

MINUTES

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2006 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 Corbett, Marilyn Petitto Devaney, John A. Donohue, Jonathan Hecht, Angeline B. Kounelis, John J. Lawn, Jr., Stephen E. Romanelli, Mark S. 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. ORGANIZATION:

A. Election of a Vice President: The Chair recognized Councilor Romanelli who nominated Mark Sideris to serve as Vice President, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by unanimous voice vote. The Chair congratulated Vice President Mark Sideris.

B. Selection of seating assignments: Councilors took their respective seats by random selection. The Chair recognized each new Council member who provided a brief greeting to the community.

C. Adoption of current Rules of the Town Council as temporary Rules of the Town Council. Councilor Sideris moved to adopt the current rules of the Council as temporary Rules and further moved an amendment to section #11, under public forum, seconded by Councilor Romanelli. Following further discussion, Councilor Sideris withdrew his previous motion and moved to accept the Rules as temporary rules and refer the temporary Rules to

the Rules and Ordinances Committee and changes to section #11 for review and recommendation, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair acknowledged the passing of Vice President Sideris' mother-in law and stated that the Vice President would be leaving the meeting early to attend family matters. The Chair asked for a motion to Suspend the Rules in order to move forward agenda item 7D. Councilor Devaney made the motion, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

7D. Referral of the Town Manager's contract and future consideration of an ordinance regarding possible changes to the Town Manager's compensation to committee.

Vice President Sideris read a proposed resolution with respect to the Town Council retaining legal counsel for the purpose of contract negotiations with the Town Manager (see attached). It was noted that a Special Meeting of the Town Council will be called on Tuesday, January 17th at 7PM in order to go into executive session to discuss the hiring of an attorney for above stated purpose. Vice President Sideris moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by unanimous vote.

3 D. Adoption of prior resolution authorizing issuance of proclamations. Councilor Devaney moved to refer the resolution to the Rules and Ordinance Committee for review and recommendation, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

4. EXAMINATION OF MINUTES: December 13, 2005 Councilor Devaney moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Councilor Romanelli and adopted by voice vote.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

- A. Informational Presentation on both long term and short term strategies aimed at curbing the impact of projected Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Increases – Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director, MWRA Advisory Board.

The Chair recognized Mr. Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director of the MWRA Advisory Board. Mr. Favaloro provided an overview of a resolution in support of Increased Funding for the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund. The resolution noted that the Rate Relief Fund is a formula-driven program providing the state with funding up to 20% of the cost of wastewater project which would, according to Mr. Favaloro provide an immediate benefit to the communities within the MWRA. Mr. Favaloro informed the Council that goals include the Commonwealth fully funding the Sewer Rate Relief by 2011 as well increasing its customer base and entrance fee into the system.

Questions by the Council and the public and answers by Mr. Favaloro, Ms. Kaprielian and Mr. Tolman followed the presentation.

State Representative Rachel Kaprielian and State Senator Steven Tolman spoke in support of the proposed resolution and acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Favaloro and Bob Dileo. Ms. Kaprielian invited Councilors to an Advocacy Day on January 19th at the State House, Room 350 to push for additional debt service assistance and expand the sewer rate relief fund.

The Chair thanked Mr. Favaloro, Ms. Kaprielian and Mr. Tolman for their presentation.

6. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- A. Resolution in support of increased funding for the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund. Councilor Devaney moved the resolution, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

- B. Resolution authorizing a transfer in the amount of \$10,720 from Fiscal Year 2006 Town Council Reserve Account to Fiscal Year 2006 Transfer to Other Funds to fund local match of the Fiscal Year 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award. The Chair recognized Chief Mario Orangio who provided a brief overview of the transfer and noted that the grant will fund a project that will upgrade the air quality within all fire department

building in Watertown. Councilor Devaney moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. The Chair asked for a Motion to amend Rule 11 of the Council Rules to add new committee titled "Finance". The Chair proposed that the Committee be made up of three Councilors and two citizens. Councilor Donohue moved to refer the matter to the Rules and Ordinances Committee for review and recommendations, seconded by Lawn and adopted by voice vote.

- b. Request and referral to committee of inventory of all town owned vehicles and their place of storage. Councilor Donohue moved to refer the matter to Public Works Committee, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by voice vote.

- c. Future consideration and referral to committee of adoption of an ordinance regarding appointments within the office of the Town Auditor. Councilor Donohue moved to refer the matter to the Personnel and Town Organization Committee, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

1. The Manager noted that parking tickets may be paid on-line.

2. The Manager noted that the Faire on the Square Committee has updated their website.

3. The Manager noted that the Police Department has received a grant in the amount of \$57,000. for community policing.

4. The Manager noted that the Town Clerk has forwarded ordinances to members of the Rules and Ordinances Committee and requested a motion to formally refer the matter of re-codification of Town ordinances. Councilor Hecht moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote.

9. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Devaney stated that two directors of the Arts Center have resigned and asked for a report on the matter and regarding the outstanding debt.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Chair read a letter from resident, Virginia Rice requesting a resident committee regarding the building of a new police station.

The Chair announced a Special Town Council meeting for Tuesday, January 17th at 7PM.

Councilor Kounelis announced that the Atrium School has relocated to 69 Grove Street with a 20 year lease. Meetings will be held at Planning Board and Zoning Board level for review of plans.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. John DiMascio, Copeland Street – spoke in support of the subcommittee reviewing uses of town owned vehicles and limits on such uses.

Mr. Richard Hoover, Irving Park – congratulated new Councilors and spoke against a House vote regarding children of illegal aliens receiving state aid for college tuition.

Fire Chief Orangio informed the Public that renovations to Fire Station 2 will be partially delayed due a historic review of the building due to its age.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilor Kounelis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted as written, by voice vote.

Clyde L. Younger, Council President