



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 25, 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

Jim Loughlin – Stated his opposition to the Hampton Inn in the Arsenal Yards Development

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the April 11, 2017](#) Town Council Meeting

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes as written; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. Councilor Kounelis requested that an informational presentation that she forwarded to the Town Council be attached. Councilor Piccirilli amended his motion to attach the presentation to the minutes; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sideris yielded to the Budget Presentation; therefore, there were no items to be considered.

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

A. Proclamation Recognizing [Arbor Day, April 28, 2017](#)

President Sideris read the Proclamation recognizing Arbor Day on April 28, 2017. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Proclamation Honoring [Project Literacy on Its 30th Anniversary](#)

President Sideris read the Proclamation recognizing the 30th Anniversary of Project Literacy. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

President Sideris recognized Ms. Philippa Biggers, the Director of Project Literacy, who thanked the Council on behalf of all those involved with the project for the proclamation. She announced that there would be a celebration of the event on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at the Library from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing and Vote on Proposed [Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the amendment to the budget. Mr. Mee, Superintendent of Public Works, provided background on the need for the four vehicles for the department. Mr. Mahoney, Director of IT, provided background on the need for the funds for a Geographical Information System (GIS) and storage service.

President Sideris opened the Public Hearing; there being no speakers, the public hearing was closed. Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the budget amendment to the FY 2017 Budget for \$423,000; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding an [Appointment to the Planning Board and a Reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Confirm Payson Whitney III for Appointment to the Planning Board for a Term that Expires on February 15, 2020.
2. That the Town Council Confirm John Gannon for Reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term that Expires on February 15, 2022.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to confirm the appointment of Payson Whitney III to the Planning Board for a term that expires on February 15, 2020; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to confirm the reappointment of John Gannon to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term that expires on February 15, 2022; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Committee on Human Services Report [Regarding the Appointment and Reappointments to the Housing Authority and the Reappointment to the Board of Health](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Appoint Dr. Sachi Sharma to the Watertown Housing Authority to Fill the Unexpired Term of David Dalla Costa with a Termination Date of May 15, 2018 as Tenant Representative.
2. That the Town Council Reappoint Cynthia Galligan to the Watertown Housing Authority to a Term Expiring on May 15, 2021 as Labor Representative
3. That the Town Council Reappoint Mr. Allan Gallagher to the Watertown Housing Authority for Term Expiring on May 15, 2020
4. That the Town Council Reappoint Richard Arnold to the Board of Health for a Term Expiring on February 4, 2019

Councilor Palomba read the committee report and amended it by adding that the vote on Mr. Arnold's reappointment was unanimous (3-0). Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appoint Dr. Sachi Sharma to the Watertown Housing Authority to fill the unexpired term of David Dalla Costa with a termination date of May 15, 2018 as Tenant Representative; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to reappoint Cynthia Galligan to the Watertown Housing Authority to a term expiring on May 15, 2021 as Labor Representative; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to reappoint Mr. Allan Gallagher to the Watertown Housing Authority for a term expiring on May 15, 2020; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to Reappoint Richard Arnold to the Board of Health for a Term Expiring on February 4, 2019; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

C. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding the [Appointment and Reappointment of Members of the Conservation Commission](#) – Aaron P.

Dushku, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Appoint and Reappoint All of the Nominees to the Conservation Commission. This includes

Jaime O’Connell, Appointment, Term Expires February 15, 2020

Marylouise Palotta Mc Dermott, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2018

Louis Taverna, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2018

Patrick Fairbairn, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2019

Charles Bering, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2019

Leo Martin, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2020

Maria P. Rose, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2020

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appoint and reappoint all of the nominees to the Conservation Commission, which includes

Jaime O’Connell, Appointment, Term Expires February 15, 2020

Marylouise Palotta Mc Dermott, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2018

Louis Taverna, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2018

Patrick Fairbairn, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2019

Charles Bering, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2019

Leo Martin, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2020

Maria P. Rose, Reappointment, Term Expires February 15, 2020

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business coming before the Council.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

A. A Resolution Authorizing the Filing of a Special Act Related to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 100 G1/4 Concerning [Payment of Funeral and Burial Expenses of Watertown Firefighters and Police Officers Killed in Performance of Duties.](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on this matter. The Town would file a Special Act in order to pay for the funeral of Firefighter Toscano. If approved, he will then have two items on the May 9, 2017 agenda, the transfer of the money and the adoption of Chapter 41, Section 100 G1/4 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Vice-President Piccirilli read the Resolution. Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the Resolution as written; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Submission of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

Mr. Driscoll made his presentation regarding the FY 2018 Budget. He mentioned that the Budget information is available on the Watertown website. Some of the major points include

- Budget – The submitted budget is \$132,628,000, a 3.9% increase of \$5,082,084
- Bond Market – Moody's increased the town's bond rating from AA2 to AA1, its second highest rating
- The Town's local aid has increased \$643,809
- Property taxes – the estimate is \$11,446,911, 75.74% of the Town's revenues.
- Growth – the estimate is \$3,300,000
- Capital Improvement for FY 2018 – 2022 is \$368,343,100 or 7.99% of the budget
- Water and Sewer Enterprise Budgets are \$18,182,421, an increase of \$1,128,484
- State and County Charges are \$2,646,644 of which 84% is the MBTA assessment
- The unfunded pension liability of the Retirement System is \$44,184,437 and is expected to be fully funded in FY 2019

Some of the larger appropriations are as follows:

- Group Insurance – \$15,361,601 – As a participant of the Mass, Group Insurance Commission, the average increase for group insurance over the last 9 fiscal years is 1.67%
- General Government – \$5,257,425
- Police Department – \$9,025,986 which includes payment for the services of 68 Uniformed officers, 50 patrol officers, 9 dispatchers, 4 civilian employees and crossing guards
- Fire Department – \$10,188,094 which includes the services of 87 Firefighters
- DPW – \$5,236,560, excluding Waste Disposal and Snow Removal
- Waste Disposal - \$3,013,658

- Library - \$2,901,706
- Education - \$45,751,858

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

Councilor Feltner requested that the Budget Guidelines be posted on line.

She also requested the following information:

- ~ The landscape plans for the closing of Beacon Park and Arsenal St.
- ~ A clarification of the source and estimated budget of the pedestrian improvements at Main St. and Pleasant St. presented to the Traffic Commission at the February 22, 2017 meeting
- ~ A listing of offsets for the development projects in town

Councilor Kounelis requested the update on the information from Glen Circle that has been reviewed.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Dattoli announced that on Thursday, May 4, 2017, a housing forum on Aging Well in Watertown would be held at the Library from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. This is a resource fair discussing housing options for the elderly.

Councilor Dushku announced that

- ~ The Little League was having a kickoff celebration at Casey Field on Saturday, April 29, 2017
- ~ Dancing with the Stars would be held at the Hellenic Center on May 5, 2017
- ~ The Project Literacy celebration would be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, 2017.

Councilor Feltner announced that the Public Hearing regarding the 101-103 Morse Street project would be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

Councilor Palomba announced that the DPW and the Charles River Watershed Association would be offering a training workshop on the Watertown rain garden project on Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. at 65 Grove Street.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

Bert Greenberg – Duff Street – Commended Mr. Driscoll on his budget presentation.

14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 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 May 9, 2017.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the April 11, 2017 Town Council Meeting - Item 4
2. Proclamation Recognizing Arbor Day, April 28, 2017 – Item 6A
3. Proclamation Honoring Project Literacy on Its 30th Anniversary – Item 6B
4. Additional Information – Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – April 20, 2017, Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – Item 7
5. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding Interviews of Candidates for Appointment to the Planning Board and Reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals – April 13, 2017 – Item 8A
6. Committee on Human Services Report Regarding Interviews of Appointees and Rappointees to the Watertown Housing Authority and the Board of Health for Meetings held on March 16, 2017 and April 13, 2017 – Item 8B
7. Committee on Public Works Regarding Interviews of the Appointee and Reappointees to the Conservation Commission for the Meeting held on April 4, 2017 – Item 8C
8. Agenda Item – A resolution Authorizing the Filing of a Special Act to Pay the Funeral and Burial Expenses of Firefighter Joseph Toscano – April 25, 2017 – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – Item 10A
9. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget – April 25, 2017, Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – Item 10B