



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

Aaron Dushku,
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, MAY 26, 2015 @ 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 Aaron Dushku, 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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. EXAMINATION OF THE MINUTES: [May 12th](#). Councilor Piccirilli move the minutes of May 12th, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 opened up the public forum and recognized:

1. Ed Kelly, Boston firefighter and President of Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts stated that the Council did not honor the bargaining processes for the Watertown firefighters' contract and therefore took collective bargaining away but that they cannot take democracy away from the people.

2. Bob McCarthy, 71 Bromfield Street, former Watertown firefighter and President of Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts - stated that the Town Council did not play by the rules and he does not know the answer as to why. He stated that he is disappointed that firefighters do not have a voice.

3. Marilyn Devaney, 98 Westminster Avenue - stated that the Town Council should think about what they are doing. She stated that the Town Council should have voted yes on the award that came back from the arbitrator.

4. Rob Mannix, firefighter and president of firefighters union local 1347 – noted that here we are again four months later and nothing has changed and stated that we will see you in November.

5. John Yobaccio – 65 Bacon Street – spoke in concern about the dog park noting that the situation is worse and should not be in a neighborhood. He reiterated that this is a bad spot for a dog park.

The Chair stated that several town officials have been to the dog park and are looking into a number of issues.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: The Chair asked for a motion to refer the Council Clerk’s job description to the subcommittee of Personnel and Town Organization. So moved by Councilor Lenk, seconded by Councilor Palomba and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Committee on Human Services report and action on an [appointment](#) to the Watertown Housing Authority and a [re-appointment](#) to the Board of Health – Anthony Palomba, Chair. Councilor Palomba read the committee report. Councilor Dushku moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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.

ACTION ITEMS:

Councilor Palomba moved the reappointment of Dr. Barbara Beck, seconded by Councilor Dushku and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 Palomba moved the appointment of Shannon Lawn, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 Public Works [report](#) on a residential Snow Ordinance and issues related to private contractors that plow snow onto sidewalks; plowing community sidewalks; DPW snow plowing procedures – Cecilia Lenk, Chair. Councilor Lenk read the committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 Lenk moved to refer the matter to a joint subcommittee of Budget and Fiscal Oversight and Public Works to determine how to effectively enforce a snow ordinance, seconded by Councilor Woodland.

Councilor Dushku asked why this matter has to involve another committee in the determination process.

The Chair noted that it is also being sent to Budget Fiscal Oversight because of the enforcement issue.

Councilor Lenk stated that the BFO committee needs to be involved in order to discuss and figuring out the staffing and who will be enforcing the ordinance and its budgetary implications.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

The Chair asked for a motion for re-referral on a discussion on the opiate crisis.

Councilor Palomba moved to re-refer the Opiate Crisis subject matter to Human Services subcommittee, seconded by Councilor Dushku.

Councilor Kounelis asked why this needs to be re-referred as it has already been in subcommittee and reported on. She stated that it should be before the Council in the form of a presentation.

Councilor Lenk stated that she would welcome an informational presentation of the matter and then from there it could be re-referred to subcommittee.

Councilor Palomba noted that there were no recommendations to make last year but that he would like to have more discussion on the matter in subcommittee and that a presentation can be arranged with the appropriate people following a discussion in subcommittee.

Councilor Dushku stated that the subcommittee had not finished their conversation and that it is still an open referral as far as he is concerned.

Vice President Corbett indicated that if the subcommittee needs to flesh out details prior to the presentation he is okay with that.

The Chair stated that he supports both the re-referral for more discussion and a Town Council presentation to follow.

Adopted by voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Angeline B. Kounelis opposed.

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER – none noted.

9. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

Councilor Kounelis noted that she is still waiting for an update on planting strips.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Chair announced a Special Town Council meeting on Monday, June 8th regarding Athenahealth text amendment.

Councilor Dushku announced a TMA forum on June 4th at 6:30 pm at the library.

11. PUBLIC FORUM:

Pat Gold, Duff Street – stated that it is important to education everyone in the community on drug addiction.

12. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Woodland moved to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:00 pm in order to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining with the DPW Union, Town Hall Associates Union, Library Union, Fire Union, Police Patrol Union, Police Supervisors Union, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position. Seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 was present, the above Minutes were adopted by unanimous voice vote on June 9, 2015.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President