

OCTOBER 22, 2024



Watertown City Council

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024, 6:30 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET

MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on October 22, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
- B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- D. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344
- E. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov
- F. Please Visit the City Council Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/350/City-Council>

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the City Council at 6:30 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors John M. Airasian, Caroline Bays, Lisa J. Feltner, Nicole Gardner, Emily Izzo, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr. (arrived at 6:45), and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were George Proakis City Manager, Mark Reich, City Attorney, Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk, and Doug Newton, Municipal Policy Analyst. Councilor John G. Gannon was absent.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:15 P.M.

- A. Pursuant to G.L. c. 20A, §21(a)(2) to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the City's negotiating position and the Chair so declares - Salary adjustment for Council Clerk

Councilor Feltner moved to enter into Executive Session and Councilor Palomba seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

3. RETURN TO SESSION – 7:00 P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Peter Centola – 25 Thurston Road – Shared a list of concerns (attached) he maintains after receiving a response from the City Manager's regarding those questions and concerns that he deemed unsatisfactory. He raised concern with a lack of posting for the Assistant Director of Recreation position, which he believes highlights a lack of respect. He labeled the process of filling the roles of Director and Asst. Director as a disaster. He made recommendations for naming the auditorium and gym for the new High School as well as other roads.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. Minutes from City Council Meeting October 8, 2024

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the minutes from City Council Meeting October 8, 2024 and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Proposed Resolution regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Process

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the resolution and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

8. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS

A. Proclamation in Recognition of National First Responders Day

President Sideris noted the fittingness of this proclamation recognizing the heroics displayed by the Watertown Police and Fire Department in saving a resident's life at a recent fire. He presented the proclamation.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the proclamation and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no Public Hearings

10. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. First Reading on a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

President Sideris suggested to move this item to after the City Manager's budget presentation and City Manager Proakis agreed.

B. First Reading on a proposed Ordinance amending the Council Clerk's salary

President Sideris remarked that the Council Clerk preformed very well in his evaluations, that a change to the Clerk's salary must be done through ordinance, so the public hearing and vote to facilitate the change will occur at the next meeting.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on State, Federal, & Regional Government Report regarding its meeting on October 15, 2024 - Gardner, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Christopher Dunn for reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for a term to expire on April 1, 2028

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Adam Brewster for reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for a term to expire April 1, 2027

Councilor Gardner read the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the first action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the second action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

B. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report regarding its meeting on October 8, 2024 - Izzo, Chair

ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of George Skuse to the WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of James O'Conner to the WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of Chris Mackenzie to the WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027

Councilor Izzo read the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the action items and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

C. Committee on Climate and Energy Report regarding its meetings on September 24, 2024 & October 7, 2024 - Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of Jeanne Trubek to the WE3C for a term expiring November 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of Silas Fyler to the WE3C for a term expiring November 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the appointment of Bruce Gellerman to the WE3C for a term expiring November 15, 2025

Councilor Palomba read the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the first and second action items and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the third action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

12. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

A. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Public Arts & Culture Committee

City Manager Proakis requested the reappointments of Archy LaSalle, Barbra Epstein, and Jason Wilson to the Public Arts & Culture Committee.

President Sideris stated that these reappointments are referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

B. Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2026

City Manager Proakis presented his Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2026 linked here: <https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=90745&repo=r-5ece5628>

Key points included:

- General Strategic Priorities include continued fiscal stability, climate mitigation and resiliency, a commitment to planning, enhanced organizational effectiveness, building for the future
- Actual FY24 receipts/revenue significantly exceeded what was in the budget mostly due to fees from developments (not expected to continue to grow at same pace)

and investment income.

- Actual FY24 expenses came in below budget (mostly because of vacant positions in budget) but expected debt should grow for the next few years to pay loans of construction for the new schools.
- In FY24, employment has risen, unemployment has dropped, residential sales volume is down, residential median sales price has stabilized, but has doubled over the decade, permit fee revenue has risen from FY23 but is significantly lower than FY22, total property valuation is at \$11.9 billion, and total valuation - relative share has favored residential due to growth in commercial sector.
- FY25 maintains fully funded pension and OPEB commitments.
- Since 2010, energy use for city operations is down 44% and greenhouse gas emission from city operations is down 40%.
- FY25 has demonstrated a continued commitment to planning with regard to environmental goals, community connectivity and design, housing trust improvements.
- FY25 marks improvements in filled vacant positions (from 12.5% vacancy to 4% in a single year) which will help meet community goals.
- Next generation challenges for building for the future include big ticket items like the Senior Center, East End Fire Station, DPW Staging Area, Watertown Square Plan Implementation, but a new item that needs to be considered is the Watertown Middle School
- A priority will be to responsibly budget in order to avoid a Proposition 2 ½ override, a budget override that Watertown has only enacted in 1995 while other communities have had to use many times.
- The Senior Center will probably be best solved by an on-site resolution where a new building and parking lot switch locations along with the combination of the recreation center.
- East End Fire Station has significant historical value, but the size and layout is outdated and doesn't hold typical fire engines.
- DPW Staging Area needs to be addressed as it's an issue that affects other work that needs to be done in town.
- Watertown Square Area Plan includes intersection and infrastructure work, Library expansion, and potentially a parking garage.
- Watertown Middle School is the last school in Watertown that has not been rebuilt or undergone significant recent renovations.
 - A new school would cost in excess of \$130 million and likely would force a Prop 2 ½ override
 - A substantial upgrade to the school is possible while avoiding an override, but we must have a temporary space for students for 15-18 months (could possibly use the modulares that are being used for the high school students), the project incorporates existing areas of the school that have been recently upgraded, the project includes work already recommended in the capital plan
 - Possible estimates and options for the Watertown Middle School are as follows

- Tear down and rebuild: \$132 million
 - Base repair and code upgrades: \$76.7 million
 - Complete renovation: \$127.8 million
 - Renovate 1922 / upgrade remaining areas: \$120.7 million
 - Replace 1922 / upgrade remaining areas: \$84.8 million
- FY25 budget amendments include increases in revenue and a few one-time expenditure adjustments
 - Free Cash estimated to be certified by years end is \$43,500,000, which would be a record for Watertown
 - FY26 revenue forecast includes real estate and personal property taxes to increase 2.5% per year
 - FY26 funding for optional tax exemption for homeowners at 100% over the statutory level included in the overlay adjustment
 - FY26 Majority of local receipts are projects to remain constant or increase 2.5% annually
 - FY26 Motor Vehicle Excise is projected at to increase by \$125,000 from \$4.6 million
 - FY26 considerations for continued fiscal stability including ensuring continued full pension, address capital plan needs and next capital planning challenges, maintain strong reserves, ensure that the commercial/residential tax split remains at 50%/50%
 - FY26 to continue with 3.5% increase to Education Funding as well as an additional \$100K to aid with pre-k programs

City Manager asked to forward the FY25 Budget Amendment for a public hearing at the next meeting, and also asked that the FY26 Preliminary Budget Overview be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

President Sideris granted those requests with an emphasis on talking the Watertown Middle School project.

City Manager Proakis announced the little forest planting event, the Veteran's Day Breakfast, trick or treat at City Hall, Wicked Watertown, the last farmers market of the season, a Victory Field meeting, and Watertown Square Zoning meetings. He then mentioned ongoing discussion and polling concerning a new proposed Watertown logo that received mixed results.

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

There were no Requests for Information.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Gardner announced notice that the eastern most part of Mt. Auburn Street will undergo milling and paving until November 1st, a Disability Awareness event at the

Library, and that nominations for the annual Unity Awards are being received.

Councilor Piccirilli remarked that the next step for the budget process is an upcoming BFO meeting.

President Sideris announced that early voting for the general election has already started, as well as the upcoming Watertown Square Zoning Meeting.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no participants in Public Forum.

15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion was adopted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, 0 present on November 12, 2024.


Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s/BTM

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
Administration Building, 149 Main Street

List of Documents

1. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Process – Item 7A
2. National First Responders Day – Item 8A
3. Committee on State, Federal, & Regional Government Report 10-23-24 – Item 11A
4. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report 10-8-24 – Item 11B
5. Committee on Climate and Energy Report 9-24-24 – Item 11C
6. Request for Confirmation – PACC – Item 13A
7. Preliminary Budget Overview for FY26 – Item 13B
8. Amendment to FY25 Budget
9. Email from Peter Centola

**ADDENDUM TO THE
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER
22, 2024 CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**



City Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on October 22, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. Location: Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
 - B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
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 - D. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344
 - E. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov
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-

- 1. ROLL CALL
- 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - A. Pursuant to G.L. c. 20A, §21(a)(2) to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the City's negotiating position and the Chair so declares - Salary adjustment for Council Clerk
- 3. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:00 P.M.
- 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 5. PUBLIC FORUM
- 6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - A. Minutes from City Council Meeting October 8, 2024
- 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - A. Proposed Resolution regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Process
- 8. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS
 - A. Proclamation in Recognition of National First Responders Day
- 9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading on a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget
- B. First Reading on a proposed Ordinance amending the Council Clerk's salary

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on State, Federal, & Regional Government Report regarding its meeting on October 15, 2024 - Gardner, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Christopher Dunn for reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for a term to expire on April 1, 2028

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Adam Brewster for reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for a term to expire April 1, 2027

- B. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report regarding its meeting on October 8, 2024 - Izzo, Chair

ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of George Skuse to the WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027

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ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of Chris Mackenzie to the WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027

- C. Committee on Climate and Energy Report regarding its meetings on September 24, 2024 & October 7, 2024 - Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of Jeanne Trubek to the WE3C for a term expiring November 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of Silas Fyler to the WE3C for a term expiring November 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM: To recommend that the City Council approve the appointment of Bruce Gellerman to the WE3C for a term expiring November 15, 2025

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Public Arts & Culture Committee
- B. Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2026

14. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS
15. ANNOUNCEMENTS
16. PUBLIC FORUM
17. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	X (arrived@6:45)	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to enter into Executive Session

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to adopt minutes from City Council Meeting October 8, 2024

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve the proposed FY26 Budget Process



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Auditor

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472-4410

Megan Langan
City Auditor

Telephone: (617) 972-6460
Facsimile: (617) 972-6563

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: Megan Langan, City Auditor *ML*

DATE: October 7, 2024

RE: Proposed Resolution – Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Process

WHEREAS: Article 5 of the Watertown Home Rule Charter sets out a process for the development and adoption of the annual operating budget and capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS: The City Council wishes to establish a timeline, consistent with the Charter, by which it will provide policy guidance to the City Manager on the development of the budget and capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS: Such a timeline will also give city residents notice of their opportunity to offer input on these important financial matters;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown establishes the following timeline for the development of the Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and capital improvement program:

1. The Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Budget Overview will be presented to the City Council by October 22, 2024.
2. The City Council will adopt its Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Policy Guidelines by November 25, 2024.
3. The proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program will be presented to the City Council by January 21, 2025.
4. The City Council will adopt its conceptual recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program by February 25, 2025, subject to the availability of funds.



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION# 118

2024 - R - 118

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET TIMELINE

WHEREAS: Article 5 of the Watertown Home Rule Charter sets out a process for the development and adoption of the annual operating budget and capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS: The City Council wishes to establish a timeline, consistent with the Charter, by which it will provide policy guidance to the City Manager on the development of the budget and capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS: Such a timeline will also give city residents notice of their opportunity to offer input on these important financial matters;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown establishes the following timeline for the development of the Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and capital improvement program:

1. The Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Budget Overview will be presented to the City Council by October 22, 2024.
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3. The proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program will be presented to the City Council by January 21, 2025.
4. The City Council will adopt its conceptual recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program by February 25, 2025, subject to the availability of funds.

Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the about Resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 22, 2024

Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve the Proclamation in Recognition of National First Responders Day



Watertown City Council

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

Proclamation in Recognition of National First Responders Day

Whereas, National First Responders Day is a moment to recognize the heroic contributions of those who protect and serve our community; and

Whereas, the City of Watertown acknowledges the unwavering dedication and bravery of our first responders, including firefighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics, and emergency medical personnel; and

Whereas, these individuals demonstrate extraordinary commitment, often placing their own safety at risk, to ensure the well-being and security of our residents; and

Whereas, the first responders of Watertown exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and service, deserving our deepest gratitude and respect;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby proclaims October 28th as National First Responders Day in honor of the sacrifices and contributions of all first responders.

Let us show our appreciation and support for these essential community members who protect and enrich our lives every day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

I have hereunto set our hand and
Caused the Great Seal of the
City of Watertown to be affixed
On this 22nd day of October 2024

Mark S. Sideris, City Council President



CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024

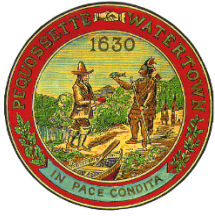
	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept the Committee on State, Federal, & Regional Government Report from its meeting on 10/15/24

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve the action items from the Committee on State, Federal, & Regional Government Report from its meeting on 10/15/24



Watertown City 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 &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

Report of the Committee on State, Federal and Regional Government Meeting Date: October 15th 2024

The Committee convened on Tuesday October 15th, 2024 at 5:30pm in the City Council Office. Present were Nicole Gardner, Chair; Anthony Palomba, Vice Chair; and Emily Izzo, Secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct reappointment interviews for the Board of Election Commissioners.

Christopher Dunn

Mr. Dunn has been an election commissioner for twelve years. He explained the committee has a good working relationship. He described how the citizens of Watertown believe in the integrity of the election results. Mr. Dunn grew up in Watertown, and remembers when multiple candidates would run in both parties there would be both Republican and Democratic candidates running for state office making for more competitive races. Mr. Dunn recently took a class at UMASS on polling and one topic was how polarizing politics can be. An observation he had was the challenge of introducing and assembling new technology if everything is not clearly marked, especially for older volunteers. He finds it refreshing working with Watertown's City Clerk Noelle Gilligan, and he feels like he can call her any time and she will respond. He also discussed how Noelle has done a great job with recruiting poll workers and many of the volunteers are getting younger and are willing to take a day off work to volunteer. He admires how she has advanced in the position since she began working in Watertown several years ago.

⇒ **Action Item** Councilor Palomba made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, to recommend that the City Council confirm Christopher Dunn for reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for a Term to Expire on April 1, 2028. Voted 3-0.

Adam Brewster

Mr. Brewster has been an election commissioner for about six years. He believes the four members work well together. He feels prepared for Election Day, they put in many hours on the day of the election and try and prepare as much as possible and anticipate any issues that could arise. Having a fantastic and communicative clerk in Noelle Gilligan has been extremely helpful. Hiring new

staff that has experience in other municipalities has been a great way to see how they can serve the voters better, and how we can make improvements. He discussed how the amount of ballot questions does not necessarily make an election more complex and does not mean there is a higher chance we will be audited which has not happened since he has been a commissioner. He noticed how the average age of the poll workers has become younger, and there are roles for all ages when it comes to being a volunteer. He keeps serving as a commissioner because it's an important job, it's vital to have people not working in City Hall being part of the process and aware of the process.

⇒ **Action Item** Councilor Palomba made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, to recommend that the City Council confirm Adam Brewster for reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for a Term to Expire on April 1, 2027. Voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.

Report prepared by Emily Izzo.



Watertown City Council

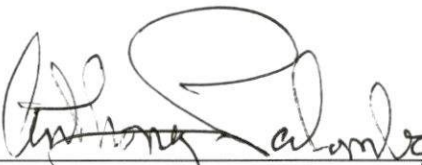
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 119

2024 – R - 119

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER DUNN TO THE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the reappointment of Christopher Dunn to the Board of Election Commissioners for a term to expire on April 1, 2028.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the about Resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 22, 2024



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # 120

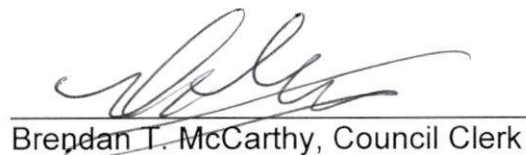
2024 – R - 120

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ADAM BREWSTER TO THE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the reappointment of Adam Brewster to the Board of Election Commissioners for a term to expire on April 1, 2027.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the about Resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 22, 2024


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk
Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept the Committee on Education and School System Matters Report from its meeting on 10/8/24

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve the action items from the Committee on Education and School System
Matters Report from its meeting on 10/8/24



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

Committee on Education and School System Matters

The Committee on Education and School System Matters convened on October 8, 2024, at 5pm in the City Council office. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews with 3 candidates for reappointment for Watertown Cable Access (WCAC) Board of Directors. Present were Emily Izzo, chair; Nicole Gardner, vice chair; John Airasian, secretary.

George Skuse – Mr. Skuse is happy to see the new studio up and running and feels this will allow WCAC to continue to provide high quality programming, information and transparency to the community. He is proud of WCAC being able to provide increased resolution for video on demand. Some concerns he has with the future of WCAC is continued “cord cutting” which decreases the funds WCAC receives and trying to find solutions to cover rent at the new studio has been challenging. Overall, he is very proud of all the information and transparency WCAC provides the community and feels the Board, the staff and volunteers work very hard to make sure it continues.

James O'Connor – Mr. O'Connor has had a great experience on the board. Although there have been many challenges and changes since he first was appointed, he feels WCAC is in a good place to provide the information the community desires. He has been elected Treasurer and dealing with financial challenges which include less revenue from subscribers and paying rent in the new space. He enjoys working with staff and other board members and believes the Executive Director is doing great work with low staff turnover and great retention.

Chris Mackenzie – Mr. Mackenzie has served on the Board since 2016. He currently serves as President and is grateful that the Board has been full for the last several years. He feels things have been running well and they have been able to work together through several challenges over the last few years. Some of the challenges mentioned were getting the staff to grow into the new space which he feels they are doing nicely. Financial challenges facing WCAC continue to mount with less subscribers and added costs in the new space. He is optimistic that this group will find ways to deal with challenges.

Action Item: Councilor Gardner made a motion seconded by Councilor Airasian to recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of George Skuse to WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027. The motion passed 3-0

Action Item: Councilor Gardner made a motion second by Councilor Airasian to

recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of James O'Connor to WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027. The motion passed 3-0

Action Item: Councilor Gardner made a motion second by Councilor Airasian to recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of Chris Mackenzie to WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027. The motion passed 3-0

Meeting Adjourned at 5:50. Minutes by John Airasian

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Emily Izzo,
Chair

Nicole Gardner,
Vice Chair

John M. Airasian,
Secretary



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # 121

2024 - R - 121

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF GEORGE SKUSE TO THE WATERTOWN CABLE ACCESS CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the reappointment of George Skuse to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation Board of Directors for a term to expire on September 15, 2027.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the about Resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 22, 2024



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # 122

2024 – R - 122

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JAMES O'CONNER TO THE WATERTOWN CABLE ACCESS CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the reappointment of James O'Conner to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation Board of Directors for a term to expire on September 15, 2027.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the about Resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 22, 2024



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # 123

2024 – R - 123

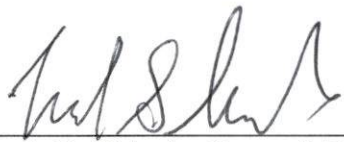
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CHRIS MACKENZIE TO THE WATERTOWN CABLE ACCESS CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the reappointment of Chris Mackenzie to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation Board of Directors for a term to expire on September 15, 2027.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the about Resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 22, 2024


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept the Committee on Climate and Energy Report from its meeting on 9/24/24 and 10/7/24

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve the action items from the Committee on Climate and Energy Report from its meeting on 9/24/24 and 10/7/24



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

Climate and Energy Committee Report

The Climate and Energy committee convened on Tuesday September 24, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the City Council office. The purpose of the meeting was to interview Jeanne Trubek and Silas Fyler for reappointment to the Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee (WE3C). Present at the meeting were Tony Palomba, chair; Caroline Bays, vice chair; and John Airasian, secretary.

Jeanne Trubek was interviewed first and asked what her role is and how the committee has been progressing. She stated her role has been to serve as co-chair and feels she has been a senior anchor for the committee since she has been involved for the past 6 years. The committee continues to be busy with several initiatives and her focus has been on transportation. She is pleased to see Watertown continuing to take climate change seriously. She is very excited to see the Whaddah Hoppah move forward and believes regional transit needs to be established through neighboring cities and towns.

Sylas Fyler was asked what the most rewarding aspect of serving on WE3C and he stated he is very impressed with the people, the work ethic and a common desire to get things accomplished. Mr. Fyler spoke briefly on BERDO saying that it is currently in the hands of city staff and believes there will be some more back and forth moving forward, so he could not give a solid timeline on when it would reach council. When asked about what accomplishments he would like to see in the next 2 years, Mr Fyler would like to continue supporting Resilient Watertown and its goals.

Action Item: Councilor Bays made a motion seconded by Councilor Airasian to recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of Jeanne Trubek to WE3C for a term expiring November 15, 2027. The motion passed 3-0

Action item: Councilor Bays made a motion seconded by Councilor Airasian to recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of Sylas Fyler to WE3C for a term expiring November 15, 2027. The motion passed 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 6pm. Minutes by John Airasian

Climate and Energy Committee Report

The Climate and Energy committee convened on Monday October 7, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the City Council office. The purpose of the meeting was to interview Bruce Gellerman for appointment to the Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee (WE3C). Present at the meeting were Tony Palomba, chair; Caroline Bays, vice chair; and John Airasian, secretary.

Mr. Gellerman was drawn to the WE3C as he has a background of over 30 years of experience with climate science. He has worked for NPR and WBUR which included reporting from Chernobyl as well as covering climate talks at the UN. He currently teaches at Simmons College and believes climate is the defining issue of our time. Some things he believes he can help with or accomplish; Mr. Gellerman wants to make sure he understands the ambitions of the committee and the city. He went on to mention, making transitions when it comes to traffic, beautification, tree planting etc. An area of particular interest to him is bike and mobility issues.

Action item: Councilor Bays made a motion seconded by Councilor Airasian to recommend the City Council approve the appointment of Bruce Gellerman to WE3C for a term expiring November 15, 2025. The motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45
Minutes by John Airasian

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Anthony Palomba,
Chair

Caroline Bays,
Vice Chair

John M. Airasian,
Secretary



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # 124

2024 – R - 124

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JEANNE TRUBEK TO THE WATERTOWN ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the reappointment of Jeanne Trubek to the Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee for a term to expire on November 15, 2027.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the about Resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 22, 2024



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
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Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 125

2024 - R - 125

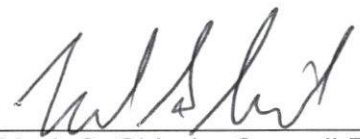
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF SILAS FYLER TO THE WATERTOWN ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the reappointment of Silas Fyler to the Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee for a term to expire on November 15, 2027.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the about Resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 22, 2024


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
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RESOLUTION # 126

2024 – R - 126

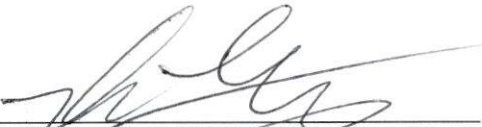
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF BRUCE GELLERMAN TO THE WATERTOWN ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

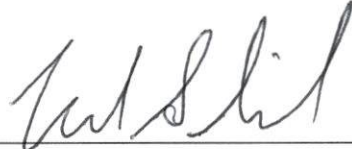
BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of Bruce Gellerman to the Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee for a term to expire on November 15, 2025.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the about Resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 22, 2024



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: October 16, 2024

RE: Request for Confirmation – Reappointments to the Public Arts & Culture Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, An Ordinance on the Timing and Process of Appointments to Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees, I hereby submit a request for the reappointments to the Public Arts & Culture Committee, which requires Council confirmation.

- Archy LaSalle - Reappointment as a member of the Public Arts & Culture Committee to a term expiring November 15, 2027
- Barbara Epstein - Reappointment as a member of the Public Arts & Culture Committee to a term expiring November 15, 2027
- Jason Wilson - Reappointment as a member of the Public Arts & Culture Committee to a term expiring November 15, 2027

Thank you for your anticipated consideration in this matter.



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
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To: Honorable City Council
From: George Proakis, City Manager 
Date: October 22, 2024
RE: Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Please find, for your review and consideration, a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. The Proposed Amendment is related to the following:

- New Growth number updated from the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.
- Receipt of actual Fiscal Year 2025 Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts and Charges (Attachment I).

I respectfully request this Amendment be placed on the October 22, 2024 City Council Agenda as a First Reading amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

Thank you for your favorable consideration in this matter.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT

REVENUE	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 2,280,875	\$ 167,525,917
STATE AID	\$ 264,048	\$ 16,597,664
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$ 760,000	\$ 2,760,000
TOTAL REVENUE ADJUSTMENT	<u>\$ 3,304,923</u>	

EXPENDITURES	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
SCHOOL CHOICE ASSESSMENT 0182056-560629	\$ (27,239)	\$ 261,148
PARK SURCHARGES 0182056-560646	\$ 2,460	\$ 56,280
TR TO CITY CAP PROJ - IT DEPARTMENT 0193059-596511	\$ 350,000	\$ 750,000
TR TO CITY CAP PROJ - PUBLIC BUILDINGS 0193059-596509	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
MIDDLE SCHOOL FEASABILITY STUDY 0194000-530349	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
TRANSFR TO WATERTOWN SQUARE STABILIZATION FUND 0194000-596810	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 3,100,000
TRANSFR TO CAPITAL PROJECT STABILIZATION FUND 0194000-596802	\$ 879,702	\$ 879,702
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT	<u>\$ 3,304,923</u>	

Members of the City Council,

Thank you for entertaining my queries design for your city manager and his team.

I hope to attend tonight's meeting to present in person some of my responses. I understand that I would not be able to present all my thoughts in the allotted two minutes, thus I am responding in writing as a public record. I am hopeful there will be more specific answers as the ones presented were very vague, non committal and did not give me any information that I was aware of previously.

I have responded below in red.

Thank you for your time and energy

Dear Councilors,

In response to Mr. Centola's request in the public comment period of the last city council meeting, please note the following comments:

- status of the assistant director of recreation position.

This is pending in HR

As of today, October 22, 2024, I am not aware of any posting of the Assistant Director of Recreation.

This is unacceptable and demonstrates a lack of respect for the recreation department, Ernie Thebado Director, and highlights the lack of appreciation and understanding of the multiple and critical mission / responsibilities of the position and department.

The entire process has been a disaster starting with the delay in posting the Directors position, hiring Ernie (who most certainly was the best and most deserving candidate) and now there is no Assistant Director and no firm time frame of when there will be one.

Other than "pending in HR", can the city manager or designee articulate what is the issue and the action plan moving forward with a firm timeframe? The recreation department cannot fulfill its mission without a full component of its full-time staff.

- status of the renovation of the Casey multi-purpose boards to make them quieter.

We are awaiting a date from the contractor to install them

Is there a date for installation? This was certainly a high priority item as identified by the sub-committee

- status of the pickleball court renovation at Filippello Park.

Next step is a final design, which is being coordinated by the open space planner

Will there be another meeting to review and discuss the final plan and when will this be. It would be awesome if the court could be open by April 1, 2025 and certainly doable.

- status of the block Linear path extension adjacent Nardone / D'Amico property.

Pending in legal, awaiting completion of a final easement agreement

Why was the path constructed without permits and approval / discussion from Nardone / D'Amico owners and no public input / discussion from my understanding.

What did the project cost? How much is the city paying in litigation expenses?

- status of meeting for Victory phase II and III meeting.

Phase II meeting is forthcoming,

Phase II is a summer 2026 project, per the capital plan.

Is there a date for the meeting or detail plans to review in advance?

This project hosted a comprehensive public meeting in fall 2014 and is now 8 years behind schedule.

Phase III needs to be designed if not constructed in conjunction with Phase II.

The field house provides inequitable treatment of its core users and the lack of a working elevator is problematic per ADA guidelines.

- status of trimming / cutting of trees to allow light to shine on the fields / courts at Filippello Park Fields, Victory Courts, Moxley Courts and Casey Courts.

This item is complete for this season.

I visited each site to review this information and the problem still exists

Can the tree warden send us the dates when this work was completed?

- status of the committee which would create a policy for naming of parks, fields ect.

This is under development by the City Manager's office.

Time frame for this draft policy to be presented to the City Council?

- status of Saltonstall tot lot.

This item is on the capital plan for FY 2029.

This date is not acceptable, as this playground is in the worst shape of any playground in Watertown and was scheduled to be completed with the light renovation in 2024.

- status of plans for a combination senior center, recreation center and veterans facility.

This is in review by the Manager's Office with updates coming soon.

Is there any additional information in regard to this opportunity and much needed facility?

- status of the plan to place aed's in our recreation facilities.

This is on the capital plan beginning in FY 2026.

This is a potentially lifesaving improvement and considering the recent examples of how and AED saved lives in recreational, athletic facilities, I would hope this time frame can be shortened.

- status of the Casey field renovation.

This is on the capital plan for FY 2029.

This date is unacceptable as well. The completion of Casey Park has been in the capital plan for close to 10 years

There was an excellent plan that was presented in multiple public meetings, and the only push back was for the bathroom and batting tunnel.

- status of the meeting for Lowell, How and Sullivan Parks.

This meeting will be held on October 9th at 4pm in the Library.

Thank you for having the meeting.

When available, updated time frames and design would be appreciated.

The status of Bemis Park and Arsenal Park would be appreciated.

Thanks,

George

I sent this as well, but did not get a response.

In terms of naming of the high school auditorium, gym, Marion road and the park at 552 Main Street

- New High School Auditorium: Michael Driscoll I will no defer keeping the name of the auditorium the same, but would support renaming a street around the City Hall after Mr. Driscoll.
- New High School Gym: Thomas Sullivan (I will no defer keeping the name of the gym the same, but maybe have a plaque for Mr. Sullivan
- Marian Road: Coach Donahue Way or Path
- 552 Main Street Park: Brown School Park or Playground

Thank you for your consideration - of course formal names will be utilized
Please be happy to share with the school committee please

Here are additional requests for information

- status of the Lowell Park renovation
- status of camera installation at Victory Field (Stadium) and Moxley Courts
- what is the timeframe for completion of Arsenal Park
- who initiates new athletic and recreational facility improvement since the previous model was eradicated.

As a resident of Thurston Road, I am not in favor of adjusting the Charles River Road entrance and exit to the square.

It would be appreciated if these and the requests below could be answered within a reasonable time frame.

In addition to being responded to, it would be appreciated if some changes in plans could be considered.

Regards,

Peter Centola
Thurston Road

From: Peter Centola <prcentola@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 7:29 PM

To: City Councilors <citycouncilors@watertown-ma.gov>

Cc: Peter Centola <prcentola@gmail.com>; Watertown News <watertownmanews@gmail.com>; Dan

Hogan <danh@wcatv.org>

Subject: Peter Centola - request for information - September 24 2024 - open forum

City Council Members,

I hope each of you are well.

I would like to thank those of you who reached out to me, wishing me well and thanking me when I retired.

Here is a listing of status update request of the City Manager that I identified in these evening's Open Forum.

It would be appreciated if the City Manager and his leadership team send an response when possible.

- status of the assistant director of recreation position.
- status of the renovation of the Casey multi-purpose boards to make them quieter.
- status of the pickleball court renovation at Filippello Park.
- status of the block Linear path extension adjacent Nardone / D'Amico property.
- status of meeting for Victory phase II and III meeting.
- status of trimming / cutting of trees to allow light to shine on the fields / courts at Filippello Park Fields, Victory Courts, Moxley Courts and Casey Courts.
- status of the committee which would create a policy for naming of parks, fields ect.
- status of Saltonstall tot lot.
- status of plans for a combination senior center, recreation center and veterans facility.
- status of the plan to place aed's in our recreation facilities.
- status of the Casey field renovation.
- status of the meeting for Lowell, How and Sullivan Parks.

I am very fond on the Faire on the Square, but I felt it should have been cancelled this year because of the rain on Friday and Saturday.

Unfortunately because it was held, Saltonstall Field is closed for at least the remainder of the year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Peter

Peter Centola
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617-312-9007

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When writing or responding, please remember that any email sent or received by an employee of the City of Watertown is subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law (M.G.L. c. 66).