



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, December 6, 2011 at 6:00pm
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, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Lenk arrived shortly after the call of the roll. Also present were the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - 6:00 pm:**
 - a) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Vice President Corbett moved the executive session as stated and indicated that the Council will return to open session following the adjournment of the executive session, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative. Councilor Lenk arrived at 6:20 pm.
 - b) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel – Town Manager. Vice President Corbett made the motion as stated and noted that the Council would return to open session following the adjournment of the executive session, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative. Councilor Lenk arrived at 6:20 pm.

3. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:15 pm. All Councilors are present as well as Attorney Mark Reich.
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: [November 22nd](#). 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative
6. PUBLIC FORUM:
 1. Anthony Paolillo, Chairman of the School Committee - thanked the Council, the Manager and the Council President for supporting the schools through the CIP program and annual budget appropriations. He noted that this has been the best partnership in his tenure on the School Committee. He applauded the Manager for his strong financial leadership and the Council President Sideris for his leadership on the School Committee.
 2. Patricia Hansen, 319 Arlington Street (Coolidge School apartments) – spoke in support of an effort to place No Smoking signs at the adjacent playground.
 7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: The indicated that during last night’s School Committee meeting it was his honor to present proclamations to outgoing School Committee Chair Anthony Paolillo and School Committee member Christopher Beech for their years of service. The Chair also read a proclamation honoring John Lawn for his many years of service to the community as District D Councilor; and to his continued commitment to residents as the newly elected state representative.

Councilor Lawn thanked the Council and acknowledged the hard work of this Council, the Council President and the Manager and noted that the community is in good hands and welcomed the newly elected District D Councilor Kenneth Woodland.

8. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:
 - a) Public hearing and vote on a proposed [Amendment](#) to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Assisted Living as a regulated use. Community Planning Director, Steven Magoon provided an overview of the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Assisted Living as a regulated use. Mr. Magoon stated that there was a lack of use for this and would like to encourage other projects to come forward.

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

Councilor Palomba asked if there was a project for one floor only, would there be a need for an amendment.

Mr. Magoon stated yes, a variance would be needed, but that they were encouraging a mixed use of commercial and assisted living.

Councilor Corbett inquired about the two-family zone.

Mr. Magoon stated that this would not fit in a typical two family zone.

Vice President Corbett moved the amendment, seconded by Councilor Lawn 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.

9. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a) Resolution authorizing transfers of \$50,969 and \$29,604 in order to fund an Agreement with the Department of Public Works, Teamsters Local Union No. 25 covering the period of July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013. The Manager provided an overview of the transfer. Councilor Piccirilli moved the two transfers, seconded by Councilor Lawn 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

b) Resolution authorizing a transfer of \$3,765 in order to fund salary adjustments for three non-union confidential employees covering the period of July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013. The Manager provided an overview of the transfer. Vice President Corbett recused himself from the vote and left the room. Councilor Piccirilli moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Lawn 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., and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Committee on Public Works [report](#) on Whites Avenue Parking, Residential Snow Shoveling, Parking Meter postings; and guidelines for dedicating squares or other locations – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair. Councilor Falkoff read the Committee report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Donohue noted that Whites Avenue is part of the business zone and therefore meters on this street makes sense. He noted that there is no new information coming forward that was not known at the time of the recommendation and stated that the Council should move forward with the meters which will create turnover in spaces for the business community as was voted by the Council. He requested a letter be drafted on behalf of the full Council to the residents that are questioning the proposal.

The Chair stated that he had intended on re-referring this matter back to Committee and noted that it is true that the Council has already voted this. He indicated that there is an existing two hour parking zone and this is not a big change. He asked the Council what they want to do.

Vice President Corbett agreed with Councilor Donohue noting that the Committee thoroughly discussed this issue and that no new information has come forward. He noted that he understands residents may not be happy with the meters but that this proposal is not a big change to the area.

Councilor Kounelis stated that people should have been notified individually about an issue that would affect them. She supported sending this back to Committee.

Councilor Falkoff spoke in support of sending a letter to the abutters explaining the reasoning behind the meters and how they may obtain a hearing before the Traffic Commission if they wish to be heard further on this issue.

Councilor Palomba concurred with Councilor Kounelis recommendation to refer the matter back to Committee.

The Chair stated that this matter had public discussion by the Committee, the Council and the Traffic Commission. He indicated that there are a number of spaces for rent at the condominium complex and that this complex in particular was provided with extra parking for this reason. He indicated that there have also been a number of parking violations along Whites Avenue and that he is concerned with setting a precedent with revisiting matters that have been previously decided.

Councilor Donohue indicated that 12 employee parking spaces have been added; along with handicap access to the Boys and Girls Club and a safety zone and noted that a two hour parking ban on the street still exists and that the weekends are available for residents to park.

Councilor Falkoff moved to send a letter to the 37 residents and the managers of the buildings thoroughly explaining the matter, seconded by Vice President Corbett and adopted by voice vote with Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J.

Lawn, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative and Councilors Kounelis and Palomba voting no.

Regarding a request that the Administration remind residents to shovel their sidewalks after a snow fall as well as posting a newsflash stating such, Councilor Falkoff 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., and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Regarding a request that the Police Department more effectively enforce existing snow removal ordinances and traffic regulations, Councilor Falkoff 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., and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

The Chair stated that in January the Council will address the idea of a mandatory snow removal ordinance in residential areas. Vice President Corbett noted that if the Council approves the idea, then the particulars will be discussed in Committee.

- b) Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight [report](#) and action on the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Guidelines – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.
Councilor Piccirilli read the report.

Councilor Lawn moved to accept the report, 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., and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Policy Guidelines unranked as discussed tonight, seconded by Councilor Kounelis.

Councilor Palomba moved a friendly amendment that the draft guidelines be given two or three weeks to be shared with members of the public and that the vote be postponed until the next meeting. He indicated that he received this document tonight and finds it difficult to review it in such a short time frame.

Councilor Falkoff spoke against ranking the guidelines as all items are equally important.

Vice President Corbett spoke against delaying a vote and noted that this is an annual process that the Council has undertaken for the last six years.

Councilor Donohue concurred and stated that Councilors have a chance to talk with constituents all year on important budget matters and that the Council should do their due diligence in adopting them tonight.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that there is nothing to be gained by delaying the processes of adopting the guidelines.

The Chair noted that the Council's meeting date in December was moved up by one week and with the guidelines being forwarded to the Council today leaving little time for review which changed the process slightly into a more condensed form.

Councilor Falkoff moved not to rank the document after it is adopted.

The Chair indicated that he will take up the first motion which was then amended by Councilor Palomba to postpone the adoption of the guidelines by one meeting.

On the friendly amendment, the motion was defeated by a roll call vote of 1 for, 1 present and 7 against with Councilor Palomba in favor, the Chair voting present and Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., voting against.

Councilor Falkoff moved to not rank the guidelines this year. No second was made on the motion.

On the previous motion to adopt the unranked guidelines, the motion carried by a roll call vote of 7 for, 1 against and 1 present with Councilor Palomba voting present and Councilor Falkoff voting no.

11. NEW BUSINESS: the Chair announced a salary adjustment for the Town Manager that will be placed on the Town Council agenda for a first reading in January and public hearing thereafter and noted that it mirrors other contracts voted this evening.

Vice President Corbett read a [statement](#) regarding the recent election noting that the process became defined by a single issue two weeks before the election. He indicated that, the single issue then became divisive with personal agendas fueling the matter which sacrificed collegiate trust as many of the unsubstantiated rumors could have been easily cleared up by two councilors, but were not.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

Regarding the announced salary adjustment, the Manager noted that he looks forward to continue his work with the Town Council on building on the progress made on providing the best service to citizens while utilizing taxpayer dollars as efficiently as possible.

13. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – none noted.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Kounelis announced that the Traffic Commission will meet on December 12th at 7pm at the Community Meeting Room at the Police Station regarding a follow up to the Trapelo Road Project.

Councilor Donohue wished residents a Merry Christmas and happy holiday; and welcomed Councilor- elect Kenneth Woodland and wished the Council many more years of productive service to the community.

Councilor Lenk announced the Perkins School for the Blind holiday series in Dwight Hall; check the Perkins website for more information.

The Chair stated that the 2012 Inaugural ceremony will take place on January 3rd at 7:00 pm at the Perkins School Dwight Hall; with a full program to be announced shortly.

Councilor Lawn announced a Planning Board meeting on December 15th at 7:00 pm regarding Waltham Street development by Wood Partners.

15. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

16. ADJOURNMENT AND EXECUTIVE SESSION: Vice President Corbett moved to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 9:15 pm and go into executive session in order to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate, seconded by Councilor Lawn 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.

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[Addendum](#)

[Roll Call Votes](#)

[Approved budget policy guidelines](#)

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 January 11, 2012.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President