



Watertown Town Council

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Stephen P. Corbett,
Vice President

John A. Donohue,
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Cecilia Lenk,
District B Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
District C Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012 AT 7:15 PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 7:15 pm, in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and the Council Clerk Valerie Papas.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **EXAMINATION OF MINUTES:** [January 11th](#). Councilor Piccirilli moved the minutes, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM:** The Chair recognized the following:
 1. Russ Arrico, Fayette Street – spoke against a Snow Ordinance that would require homeowners to shovel snow from sidewalks; and in favor of encouraging and educating the public.
 2. Pat Gold, Duff Street/Council on Aging – spoke against a Snow Ordinance and noted that it is a town wide problem and that the town should provide a list of snow shovelers for people who need them.
 3. Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – spoke against a Snow Ordinance stating that it shifts the burden from one group of people to another group of people; and urged the town to find another approach.
 4. Alex Liazos – spoke in support of a Snow Ordinance and stated that it is not about the disabled or elderly and that while it may not be a perfect solution; it is better than doing nothing.

5. Nancy Walsh O’Leary – read a [statement](#) against taking land from the Davenport Delta for improvements to the School Street/Belmont Street intersection (Trapelo Road project).

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

The Chair stated that he has received complaints regarding cable broadcasts of Council meetings which are unclear and/or inaudible. He noted that he has asked the Board to come before the Town Council to provide an explanation of the problems.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF PROCLAMATIONS: the Chair read a [proclamation](#) honoring Ms. Anna Kuwabara, Library Board of Trustee. Councilor Lenk moved to approve the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

7. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

- a. Public hearing and vote on a proposed [Ordinance](#) amending the Fiscal Year 2012 compensation of the Town Manager. The Chair read the proposed Ordinance and opened up the hearing to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Donohue indicated that the Town is fortunate to have Mr. Driscoll as the Manager; as the Town is in very good financial shape.

Vice President Corbett concurred and noted that the Manager’s review was very positive.

Councilor Piccirilli agreed and stated that the Manager has done a good job and had a favorable review.

Councilor Falkoff moved the Ordinance, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Resolution authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$3,617 from the Fiscal Year 2012 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2012 Town Manager Full Time Salaries Account. Councilor Falkoff moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue,

Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

b. Discussion on a Snow Ordinance. The Chair opened up the discussion and recognized:

Vice President Corbett spoke in support of a snow ordinance and noted that there should be a policy requiring all property owners to clear their sidewalks and indicated that there have been a number of discussions regarding this topic over the years. He read a [statement](#) from the Commission on Disability and asked that a Snow Ordinance be referred to the Public Works subcommittee.

Councilor Falkoff read a [statement](#) opposed to a Snow Ordinance due to enforcement and other issues.

Councilor Kounelis spoke against a Snow Ordinance noting that it is difficult to impose and impossible to enforce and that it should be voluntary and the town should encourage and educate the community on the matter.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that he supports the idea that owners should shovel their sidewalks and that there should be exemptions for those who cannot; but spoke in support of enforcing our existing three laws regarding this matter and public education.

Councilor Donohue noted that this matter was brought forward by Vice President Corbett on behalf of the Commission on Disability as a member of that committee and stated that he did a very good job on the subject matter. He indicated that while he does not support an ordinance; personal attacks on the Vice President are uncalled for and are unfair.

The Chair stated that Vice President Corbett is doing his due diligence on the matter as the Council's liaison to the Commission on Disability. He noted that the Council has voted against a snow ordinance twice; with the major issue being that we have current laws that we can't enforce. The Council President indicated that he cannot add to the burden with an ordinance at this time.

Councilor Woodland spoke in support of the snow ordinance noting that it sets and shapes expectations and standards for the community.

Vice President Corbett moved the Ordinance, seconded by Councilor Woodland and defeated by a roll call vote of 2-7 with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Council President Mark S. Sideris voting against and Vice President Corbett and Councilor Woodland voting in the affirmative.

c. Councilor Donohue reiterated that the change to bus line #558 was jointly referred to Economic Development & Planning and State, Federal & Regional Government and that a date to discuss the matter should be scheduled as soon as possible by both chairs. The

Council President stated that the chairs of the committees should get together for a date and contact the Clerk for posting.

d. Councilor Woodland moved to send Adopt an Island Program to Public Works subcommittee, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

e. Councilor Falkoff moved to send a letter in support of the Davenport Delta to Mass Highway, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Piccirilli noted that this work is being done in cooperation with Watertown and ultimately the Manager has to sign off on the work. He noted that this is an opportunity for the Council to provide policy guidance but that it should be kept as brief as possible and avoid getting into technical issues.

The Manager indicated that there has been a lot of communication sent between Town officials and copied to Mr. Magoon, Mr. Mee and Chief Deveau with Attorney Reich reviewing all the legal documents. He further noted that Mr. Mee, Mr. Magoon and Chief Deveau have had more dialogue on how to proceed.

Councilor Falkoff stated that in order to keep the pressure on Belmont to come up with an alternative design, the letter should simply state our commitment to preserving the Delta.

The Chair asked Attorney Reich to draft a letter for his signature regarding the matter.

The motion was adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

- a. [Request for Confirmation](#) of reappointment to the Board of Health; so referred to Human Services Committee.

The Manager thanked Ms. Kuwabara for her services to the community. With respect to his compensation ordinance and employment agreement, the Manager stated that he looks forward to working with the Town Council.

10. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION – none noted.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Piccirilli announced that he testified at the stake holder meeting of the joint double pole committee at the State House regarding problems with double poles where

he made three points: give communities access to the PLM system; pass a financial penalty when communications break down; and allow communities to assess fines. He also noted that pole owners should be required to coordinate with other utility companies sharing the lines.

Councilor Falkoff announced that she attended the swearing-in ceremony of Will Brownsberger as the new State Senator.

Councilor Palomba announced that the Superintendent Search Committee will meet on January 26th at 8:30 am; he announced Walk for Life kick-off on January 26th at 6:30 at Perkins School for the Blind; he appreciated the Library Director for the festivities at the library as part of their first fund raiser.

Councilor Donohue announced the Annual Spelling Bee on January 29th at the Middle School.

12. PUBLIC FORUM:

Alex Liazos - stated that the snow ordinance was a public safety issue and to do nothing is embarrassing for the town.

The Chair asked for a Moment of Silence at the passing of Councilor Lenk's mother.

13. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, Vice President Corbett moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Addendum

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum is present, the above minutes were adopted by unanimous voice vote on February 14, 2012.

Mark S. Sideris