



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 23, 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., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Kenneth M. Woodland was absent. 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

There were no speakers for the Public Forum; President Sideris closed the Forum.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the April 9, 2019 Town Council Meeting](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the minutes as written; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to take up items 7 and 6 out of order; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Falkoff read the Proclamation honoring Dr. Baranowski and presented her with it. Dr. Baranowski thanked the Council for their kind deed and stated that she was happy to be of assistance to the community.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

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

A. Proclamation Celebrating [Arbor Day 2019](#) – April 26, 2019

Councilor Piccirilli read the Proclamation regarding Arbor Day. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation; Councilor Feltner second the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Proclamation Celebrating May 2019 as [Older Americans Month](#)

Councilor Palomba read the Proclamation regarding May as Older Americans Month. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation; Councilor Feltner second the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

C. Acceptance of the Proclamation Extending Condolences to the Family of [Eva C. Mason](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation extending condolences to the family of Eva C. Mason; Councilor Feltner second the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Report on the Evaluation of the Town Auditor and Referral to Committee on Salary Adjustment for FY 2018 and FY 2019

President Sideris reviewed the [Council members' evaluation of the Town Auditor](#). One Councilor did not complete the rating as they felt that there was very little communication between the Auditor and the Council and were unable to review Mr. Tracy's work. This rating was not included in the averages. Based on the evaluations, Mr. Tracy scored

- Very Good to Superior in these categories: Leadership, Quality of Work and Service to Town Council (highest score), Adaptability, Communication, and Cooperation
- Good to Above Average in these categories: Productivity, Innovation and Creativity

The average score of 3.47 places him in the Very Good to Superior range.

Several comments regarding Mr. Tracy's work were mentioned as well as goals for the future:

- Better understanding of how to work with both Town Council and Town Manager
- Work with State-Wide Community Preservation Coalition to provide training to the Community Preservation Committee

- Find ways to communicate with the Town Council so that it can have a basis for evaluation
- Make reports on a more timely basis
- Increase collaboration with Town Council so that it is aware of the short and long term implications of policy decisions
- Complete Annual Audits by 12/31 of each year

President Sideris thanked Mr. Tracy for his efforts on behalf of the Town.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer to the Committee on Personnel and Town Government the matter of a salary adjustment for Mr. Tracy; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer to the Committee on Personnel and Town Government the matter of creating a more effective way to evaluate the position; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Authorize the Council President to Execute a Letter of Support for the Grant Application to the [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Program](#)

Mr. Magoon stated that several groups in the community have urged that Watertown pursue this grant that provides planning funds for energy, sustainability, and climate change issues. The issuance of this letter is part of the application process. Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Council President to execute the letter of support; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

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

- A. Proclamation Celebrating [Arbor Day 2019](#) – April 26, 2019
- B. Proclamation Celebrating May 2019 as [Older Americans Month](#)
- C. Acceptance of the Proclamation Extending Condolences to the Family of [Eva C. Mason](#)

The minutes for this item are listed above.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

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

The minutes for this item are listed above.

- 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 Piccirilli moved to accept the report as amended; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

First Reading 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 \$12,441,016 under M.G.L. c. 44, §7(7) or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority for the Purpose of Paying [Costs of Designer Services](#) Related to the Design, Construction, Addition to and/or Renovation of Three Elementary Schools, Including the Payment of Costs Incidental or 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. C. 44, §20, Thereby Reducing the Amount Authorized to Be Borrowed to Pay Such Costs by a Like Amount.

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the future of the buildings. He stated that on January 23, 2019, the School Building Committee decided on a conceptual design of new construction of the Hosmer and Cuniff schools and renovation of the Lowell School. There will be a public hearing and vote at the next Town Council Meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There were no New Business requests.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Submission of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

Mr. Driscoll provided a presentation of the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

OVERALL REVIEW:

- The employee pension fund will be fully funded as of July 1, 2019
- Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) will begin with a funding of over \$8,000,000 of the \$122,000,000 obligation. With the creation of a funding schedule, it should be fully funded by 2029
- The funding of the three elementary schools will be \$170,000,000; borrowing will be between the years of 2020 - 2023
- The Town maintains the highest bond ratings from both Standard & Poor and Moody
- Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds will be placed in a separate Revolving Fund
- ICubed funds – 6 of the 10 projects may begin in 2020 if they are approved
- Local Aid has increased by \$771,294

- The Education budget will increase by 5%
- New positions will be added for various Departments

PROPOSED BUDGET

- The proposed budget is \$147,758,000
- New Growth is estimated to be \$3,500,000
- Real and Personal Property Taxes are expected to be \$114,686,859 or 77.62% of total revenues
- Other Revenues
 - Ambulance Fees – increase of \$300,000
 - Excise Tax – increase of \$150,000
 - Investment Income – increase of \$150,000
 - Medicaid Reimbursement – decrease of \$100,000
- Expenditures
 - Pension – decrease of \$10,147, 396
 - Unfunded Pension Liability – increase of \$4,750,000
- Capital Improvement Projects – \$503,096,500 for the years 2020 – 2024.
 - Of this amount, \$327,000,000 is for school improvements (\$170,000,000 for the elementary schools and \$157,000,000 for the high school)
 - Street and Sidewalk Improvements - \$1,061,600 to augment Chapter 90 funds (State funds for road improvements)
 - Funds for loan orders have been added for collective roads and longer streets
- Loan Orders are budgeted at \$54,265,800 for 23 items. Of these requests, the largest is \$35,000,000 for the Elementary Schools
- Water and Sewer Enterprise is budgeted at \$19,840,902, an increase of \$1,234,193 from FY2019

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

- General Government Appropriation is \$6,133,588, an increase of \$363,426 from FY2019
 - Funds 50 full-time and 7 part-time employees within 15 Departments
 - Additional Positions: Department of Public Buildings – 1; Department of Community Development and Planning - .5; and Personnel - .5
- Community Development and Planning
 - A Principal Account Clerk will assist with the increasing number of building permit requests and will split time with the Buildings Department providing administrative assistance
- DPW
 - The Department's budget is \$5,719,616, an increase of \$147,351 excluding trash removal and snow and ice removal costs
 - The budget for snow and ice removal is \$1,500,000, an increase of \$100,000
 - The Department is considering discontinuing the contract for light repair and maintenance and bringing the operation in-house to provide better service at a lower cost

- Solid Waste budget is \$3,187,237, an increase of \$188,000 but still \$49,703 below the FY 2012 appropriation
- 500 violations were issued in 2019; the Department hopes to reduce this with effective communication
- The Wheelabrator contract is due to expire June 30, 2020 and will need to be renewed
- Education
 - Budgeted at \$50,441,424, an increase of 5% or \$2,401,973
 - The Schools are working to create a comprehensive 5 Year Education Budget
 - Elementary Schools
 - * Bonding Schedule for \$170,000,000
 - 2020 - \$35,000,000
 - 2021 - \$45,000,000
 - 2022 - \$45,000,000
 - 2023 - \$45,000,000
 - * Debt Service for \$170,000,000
 - 2020 - \$ 981,193
 - 2021 - \$ 4,485,615
 - 2022 - \$ 8,625,036
 - 2023 - \$12,663,207
- Fire
 - Budgeted at \$10,911,158, an increase of \$296,809
 - If two ambulances are run, there will be a minimum staff of 19/shift
 - The Staff Services Officer will be upgraded to Assistant Fire Chief
 - A firefighter will be upgraded to Lieutenant to assist with fire prevention as it relates to the use and development of technology
 - There will be an expansion of the Department's Wellness Program
 - Department includes 87 firefighters: Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, 4 Deputy Chiefs, 7 Captains, 16 Lieutenants, and 58 firefighters
- Human Services
 - Council on Aging
 - * Add a part-time Program Services Assistant
 - * Make the Case Worker a full-time position
 - * Provide an additional day of bus service for seniors
 - * Make the Program Coordinator a full-time position to develop programs for mental health and wellness needs; to provide grief support; address caregiver issues; and plan cultural events
 - Health:
 - * Maintain funding for environmental and community health services
 - * Provide a full time social services worker to provide a single access point for a variety of services, assessment and referrals, and short-term intervention
 - Veterans: Funding has increased to provide services to Veterans
- Information Technology – budgeted at \$795,583, an increase of \$50,576 and will include a technology assessment

- Insurance
 - Budgeted at \$13,506,647, an increase of \$666,547 from last year
 - As a member of the Group Insurance Commission, the rates have increased on an average about 1.84% since FY2009
 - GIC will continue as the Insurance provider until June 30, 2021
- Library
 - Budgeted at \$3,111,083, an increase of \$72,944 and complies with the Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) set by MA Board of Library Commissioners
 - Circulation of physical materials and electronic downloads were 659,507
 - Average visits to the Library were more than 36,000/month
 - New Services funded
 - * Library Programing
 - * Part-Time Hatch Assistant
 - * Local History Collection Preservation Project Year 2
- Police
 - Budgeted at \$9,960,086, an increase of \$725,550
 - Funding is provided for an additional police patrol officer
 - With the addition, a detective will be assigned full time to the So Middlesex Drug Task Force
 - Department includes 70 uniformed Police Officers: 52 Patrol Officers, 9 Dispatchers, 4 civilian employees and crossing guards
- Public Buildings
 - Budgeted at \$477,429, an increase of \$180,429
 - Provides for an additional position for General Maintenance
- Recreation & Ryan Skating Rink
 - Recreation budgeted at \$361,274
 - Ryan Skating Rink budgeted at \$458,214
- Town Clerk
 - There will be three elections this year
 - * Preliminary Election - 9/17/2019
 - * Municipal Election – 11/5/2019
 - * Presidential Primary – 3/3/2020
 - \$43,200 is budgeted for voting booths

President Sideris provided a schedule for the upcoming budget hearings. A Special Town Council Meeting will be held on June 4, 2019 to finalize the budget.

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

Councilor Feltner requested a list of [Town trash receptacles](#), including their type and their service schedule.

Councilor Kounelis stated that some of her requests remain open; however, due to the Town Manager's busy schedule, she would let it pass until the next session.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Feltner announced the Dancing with the Stars event, sponsored by the Rotary Club, to be held on May 10, 2019 at the Hellenic Center at 25 Bigelow Avenue.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 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 14, 2019.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the April 9, 2019 Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Statement of Council President Mark Sideris Regarding the Town Council’s Evaluation of the Town Auditor – April 23, 2019 – Item 5A
3. Letter Regarding the Support for the Grant Application to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MYP) Program – Mark S. Sideris, Council President, to Matthew Beaton, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs – April 23, 2019 – Item 5B
4. Proclamation Celebrating Arbor Day 2019 – Item 6A.
5. Proclamation Celebrating May 2019 as Older Americans Month – Item 6B
6. Proclamation Extending Condolences to the Family of Eva C. Mason – Item 6C
7. Proclamation Recognizing and Honoring B. Bonnie Baranowski, Ph.D. – Item 7A
8. Joint Meeting of the Committees on Human Services and Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding Noise Regulation Revisions (Revised) – February 13, 2019 – Item 7B
 - ~ Sign-In Sheet
 - ~ Detailed Minutes of the Meeting
 - ~ Draft Changes to Chapter 95: Noise Regulations
 - ~ Statement of Susan Cooke
 - ~ Order Amending Ordinances of the Town of Watertown to Add Ordinance Prohibiting Unnecessary Noises – Marilyn Petitto Devaney
 - ~ Noise Level Chart
 - ~ Statement of Dick O’Connor
9. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Payment of Costs of Designer Services Related to the Design, Construction, Addition to and/or Renovation of Watertown’s Three Elementary Schools – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 18, 2019 – Item 8
10. Town of Watertown Annual Budget 2019-2020 – Michal Driscoll, Town Manager – April 23, 2019 – Item 10
11. Request for Information Regarding Town Trash Receptacles – Councilor Lisa Feltner – April 23, 2019 – Item 11