



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

Anthony J. Donato,
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 8, 2018 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 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. Councilor Caroline Bays arrived at 8:00 p.m. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, Joseph Fair, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.

Executive Session – Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21 To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Litigation if an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Litigating Position and the Chair So Declares – Workers Compensation Claim, Various Outstanding Litigation Matters Including:

Jonathan Bloch, et al. v. Watertown Zoning Board of Appeals, et al., Land Court Docket No. 16 MISC 000124

Dela Roca, et al v. Watertown Zoning Board of Appeal, Land Court Misc. Case No. 246933

Delgizzi v. Deveau, Chief of Police, Waltham District Court, C.A. No. 1551CV000158

Real Estate Advisors Group, Inc. v. Watertown Zoning Board of Appeals, et al., Land Court, C. A. No. 16-MISC-000115

Town of Watertown v. Jeffrey M. Bail and Maureen R. Murphy, Land Court Misc. 16 MISC

Town of Watertown v. Steven Miller and Rose Miller, Middlesex Superior Court C.A. No. 1581CV05439

Ziminski, et al. v. Watertown Zoning Board of Appeals, et al., Middlesex Superior Court C.A. No: 1318CV05086

Councilor Piccirilli moved to enter into executive session to discuss the above listed Executive Session items; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. RETURN TO SESSION – 7:15 P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Patrick Fairbairn – 20 Marcia Road – Commended the Report on Tree Protection, especially Councilor Woodland’s fact based approach for the need for trees and Councilor Piccirilli’s four statements of principle regarding tree conservation.

Genie Johnston – 12 Green Street – Spoke in favor of the draft of tree regulations and the need for planning the use of trees early in the process of any development.

Amelia Young – 43 Pequossette Street – Spoke on the need to consider the effects of [climate change](#) when building improvements are made, especially the renovation of the three elementary schools. She presented the Council with a signed petition of 581 signatures.

Charles Bacon – 510 Mount Auburn Street – Spoke on [climate change](#) and the need for Watertown to be part of the solution and make buildings energy efficient, including the elementary schools when they are renovated.

David Meshoulam – 49 Oliver Street – As a board member of Trees for Watertown, he thanked the Council for the Joint Meeting on trees and thanked Councilor Woodland for attending a Board Meeting. He stated trees are an asset and listed many of the advantages of enhancing urban forests.

Libby Shaw – 73 Templeton Parkway – President of Trees for Watertown. She thanked the Committees for the hearing; the Planning staff for assistance with Arbor Day; and the Town for creating a full-time Tree Warden with staff, urging the new Supervisor to have urban forestry experience.

Michelle Cokonaugher – 37 Paul Street – She thanked Councilor Feltner for her assistance on Arbor Day; stated her support of Ms. Young’s climate change statement; and voiced her opposition to the RMUD height increase limit to 197 feet.

6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Sideris read the schedule of the Budget Hearings and the topics for each hearing.

He also mentioned that the Town wants to revitalize the Faire on the Square and is looking for volunteers willing to assist.

7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading and Referral to the Planning Board for Public Hearing to Request an [Amendment to the RMUD Zone](#) to Allow for Greater Height.

Mr. Magoon provided a brief overview of the change. The matter was then referred to the Planning Board who will hold a public hearing and then return the matter to the Town Council with its recommendation.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Economic Planning and Development Report regarding the [Appointment of Jason Cohen to the Planning Board](#) for a Term that Expires on February 15, 2021 – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Confirm Jason Cohen for Appointment to the Planning Board for a Term that Expires on February 15, 2021

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.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to confirm Jason Cohen for appointment to the Planning Board for a term that expires on February 15, 2021; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. Councilor Kounelis read a [statement opposing the confirmation](#) of Mr. Cohen. The motion was adopted on a voice vote of 8-1. All members voted in the affirmative except for Councilor Kounelis who voted in the negative.

- B. Committee on Human Services Report Regarding the Current Status of [Affordable Housing in Watertown](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

The reading of this Report was deferred until the Town Council Meeting on May 22, 2018.

- C. Committee on Public Safety Report Regarding A Review of [Items Before the Committee](#) – Lisa J. Feltner, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Approves Moving Forward with the Committee on Public Safety's Three Referrals as Outlined in its Report

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

Councilor Woodland moved to approve moving forward with the Committee on Public Safety's three referrals as outlined in its report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

D. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding the [New Parking Management System](#) – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Recommend the Hiring of a Parking Consultant to Collect Data, Hold Outreach Meetings, and Produce a parking Management Plan for the Watertown Square Area and the Coolidge Square Area in Accordance with the Proposal Presented at the Committee Meeting on April 9, 2018

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to recommend the hiring of a Parking Consultant to collect data, hold outreach meetings, and produce a parking management plan for the Watertown Square area and the Coolidge Square area in accordance with the proposal presented at the Committee Meeting on April 9, 2018; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

E. Committees on Public Works and Public Safety Report Regarding the [Impact that Road Design Has on Emergency Vehicles and Public Safety](#) – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair, Public Works and Lisa J. Feltner, Chair, Public Safety

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

F. Committees on Public Works and Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding Regulations to [Strengthen the Protection of Trees](#) – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair, Public Works and Anthony J. Donato, Chair, Rules and Ordinances

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items brought before the Council.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Board of Assessors

Mr. Driscoll stated that he is nominating Robert Airasian to the Board of Assessors for a term that expires on May 15, 2021. Under Council Rules, the matter is referred to the Committee on Personnel and Town Organization.

He also stated that in two weeks, the Administration Building and the Senior Center would be operating on modified summer hours.

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

Councilor Kounelis requested information on the status of the renewal of the [Town Manager's employment agreement](#) as it has not been discussed for some years.

Councilor Falkoff requested information regarding the date that the [dog park will be resurfaced and what the effect of a possible ownership change at athenahealth](#) might have on the Town.

Councilor Feltner requested an update from the [Department of Public Works](#) regarding the striping of roads and the cleaning of sidewalk areas. She also asked whether the Town Manager would consider using Notify Me on the Town website to notify users of DPW Project activities such as road closings.

Councilor Kounelis asked for a follow up on her October request regarding [athenahealth and ICubed](#) as she has not received a response.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Donato announced that the Dancing with the Watertown stars would be held on May 11, 2018; that a portion of the funds would support education; and that tickets could be purchased online and at the Rotary Club site.

He also mentioned that Trees for Watertown was offering internships through its TFW Teens for Trees program (tfwteensfortrees.org) and that they would be involved in gathering data for the Tree survey.

Councilor Feltner announced that Watertown is celebrating Bay State Bike Week on Saturday May 19 from 10:30am-12:30 at the Watertown Square dock, at Charles River Road and the Galen Street bridge, for a free bike tune-up, discounts on youth helmets, and benefits from the Watertown TMA.

President Sideris announced that at 6:00 pm on May 16, 2018, the School Building Committee would be meeting on the third floor of the Administration Building.

He also announced that the week of May 6, 2018 was Teacher Appreciation Week and that the citizenry should thank a teacher for their efforts to educate the Town's children.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speaker for the Public Forum.

13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 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 22, 2018.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Proposed ZTA for Height in the RMUD – Steve Magoon, DCDP Director, Assistant Town Manager to Town Council and Michael Driscoll, Town Manager – May 5, 2018 – Item 7
2. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the Appointment of Jason Cohen to the Planning Board – Meeting April 26, 2018 – Item 8A
3. Statement RE: Nomination of Jason D. Cohen to Planning Board – Councilor Kounelis - April 23, 2018 – Item 8A
4. Committee on Public Safety Report Regarding Status of Committee Referrals – Meeting March 22, 2018 – Item 8C
5. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding the New Parking Management System – Meeting April 9, 2018 – Item 8D
6. Joint Committees on Public Works and Public Safety Report Regarding the Impact of Road Design on Emergency Vehicles and Public Safety – Meeting April 30, 2018 – Item 8E

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Curb and Sidewalk Ordinance #2010-6
 - B. Selected Excerpts from the 2006 Mass Highway Design Guidelines
 - C. Watertown Ordinances, Chapter 70 Traffic Commission
 - D. Excerpt from Watertown Traffic Rules and Orders, Article V, Section 1
7. Committees on Public Works and Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding Regulations to Strengthen Protections for Trees – Meeting April 30, 2018 – Item 8F
 8. Request for Confirmation – Appointment to the Board of Assessors (Robert Airasian) – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 4, 2018 – Items 10
 9. Requests for Information – Item 11
 - A. Town Manager’s Employment Agreement – Councilor Angeline Kounelis
 - B. Status of Dog Park and athenahealth Ownership – Councilor Susan Falkoff
 - C. Status of Road Painting, Street Cleaning, and Traffic Notices – Councilor Lisa Feltner
 - D. Status of athenahealth Ownership and ICubed – Councilor Angeline Kounelis