



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

John J. Lawn, Jr.
District D Councilor

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 7:15 pm
Richard E. Mastrangelo 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present for the meeting were Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll and Town Attorney Mark Reich. The Council Clerk, Valerie Papas was absent.

The Chair requested a Moment of Silence for Mary Gallagher, mother of Assistant Auditor, Sharon Gallagher and for Robert P. Quinn, father of Watertown Fire Department Deputy Fire Chief Robert Quinn.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** [October 12, 2010](#) Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes, 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in favor.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM:** None noted.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:**
 - a) Public hearing and vote on a proposed Amendment to the [Zoning Ordinance](#) related to the Green Community Act. The Chair recognized Mr. Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning Director who provided a general overview of the proposed text amendments to the zoning ordinance regarding designating Watertown as a Green Community.

He indicated that one of the aspects that the town needs to permit is alternative, renewable energy uses by right. Currently the zoning laws do not allow for that, he noted. Mr. Magoon stated that one way to address the problem is to eliminate that Note making it allowable by special permit and expand the table of permissible uses for units of three or more and come back for other uses that make sense to permit by right which can then be added more easily. Mr. Magoon indicated that the second aspect, special permit, adding site plan review or SR corrections to affordable housing section, by removing "Trust"; and add Pleasant Street Corridor reference in Section 7.

The Chair opened up the hearing to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

Vice President Corbett spoke in support of the changes noting that the major thrust of the changes have to do with the town complying with the Green Community Act, which is a worthwhile endeavor. Vice President Corbett also stated the larger role for the Planning Board when projects involve site plan review, which he stated he supports and is good for the town.

Councilor Kounelis asked if Attorney Giorgio's comments were incorporated in the version being proposed tonight. Mr. Magoon noted that the comments that were relative were added in.

Attorney Reich noted that the comments from Attorney Giorgio were only a point of interest, not a legal requirement.

Councilor Palomba inquired about the timelines. Mr. Magoon stated that timelines were not an issue for the town so no changes were made. Attorney Reich concurred and noted that the town's concerns have been satisfied.

Councilor Lenk asked about Section 2.18 Definition of Dwellings and noted that there was no reference to three family dwellings – she asked if it makes sense to add that?

Mr. Magoon noted that it was suggested, but not appropriate to automatically put it in – can add it – if council feels it is important.

Councilor Piccirilli noted ambiguity within a paragraph in Section 9.03, Site Plan Review - paragraph c, subparagraph 2 and offered an amendment to the wording which clarified the section. He moved to delete word "with" and add word "shall" to replace sentence: "so long as they are".

Councilor Palomba inquired about the "ten points" as key issues raised during a recent public forum and asked why many were taken out. Mr. Magoon stated that there were no material changes, just improved language.

Councilor Falkoff moved the proposed zoning ordinance as further amended by Councilors Piccirilli and Lenk.

Attorney Reich stated that specifically the amendments included the addition of the definition of a three family dwelling and edits being made to Section 903 paragraph c subparagraph 2 for clarification purposes.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Donohue 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

6. COMMITTEE REPORT:

a) Committee on Public Works report on proposed Tree [Regulations](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. The Chair noted that the subcommittee met earlier this evening. He noted that he is Tabling the report until the next meeting in order to provide the subcommittee with additional time to present a written report.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a) [Resolution](#) Approving the Acceptance and expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the amount of \$3,700 from Watertown Savings Bank to fund the cost of materials for the replacement of the sidewalk on the east side of Cross Street between Main Street and Pleasant Street. The Manager provided a brief overview of the resolution. The Chair recognized Mr. Gerald S. Mee, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works who stated that the sidewalk which is in need of replacement and will improve the pedestrian walkway.

Councilor Falkoff asked Mr. Mee if the bank should pay for the installation as well as the cost of materials, and asked if this is more similar to the town's curb policy where if you want to have a curb in front of your house you have to pay for it.

Mr. Mee stated that the town looks for a certain amount of mitigation, usually for a condition where a contractor has adversely affected the sidewalk. This particular work is not considered work to be mitigated. Mr. Dean however offered to pay for the material costs and Mr. Mee indicated that he saw it as a benefit for the town to do the work.

Councilor Falkoff asked why Mr. Mee would take the bank up on this offer unless it was already on the top of his list.

Mr. Mee stated that he considered this sidewalk standard for the town to replace and thus saw the benefit with receiving the cost of materials.

Vice President Corbett moved to accept the Gift of Funds from Watertown Savings Bank, seconded by Councilor Donohue 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in favor.

The Chair asked for a motion to authorize him to sign a thank you letter to Watertown Savings Bank for the generous donation. Vice President Corbett moved the matter, 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in favor.

8. NEW BUSINESS: None noted.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a) The Council President indicated that MCAS Scores – are available online.

b) The Chair asked for a Motion to authorize the Manager to draft a letter in conjunction with Attorney Reich inviting various utility companies to the next Town Council meeting to explain why it is taking so long to obey Mass General Laws with respect to removing double poles. Councilor Palomba moved the request, seconded by Councilor Kounelis. Councilor Piccirilli stated that it is disappointing to learn that these poles still have not been removed as promised and added a friendly amendment to cc the department of public utilities and department of communications. The Chair also indicated that the attorney general will also be cc'd. Adopted by voice vote as amended with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in favor.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

a) [Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2012](#). The Manager provided a power-point presentation. Following the presentation, several councilors indicated that they found it to be an excellent budget presentation. The Chair noted that there is a challenge ahead for the town and thanked Representative Hecht for attending tonight's budget presentation.

11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: None noted.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS: None noted.

13. PUBLIC FORUM: None noted.

14. ADJOURMENT: 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in favor.

[Addendum](#)