



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, DECEMBER 9, 2014 @ 6:15 PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 6:15 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas. Councilor Falkoff arrived shortly after the call of the roll.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:15 pm:** 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; and to discuss strategy with respect to litigation (Fire Union JLMC 12-22F), as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining and litigating positions. Councilor Palomba moved to meet in executive session as stated above, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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 PUBLIC SESSION: 7:15 pm**

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

5. **EXAMINATION OF MINUTES:** [November 25th](#). Councilor Piccirilli moved acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan 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:** The Chair recognized:

Rob Mannix, Firefighter/union president local 1347 - stated that he is still optimistic that firefighters will get a yes vote tonight on the transfer of funds for the arbitration award regarding the firefighters' contract.

Bob McCarthy, former Watertown firefighter and President of Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts – respectfully requested that the Council vote the fund transfer tonight. He stated that the time is now as there is no need to go another year with bargaining.

Ed Kelly, Boston firefighter and President of Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts – stated that collective bargaining is a way that firefighters take care of their families; a fair award was determined by arbitration and he asked that the Council vote to fund the award.

Jay Colbert, Somerville firefighter and Chairman of joint labor management – stated that this award is not a windfall of cash for the firefighters and asked that this be put behind us to give firefighters piece of mind.

Mike Mullani, International Vice President for firefighters – asked that the Council give firefighters a fair shake and fund the arbitration award; if it isn't voted, he noted that the next step will bring enormous resources to this area to tell the people of Watertown what happened.

Rich Paris, Boston firefighter and President of Local 718 – stated that firefighters did the right thing by sitting down at the bargaining table. He asked that the Council be fair to the firefighters of Watertown.

Kathy Malone, sister of the late Ed Walsh – asked that the Council show they care for the firefighters and fund the arbitration award.

Steve Tolman, AFLCIO President – stated that in the last 30 years workers have taken it on the chin with inflation. He noted that firefighters abided by an arbitration process. He asked that the Council not turn their backs on firefighters and do the right thing by funding the arbitration award.

Mike Dattoli, resident – echoed previous comments and stated that the arbitration award should be trusted and funded.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - none noted.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward agenda item 9A, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, 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. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a) [Resolution](#) authorizing the [transfer of funds](#) in the amount of \$2,739,759 from the Fiscal Year 2015 Town Health Insurance Account and the Fiscal Year 2015 Town Council Reserve Account to various Fiscal Year 2015 Fire Department Accounts in order to fund the Joint Labor-Management Committee Arbitration Award in the matter of the arbitration between the Fire Union and the Town of Watertown.

The Chair read the agenda item and noted that a motion was previously on the Table.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that the arbitration award includes a 3% cost of living raise for 2009 and because of that, he cannot support the transfer, pointing out a fairness issue to all the other unions that did not get an increase for that year. He noted that a decision was made that no raises be granted for 2009 and 2010 in order to avoid massive layoffs with the other five unions agreeing.

Councilor Kounelis stated that she hasn't always agreed with all the votes taken by this Town Council, noting Victory Field and the recycling center in particular; and indicated she seriously considered voting this award. She questioned the fairness to all the other unions. She stated that there is a level of fairness here, and that she cannot support this tonight because she has to be fair to taxpayers and all the other Town employees.

Councilor Dushku stated that he cannot support the award due to the fairness issue and noted that although it might appear to be a drop in the bucket, a lot of drops fill the bucket and all unions must be negotiated with after this decision.

Vice President Corbett stated that this award is not comparable as it is a 60% greater wage increase than all the other union employees. All other groups agreed to stay within the parameters that were established by the Town Council during the worst recession we have all seen and noted that this arbitration award does not.

Councilor Lenk stated that she does not believe that this wage increase is fair and equitable to all the other Town employees or taxpayers. She indicated that we still have limited tax resources and many demands from our residents and employees. She urged that everyone go back to the bargaining table and work this out.

Councilor Falkoff stated that she wished it would be possible to support this contract. She noted that the Town didn't have the money back when other unions got 0%. There will be another contract moving forward and that would be the time to negotiate.

Councilor Woodland stated that this isn't a matter of deserving or character. He noted that it is the fairness aspect that is undeniable. He stated that everyone wants to give firefighters this award, but at the same time the Council has to be fair to all the other employees.

Councilor Palomba stated that he will support this award tonight because firefighters went through a process that deserves to be respected. He noted that he does not know what the consequences of voting this will be but hopes that all the other unions will follow their own processes independent of what the firefighters' union does.

The Chair thanked everyone for their efforts and noted that on both sides, the issue was fairness and that this arbitration award did not allow for fairness. He asked the Manager to reach out to the firefighters.

Upon a roll call vote, the transfer was defeated by a vote of 1 for and 8 against with Councilor Palomba voting in the affirmative and Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting against.

The Chair called a five minute recess.

8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: One- year update on the Social Services Resource Specialist. Ms. Danielle DeMoss provided a [power point presentation](#). The Chair thanked Ms. DeMoss for the update.

Councilor Kounelis noted that under “churches” there are no east end contacts. Ms. DeMoss stated that that is part of the next step.

Councilor Dushku asked what additional resources were needed. Ms. DeMoss stated that affordable housing is limited in Watertown and is the greatest need.

Councilor Palomba asked what the \$5,000 grant was used for. Ms. DeMoss stated that it was used for interpretive services and for the translation of materials.

9. Previously voted.

10. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

a) [Resolution](#) approving the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the amount of \$6,501.40 which will be used to purchase two treadmills for the Watertown Police Department. The Manager provided an overview of the resolution. Councilor Piccirilli moved acceptance of the Gift of Funds, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan 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) [Resolution](#) authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$35,000 from the Fiscal Year 2015 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2015 Acquisition of Land Account in order to purchase a parcel containing approximately 3,300 square feet (Reference # 14C-9) from Boston and Maine Corporation. The Manager provided a brief overview of the resolution. Councilor Piccirilli moved the transfer, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

11. COMMITTEE REPORT:

a) Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight [report](#) and action on the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Priority Guidelines – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Chair. Councilor Piccirilli read the report and changes to the budget priority guidelines.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Woodland and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council recommend that the Public Works subcommittee assess the feasibility of completing the design of the Community Path using one time FY15 funds, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous

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

2. Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council recommend that the Budget and Fiscal Oversight subcommittee develop a formal multi-year policy on the use of portion of the unreserved fund balance above the 7-10% target per resolution #2012-72 Section 1.A, seconded by Council Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the FY 2016 Budget Policy Guidelines, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

It was noted that [rankings of the priority guidelines](#) are due Tuesday, December 16th by 9:00 am.

12. NEW BUSINESS – none noted.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

4th quarter tax bill will go out next week.

A discussion was held with Representative Hecht regarding the filing of a home rule petition in order to have flexibility for a potential residential exemption above 20%.

Holiday open house at Commanders Mansion – December 18th.

Administration Building closed at noon on the 24th, and closed the 25th and the 26th of December.

14. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Kounelis noted a request regarding holiday lights at Sullivan Park;

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Kounelis announced that tomorrow evening at Planning Board meeting – CVS proposal will be heard.

Councilor Palomba announced winter coats collection at the middle school until January 10th.

Councilor Dushku announced that a great event was held today with Mass DOT and MBTA making a presentation to address many of the ongoing transportation issues.

16. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

The Chair asked for a Moment of Silence for nine year old, Savannah-Maria O'Neill, daughter of Officer Brandon O'Neill.

17. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Palomba moved to adjourn the executive session at 8:45 pm, seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by unanimous voice vote with Councilors Aaron Dushku, Susan Falkoff, Anthony Palomba, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth Woodland, Vice President Stephen P. Corbett, and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

[Addendum](#)

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 13, 2015.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President