



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, FEBRUARY 14, 2012 AT 6:00 PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 6:00 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber. 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 Council Clerk Valerie Papas.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** 6:00 PM: to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate- 77 Stanley Avenue. Vice President Corbett moved the matter noting that meeting in public session would be detrimental to negotiations, 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

3. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** 7:15 PM

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

5. **EXAMINATION OF MINUTES:** January 24th. Councilor Piccirilli moved the minutes, seconded by Councilor 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.

6. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Burt Greenberg, Duff Street – spoke against an opinion article in the local newspaper as grossly unfair; and spoke in support of the Council's vote defeating a proposed snow ordinance.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Town Manager's Employment Agreement. The Chair asked for a motion to authorize him to sign the Manager's Employment Agreement on behalf of the Town. Councilor Lenk made the motion, 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. It was noted that once signed; the contract will be made available to the public.

The Chair stated that dvds of the School Department's budget meetings will be sent to the Council in order to keep them informed.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Committee on Public Works [report](#) on Municipal parking lots; fire service charges and fees; and adopt an island program – Cecilia Lenk, Chair. Councilor Lenk read the report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Falkoff asked that all town websites be updated and consistent about the information relating to hours of operation and parking at meters.

The report was 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.

The Chair asked for motions as follows:

- Task the Public Safety Subcommittee to oversee efforts by the Police Department to update and re-issue the 1992 TROs to include all amendments voted by the Traffic Commission as well as incorporating all traffic changes in road construction projects since 1992, including Mass DOT Traffic Control Agreements. So moved by Councilor Piccirilli, seconded by Councilor Lenk 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.
- Request the Town Manager have the DPW develop, as part of its annual analysis of water and sewer rates, a tiered fire service charge based upon the survey of service pipe sizes, with total revenues not less than what is currently received under the flat rate, and to present its proposal to the Town Council in the water-sewer rate public hearing in May, with the new rate structure to be effective July 1, 2012. So moved by Councilor Piccirilli and seconded by Councilor Lenk. Councilor Piccirilli elaborated on the rate hearing in May and noted that, in effect, the rate is a six month delay. The Manager noted that regardless of this recommendation; the rate would be raised on July 1st to cover the fiscal year 2013 water/sewer enterprise budget. 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.

- Request that Watertown institute an Adopt-an-Island program, and request the Town Manager have the DPW develop a draft program, including identifying potential locations, for additional review by the Committee. So moved by Councilor Lenk, seconded by Vice President Corbett 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.
- The Chair reiterated Councilor Falkoff's request that the Manager ensure any and all changes are placed on the website as soon as possible. So moved by Councilor Falkoff, seconded by Councilor Palomba 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.

Upon an inquiry by Councilor Kounelis regarding labeling meters with current hours; Councilor Falkoff moved that labels be installed reflecting existing hours of operation.

Councilor Piccirilli clarified that the committee is requesting the Manager to purchase labels and install them on meters.

Following discussion on the motion, the Chair asked that the motion be withdrawn and re-worded.

Councilors Falkoff and Kounelis withdrew their previous motion.

- Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Council ask the Manager to install labels on the meters in accordance with what is in the existing Traffic Rules and Orders, 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.
- b) Committee on Personnel and Town Organization [report](#) on evaluation tool for auditor and clerk – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. Councilor Falkoff read the report regarding the evaluation tools for the auditor and clerk. Vice President Corbett moved the report, seconded by Councilor Lenk 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.

Councilor Falkoff read a follow up meeting [report](#) from a meeting held earlier in the evening. Hard copies of the evaluation tools were handed out tonight. Councilor Lenk moved to accept the report, 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.

It was noted that the evaluation tools will be placed on the next agenda for adoption.

c) Committee on State, Federal and Regional Government [report](#) on MBTA Route Changes and Fare Increases – Angeline B. Kounelis, Chair. Councilor Kounelis read the report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Lenk 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.

Councilor Falkoff moved to send out the letters as recommended by the committee, seconded by Councilor Woodland.

Councilor Falkoff stated that the sense at the committee meeting was that if you had to choose between fare increases and service cuts that residents chose not to lose service and asked that the letter reflect that sentiment.

The Chair indicated that Attorney Reich will draft a letter on behalf of the Council for his signature.

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.

d) Joint Committee on Economic Development & Planning/State, Federal & Regional Government [report](#) and [map](#) on Modification of MBTA Bus Line#558 – Stephen P. Corbett, Chair and Angeline B. Kounelis, Chair. Vice President Corbett read the joint committee report. Councilor Kounelis moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Woodland. Councilor Donohue clarified that the bus does travel from downtown Boston to Riverside and does go from Newton Corner and becomes an express bus. He asked that this be reflected in the report.

Councilor Falkoff asked that the letter speak against eliminating Bus Line #558 and in favor of changing the route. Councilor Piccirilli asked that two separate letters be written; Councilor Donohue agreed.

The Chair asked that Attorney Reich draft the letters; keeping the issues separate.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Lenk asked to refer to the Public Works subcommittee a review of plans for Waverly Avenue and review of the road management study. Councilor Piccirilli moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Woodland 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.

Councilor Falkoff asked to refer to the Economic Development and Planning subcommittee a review of how we notify the public when zoning proposals are being presented to the Town. Councilor Piccirilli moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Woodland 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.

Councilor Falkoff asked to refer to Personnel and Town Organization subcommittee the sharing of school/town services. Councilor Piccirilli moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Woodland 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.

The Chair asked to refer to Public Works subcommittee a discussion of a moratorium on digging of recently paved streets. Councilor Lenk moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli 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.

The Chair indicated that Comcast has worked on recent problems with the transmission of Town Council meetings and did not feel it necessary at this point to bring the advisory board in for a presentation. He noted, however, that he will revisit the issue if problems arise in the future.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The Manager indicated that the Town has received a matching grant award for replacement of radio equipment at the Fire Department.

11. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Kounelis read a [letter](#) address to the Manager and Auditor regarding supplemental base rental monies with respect to the Coolidge School apartments.

Councilor Falkoff read a list of [requests for information](#) for the Manager to address.

The Chair indicated that he had previously requested the Manager to follow up on the Safer grant for the Fire Department and that a meeting has been scheduled to discuss the matter.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Palomba announced that the Watertown Community Access Cable will have an open house on Saturday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Councilor Kounelis announced that the deadline for the Safer Grant is February 24th.

Councilor Falkoff announced that garden plot rental forms are available at Watertown Gardens.org.

13. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

The Chair asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of Councilor Falkoff's father who recently passed away.

14. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Vice President Corbett moved to adjourn the meeting, 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.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by unanimous voice vote on February 28, 2012.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President