



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, OCTOBER 10, 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., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Kenneth M. Woodland was absent. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, Joseph Fair, Town Attorney, and Marilyn Pronovost, Council Clerk

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Ron Trial – 39 Marion Road – Raised concerns about the lights at Victory Field

Dick O'Connor – 81 Channing Road – Expressed concerns about the intrusiveness of the lights at Victory Field

Bruce Coltin – 67 Marion Road – Spoke about the need to maintain turf fields with more chemicals and their potential for harm to users and nearby residents

Ann Asnes – 185 Bellevue Road – Agreed with Mr. Coltin that the town needs to show concern for the health of the children and be thoughtful in order to produce good recreation

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Road – Thanked President Sideris and Councilor Piccirilli for addressing the issues relating to Victory Field.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
[Minutes of the September 26, 2017](#) Town Council Meeting

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

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sideris stated that the MSBA met with the School Committee at the High School for an hour and completed a walking tour of more than an hour. Watertown's application is now one of 40 out of 80+ applications made.

President Sideris requested a motion to create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee consisting of himself as Chair, the Committee on Human Services, and Councilor Piccirilli to create policies and procedures regarding lighting on the fields in the town. Councilor Piccirilli so moved; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

6. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the Amount of \$2,000.00 to Offset Expenses Related to the ["Faire on the Square 2017"](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated the resolution would approve the acceptance of gifts from Belmont Savings Bank and Rockland Savings Bank to be used to offset the expenses of the Faire on the Square and requested the Council's favorable consideration. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept and expend the gift of funds; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. First Reading on a [Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the proposed amendment. The change would include new growth, receipt of the payment of the cherry sheets, money replenished for the implementation of the first year of the Town Hall Associates agreement, adjustments to three non-union confidential employees, and the sale of the East Branch Library. The hearing on this matter will be on October 24, 2017.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report on [Solar Zones, LEED Certification, Vacant Property Registry, and Public Works Staging Areas](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

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

B. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report on [Appointments to the Board of Assessors](#) – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council ask Mr. Golden to Follow-Up on the Status of any Bills Relevant to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) in the Massachusetts State House and Report Back to the Town Council
2. That the Town Council ask Mr. Tracy to Research Legal Options for Mandating PILOT Agreements with Certain Tax-Exempt Institutions and Report His Findings to the Town Council
3. That the Town Council Request Information from the Administration the Average Amount on the Residential Tax Bills for Each Year of the Bond for the School Debt Exclusion
4. That the Town Council Reappoint Francis J. Golden to the Board of Assessors for Term that Expires on May 15, 2020
5. That the Town Council Reappoint Richard V. Moynihan to the Board of Assessors for a Term that Expires on May 15, 2019
6. That the Town Council Reappoint Anthony P. Paolillo to the Board of Assessors for a Term that Expires on May 15, 2018

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER
[Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2019](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided a preliminary budget overview for FY 2019. The following are among the major points made at the presentation.

REVENUE

- * 75% of Town Revenue comes from Real and Personal Property taxes
- * 9.5% derives from Local Aid from the State
- * Local receipts rose from FY 17 Budgeted at \$11,141,250 to FY 17 Actual at \$13,499,105 - The major increases coming from Motor Vehicle taxes, Inspection Fees, and Investment Income
- * 5.3% of the Budget is from Other Sources
- * The variance in expected revenue versus actual revenue is \$1,447,042 and represents a 1.4% increase of the total budget

- * Unreserved Balance is \$16,160,000 or 12.01%, which Standard and Poor's considers good

DEBT

- * Debt as of June 30, 2017 is \$30,154,000
- * \$5,229,000 of the Debt will be paid in FY 18, leaving a permanent debt of \$24,925,000
- * \$13,225,541 has been authorized for streets, sidewalks, and duct work; Middle School windows; DPW equipment; and carpet replacement at the Library
- * Water/Sewer Funds expenditures were less than the revenue: Revenues increased by \$376,878 for Water and \$748,620 for Sewer.
- * Debt for 78 Capital Projects is \$10,322,330

BUDGET FORECAST

- * Anticipated revenues from Taxes are expected to be \$107 million
- * Anticipated State Aid is level funded at \$11,825,058
- * Local Receipts are expected to be relatively flat
- * Total Revenues are expected to increase by 2.59% from \$133,754,420 to \$137,216,188
- * Expected Increases in Expenditures:
 - ~ Departmental expenditures – 2.5%
 - ~ School appropriation – 5%
 - ~ Health insurance costs – 7.5%
- * Building for the Future Initiative – School Improvement
 - ~ Requests for Owner's Project Manager Services and Proposals for Designer Services for the Elementary Schools will be made in October or November, 2017
 - ~ A plan is being developed to pay for the \$80 - \$120 million elementary schools renovations within the limits of Proposition 2 1/2 beginning in FY 2020
- * Based on current projections, there will be a \$2,175,535 deficit, which will be worked out by either increasing the revenues or decreasing expenditures

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

There were no requests for information.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Piccirilli announced that the Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight will be preparing the Budget Guidelines for FY 2019 and requested that each member provide their priority requests by Tuesday, October 24, 2017. The Committee has three meetings scheduled for November 1, 6, and 13, 2017 to prepare the document for the Town Council Meeting on November 28, 2017.

Councilor Dattoli announced that on

- ~ Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., there would be a meeting of the Arsenal Park Committee at the Commander's Mansion
- ~ Saturday, October 14, 2017, the Watertown Fire Department will be hosting an Open House from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Main Street station.
- ~ Friday, October 27, 2017, the Recreation Department will be hosting the second annual Little Monster Mash Halloween event beginning at 5:30 p.m. Prizes will be given for costumes.

Councilor Dushku announced that

- ~ The Recreation Department is hosting three other meetings regarding the needs of Casey Park, Moxley Field, and Filippello Park.
- ~ The Committee on Public Works will be conducting a meeting on the 2018 Roads Program and presenting a list of the roads to be improved next year on October 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber
- ~ The Committee on Public Works will be hearing from a consultant regarding the revisions of Watertown Square under the ICube Program on October 30, 2017 at 6:30 in the Council Chamber
- ~ The Library will hold Forums for the School Committee Candidates on Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. and for the Town Council candidate on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Councilor Feltner requested more clarification or instructions on the ranking of the priorities for the Budget Guidelines.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

John Portz – 46 Robbins Road – Thanked the Town Manager and the Town Council for their support of the School Budget. He also thanked the Town Manager for being able to provide a funding solution that would assist with the school buildings.

Ed Scheinbart – 275 Main Street – Thanked the Town for moving up the date of the Faire on the Square.

13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 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 _8_ for, _0_ against, _0_ present on October 24, 2017

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the September 26, 2017 Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditures (Faire on the Square – Belmont Savings Bank and Rockland Bank – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – October 5, 2017 – Item 6A
3. Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – October 5, 2017 – Item 6B
4. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report on Solar Zones, LEED Certification, Vacant Property Registry, and Public Works Staging Areas for Meeting on September 5, 2017 – Item 7A
 - A. Attachment 1 – Outline for Discussion of Solar Zones in Watertown
 - B. Attachment 2 – Proposal for Solar Zoning in Watertown
 - C. Attachment 3 – Excerpt from Watertown Zoning Ordinance dated December 13, 2016, Page 104, paragraph 9.03(c)7 Environmental Sustainability
 - D. Attachment 4 – Survey of Vacant Storefronts in Watertown
 - E. Attachment 5 – Center for Community Progress – Vacant Property Registration Ordinances
 - F. Attachment 6 – List of Vacant Property Ordinances in Massachusetts
 - G. Attachment 7 – “Arlington’s Vacant Storefront Registry Will Soon Be Put Into Effect – Bram Berkowitz – Wicked Local Arlington – June 21, 2017
 - H. Attachment 8 – Letter to Committee on Economic Development and Planning from Watertown Public Arts & Culture Committee
5. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report on Board of Assessors Reappointments for Meeting on September 6, 2017 – Item 7B (Tabled)
6. Fiscal Year 2019 Town of Watertown Preliminary Budget Overview – October 10, 2017 – Item 9