



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, JANUARY 8, 2019 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, Anthony J. Donato, 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 Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Judy Antonucci – 74 Capitol Street – Raised concerns regarding the height of a garage located on 73-75 Morse Street and the lack of notice from the Town.

Ellen Ridge – 88 Union Street – Spoke about the Morse Street construction, that it is an 18-foot building within five feet of a property, that it causes a quality of life issue for neighbors, that there was no notice regarding the change, and that there was no way to oppose the building.

Michele Lorilla – 79 Morse Street – Stated the area is zoned for a two family owner occupancy and the garage exceeds 30% of the yard coverage. She feels Section 4.06 of the Zoning Code should be enforced and the permit reviewed to protect the property values of the neighbors.

Richard Kalish – 270 Pleasant Street – Wanted to thank Town for its progressive stand on climate change matters and its thoughtful consideration of such matters as the 100% renewable energy resolution for the Town, its energy plans, and the prevention of gas leaks plan.

Diana Najarian – 76 Capital Street – Stated that condemnation of a building should not be a bypass for obtaining a special permit; that the square footage of space in the upper portion of the garage is the size of an apartment; and that section 5.03 of the floor to area ratio (FAR) may not meet the not more than .5 FAR requirement.

James Brown – 83 Morse Street – Stated that this is a Bradshaw Street duplicate and the owner skirted the law, which needs to be changed to avoid similar situations from occurring again.

Bert Greenberg – Stated the building should be torn down.

Chuck Dickinson – Stated that although he is not a resident of the Morse Street neighborhood, he feels that this is an issue of credibility of government at the local level and the common sense enforcement of the ordinances.

There being no other speakers, President Sideris closed the Public Forum. He stated that the work on the garage has stopped and the developer has been informed that the garage needs to be redesigned.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Proposed [Modification to the Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Process](#)

President Sideris explained that a resolution on the FY 2020 Budget Process, previously passed, stated that the CIP should be presented on January 22, 2019. Because there will be a School Building Committee presentation on the school renovations and expansions costs on January 23, 2019; he would like to delay the CIP report so that it can incorporate the school needs.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the revised resolution to the FY 2020 Budget Process; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Referral to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning - The Consideration of Amendments to the Assisted Living Overlay District of the Zoning Ordinance to Make the Affordable Housing Requirement Consistent Throughout Town

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to refer to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning the consideration of Amendments to the Assisted Living Overlay District of the Zoning Ordinance to make the Affordable Housing requirement consistent throughout Town; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- C. Referral to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances - The Consideration of Regulations for Short-Term Rentals and New Local Options Available for Them

President Sideris explained that the State has passed legislation regarding short-term rentals. He would like to refer this matter to the Rules and Ordinances Committee to review the options. Once reviewed, the matter may need to be referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning regarding implementation of the local options.

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

- D. Authorization for the Town Manager to Sign a [Letter to National Grid to Address Natural Gas Leaks](#)

Due to the concerns regarding gas leaks, many towns and cities have signed onto the letter. Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the letter on behalf of the Town; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

5. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS

- A. Acceptance of the Proclamation Regarding the Celebration of Lochoccar, [the New Year Celebration for the Nepalese Gurung Samaj Community](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation regarding the celebration of Lochoccar; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Acceptance of the Proclamation Regarding the Celebration of Pho-Lho Lhochhar, [the New Year Celebration for the Nepalese Tamu Samaaj Community](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation regarding the celebration of Pho-Lho Lhochhar; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- C. Presentation of a Draft Plan by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Regarding the [Hazardous Mitigation Plan](#)

Fire Chief Quinn stated that Martin Pillsbury, the environmental director, of MAPC, would discuss the hazardous mitigation plan that needs to be approved by both FEMA and MEMA. The Town has contracted with MAPC to conduct a study that has been ongoing for about a year

Mr. Pillsbury stated the plan review was being conducted as a requirement of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Plan Act of 2000, whose purpose is to establish a framework for developing plans to mitigate natural disasters. The focus of this plan is disaster preparation as opposed to disaster response, which is covered by the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

MEMA, the local administrator of this program, wants to engage all MA communities. Watertown adopted this program in 2012, and is now updating it as required by this act. The purpose of the plan is to provide ways for the community to mitigate anticipated natural disasters such as flooding, hurricanes, high winds, extreme temperatures, snowstorms, ice, and droughts.

Mitigation includes those measures a community can take to reduce loss of life or property by using strategies developed before a disaster occurs. The review looks at current mitigation actions, defines the gaps, and provides direction to enhance future resilience. The rationale is to break the continuous disaster, rebuild, disaster, rebuild cycle.

The Town is working with MAPC, after having received a MEMA grant, to update the current plan. The group

- ~ Identifies and maps town hazards
- ~ Identifies critical facilities
- ~ Assesses risks and vulnerabilities
- ~ Reviews current mitigation
- ~ Recommends strategies for the gaps

After the public meeting with the stakeholders, the plan needs approval from both MEMA and FEMA.

The group reviews state and federal data regarding natural disasters and then how the local level would be affected. Watertown has flood zones, flood plains, and brush fire concerns. There are upstream dams that could breach and plans are developed for this potential disaster; droughts that could affect the community; and extreme precipitation events causing flooding conditions. There are 82 critical buildings inventoried consisting of response facilities such as fire stations and facilities that need assistance such as schools; most of these facilities lie in Watertown Square and the Mount Auburn Street and Arsenal Street corridor areas. The plan uses models to estimate costs for different levels of severity.

In developing strategies, the group reviews current plans, lists the gaps, suggests what actions would reduce vulnerabilities, estimates costs, and provides timelines. Strategies are organized by type of hazard.

The plan is on the website for review and revision, if needed until January 18, 2019; it will be forwarded to MEMA and FEMA for their approval and revision if needed; the approved plan will be adopted pending approval of local governing body. Once adopted by the Town Council, a formal approval letter is sent to MEMA and FEMA making the Town eligible for FEMA grants during the 5-year cycle.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Human Services Report Regarding Affordable Housing [Solutions and Examples for Creating Affordable Housing](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

Councilor Palomba read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. Councilor Feltner asked that Elodia Thomas be added as an attendee. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Committee on Human Services Report Regarding Affordable Housing [Community Suggestions and Lessons Learned](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

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.

- C. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding [Increasing Public Outreach and Community Engagement](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

Councilor Bays 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.

- D. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding the [2019 Local Road Construction Program with Recommendations](#) – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Approves Proceeding With the 2019 Road Program as Presented
2. That the Town Council Recommends that the Administration Add Additional Funding in the Annual Capital Improvement Program for “Collector Roads and Longer Streets” in Addition to the Annual \$2.5M Road Program Appropriation

Councilor Piccirilli read the Committee Report. Councilor Woodland moved to accept the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

Councilor Palomba requested that the report be updated to include Councilor Palomba's request to use available funds for repairs to Mount Auburn Street and that Superintendent Mee stated that those repairs might take place this year. Councilor Piccirilli agreed to update the report. The motion was then adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion that the Town Council approve proceeding with the 2019 Road Program as presented; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion that the Town Council recommend the Administration add additional funding in the annual Capital Improvement Program for "Collector Roads and Longer Streets" in addition to the annual \$2.5M Road Program appropriation; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- E. Committees on Economic Development and Planning and Public Works Report on Developing a [Climate Action or Energy Master Plan and Adopt it as an Addendum to the Watertown Comprehensive Plan](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair, Economic Development and Planning and Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair, Public Works

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Endorses the WE3C Recommendations for a "Climate and Energy Master Plan", as Presented, and Requests the Administration Identify Potential Consultants for the Assessments, Develop One or More Requests for Proposals, and Identify a Funding Source, to be Brought Forward for Town Council Consideration.
2. That the Town Council approve the [Resolution for a Transition to 100% Renewable Energy](#)

Councilor Piccirilli read the Report of the Committees. Councilor Feltner moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. Councilor Bays requested that the report be revised to clarify that Councilor Woodland's opposition was based on a procedural matter and not on substance. Councilor Piccirilli stated he would amend the report to reflect the concern. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council endorse the WE3C recommendations for a "Climate and Energy Master Plan", as presented, and requests the Administration to identify potential consultants for the assessments, develop one or more requests for proposals, and identify a funding source to be brought forward for Town Council consideration;

Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council approve the Resolution for a Transition to 100% Renewable Energy; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. Councilor Woodland stated that he was not against the resolution content but felt that the desire to create a resolution interfered in the timing of the budget process. As the Council had already endorsed the concept, he felt the resolution was not necessary. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the Council.

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The Town Manager had no communications to bring forward.

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

Councilor Kounelis stated there were several white X's placed on [utility poles](#) in Town, but especially in the East End. She would like to know the reason for the activity, who is doing it, and under whose authorization it is being done.

[Councilor Falkoff requested in writing](#) the timelines with benchmarks and deadlines or target dates for

- The design of Arsenal Park
- The operation of the TMA shuttle
- Presentation of the Comprehensive Plan status
- Website corrections
- The convening of the CPC
- The implementation of the Energy Choice plan
- The list of double poles and their respective date of removal
- The study on the Public Art Committee and the creation of a policy for Public Art Funding

She also requested a press release regarding the enactment of the solar panels requirement and asked who is responsible for it. She further requested a statement regarding the need for a winter parking ban and if it could be modified and enacted upon notification.

[Councilor Feltner requested](#) a press release be completed for the position of the member who is to serve in a capacity similar to a Parks Commissioner on the CPC; a summary of how CPC resident appointees satisfy the criteria for Committee service; how to comment on the Hazards Mitigation Plan; and the placement of a Notify Me notice and a News Flash on the website.

Councilor Piccirilli requested written information regarding [noise levels at Victory Park](#) prior to any spring events;

- The School Department/Recreation Department principles that both parties will implement to reduce noise levels at the park
- The changes to the Recreation Department's Rule 22
- The Recreation Department's guidelines regarding reasonable volume levels for announcements and music
- The School Department's guidelines for music level and music with appropriate lyrics
- A copy of the draft guidelines
- A copy of the final guidelines to be distributed by the Athletic Director to coaches and players

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Palomba announced that the Annual Unity Breakfast honoring Dr. Martin Luther King would be held at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Monday, January 21, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10.00. The recipient of the Community Award would be Watertown Police Officer Tony Fiskett.

Councilor Feltner announced that she would be attending the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Annual Meeting and thanked the community for providing funds that allowed her to participate in this event.

Councilor Piccirilli announced that on January 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., the Public Works Committee would meet in the Council Chamber to discuss the small cellular antenna sites for three locations – Palfrey Street, Arsenal Street, and Coolidge Avenue.

Councilor Palomba wanted to thank those that worked on the 100% Renewable Energy for Watertown Resolution: Watertown Faces Climate Change, and Watertown Energy Efficiency Committee. He applauded the goal of Watertown achieving 100% renewable energy by 2030.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

Ann Munson – Watertown Faces Climate Change – thanked the Town Council for passing the 100% Renewable Energy Resolution and for being involved in other energy proposals. She urged the Council to continue its work.

Libby Shaw – Trees for Watertown – Thanked the Council for thoughtful long term planning for an urban forest and for the funding of the implementation of the plan.

12. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 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 February 14, 2019.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Process – Item 4A
2. Letter Regarding Municipal Priorities for Collaboration with National Grid on Gas Leaks in Greater Boston – To Marcy Reed, President and COO, National Grid Massachusetts Jurisdiction, January 11, 2019 – Item 4D
3. Proclamation Regarding the Celebration of Lochoccar, the New Year Celebration for the Nepalese Gurung Samaj Community – December 30, 2018 – Item 5A
4. Proclamation Regarding the Celebration of Pho-Lho Lhochhar, the New Year Celebration for the Nepalese Tamu Samaaj Community – December 29, 2018 – Item 5B
5. Town of Watertown Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 Update – Draft – January 7, 2019 – MAPC – Item 5C
6. Committee on Human Services Report Regarding Affordable Housing – Solution and Examples to Create Affordable Housing – November 7, 2018 – Item 6A
 - ~ Watertown Town Council Committee on Human Services Affordable Housing Discussion Cambridge Community Development Department
 - ~ What Somerville is Doing for Affordable Housing, November 2018
 - ~ H4536, An Act Financing the Production and Preservation of Housing for Low and Moderate Income Residents
7. Committee on Human Services Report Regarding Affordable Housing – Community Suggestions and Lessons Learned – December 6, 2018 – Item 6B
8. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding Ways to Increase Public Outreach and Community Engagement – November 29, 2018 – Item 6C
 - ~ Watertown, MA Everbridge Partnership Review, Presented by Matt Severance, Account Manager – November 28, 2018
9. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding the 2019 Local Road Construction Program with Recommendations – December 18, 2019 – Item 6D
 - ~ 2019 Road Program Public Works Subcommittee Presentation – December 18, 2018
10. Committees on Public Works and Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the Development of a Climate Action or Energy Master Plan to be Added to the Comprehensive Plan – October 16, and December 4, 2018 – Item 6E
 - ~ Sign In Sheet – October 22, 2018
 - ~ WE3C Proposal for Watertown Climate and Energy Master Plan, July 2018
 - ~ WE3C Proposed Resolution – October 22, 2018
 - ~ Sign In Sheet, December 4, 2018

~ Draft Resolution for a Transition to 100% Renewable Energy, December 4, 2018

11. Town of Watertown Supports a Transition to 100% Renewable Energy – December 4, 2018 – Item 6E
12. Request for Information Regarding Marking of Utility Poles – Councilor Kounelis – Item 9
13. Request for Information Regarding Multiple Issues – Councilor Falkoff – Item 9
14. Request for Information Regarding CPC and the Hazard Mitigation Plan – Councilor Feltner – Item 9
15. Request for Information Regarding the Noise Level Plans for Victory Field – Councilor Piccirilli – Item 9