



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, APRIL 9, 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 J. Driscoll, Town Manager, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Russ Arico – 49 Fayette Street – Spoke about the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and stated that public safety is every individual's responsibility and that the State should require licensing of bicycles along with compulsory insurance.

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

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the March 26, 2019 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.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Referral to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances to Determine a Process for Requests for Information

President Sideris requested a motion to refer to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances the reexamination of the Request for Information process as he feels it could be streamlined. Councilor Piccirilli so moved; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Proclamation Recognizing and Honoring [B. Bonnie Baranowski, Ph. D.](#)

President Sideris stated that this item would be tabled to the next meeting.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order Authorizing the Town Treasurer, with the Approval of the Town Manager, to Borrow and/or Expend Monies in the Amount of Two Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$288,000) Under and Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor for the Purpose of Paying Costs of Renovating and Making Extraordinary [Repairs to the Girls' Locker Room and Bathrooms at the Middle School](#), Including the Payment of All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto. Any Premium Received Upon the Sale of Any Bonds or Notes Approved by this Vote, Less Any Such Premium Applied to the Payment of the Costs of Issuance of Such Bonds or Notes, May Be Applied to the Payment of Costs Approved by this Vote in Accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, §20, Thereby Reducing the Amount Authorized to Be Borrowed to Pay Such Costs by a Like Amount

Mr. Driscoll provided historical background on this request. Lori Kabel, Director of Public Buildings, stated it was believed initially that \$225,000 would be sufficient to fix both the women's and men's lockers. As schematic designs were produced, it was determined that only one set could be completed; the women's section was selected as it was in more need.

Under current conditions, there are unused showers; one damaged toilet with a door that is falling off; and cubbies with no privacy. The changes include the removal of the showers; there will now be two toilets to accommodate the population; and doors will be added to the cubbyholes. The lowest bid for the project was a little more than \$287,000; therefore, the loan order request is for that amount.

Mr. Driscoll stated that the financing would begin in FY2020 and be completed in FY2029.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the Loan Order for \$288,000 for the girls' locker rooms and bathrooms in the Middle School; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Informational Presentation on the Available [Emergency Notification and Community Engagement Tools Available through Everbridge](#) - Matt Severance, Senior Account Manager – State and Local Government, Everbridge.

Matt Severance from Everbridge stated that the company works with critical information and is concerned about people's privacy. It is the only critical information platform receiving a FedRamp Certification from the federal government, provides operational efficiencies, and allows residents to be notified of critical events. The contract is an unlimited use contract for employees and residents to use for critical items.

A user may opt into the service by entering into a text 888-777 in the To: line of the message and the word "watertownma" in the text and hit send. This signs up the resident anonymously and provides permission to send notifications to their cell phones.

A new feature of the platform allows for instant communication for a smart conference. Those notified may respond to the call or click into the number listed in the message with no required access code. The person who sets up the call can see who joined and when and when they left; unknown callers may be removed as they are not verified; it shows who was invited and who was absent; people can be muted; it creates an audit trail; it can provide a live recording; and download call metrics.

Another feature is the premium audio bulletin board. If a message is sent out to a dedicated number or a changed caller ID, then any redials are diverted back to the message that is replayed for the caller and decreases the number of direct calls to the sender, which is especially important in the midst of a disaster. There are also translation services. Using Google translation, messages can be sent to people in selected languages and templates can be created for common use cases. Another feature is IPause, allowing an agency to push out a message, similar to the one completed in November 2018. FEMA is enhancing this service and is increasing the number of available characters from 90 to 360 and can be sent in either English or Spanish.

The Town purchases some training for account administrators providing methods to maximize use with best practices. A session is planned for June.

Based on the availability of services, President Sideris suggested that there might be ways for the Administration to increase its use of Everbridge's services. Councilor Piccirilli moved to enhance the referral to the Media and Public Outreach Committee that it work with the Town Manager or his designee to create a plan to use the Everbridge system to send out messages to the public regarding Town business; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer in the Amount of \$209,378 from Various Fiscal Year 2019 Accounts to the Fiscal Year 2019 Snow and Ice Rental of Equipment Account in Order to [Fund the Snow and Ice Removal Deficit](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town Council had authorized the expenditure of excess funds for snow and ice removal and requested a transfer of \$209,378 to be completed prior to the start of FY 2020. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of \$209,378; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$22,000 from the Fiscal Year 2019 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year [2019 Veterans Benefits](#) Account

Mr. Driscoll introduced the Town's new Veterans Services Agent, Patrick George. Mr. George stated that Massachusetts offers a unique benefit to veterans in need under M.G.L. 115 with a 75% reimbursement rate from the State. The highest number of recipients from Watertown this year was 28 and the lowest 21. Costs of services have increased the monthly benefit thereby causing the deficit in funding.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of \$22,000; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$70,000 from the Fiscal Year 2019 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2019 [Fire Vehicle Maintenance](#) Account

Mr. Driscoll provided background for the transfer request. Fire Chief Quinn stated that the Department experienced several unexpected repairs this year that had an impact on the maintenance account:

- Steering problems in the ladder truck – more than \$12,000
- Engine 4 rehabilitation and new frame rails – about \$45,000
- Transmission problems – more than \$12,000

The ladder trucks need to be service tested soon; in the past, repairs were needed due to the age of the trucks (2005 and 2007) and must be done to maintain the fleet for the year. These trucks are scheduled for replacement. DPW does help with the preventative maintenance, but the specialized needs are completed by specialty shops in the area.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of \$70,000; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- D. Resolution Authorizing Filing with the General Court of a Petition for a [Special Act for a Public-Private Partnership to Undertake Renovations and Improvements at Arsenal Park](#); and An Act Providing for the Construction of Improvements to Arsenal Park in the Town of Watertown

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the matter. Mr. Magoon, Director of the Department of Community Development and Planning, stated that the Conservation Committee has approved the 25% design for Arsenal Park. Boylston Properties expects an occupant in a building adjacent to the park. In order to provide efficiencies and cost reductions, the Town would like to work with Boylston Properties to expedite the improvements to the eastern portion of the property. The State Procurement Process for the Town can be lengthy and it would not be able to take advantage of the site workers. To alleviate this concern, the Town needs to request a Special Act to expedite implementation. The Town will control the project with the developer coordinating, funding, and supervising construction of renovations.

Attorney Reich stated that this is a public – private endeavor to improve the eastern portion of Arsenal Park. The purpose of the project is to use developer funds, as required under the permit, with the Town's design team controlling park improvements now. Because this is a project where the public is involved, it becomes a public project subject to the State Procurement Process, which can be lengthy. In order to expedite the process and to take advantage of the developer's efforts and time, a Special Act enacted by the General Court would be required to bypass the procurement process; however, the prevailing wages requirement would remain intact.

This Special Act process has been used in Town for the Coolidge School and other Town properties leased to a private developer.

The Town will retain control of the project, which will be subject to the Town's design and the Town's approval of the contractors.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the filing of a petition for a Special Act for a Public-Private Partnership for renovations at Arsenal Park with the attached Act providing for the construction of Arsenal Park improvements in the Town of Watertown; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

During the ensuing discussion, the following items were mentioned

- * The change will affect about 240 feet in the eastern portion of the park

- * Boylston Properties will provide funding for the design work and for the contractors
- * 25% of the design for the entire park is completed and the remaining 75% for the Phase I portion would need to be completed by July/August so that construction could be completed by October/November
- * Design plans are not subject to the procurement process but the Home Rule Petition would have to be enacted before any construction can proceed
- * There is no guarantee as to when the Special Act would be enacted
- * The project would include landscaping, seeding, the pavilion, and the knoll and the flat grass area but not the hard court area
- * The total park improvements are estimated to be \$4,300,000. This change would include mitigation funds from the developer for a portion of the park improvements.
- * If the ICubed request, which was submitted July 2017 to the Commonwealth and for which the Town is waiting to hear from aethenahealth, provides funds it would be used to create a community path through the park; if they don't fund this, then the Town would decide whether or not to include this concept
- * The Town will leverage the developer's funding resources, but it will maintain control of the project as the contract is with the Town; the Town approves the designer who will answer to it; the Conservation Commission approves the design

The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

E. Resolution Adopting the Town Of Watertown [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) 2019 Update

Mr. Driscoll provided some background. Fire Chief Quinn stated that the Town has been working on the update for 15 months and it has been approved by MEMA and FEMA. The final step is for the Town Council to adopt the plan and then to send it to FEMA who will return it with a formal adoption of the plan that will remain in effect for five years. With the formal adoption, the Town will be able to apply for FEMA Mitigation Grants such as Flood Mitigation Assistance and Hazardous Mitigation Grants.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the resolution adopting the Town of Watertown's Hazardous Mitigation Plan; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding a [Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan](#) – Vincent Piccirilli, Chair
- AGENDA ITEM: That the Town Council Endorse the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee's request to Move Forward with a Bicycle and pedestrian Plan as

Presented, and to Include a Representative from the Commission on Disability to the Steering Committee That Will Oversee the Plan

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council endorse the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee's request to move forward with a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan as presented, and to include a representative from the Commission on Disability to the Steering Committee that will oversee the Plan; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Committees on Human Services and Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding [Noise Regulation Revisions](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair, Human Services; Anthony Donato, Chair, Rules and Ordinances

Councilor Palomba read the report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report with amendments. Attorney Reich suggested that the report be tabled, the corrections submitted, and the report resubmitted for approval. Councilor Piccirilli withdrew his motion and moved to table the report; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A Request to Refer to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances the Matter of Whether There Are Appropriate Modifications to the Zoning Ordinance Regarding Excavation Work that Will Provide More Protection to Neighbors

Councilor Falkoff made a motion to refer to the Committee on Development and Planning a review of Section 8.00 Article 8 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding the regulation of the removal of soil excavation; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Driscoll stated that

- ♦ On Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14, 2019, the Wedding Event Showcase Event would be held at the Commander's Mansion from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- ♦ On April 15, 2019, the Administration Building would be closed for Patriots Day.
- ♦ On April 19, 2019, the Administration Building would be closed at 1:00 p.m. for Good Friday
- ♦ On Saturday, April 20, 2019, a rabies clinic would be held in the lower level of the Administration Building – Cats would be at 1:00 p.m. and Dogs at 2:00 p.m.
- ♦ On Tuesday, April, 23, 2019, the FY 2020 budget would be submitted to the Town Council

He also mentioned that he received a request to sign onto a letter sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council supporting legislation allowing for an increase in Registry of Deed fees to increase the matching portion of the Community Preservation Act. Currently it is reimbursed at a rate of 11%.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Manager be authorized to sign the letter regarding the Community Preservation funding; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Councilor Palomba requested an update of the [Community Aggregate Process and information on the percentage of energy that is derived from renewable sources](#).

Councilor Feltner requested an update on the [remote participation policy to be developed by the Town Manager and a current schedule for street sweeping](#).

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Sideris congratulated the Library, the Library Trustees, the Town Manager, and anyone associated with the Library's successful 150 gala celebration that hosted over 700 attendees on Saturday, April 6, 2019 for a very successful event.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

16. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 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 April 23, 2019.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the March 26, 2019 Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Proclamation Recognizing and Honoring B. Bonnie Baranowski, Ph.D. – Item 6
3. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order Regarding Repairs to the Girls’ Locker room and Bathrooms at the Middle School – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 4, 2019 – Item 7
4. Agenda Item – Informational Presentation Regarding Emergency Notification and Community Engagement Tools Available Everbridge – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 4, 2019 – Item 8
5. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Regarding the Funding of the Snow and Ice Removal Deficit – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 4, 2019 – Item 9A
6. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Regarding Additional Funding of Veterans’ Benefits – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 4, 2019 – Item 9B
7. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Regarding Additional Funding of the Fire Department Vehicle Maintenance Account – Michael Driscoll, town Manager, to Town Council – April 4, 2019 – Item 9C
8. Agenda Item – Resolution Authorizing Filing with the General Court of a Petition for a Special Act for a Public-Private Partnership to Undertake Renovations and Improvements at Arsenal Park and An Act Providing for the Construction of Improvements to Arsenal Park in the Town of Watertown – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 4, 2019 – Item 9D
9. Agenda Item – Resolution Adopting the Town of Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 Update – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 4, 2019 – Item 9E
10. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding a Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan – Vincent Piccirilli, Chair – April 2, 2019 – Item 10 A
 - ~ Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Presentation – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 7, 2019
11. Joint Meeting of the Committees on Human Services and Rules and Ordinances Regarding Noise Regulations – Anthony Palomba, Chair Human Services and Anthony Donato, Chair Rules and Ordinances – February 13, 2019 – Item 10B
 - ~ Full Minutes of Committees
 - ~ Summary Minutes Report
 - ~ Sign In Sheet

- ~ Draft changes to Chapter 95: Noise Regulations
 - ~ Minutes of Human Services and Rules and Ordinances Meeting from June 25, 2018
12. Request for Information Regarding the Community Aggregate Process and the Percentage of Energy Derived from Renewable Resources – Councilor Anthony Palomba – Item 13
 13. Request for Information Regarding the Status of the Remote Participation Policy and a Current Schedule for Street Sweeping – Councilor Lisa Feltner – Item 13