



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

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER MINUTES

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 2.6 of the Rules of the Town Council, and pursuant to the Call of the Council President, the members of the Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown are hereby notified of a Special Meeting of the Town Council to be held on Tuesday June 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, Administration Building.

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a special meeting of the Town Council at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors Caroline Bays, Anthony J. Donato, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Lisa J. Feltner arrived at 6:14 p.m. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk.

2. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed [Ordinance Establishing a Community Preservation Committee](#)

Russ Arico – Fayette Street – Was unsure if the Ordinance and the Policy were options and asked for a clarification.

John Airasian – 43 Bailey Road – Spoke against changing the appointment process because the community has a good history of quality appointments to various boards and commissions.

Patrick Fairbairn – Spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance but stated that no member should be a paid employee.

Deborah Peterson – 9 Westland Road – Spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance stating the Council should be involved in the appointing process.

Maria Rose – 45 Edward Road – Spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance and requested that no paid employee be appointed to the Committee.

Leo Martin – 683 Main Street – Stated that he would like to see the Town Manager as the appointor of the members of the Community Preservation Committee.

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Road – Spoke in favor of the Town Council making the appointments and felt the Council was capable of making these decisions.

James Mello – 514 Mount Auburn Street – Spoke in favor of having the Town Manager as the appointor.

Tom Berryman – 846 Belmont Street – Stated that the Community Preservation Act was a citizen driven idea and that it should retain that feel by having the Town Council as the membership appointee.

Bob Shea – Russell Avenue – Spoke in support of the Town Council involvement, but stated a concern regarding the time it has taken to appoint a Committee.

Jonathan Bockian – Irving Street – Stated that he was uncertain how having the Town Council as the appointer would take away from the Town Charter and how it operates. He felt this is a different entity and the way to maintain citizen participation is to have the Town Council participate in the appointments.

Elodia Thomas – Reiterated her support for Town Council appointment and requested that a decision be made.

There being no other speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) as developed by the Rules and Ordinances Committee; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion.

Members of the Council stated their views on the proposed Ordinance:

Those who favored it stated

- The community voted in a voluntary additional tax and the representatives of the community, the Town Council, should be part of the appointing process
- The appointing by the Town Council was a question of accountability to the public because the funds were not part of the operating budget

- There was a concern that an appointee should not be an employee for fear of a lack of independence
- Concerns about subjecting people to public scrutiny was not an issue as currently people are interviewed in public in subcommittee confirmation meetings
- The process would provide an open and transparent process for the selection of members.

Those who did not favor it stated

- There was a concern about the appointment being a popularity contest and that people should not be interviewed at a public meeting
- The process is inconsistent with the Town Charter
- The suggested process was a deviation from standard process that did not better serve the community
- Of those communities with a similar government form, five had passed a CPA. Of these communities, four had the Town Manager complete the appointment process and one had the Council appoint the members, the standard appointment process for this community.
- The Town Council had confirmation power and could check the appointments if not acceptable
- The Town Council would be the approving authority for the expenditures of the CPC

President Sideris offered [an amendment for discussion](#), hoping that it addressed the concerns of citizens. He noted if the amendments passed, discussion on Item 2B of the agenda would not be necessary. He stated that under the amendment

- The Town Manager would appoint all Committee members
- The Town Council would retain its involvement in the CPC work through the approval of the projects
- There would be qualification criteria for the appointees
- There would be a need to have wide communication to attract candidates for the Committee
- The appointments would be for staggered terms
- There would be no compensation for participation in the Committee.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to amend the proposed Ordinance in accordance with the document presented for discussion; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. Councilor Palomba made a friendly amendment to the proposed Ordinance amendment by inserting after the words “Town Manager” in §36.02 (2) the words “that shall be from a list of candidates developed by the Town Council”; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

President Sideris stopped the discussion to get a sense of the Council: they could recess for 5 minutes to open the Regular Town Council and return to

the conversation or they could adjourn and meet again on July 3 on the same topic.

Councilor Piccirilli asked to move the question.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to recess the hearing; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

President Sideris opened the regular session of the Town Council. A roll call was taken. Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to recess the regular Town Council meeting and to return to it after the close of the special meeting; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to reopen the special meeting; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Falkoff made a friendly amendment to Councilor Palomba's friendly amendment by inserting after the words "Town Manager" the words "chosen by rank choice voting." After brief comments by Attorney Reich, Councilor Falkoff withdrew her motion.

Councilor Palomba's friendly amendment failed to pass on a roll call vote of 3-6. Those voting in the affirmative were Councilors Bays, Feltner, and Palomba; those voting in the negative were Councilors Donato, Falkoff, Kounelis, Piccirilli, Woodland, and President Sideris.

Councilor Feltner made a friendly amendment to insert sub paragraph d. to §36.02(2) "d. The Town Council shall adopt a policy to establish a process for identifying and confirming the applicants." Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion failed on a voice vote.

The Council passed the motion to adopt the Ordinance with the amendments proposed for §'s 36.02(2) and 36.02(3) by a roll call vote of 6-3. Those voting in the affirmative were Councilors Donato, Falkoff, Kounelis, Piccirilli, Woodland, and President Sideris; those voting in the negative were Councilors Bays, Feltner, and Palomba.

B. Consideration and Action on a Proposed [Community Preservation Committee Appointed Membership Policy](#)

The Community Preservation Committee Appointed Membership Policy was not discussed because it related to the Town Council process for selecting members to the Committee and the point was moot based on the vote regarding the Ordinance.

3. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the Special Town Council meeting; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a voice vote of 8-1. All Councilors voted in the affirmative, except for Councilor Feltner who voted in the negative. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

[ADDENDUM](#)

I hereby certify that at a special 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 August 14, 2018.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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**SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. An Ordinance Establishing a Community Preservation Committee – Item 2A
2. Amendment Offered to the Proposed Ordinance Establishing a Community Preservation Committee – Item 2A
3. Community Preservation Committee Appointed Membership Policy – Item 2B