



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

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011 AT 5:30 PM RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

In accordance with provisions of Rule 2.6 of the Rules of the Town Council, and pursuant to the Call of the Town Council President, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown to be held in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, Administration Building on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 5:30PM to discuss the ["Invitation to Bid" for Municipal Solid Waste Collection and Single Stream Recycling Services.](#)

1. **ROLL CALL:** A Special Town Council meeting was called to order at 5:30 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 was the Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll.

The Chair recognized the Manager who provided a brief update on the Single Stream Recycling Service and Municipal Solid Waste Collection "Invitation to Bid" noting that the new program would begin in approximately six months.

Ms. Phyllis Marshall, Town Treasurer/Collector, provided a brief review of the materials forwarded to Councilors regarding the bidding process and the proposed contract. She noted that Allied Waste was the lowest, qualified bidder and that representatives are here tonight to answer any questions Councilors may have.

Mr. Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor reviewed a [spread sheet](#) regarding tipping fees, etc. Mr. Tracy indicated that the cost of weekly recycling service versus bi-weekly recycling service would be approximately \$116,060.00 over the current budget and in taking one more look in comparing the two bids of weekly versus the bi-weekly; the cost of \$2,401,000 versus \$2,107,000; the cost for weekly bid versus bi-weekly bid for the first year would be \$294,000.00.

Councilor Corbett asked Ms. Marshall to elaborate on the extra container costs indicated on the spreadsheet (alternative 64-gallon container) \$72.00 versus \$77.00. Ms Marshall indicated that the dollar amount represents the annual cost for any extra gallon container requested by a resident.

Councilor Palomba asked Mr. Tracy to review the additional cost each year for weekly recycling. Mr. Tracy indicated that the first year would cost \$294,000; the second year \$302,000; the third year \$312,000; the fourth year \$321,000; and the fifth year costing \$330,000.

Mr. Bruce Stanas and Mr. Chris Peters from Allied Waste Collection provided an overview of their service. Mr. Santos indicated that there is no general consensus of weekly recycling versus bi-weekly recycling with communities making up a mix. He noted however, that based on a value-model; the industry began offering bi-weekly service based on the standpoint that bi-weekly recycling pickup was sufficient for most communities with an option of extra carts for those residents who request one at a cost to them. He further noted however that with a 95 gallon cart; you will not have any requests from residents for an additional cart.

The Chair asked Gerald S. Mee, Superintendent of Public Works, why the Town isn't proposing a 95 gallon cart for recycling which would eliminate the need for weekly pickup.

Mr. Mee indicated that the idea behind the 64 gallon cart is to limit the trash and increasing the recycling.

Councilor Kounelis asked how the elderly will maneuver the larger carts.

Mr. Stanas stated that the carts are on wheels; but that the contract should be flexible enough to allow residents to weigh in on what gallon cart is more appropriate for them.

Councilor Lawn spoke in support of the 95 gallon cart with built in flexibility for residents to choose a smaller cart if so desired.

Councilor Donohue also spoke in support of the 95 gallon cart and serial numbers on the barrels to reduce theft.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that with respect to the average two- family home; there are 1.8 people per household with many living alone; on a lot size of 4,000 square feet. He noted his concern that the 95 gallon cart is too big with four carts having to be stored at a two-family residence. He offered the option of having the 95 gallon cart for single family homes and the 64 gallon cart for the two-family homes.

Councilor Palomba stated that if we go this route, what are we saying about the viability of getting the 95 gallon cart versus the 64 gallon cart and are there clear guidelines.

Mr. Stanas stated that you don't advertise all the options but that if a resident calls in and complains that the cart is too small or big; then offer them the alternative size.

Ms Marshall stated that with respect to other communities with dense areas; it was her understanding in talking with public officials that they faced some of these issues and came up with solutions.

Councilor Corbett asked about statistics on what other communities have realized in the reduction of trash with this single stream recycling.

Mr. Stanas stated that the program with unlimited trash, similar to Watertown, would realize a 25% reduction of trash.

The Manager indicated that would be a savings of \$217,000 on current tipping fees for fiscal year 2012.

Councilor Lenk stated that allowing people to have the 95 gallon cart would work out very well for this community and a good move forward.

Councilor Falkoff wanted clarification on what residents would be told regarding the different size carts being offered.

Mr. Stanas stated that the communications would be: here is the standard cart; however if you need a larger or smaller cart please contact the town.

Councilor Falkoff asked that everyone would get a 95 gallon recycling cart and a 64 gallon cart for trash and would call the town if that size did not work for them.

The Manager stated that the issues tonight was to have the Council decide on a five-year contract versus a three-year contract and secondly the bi-weekly recycling with additional discussion on the third item; the flexibility of the size of the toter at a later date.

The Manager suggested the Council go with a five-year contract and a bi-weekly recycling pickup schedule.

VOTE: Councilor Piccirilli moved the proposed resolution for a five-year contract, 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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

VOTE: Councilor Piccirilli moved to recommend to the Town Manager to enter negotiations for a contract for bi-weekly recycling pick-up, seconded by Councilor Lawn 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.

VOTE: Councilor Donohue moved to ask the Manager to build in some flexibility into the contract going forward and report back to the Town Council, seconded by Councilor Lenk.

Councilor Kounelis asked if the Town is using the 64 gallon cart as the default. The Chair stated yes.

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., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris voting in the affirmative.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Donohue moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by unanimous 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.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted on January 11, 2012 by unanimous voice vote.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President