jonathan Hecht, John J. Lawn, Jr., Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Mark Sideris and Council President Clyde L. Younger. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: November 24<sup>th</sup>.** Councilor Sideris moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.
- 4. PUBLIC FORUM:**  
Annie Clark, Hall Avenue – thanked outgoing councilors Marilyn Devaney, Jonathan Hecht and Council President Younger for their dedication and contribution to the community.

Ruth Thomasian – thanked outgoing councilors Marilyn Devaney, Jonathan Hecht and Council President Younger for their years of service to the community.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to bring forward a late agenda item seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

Proclamations were read and presented to outgoing councilors [Jonathan Hecht](#) and [Marilyn Devaney](#) by President Younger. A proclamation was read and presented to outgoing Council [President Younger](#) by Vice President Sideris. The proclamations were adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Sideris moved to bring forward agenda item 8A, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote. a) Acceptance of Proclamations honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rev. Fr. Dajad [Davidian](#) and His Eminence Abp. Khajag [Barsamain](#) – Clyde L. Younger. The Chair introduced the two proclamations. Councilor Devaney moved to accept the proclamations, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

**5. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:**

a) On a proposed [Ordinance](#) prohibiting above ground Mausoleums sited at Ridgelawn Cemetery. The Chair opened up the hearing to the public and recognized the following:

1. Debbie Munger – spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.
2. Angelo DiVincentis, Waltham, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance. Spoke for the need to clean up Ridgelawn Cemetery of construction debris.
3. Carl Paulsen – spoke in support of the proposed ordinance. Spoke in support of cleaning up the debris at the cemetery.
4. Dan Partridge – spoke in support of the proposed ordinance and to maintain the current esthetics at the cemetery.

There being no further comments, the Chair closed the public hearing.

Councilor Devaney moved the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Lawn.

Councilor Hecht offered and moved to include modified language: “ prohibits mausoleums, defined as above-ground burial chambers for housing the casketed remains of one or more persons; all other burial or memorial buildings of a size equal to or larger than mausoleums”

Attorney Reich noted that the modified language would specify definitions and characteristics.

Councilor Falkoff asked for a further definition to mausoleums to add the words “one single casketed remain”, and seconded the motion that would include her additional friendly amendment.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion to modify the proposed ordinance was defeated 4-5. See attached roll call.

Councilors Piccirilli and Corbett voiced concern that the ordinance will ultimately cause more problems down the road for the town and will eventually need to be

amended. Councilor Piccirilli further stated that it is unclear if the proposed ordinance even prohibits a memorial bench.

Attorney Reich stated that the proposed ordinance was written to deal with mausoleum structures, the issue of benches remains unclear. He offered the following additional language to prohibit “above ground **structures and or cremated remains**”. On the amendment and upon a roll call vote, it was defeated 4-5. See attached roll call.

Upon a roll call vote on the originally proposed ordinance, it was adopted 6-3. See attached roll call.

Councilor Devaney moved a late agenda item, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote. Councilor Devaney read and moved a [resolution](#) requesting future councils to keep cemetery ordinance intact as voted. No second.

Councilor Devaney stated that she will be leaving the meeting at this time.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORT:**

a) Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight report and [resolution](#) on the Fiscal Year 2011 budget [guidelines](#). Following the reading of the report, it was accepted by voice vote. Councilor Sideris moved to adopt the Fiscal Year 2011 Guidelines, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Sideris read and moved the resolution and suggested that the resolution be sent to neighboring cities and towns, seconded by Councilor Hecht and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Sideris moved to bring forward agenda item 7B, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote.

**Presentation on the Fiscal Year 2008 Audit Report – Frank Biron, CPA, Melanson, Heath and Company, P.C.** Following the presentation, Councilor Sideris moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward agenda item 8C, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by voice vote.

**Confirmation of Melanson, Heath and Company as the Independent Audit Firm for the Town’s Fiscal Year 2009 Audit.**

Councilor Sideris moved to confirm the audit firm, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.

b) Committee on Education and School System Matters [report](#) and action on the re-appointment of Steven Aylward to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation

for a 3 year term to expire on September 15, 2012; and a report regarding a home base for the Watertown Family Network – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Chair. Following the reading of the report regarding the Watertown Cable Access Corporation appointment, it was accepted by voice vote. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the reappointment of Steven Aylward, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report on Watertown Family Network, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote. (reports attached).

c) Committee on Personnel and Town Organization report on the Town Manager's Contract/Renewal – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair. Following the reading of the report, it was accepted by voice vote. Councilor Lawn moved to retain the services of the Manager and negotiate a successor agreement beginning July 1, 2010, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

d) December 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Committee on Public Works and Budget and Fiscal Oversight report on [Snow Removal](#) matters – Susan G. Falkoff and Mark S. Sideris, Co-Chairs. Following the reading of the report on snow removal, it was accepted by voice vote. It was noted that the Public Works will end the practice of giving out salt. December 1<sup>st</sup> Public Works Committee report on a Curb [and Sidewalk Policy](#), including Pleasant Street Reconstruction Project and Business Trash Collection – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. The report was accepted by voice vote.

**7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM TOWN OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES:**

b) Presentation on the Fiscal Year 2008 Audit Report – Frank Biron, CPA, Melanson, Heath and Company, P.C. – previously taken up.

**8. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

b) First reading: On a proposed Historic Landmark [Ordinance](#). Councilor Hecht provided a brief overview. The ordinance will be advertised for a public hearing and vote on January 12, 2010.

c) Confirmation of Melanson, Heath and Company as the Independent Audit Firm for the Town's Fiscal Year 2009 Audit. Previously taken up.

d) Resolution authorizing a [transfer](#) of \$12,839 to fund costs related to the January 19, 2010 State Election. Councilor Sideris moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Hecht and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

**9. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

The Chair asked Attorney Reich to research the Deed for the North Branch Library.

The Chair noted that it has been his pleasure to serve the community.

**10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:**

- a) [Request](#) for Confirmation of appointment and reappointments to the Energy and Environment Efficiency Committee. Unanimously referred to Public Works.

**11. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:**

Councilor Falkoff requested an update on Ridgelawn Cemetery debris.

Councilor Sideris asked the Manager to look into which company owns the poles on Pleasant Street and have them removed and relocated as a previously sent letter requested.

The Chair requested an update on FIOS.

Councilor Kounelis requested an update on Wells Avenue parking lot, negotiations with Mt. Auburn Cemetery and pilot program.

**12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Councilor Hecht announced that the police department has a new emergency information service “notify me”. Citizens can log on for email service.

**13. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.**

**14. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Lawn moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by unanimous vote.

Clyde L. Younger, Council President