



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 Economic Development and Planning Meeting Dates: September 13 and 18, 2023

The Committee convened on Wednesday September 13, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Office. Present were Lisa Feltner, chair; John Gannon, vice chair; and Vincent Piccirilli, secretary. The purpose of the meetings was to conduct Public Arts & Culture Committee interviews.

Matthew Hanna is a professional musician and former podcast host. He is interested in outreach to the public and communications with artists. He wants to see more regular happenings in Watertown, such as local performances, open mic events, discussion series, and meet-ups.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Gannon, to recommend that the City Council confirm Matthew Hanna for appointment to the Public Arts and Culture Committee for a term to expire November 15, 2025. Voted 3-0.

(Note: This appointment fills the unexpired term of Carole Katz who resigned from the PACC.)

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

The Committee re-convened on Monday September 18, 2023 at 6:05 pm in the City Council Office to continue the interviews. Councilors Feltner and Piccirilli were present. Councilor Gannon was absent.

Swati Biswas is a medical writer for a pharmaceutical company, and trained as a dancer and choreographer in India where she grew up. She performs creative Indian dance with her team, working closely with visual artists and weavers in designing sets and costumes. She hopes to bring a unique perspective to the PACC, and wants to take part in creating a more vibrant cultural scene in Watertown.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Feltner, to recommend that the City Council confirm Swati Biswas for appointment to the Public Arts and Culture Committee for a term to expire November 15, 2025. Voted 2-0.

(Note: This appointment fills one of the new positions added to the PACC on May 23, 2023.)

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Report prepared by Vincent Piccirilli