



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, FEBRUARY 14, 2017 AT 7:15 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the Town Council at 7:15 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors Michael F. Dattoli, Aaron P. Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Lisa J. Feltner, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Burt Greenburg – Duff St. – Spoke on the schools and its issues

Pat Gold – Duff St. – Voters can affect the programs that affect the costs of them

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. [Minutes of the January 24, 2017 Town Council Meeting](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the minutes as written; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

B. [Minutes of the December 19, 2016 Joint Meeting](#) of the Town Council and the School Committee

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the minutes as written; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sideris thanked the DPW for maintaining the streets so well during the snowstorms as well as the operations of the Fire and Police Departments.

He also stated that the School Committee would be meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 to discuss the process for selecting a Superintendent of School, and that the meeting would be available on CATV. The School Committee has narrowed the search down to two finalists.

6. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Informational Update on Enhancements/Improvements Related to the [Cable Television Renewal License with Comcast of Massachusetts](#)

Mr. Driscoll presented Helen Chatel, Executive Director of Watertown CATV, who provided a presentation regarding CATV Service. CATV

- ~ Is providing feeds to Watertown Middle School, the Watertown Free Public Library, John Ryan Skating Arena, Victory Field, the gym at the High School, and the Police Station
- ~ Has upgraded the Town Hall equipment
- ~ Has upgraded the graphics to indicate the agenda item being discussed
- ~ Is working to have graduation and some sports activities streamed live
- ~ Is willing to show volunteers and the community how to use the equipment
- ~ Is providing after school training on how to use the equipment
- ~ Will provide adult training classes this summer
- ~ Will be able to stream from the Library
- ~ Working with a designated third party to provide consistent closed captioning services

7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$44,000 from the Fiscal Year 2017 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2017 [Veterans Benefits](#) Account.

Mr. Driscoll introduced Mr. Mark Comeiro, Veterans Service Officer, who stated that assistance under Chapter 115 has increased from 22 to 29 Veterans and families needing aid. This increase serves as the basis for the request to increase the appropriation.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer \$44,000; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation Report on the [Status of the Transportation Management Association \(TMA\)](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

Councilor Dushku read the committee report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. After a discussion on the status of the Shuttle Bus, the motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Committee on Economic Planning and Development Report on [General Premises License, 312 Arsenal Street, Two Registered Marijuana Dispensaries](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Waive a Supplemental Fee for a General Premises License for the Arts Center at 321 Arsenal Street.

Councilors Falkoff and Woodland read the Committee report. Councilor Falkoff moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

Councilor Dattoli moved to amend the report by stating that the “supplemental fee is up to twice the amount of the base fee”; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Kounelis stated that Councilor Falkoff’s statement in Bullet Point 2, at the bottom of page 3 regarding the regulation of the dispensaries was unclear and asked for a friendly amendment to clarify it. After discussion of how to amend the report properly, Councilor Piccirilli moved to add a parenthetical statement reading, “(Failure to issue a letter of support or non-opposition would prevent the applicant from obtaining the necessary license at the state level.)”; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report as amended by Councilor Dattoli and Councilor Piccirilli; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

President Sideris stated that the action item related to the Medical Marijuana Dispensaries is not on the agenda because there will be a community meeting to discuss this matter on February 27, 2017. The site is yet to be determined. In addition, this matter will be advertised later for a public hearing; the date needs to be determined.

President Sideris then took up the action item relating to the waiving of the supplemental fee for the Arts Center at 321 Arsenal St. Councilor Piccirilli recused himself. Councilor Palomba moved to waive the fee; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

After a discussion of the types of licenses and the criteria applicants must meet to obtain licenses, the Council voted on the motion that passed on a roll call vote of 7 for, 1 against, and 1 recusal. Councilors Dushku, Falkoff, Feltner, Kounelis, Palomba, Woodland, and President Sideris voting in the affirmative; Councilor Dattoli voted in the negative; and Councilor Piccirilli recused himself.

C. Committee on Economic Planning and Development Report on the [Reuse of the Former Police Station](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

Councilors Falkoff and Woodland read the report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

D. Committee on Public Works Report on [Adopt-An-Island Policy and Organic Composting](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

Councilor Dushku read the Committee Report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion.

Councilor Kounelis pointed out that the date of the meeting was incorrect and that a date should be added for the Mt. Auburn meeting.

Councilor Falkoff asked a procedural question regarding the insertion of post-meeting statements. Attorney Reich stated that minutes should reflect what occurred at the meeting; however, if a post-meeting statement is inserted, it should be set aside as a parenthetical to indicate it was not a part of the meeting.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to table the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- E. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report on [Agenda Links and Committee Referrals](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair

Councilor Woodland read the Committee Report. Councilor Falkoff moved to accept the report; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

President Sideris handed out a [draft of a Community Preservation Ordinance](#). Under Massachusetts General Laws 44B, the town needs to create a Community Preservation Ordinance. He requested a motion to refer the draft for review to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances. Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the draft to the Rules and Ordinances Committee; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion.

After a discussion of the process of drafting the ordinance, the motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Fire Department has upgraded its quality of life services from Basic Life Services (BLS) to Advanced Life Services (ALS). He thanked Chief Orangio and Fire Department personnel for making the effort to provide increased services.

Mr. Driscoll also stated that on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito was at the Town Hall to sign the Community Compact. As a member of the Compact, the Town will adopt best practices by implementing a Complete Streets program and will receive bonus points on select grant programs.

11. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION /REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

Councilor Dushku asked for the status of the implementation of the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance.

Councilor Dattoli wanted to know what resources the Administration needed to hire a Transportation Planner and when that might occur.

Councilor Feltner requested a clarification of the duties of the Code Enforcement Officer as there seems to be some confusion between the duties of DPW and Zoning.

Councilor Falkoff thanked the Town Manager for sending information about enforcement of the snow ordinances and asked if there is additional information about the kinds and numbers of actions that have been performed by the new inspectional services officer.

Councilor Kounelis asked for an update on the pedestrian crossings at 705 Mt. Auburn St. and the supplemental equipment enhancements given to DPW by Tufts.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Feltner announced that the Watertown High School PTO has a fundraiser for the next two weeks: A portion of the costs of a meal at Not Your Average Joe's for the next two Tuesdays will go to the PTO.

Councilor Kounelis stated that the LED street lights were installed from the Cambridge line to School on both east and westbound lanes.

Councilor Palomba announced that on Sunday, February 26, 2017, there will be an event entitled Watertown Welcomes Immigrants. People will convene at Grace Vision Church and there will be a vigil held from 3:00 – 3:45 pm on Watertown Square. President Sideris, School Committee Chairman John Portz, Rep. Jonathan Hecht, and a member of the Watertown Police Department will speak. From 4:00 – 5:30 pm, there will be a presentation regarding Immigration Law; federal executive orders; actions citizens can take; and a potential Sanctuary City ordinance.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

Pat Gold – Expressed her concern with the tone of the meeting.

Bert Greenberg – Thanked Gerry Mee for the work that DPW does.

Ted Dokus – Spring St. – Stated that he was impressed with the quick snow removal in town and inquired as to why the town uses what seems like a high salt content.

14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 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 vote of __9__ for, __0__ against, __0__ present on February 28, 2017.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the December 19, 2016 and the January 24, 2017 Town Council Meetings – Item 4
2. Informational Update on Enhancements/Improvements related to the Cable Television Renewal License with Comcast of Massachusetts – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager – February 9, 2017 – Item 6
3. Transfer of Funds Request relating to Veterans Benefits – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager – February 9, 2017 – Item 7
4. Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation Meeting Report , January 12, 2017 – Item 8A
Attachment A – Watertown TMA Power Point presentation from Allison Simmons, Ease Consulting
5. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Meeting Reports for January 31, 2017 and February 7, 2017 relating to License for the Arts Center and Registered Marijuana Dispensaries – Item 8B
Attachment A – ATG Update
Attachment B – Statement by Gail Boyd
Attachment C – Email from Sallye Bleiberg
Attachment D – NS AJO Holdings, Inc. City of Watertown Request for Letter of Non-Opposition January 31, 2017
6. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Meeting Report for January 17, 2017 relating to the reuse of the former police station – Item 8C
Inclusions:
Letter from Watertown-Belmont Chamber of Commerce and Informational Presentation – January 17, 2017
Town of Watertown Feasibility Study for Converting the Former Police State at 34 Cross Street to Offices – November 11, 2015
Reduced Scope Option 34 Cross St. Watertown MA, November 9, 2015
7. Committee on Public Works Meeting Report for January 24, 2017 relating to Adopt an Island and Organic Composting – Item 8D
8. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Meeting Report for February 7, 2017 relating to URL's in meeting agendas and Rules for Committee Referrals – Item 8E
9. Draft of Community Preservation Committee Ordinance Pursuant to MGL 44B – Item 9