



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, MAY 9, 2017 AT 6:30 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 6:30 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, Joseph Fair, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.

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, as an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Town's Bargaining Position

Councilor Piccirilli moved for the Council to enter into Executive Session; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:15 P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Burt Greenberg – 118 Duff Street – Spoke regarding property rights

Will Twombly – 75 Marion Road – Spoke about Watertown being a welcoming community to immigrants and the need for the Police to document its practices

regarding immigration; the Council to affirm these practices; and the Community to release the document to the public.

Maria Saiz – 83 Hovey Street – Arlington just passed a Welcoming City Ordinance. She noted that surrounding communities have accepted similar ordinances and wondered if Watertown would do the same as well.

Caroline Bays – 110 Lovell Road – Stated that she likes Chief Lawn’s policing policy regarding immigrants but that it needs to be in writing to assure immigrants of their safety.

Ryan Edwards – 282 Common Street – Spoke about the need for Park Management to better manage the fields and improve the need for sharing the fields than it is currently doing.

Milton Contreras – 12 Charles Street – Asked for help to better schedule practice time and field space in order to practice. Soccer services more than 800 children in the town.

Sue Ellen Hershman-Tcherepnin – 96 Russell Avenue – She urged Chief Lawn to have his policing policy regarding immigrants in writing.

Paula Rayman – 27 Oliver Street – Wanted to urge lawmakers to maintain Watertown as a Welcoming Community.

Sasha Kiani – 15 Palmer Street – She requested that students be given first consideration of the town fields over the adult teams.

John Petrovsky – 57 Russell Avenue – He urged the Council to create a resolution welcoming all people to the community.

Russ Arico – 49 Fayette Street – As a compromise to the immigration issue, he suggested that the Police Chief write a letter expressing the policing policy regarding immigration and disseminate it. He does not favor Watertown becoming a Sanctuary City.

Kathy Santoian – 279 North Beacon Street – She raised concerns with the truck route used for Athena and would like a new plan instituted to alleviate problems.

Sarah Ryan – 43 Paul Street – She raised a concern about the trucking plan on Charles River Road and the lack of communication from Athena.

Marcia Ciro – 13 Bay Street – She raised concerns about employees of Athena parking inappropriately on the streets and government leadership.

Debbie Dugan – 25 Hall Avenue – Thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as an Election Commissioner. She raised concerns about the Town’s decision to accept the RMD and advised against a Sanctuary City or Welcoming Town resolution.

David Cain – 99 Pleasant Street – Asked that money from the sale of the East Branch Library be used to refurbish the North Branch for use as a computer center for the public.

Chuck Dickinson – 21 Church Lane – Urged the policing policy to be made public so that all can discuss.

Michelle Cokonaugher – 37 Paul Street – Urged the Council to support the passage of the TDM Ordinance and Regulations.

Unknown – She stated that as Watertown continues to grow, the Council should adopt a Sanctuary City or Welcoming Town Resolution to make others aware of the vibrancy of Watertown.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the April 25, 2017](#) Town Council Meeting

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes as written; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Sideris suggested that subcommittees use the recording secretaries judiciously as the funds are limited.

He also stated that the Personnel and Town Organization Committee will use the same evaluation tool for assessing the Town Auditor’s work. The assessment would be sent out and it should be returned in two weeks.

President Sideris stated that he received a letter from Boylston Properties regarding Tax Certainty. He requested a referral to the Committees on Budget and Fiscal Oversight and Economic Development and Planning to discuss if the Town is willing to have a policy on Tax Certainty. Councilor Piccirilli moved the referral; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

President Sideris wanted to thank the Watertown Education Foundation that recently had an event that raised more than \$20,000 for supplemental activities for Watertown students. He especially wanted to thank Elaina Griffith, Amy Donohue, and Nikki Muraca.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing and Vote on a [Proposed Transportation Demand Management Ordinance](#) that will Require Certain Projects to Take Steps in order to Reduce Single Occupant Vehicle Trips Resulting from the Project

Mr. Magoon provided an overview of the Ordinance's history and provisions. Some of the main provisions are

- ~ To reduce Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) trips by 20%
- ~ The application of the Ordinance to new construction or additions of more than 10,000 sq. ft. or of 10 or more dwelling units and Special Permit Plans with more than 150 average daily trips or more than 15 peak hour trips above current conditions
- ~ Exemptions for Child Care Facilities, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Projects, and Retail businesses
- ~ To have the Dept. of Community Development and Planning Administer compliance
- ~ That regulations will be approved by the Town Manager to implement the Ordinance
- ~ That the Town Council will be informed of regulation amendments
- ~ That the TDM programs must have goals for trip reduction, list a measurement process, create post occupancy monitoring measures and reporting, and provide corrective measures, if needed.
- ~ That there are enforcement and fine provisions to ensure compliance

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the Ordinance amending the Town's General Ordinances by including Chapter 72 Transportation Demand Management Programs as presented; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

President Sideris opened the Public Hearing.

Russ Arico – 49 Fayette Street – He opposes the forced passenger control of privately owned vehicles. He requested that the ordinance be tabled until the Town Attorney provides an opinion on the constitutionality of such ordinance.

Jonathan Bockian – 165 Irving Street – Urged the passage of the ordinance as a progressive attempt to create a policy for a serious Town problem.

Judith Kohler – 61 Emerson Road – She stated her support for the legislation.

Elliot Friedman – 115 Church Street – He supports the Ordinance which is well crafted and of benefit to the Town.

Michelle Cokonaugher – 37 Paul Street – She spoke in favor of the Ordinance. It creates a policy and the Town does not have to work on this issue on a case-by-case basis.

Mark Peterson – 277 School Street – He appreciates the work of the Committee and thinks this will aid developers who need to consider this element.

Oliver Rick – 28 Gilbert Street – Supports the Ordinance but finds the retail exemption odd. Business should be encouraging alternative methods of transportation as a part of the community.

Debbie Dugan – 25 Hall Avenue – She stated the cost of the program needs to be considered and wondered what would be encouraged to reduce the use of SOV's and how it would be monitored. She felt this was an infringement of her privacy.

Burt Greenberg – Duff Street – Opposes any ordinance that would restrict his right to move about.

Pat Gold – Duff Street – Transportation is minimal in the West End of town and she needs her vehicle to get around.

Mr. Magoon explained that the ordinance does not interfere with the usage of a vehicle, but asks that future developments provide methods of transportation to reduce SOV usage.

President Sideris closed the public hearing and opened the discussion to the Council. Councilors provided statements regarding the ordinance.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer in the Amount of \$9,896 from the Fiscal Year 2017 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2017 Chapter 41 Section 100G1/4 – [Funeral Expenses Account](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided a discussion of the resolution's purpose and requested the Town Council's favorable consideration.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council approve the transfer of \$9,896; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Resolution [Adopting the Provisions of General Laws Chapter 41, §100G1/4](#) Related to Payment of Funeral and Burial Expenses of Firefighters and Police Officers

Mr. Driscoll stated that this resolution would adopt the local statute that provides for the payment of up to \$15,000 for funeral expenses for a firefighter or policeman who dies while performing their duties. He requested the Town Council's favorable consideration.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the provisions of Chapter 41, §100G1/4 of the Massachusetts General Laws; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

C. Consideration and Action on a [Proposed Complete Street Policy](#)

Mr. Magoon provided a description of the Complete Streets Policy.

- ~ Purpose: To provide safety and accessibility to all modes of transportation
- ~ Applies to all transportation infrastructure, street design, and construction projects that the Town funds or approves
- ~ Creates a Complete Streets Working Group to review Complete Streets activities at least twice a year
- ~ Evaluations of the policy will consider the feet of new or improved sidewalks; the miles of new or restriped bicycle facilities; the number of new or reconstructed curb ramps and crosswalks; and the number of new street trees.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the resolution establishing a Complete Streets policy; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

D. Resolution Authorizing Transfers in order to [Fund an Agreement with the Department of Public Works, Teamsters, Local Union No. 25](#) Covering the Period of July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019

Mr. Driscoll provided information regarding the agreement with the Department of Public Works Teamsters Union Local 25. The major items include

- ~ Increases in base wages – 2.25% effective 7/1/2016; 2% effective 7/1/2017; and 2% effective 7/1/2018
- ~ Stipends for Licenses and Certifications – CDL-A License, Water Distribution Licenses, and Emergency Vehicle Technician Certification
- ~ An increase in the longevity amount for those serving 30 years or more
- ~ Bi-Weekly payment

He asked for the Town Council's favorable consideration of the agreement.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of \$39,501 from the Town Council Reserve and the transfer of \$29,847 from the Water and Sewer Enterprise to fund the agreement; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation Report on the [Meeting with the MBTA](#) Regarding Questions to Improve the Transit Rider Experience in Watertown – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

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.

- B. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report on the [Reappointment of Jason Cohen to Zoning Board of Appeals](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Confirm Jason Cohen for Reappointment as an Alternate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term that Expires on February 15, 2019.

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 reappoint Jason Cohen for Reappointment as an Alternate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term that Expires on February 15, 2019; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- C. Committee on [Public Safety Report](#) Regarding [Arsenal Street Public Way Improvements and the Impacts on Public Safety](#) – Lisa J. Feltner, Chair

Councilor Feltner read the Committee Report. Councilor Palomba 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 [Ridgelawn Cemetery Improvements](#) and Other Issues – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Woodland moved to refer to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning the issue of exploring new ways for the Department of Public Works to get the staging area it needs for the Town's infrastructure improvement and needs projects; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Falkoff moved to re-refer to the Committee on Human Services a request to review and evaluate the structure for scheduling use of the Town Fields; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Driscoll announced that in two weeks the Administration Building would be operating on modified summer hours (beginning May 23, 2017).

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

Councilor Kounelis requested information on

- ~ The planting strip maintenance for Prentiss Street, Keenan Street, and Merrifield Avenue
- ~ The matter relating to Glen Circle
- ~ Truck traffic on Calvin Road
- ~ The maintenance of Upland Road access or extension

Councilor Falkoff requested that

- ~ The Town Manager provide any written policies regarding the use of the fields
- ~ The Town Council be part of the discussion regarding the findings of copper and lead in the school pipes
- ~ The Police Department issue a written statement regarding its policies on immigration and ICE detention requests
- ~ Town Manager provide a date for removal of the signage of No Dogs Allowed in areas where they will be allowed
- ~ The Town Council receive follow-ups on the concerns of neighbors regarding the Athena project

Councilor Dushku requested that when the DPW replaces water mains that they notify residents that it is an opportune time to replace piping from the house to the street to remove any lead piping.

He also requested that all ordinances passed incorporate all amendments made by the Town Council upon adoption.

Councilor Dattoli requested the evaluation information regarding the Town Manager. President Sideris stated that it would be combined with the information regarding the Town Auditor.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Dattoli announced that at 7:00 pm on May 10, 2017 in the Council Chamber, there would be a meeting to review the retrofit of Arsenal Buildings A and E.

He also announced that at 6:30 pm on May 11, 2017, Athena Health would be conducting a meeting in Building 311 regarding the I-Cubed funding.

Councilor Kounelis stated she attended a meeting regarding the Mount Auburn Street Corridor Project. The project, as it relates to Watertown, should provide

improvements on Belmont Street from the Brimmer Street area to the Cambridge line. It is anticipated that the design plans will be ready in the winter of 2018 and that construction should begin in 2020.

Councilor Feltner announced that on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 9:30 am, Fire Captain Ryan Nicholson would join the Coffee with Chief Lawn at the Senior Center. The public is welcome.

Councilor Palomba wanted to thank the organizers of the “Aging Well in Watertown: A Housing Forum” for putting together an excellent presentation with community-based service and advocacy groups.

Councilor Dushku announced that Live Well Watertown and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee would be sponsoring an event on Sunday, May 14, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. on Charles River Road.

He also announced a meeting regarding Transportation issues would be held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chamber.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

Michelle Cokonaugher – 37 Paul Street – She raised a safety concern about the broken curbing along the municipal parking lot near Spring Street

She also asked if the community path along Arsenal Street had been changed to a bike lane only.

David Cain – 99 Pleasant Street – Requested Councilors to use microphones to aid hard of hearing. He also made a statement against the TDM ordinance.

Burt Greenberg – Duff Street – Raised some concerns regarding condominiums being included in the 10 units affected by the TDM Ordinance.

16. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Palomba moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.

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 __ for, __ against, __ present on May 23, 2017.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**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 25, 2017 Town Council Meeting - Item 6
2. New TDM Ordinance, Steve Magoon, DCDP Director, Assistant Town Manager to Town Council and Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager – May 4, 2017 (Includes An Ordinance Amending the Town’s General Ordinances, Chapter 72: Transportation Demand Management Programs) – Item 8
3. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds – Payment of Funeral and Burial Expenses of Firefighter Joseph Toscano, Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council, May 4, 2017 – Item 9 A
4. Agenda Item – A Resolution Adopting the Provisions of General Laws Chapter 41, §100G1/4 Related to Payment of Funeral and Burial Expenses of Firefighters and Police Officers, Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council, May 4, 2017 Item 9 B
5. Complete Street Policy Adoption – Steve Magoon, DCDP Director, Assistant Town Manager to Town Council and Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager – May 4, 2017 – Item 9 C
6. Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation Report regarding MBTA Service to Watertown Summary Report of March 29, 2017 Meeting – Item 10A
 - A. Attachment A – Detailed Report Minutes of Meeting
 - B. Attachment B – Published Agenda of the Meeting
 - C. Attachment C – Arsenal Street Corridor Study Working Group Meeting 6 – March 2, 2017
 - D. Attachment D – Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority – Current Topics in Watertown Transit – March 29, 2017
 - E. Attachment E – The Atlantic City Lab – When Street Parking Becomes a Pop-Up Bus Lane – Stephen Miller, February 22, 2017
 - F. Attachment F – List of Attendees
7. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report regarding the Reappointment of Jason Cohen to the Zoning Board of Appeals – April 25, 2017 – Item 10 B
8. Committee on Public Safety Report regarding Arsenal Street public way improvements and their impact on public safety – March 22, 2017 and April 10, 2017 (Summary) – Item 10 C

- A. Detailed Minutes March 22, 2017 Meeting
 - B. Detailed Minutes of April 10, 2017 Meeting
9. Committee on Public Safety Arsenal Street Concerns Slides – April 10, 2017 – Item 10 C
 10. Committee on Public Works Report regarding Ridgelawn Cemetery and Updates on the Community Path and the Work Order Tracking System – April 24, 2017 – Item 10 D