



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 &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays
Councilor At Large

Michael F. Dattoli,
Councilor At Large

Anthony J. Donato,
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, JANUARY 9, 2018 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 Caroline Bays, Michael F. Dattoli, Anthony J. Donato, 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 Driscoll, Town Manager, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ORGANIZATION

A. Election of the Town Council Vice-President

Councilor Dattoli nominated Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr. to be Vice-President of the Town Council; Councilor Woodland seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, the Council voted unanimously in favor of the nomination on a voice vote.

B. Selection of Seating Assignments for Town Council Members

Council Members selected seating assignments. The order of the seating arrangement is Councilor Kounelis, Councilor Woodland, Councilor Palomba, Councilor Piccirilli, President Sideris, Councilor Dattoli, Councilor Feltner, Councilor Donato, and Councilor Bays.

C. Adoption of the Current Rules of the Town Council as Temporary Rules of the Town Council

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the Town Council Rules as the temporary rules of the Town Council; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

John M. Airasian – 731 Main Street – Spoke about remarks made at the Council's December 12, 2017 meeting regarding his reappointment to the CATV Board of Directors and looks forward to continuing in that position.

Bob Kaprielian – Mount Auburn Street – Stated that he felt Mr. Airasian is owed an apology.

Robert Airasian – 24 Merrill Road – Read a statement of endorsement from Tony Carlson, Chair of CATV Board of Directors favoring Mr. J. Airasian's appointment to CATV and remarked on his concern about the Council's actions.

Burt Greenberg – 118 Duff Street – Welcomed the new Council, wished them success, and asked for cautious evaluation to achieve balance in the community.

Clyde Younger – 188 Acton Street – Read a [resolution regarding the border Wall along the southern US](#).

Patrick Fairbairn – 20 Marcia Road – Spoke on the need for [more trees](#) in the Town's urban setting and for the new Tree Warden to increase plantings and devise incentives for such planting.

Libby Shaw – 73 Templeton Parkway – Spoke on behalf of Trees for Watertown – Stated that the Town needs to develop a healthy urban forest using best practices and that the new Tree Warden needs to have experience in urban forestry and have proper staffing assistance.

Michelle Cokonaugher – 37 Paul Street – Stated that there is a need for a Tree Ordinance as the tree population is dwindling. She felt that changes should be made to the Zoning Ordinance requiring a minimum of space be devoted to greenery.

5. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the December 12, 2017](#) Town Council Meeting

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

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Committee Assignments of Town Council Members

President Sideris welcomed the new Councilors – Caroline Bays and Anthony Donato. He congratulated the incumbents and thanked the voters and his family

for their support in allowing him to serve the community for 21 years and the last 8 as Council President.

President Sideris read the [Committee assignments](#). He stated that he was creating the Ad Hoc Committee on Media and Outreach and asked for those interested to let him know. The Ad Hoc Committees on Transportation and Technology are disbanded.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing and Vote on a Request to Amend Section 6.01(b) of the Watertown Zoning Ordinance to Reduce the [Parking Requirements for Self-Storage Use](#)

Mr. Magoon, Director of the Department of Development and Planning, provided background on the request. The amendment, requested by the owner of 80 Elm Street, would change the parking space requirement from 1 parking space for every 3 storage units to 2 parking spaces for every 10,000 square feet of gross floor space or a minimum of 6 parking spaces. The requirement, which meets national standards, would apply only to the I1 and I2 zoning areas.

President Sideris opened the hearing to the public.

Barbara Ruskin – 140 Spring Street – Raised concerns that as to why a zoning situation was being created to encourage a particular use that does not comply with the goals of the comprehensive plan. She suggested that the Town should be waiting for a project and provide variances if appropriate. This appears to be a situation of zoning prior to planning.

Mr. Magoon clarified that this was requested by a property owner to apply a parking standard to an allowed use in the zoning districts, and therefore not a zoning prior to planning situation.

Rena Baskin – 15 Franklin Street – Asked if the parking spaces were reduced, would this allow for increased building size.

The response was that the zoning requirements for open space and building requirements would remain the same. The change was to correct an error in the current requirements and the change was recommended by the Planning Board and by a peer review.

There being no other speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance regarding parking for Self-Storage facilities from 1 parking space for every 3 storage units to 2 parking spaces for every 10,000 square feet of

gross floor space or a minimum of 6 parking spaces; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

After an extended discussion on the process of the zoning request change; the appropriateness of the site and the use; and the concerns regarding traffic, the motion was adopted on a 6-3 roll call vote. Councilors Bays, Donato, Palomba, Piccirilli, Woodland, and President Sideris voted in the affirmative; Councilors Dattoli, Feltner, and Kounelis voted in the negative.

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of \$7,798 from the Fiscal Year 2018 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2018 Town Auditor Full Time Salaries and Fiscal Year 2018 Town Auditor Prior Year Full Salaries Accounts in Order to Adjust the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget to Reflect the Previously Adopted Ordinance [Amending the Fiscal Year 2017 Compensation of the Town Auditor](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the purpose of the transfer. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of \$7,798; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Order Accepting [Easements for Utilities, a Sidewalk, a pedestrian Walkway and Rain Garden Park](#) Upon Property of Watertown Gables LLC at 204 Arsenal Street and Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute a Grant of Easements

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the grants of easements: utilities that will become part of the municipal systems of the Town; traffic lights and signals to be operated and maintained by the Town; front sidewalks to be accessed by the public; and a pedestrian walkway and rain garden park to be maintained by the developer.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Order accepting the easements on the property of Watertown Gables and authorize the Town Manager to execute the grant of easements; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding [Water Meter Replacement, Linear Park Lighting, and Walnut/Dexter and School Streets Intersection](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Approve the Amended Language and Recommend that the Town Manager incorporate them into the Town's Existing Water Regulations

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the amended language and recommend that the Town Manager incorporate them into the Town's existing water regulations; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Joint Meeting of the Committees on Public Works and Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding the [Removal of Trees](#) – Aaron P. Dushku, Chair, Public Works and Kenneth G. Woodland, Chair, Rules and Ordinances

Councilor Woodland 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.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the Council Rules to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the reappointment of John Airasian to the Cable Access Television to the Committee on Education; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the appointment of Justin Roy and the reappointment of Janet Buck to the Stormwater Advisory Committee to the Committee on Public Works; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the appointments of Edward Lewis, Jeanne Turbek, Emma Clement, Sean O'Hern, Andrew Airasian, Matthew Riegert, and the reappointments of Meredith Fields, Brian Hebiesan, and Lauri Murphy to the Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee to the Committee on Public Works; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the appointments of Lauren Soelch, Elizabeth Hayes, Jonathan Maren, and the reappointments of Harvey Steiner and Linda Sternberg to the Watertown Historic District Commission to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning;

Councilor Woodland moved to refer consideration of MGL Chapter 59, Section 5K, the Senior Workoff Program, to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

A. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to Watertown Historic District Commission

Mr. Driscoll requested the appointment of Petr Kuzmic to Watertown Historic District Commission. Under Council Rules, the matter is referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

B. Request for Confirmation of Appointment of the Chair of the Board of Assessors

Mr. Driscoll requested the appointment of Elias L. Smith, as Chair, of the Board of Assessors. Under Council Rules, the matter is referred to the Committee on Personnel and Town Organization.

He also announced that the snow emergency remained in effect and thanked the DPW for their efforts clearing the roads during the storm.

Mr. Driscoll stated that on January 10, 2018, at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center, there would be a presentation on tax exemptions for seniors and the Community Preservation Act.

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

Councilor Dattoli requested information regarding the number of school age children living in large-scale developments and the status of the ICubed projects.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Feltner announced that she would be attending her third meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Association at the Hynes Auditorium on January 19 and 20.

Councilor Bays announced that she would be holding office hours from 4:30 – 6:15 pm on Thursday, January 11, 2018 in the Raya Sterns Room in the Watertown Library.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

Michelle Cokonaugher – 37 Paul Street – Stated that the Town requirements of pruning of trees over public sidewalks exceeds ADA standards. She also mentioned that there will be pruning near the lights at Linear Park and that this should be done carefully.

15. 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 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 February 13, 2018.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Resolution Petition to US Congressional Budget Committee – Statement of Clyde Younger – Item 4
2. Recommendations for Watertown’s Future Urban Forest Policy – Statement by Patrick Fairbairn – Item 4
3. Minutes of December 12, 2017 Town Council Meeting – Item 6
4. Town Council Committee Assignments – Item 6
5. Planning Board Report regarding Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Self – Storage in the I-1 and I-2 Zoning Districts – November 9, 2017 – Item 7
6. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request (Town Auditor’s Salary) Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – January 3, 2018 – Item 8A
7. Agenda Item – An Order Accepting Easements for Utilities, a Sidewalk, a Pedestrian Walkway and a Rain Garden Park Upon Property of Watertown Gables LLC at 204 Arsenal Street and Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute a Grant of Easements – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – January 5, 2018 – Item 8B
 - A. Letter RE: Watertown Gables LLC – 204 Arsenal Street – Katherine Klein Lord, KP Law to Michael Driscoll, Town Manager
 - B. Grant of Easements with Appendices
8. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding Water Meter Replacement, Linear Park Lighting, Walnut/Dexter and School Street Intersection – December 6, 2017 – Item 9A
9. Committees on Public Works and Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding Tree Removal – September 25, 2017 – Item 9B
10. Request for Confirmation – Appointment to the Historic District Commission – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – December 21, 2017 – Item 11A
11. Request for Confirmation – Appointment of Chairman of the Board of Assessors – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – January 3, 2018 – Item 11B