



# Watertown Town Council

Administration Building  
149 Main Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED  
OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,  
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,  
Vice-President

Michael F. Dattoli,  
Councilor At Large

Aaron P. Dushku,  
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff,  
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,  
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,  
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,  
District B Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,  
District D Councilor

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016 AT 6:45 P. M.  
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
MINUTES**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the Town Council at 6:45 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors Michael F. Dattoli, Aaron P. Dushku, Lisa J. Feltner, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Kenneth M. Woodland, Vice President Vincent Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Susan G. Falkoff was absent. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:45 P.M.**

To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate – 10 Winter Street; if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to go into executive session for the above stated purpose; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously on a roll call vote.

**3. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:15 P.M.**

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**5. PUBLIC FORUM**

No one from the public spoke.

**6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

A. Minutes of the [March 8, 2016](#) and the [March 22, 2016](#) Town Council Meetings

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2016 regular meeting subject to a correction. Councilor Piccirilli moved that the minutes be amended so that the name in the Roll Call paragraph be changed from John Fair to Joseph Fair; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes as amended; Councilor

Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of the March 22, 2016 regular meeting as written and asked as a notation that the signed letter to the MBTA be inserted to the addendum; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Minutes of the [March 21, 2016](#) Joint Special Meeting with the School Committee

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2016 special meeting with the School Committee with an amendment in the last paragraph on page 6, by changing the words “School Committee” to “Town Manager” and that the revised report be attached to the addendum; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Sideris announced that Leone E. Cole, Library Director, will be requesting citizens to apply for the vacancy as Library Trustee. The posting will be online and the person will be selected in late May.

8. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS

Acceptance of Proclamation Celebrating May 1, 2016 as [Arbor Day](#)

President Sideris read the Proclamation for the celebration of Arbor Day. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading on a proposed Order authorizing the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Town Manager to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$550,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor for the costs of infiltration/inflow mitigation projects at various locations throughout the Town. Any borrowing pursuant to this order may be obtained through the [Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Infiltration and Inflow Local Assistance Program](#) or through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The borrowing authorized by this order shall be reduced to the extent of any grants received by the Town on account of this project.

Mr. Driscoll explained that this would assist the Town to apply for grants and/or low interest rate bonds to assist with the water, sewer and drain needs. He and DPW Superintendent Mee would be preparing an application to participate in the program. The item will be taken up in a public hearing on April 26, 2016.

- B. First Reading on a proposed Order authorizing the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Town Manager to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$500,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8(5) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor for the costs of water system improvements at various locations throughout the Town. Any borrowing pursuant to this order may be obtained through the [Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Local Water System Assistance Program](#) or through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The borrowing authorized by this order shall be reduced to the extent of any grants received by the Town on account of this project.

This is another loan order for interest free loans payable over 10 years to improve water and sewer systems. Mr. Mee will provide a presentation at the next regular meeting.

#### 11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Federal, State, and Regional Government on the [Re-appointment of Christopher Dunn to the Board of Election Commissioners](#) – Angeline B. Kounelis, Chair

Councilor Kounelis read the committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the committee report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Kounelis moved to reappoint Christopher Dunn to the Board of Election Commissioners for a term that terminates on April 1, 2020; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report on [Town Council Salaries and Preparation of Committee Meeting Minutes](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

Councilor Dattoli read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

President Sideris mentioned that the salary recommendation is subject to ordinance and a public hearing will need to be called.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the options for committee members who choose not to take their own minutes be referred back to the Personnel and Town Organization Committee for discussion. Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion.

Councilor Palomba asked what options were being considered. Councilor Dattoli stated that it might be a clerk or other personnel.

Councilor Kounelis stated that from her experience, it is difficult to participate, be part of the process, interact, and take minutes. Based on surveys, most communities with similar styles of government seem to have a note taker.

Councilor Dushku agreed that the secretarial duty takes the person out of the meeting.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The item is referred back to committee to consider options.

C. Committee on Public Works Report on the [Complete Streets Policy](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

Councilor Dushku read the committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

President Sideris and Mr. Magoon explained that the Complete Streets policy was not taken up at this session because it needs to become part of the Community Compact. This would allow the town's requests to have extra points added to the scoring of the project when seeking state aid. The wording will be drafted soon and then presented to the Town Council for review.

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Palomba moved that the discussion of utility service relating to availability, improvement, and upgrading in existing plans and future development be sent to the Committee on Public Works; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Palomba moved that a resolution requiring the Town of Watertown restrict any travel to North Carolina unless it is necessary to enforce the Commonwealth's or Town's laws until HB2 is repealed or negated be referred to the Committees on Human Services and Rules and Ordinances jointly; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

Councilor Kounelis stated that this matter was not the role of the Town Council and would therefore not support the resolution.

Councilor Woodland questioned the referral to Human Services. Councilor Palomba stated that it related to Human Rights, a purpose of the Committee.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that he disagreed with North Carolina's actions but would not support the resolution as it was not within the purview of the Town Council.

Councilor Dushku stated that this is a matter for Committee discussion and that the Council often takes up symbolic resolutions; therefore, he would be voting in favor.

Councilor Palomba read the resolution and stated that other cities and states have voiced their concern with trans-gender discrimination.

Councilor Woodland stated that he agreed with the resolution but that this is not the Council's role.

Councilor Feltner stated she would support the resolution so that constituents could voice their opinions.

Councilor Palomba stated that one hearing would not be overly burdensome and that it is important for the Community to take a stand.

A voice vote was called; it being uncertain as to the will of the Council, a roll call was completed. The vote was four supporting the motion, Councilors Dushku, Feltner, Palomba, and Dattoli; four members voted against the motion, Councilors Kounelis, Piccirilli, Woodland, and President Sideris. The result being a tie, the motion did not carry.

#### 13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Report on [General Obligation Bond Sale](#) of \$5,660,000

Mr. Driscoll stated on March 30, the Town received competitive bids for a \$5.66 million nine-year bond issue. The winning bid was 1.118% and the Bond Anticipation Notes were for .70%. These funds would be used for Capital Improvements. Mr. Driscoll further stated that Standard and Poor's confirmed Watertown's AAA bond rating.

Councilor Dushku asked how towns with lower ratings fared; Mr. Driscoll stated that he would forward such information.

#### 14. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION /REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

Councilor Kounelis wanted updates on

1. How and why the Real Estate taxes were increased and why a disproportionate burden was placed on two-family structures
2. What was to happen to the utility box that was removed due to an upgrade from a pole at Mt Auburn and Arlington Sts. Will it be repainted or will the original box be reused?
3. The status of the leaning utility pole on the Davenport Delta across from 408 School St. How will it be resolved?
4. The status of Calvin Rd. and Sampson St.

Councilor Dushku asked that there be more publicity regarding the application process for liquor licenses and BYOB licenses. He also asked for the policies that the Licensing Board may have established for the BYOB ordinance.

Councilor Feltner wanted a clarification of the issue on Davenport Circle (sic). She was told that DPW notified the utility, but there is confusion as to

whether the Tree Warden will order the removal of the branch prior to fixing the pole.

Councilor Dushku mentioned that people who have concerns with Next Step Living, a contractor for solar energy that is no longer in business, should contact Ed Lewis, the Town Energy Manager.

He announced the following meetings:

1. April 19, 2016 – 6:30 Committee on Public Works in Council Chamber – Interview of a Candidate for the Stormwater Advisory Committee
2. April 19, 2016 – 7:00 Committee on Transportation in Council Chamber – Discussion of a Transportation Demand Management Policy and the next steps in transportation planning
3. April 20, 2016 – 7:00 Committee on Public Works in Council Chamber – Discussion of the Road Project on Lower Common St.

He also announced the following community events:

1. April 23, 2016 – 9:00 – 12:00 The collection of bicycles to be shipped to other countries. There will be a container at the First Parish Church on Church St and the people there will strip down and pack the bicycles.
2. April 30, 2016 – The Charles River cleanup.

## 15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Dattoli announced there will be a meeting on April 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber to discuss the projected enrollment of the school district and the facilities.

Councilor Palomba announced that the Watertown Youth Coalition will be having its annual meeting entitled “Well Being of Watertown Youth – A Town Hall Meeting” in the Watertown Savings Bank Room on April 27, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:00 to discuss the Watertown Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Councilor Feltner stated Classic 107 WZLX invited all to participate in the Amazing Waste Challenge to clean up Arsenal Park on April 15, 2016 from 11:00 – 1:00.

Councilor Feltner also announced that she will be having open office hours on April 22, 2016 (sic) [April 26, 2016] from 12:30 – 1:30 at the Watertown Free Public Library in the Raya Stern Trustees Room, second floor.

President Sideris announced that on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the Commander’s Mansion from 11:00 – 2:00, there will be several Arbor Day related events taking place.

## 16. PUBLIC FORUM

Bert Greenberg – Duff St. – Mr. Greenberg raised concerns regarding the March 28, 2016 meeting relating to the Senior Center and the Council on Aging. Many of the speakers wanted to expand the services of the center, which would be costly.

Pat Gold – Council on Aging – She wanted to state the rumors that the Senior Center is closing is unfounded. She also raised concerns about the inaccuracies of an article in the Watertown Tab relating to the Center.

Bert Greenberg – He wanted to reiterate that the issue relating to the Senior Center was not going away.

17. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Palomba made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

[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 a voice vote of \_\_8\_\_ for, \_\_0\_\_ against, \_\_0\_\_ present on May 10, 2016.

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Mark S. Sideris, Council President  
s/MWP