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 24, 2017, 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 Steven Magoon, Assistant Town Manager, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

   Bruce Coltin – 67 Marion Road – Raised concerns about the effects of sand and dust from artificial turf fields on children's health

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
   Minutes of the October 10, 2017 Town Council Meeting

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

   There being no further speakers, President Sideris closed the Public Forum.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

   There were no items to report.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS
   A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

      Mr. Magoon provided background on the proposed amendment for the FY 2018 budget.

      President Sideris opened the hearing to the Public. There being no speakers, the public hearing was closed. Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the proposed amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018 budget; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

   B. Public Hearing and Vote on A Petition for a Grant of Location for NStar Electric Company dba as Eversource Energy for the Purpose of Installing 10 Feet of Conduit in Louise Street to Provide Underground Electric Service to a Gas Monitor

      Mr. Magoon provided background on the grant of location.

      President Sideris opened the hearing to the Public. There being no speakers, the public hearing was closed. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the requested grant of location; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS
   A. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of $149,996 in Order to Move Forward with Owners Project Manager Services (OPM) for the Evaluation of Potential Solutions and Schematic Design Phases of the Elementary Schools Building Project.

      Mr. Magoon provided background on the need for the transfer of monies. Mary De Lai, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, mentioned that there was a Request for Services for an Owner's Project Manager to evaluate solutions and schematic designs. Ten firms submitted proposals; four were interviewed on October 16; and Daedalus Projects, Inc. was selected with a fee proposal of $149,996 for the work.

      Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer $149,996 for the Owner's Project Manager; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

      In the following discussion, Ms. De Lai stated the OPM would act as the Owner's representative reviewing the plans and preparing meetings relating to the design; however, the meetings will be conducted the design firm. Selection of a design firm is being worked on.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. First Reading on a Proposed Order Allocating the Property Tax Levy Among or Between Property Classes for Fiscal Year 2018

Mr. Tracy, Town Auditor, provided background on the tax levy and the tax shift and stated that the public hearing on this matter would be taken up at the November 14, 2017 Town Council meeting.

C. First Reading on a Proposed Order Setting Optional Tax Exemptions for Fiscal Year 2018

Mr. Tracy, provided background on the optional tax exemptions and stated that the public hearing on this matter would be taken up at the November 14, 2017 Town Council meeting.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report on Appointments to the Board of Assessors – Susan G. Falkoff, Chair

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 Kounelis 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.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to have 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; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to have 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; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion that the Town Council request the Administration to provide information of the average amount of the residential tax bills for each year of the bond for the school debt exclusion; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

As Mr. Golden is resigning, the action item to reappoint Francis J. Golden to the Board of Assessors for a term that expires on May 15, 2020 was not taken up.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to have the Town Council reappoint Richard V. Moynihan to the Board of Assessors for a term that expires on May 15, 2019; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to have the Town Council reappoint Anthony P. Paolillo to the Board of Assessors for a term that expires on May 15, 2018; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Joint Meeting of the Committee on Human Services and the Conservation Commission Report on the Site Characteristics for Open Space Acquisition – Anthony Palomba, Chair – Human Services
ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Request the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to Put together an Immediate Short-Term Plan for Cleaning Up Cannalonga Park and a Longer-Term Plan for Rehabilitating the Space

Councilor Palomba 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.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion for the Town Council to request the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to put together an immediate short-term plan for cleaning up Cannalonga Park and a longer-term plan for rehabilitating the space; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Feltner moved to refer to the Committee on Human Services and the Conservation Commission the question of investigating additional planning methods and resources to enhance opportunities to improve Arsenal Park; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. After a discussion as to whether this referral was redundant and would interfere with the current process, the motion failed on a roll call vote of 4 – 5. Councilors Dattoli, Dushku, Feltner, and Palomba voted in the affirmative; Councilors Falkoff, Kounelis, Piccirilli, Woodland, and President Sideris voted in the negative.

Councilor Falkoff moved to refer to the Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Personnel and Town Organization the issue of looking at the description of the Transportation Planner and why it has been difficult to appoint someone; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 8-1. All Councilors voted in the affirmative, except for Councilor Woodland who voted in the negative.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Magoon mentioned that on Friday, October 27, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., the "Lil Monster Mash" event would be held in the Commander's Mansion.

He also stated that on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at the Middle School, a free Veteran's Day concert would be held with the Hal McIntyre Orchestra being conducted by Don Pentleton.

The Town Hall will be closed on November 10, 2017 to celebrate Veterans' Day.

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

Councilor Kounelis made a statement regarding Athena's recent employee reduction and requested information from the Administration as to how the employee reductions would affect the I Cubed Program in the short and long term.

Councilor Kounelis further requested information regarding how recreational marijuana timelines and regulations would affect Watertown as licenses can be accepted starting April 1, 2018.

Councilor Dushku requested an update on remote participation for Councilors and BYOB licenses.

Councilor Feltner requested

~ A follow up on the World Tech Study completed in 2011 on pedestrian safety at Watertown Street and Morse Avenue – Jackson Park area.
~ The data that supports a four way stop at Spring and Palfrey Streets
~ An update of the Fire Department structure due to the resignation of Chief Orangio

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Dattoli announced that the Department of Public Health would be conducting Watertown Walks at lunchtime for four weeks, beginning at Saltonstall Park at noon on October 25, 2017.

He also announced that on Saturday, October 28, 2017, the Police Department would be conducting a prescription drug takeback from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Councilor Dushku announced that

~ The Boys and Girls Club will be conducting a 5K Race in early November
~ Thursday, October 26, 2017, a Transportation Committee meeting would be held at 6:30 p.m. regarding the TMA and Watertown Yard
~ Monday, October 30, 2017, the Public Works Committee would be meeting at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Watertown Square project and the Watertown Yard MassDOT studies.
~ Tuesday, November 7 is the election for local government offices.

Mr. Magoon announced WCA-TV would hold an open house at the High School on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.at their studio.

Councilor Palomba announced that on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, the Human Services Committee would be discussing a Snow Shovel Youth Program. Also at 7:30, there would be a joint meeting of the Rules and Ordinances and Human Services Committees to discuss a Noise Ordinance.

Councilor Feltner announced that Thursday, October 26, 2017 would be the last day for this year's Farmers Market. She also mentioned that the Mosesian Center for the Arts would be sponsoring an Artober Family Fest from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 28, 2017.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum

14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 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 November 14, 2017.

_____

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. Minutes of the October 10, 2017 Town Council Meeting – Item 4

2. Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – October 5, 2017 – Item 6A
   Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Watertown Town Hall Associates, SEIU, Local 888 - Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – July 6, 2017

3. Grant of Location – NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Louise Street WO #2225274 – Superintendent Gerald S. Mee, Jr. to Steve Magoon Planning Director – September 22, 2017 – Item 6B

4. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Building for the Future Initiative – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – October 20, 2017 – Item 7A
   A. Request for Owner's Project Management Services (RFS) Contract
   B. OPM Application Form – March 2017
   C. Required Certifications re: Conflict of Interest, Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance, and Authority
   D. Watertown Facilities Master Plan Study – Symmes Maini & Mc Kee Associates (SMMA) – December 1, 2016
   E. Watertown Public Schools School Facilities Assessment – Oudens Ello Architecture, LLC – March 13, 2014
   F. Watertown Public Schools Potential Timeline – Ai3 Architects LLC – July 27, 2017

5. Fiscal Year 2018 Tax Classification Hearing November 14, 2017 – Item 7B

6. Fiscal Note – Exemptions – Michael Driscoll , Town Manager to Town Council – October 19, 2017 – Item 7C

7. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report Regarding the Board of Assessors on September 6, 2017 – Item 8A

8. Joint Meeting of the Committee on Human Services and the Conservation Commission Report Regarding Site Characteristics for Open Space Acquisition on August 3, 2017 – Item 8B
   A. Attachment A – Sign In Sheet
   B. Attachment B – Wetlands Ordinance

C. Attachment C – Watertown Open Space Plan – 2015 – 2022

9. Statement of Councilor Kounelis Regarding athenahealth employee reduction – Item 11

10. Statement of Councilor Kounelis Regarding Recreational Marijuana Timelines and Guidelines – Item 11