



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 28, 2019 AT 7:00 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 7:00 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, Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr. was absent. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:00 P.M.

Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)3 - To Discuss Strategy With Respect to Litigation if an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Litigating Position of the Town Council and the Chair so Declares

Councilor Woodland moved to enter into executive session; Councilor Feltner 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

Russ Arico – 49 Fayette Street – Spoke against the adoption of a new parking system as being too costly.

Ellen Rothman – 14 Fairview Avenue – Spoke in favor of the energy package. She would like the minimum renewable to be more than 50%. If it is less than that, the Town is missing an opportunity to reduce its carbon footprint.

Jocelyn Tager – 103 Robbins Road – Spoke about the renewable energy package and requested that it be set at a minimum of 60% renewables.

Deborah Peterson – 9 Westland Road – Spoke in favor of the energy plan. She stated the purpose of the program is to stabilize prices and provide increased renewable use for energy. She urged acceptance of the plan with the highest level possible.

There being no other speakers; president Sideris closed the public forum.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the May 14, 2019 Town Council Meeting](#)

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

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There were no items brought up.

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property of a [Plaque to be Placed at the Casey Park](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated the Madigan family would like to place a plaque in memory of their daughter, Lia James Madigan, who died at four months, at Casey Park. Councilor Kounelis moved to approve the acceptance of the gift of the plaque to be placed in Casey Park; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Consideration and Action on Authorization to Move Forward with the [Watertown Electrical Aggregation Program](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town Council approved the aggregate electricity plan, which has received approval from the MA Department of Public Utilities. Mr. Lewis, head of the Town's Energy Program, is seeking approval to move forward with the plan and launch the program if an acceptable supply bid is received.

Mr. Lewis stated the purpose of [the program is to stabilize energy prices](#) over the life of the supply contract, to increase renewable energy sources for electricity, and to drive energy sources in the New England region. There will be a default green rate, an option for 100% renewable sources, and an optional basic rate that will use the state mandated rate [14% for 2019 and 16% for 2020]. There may be a residential and commercial rate to provide the best program. Every 1% of additional renewable energy in the electricity supply reduces the greenhouse gas emissions by 470 tons of CO2 per year. Eversource will continue to complete the billing for electricity.

It is estimated that Eversource's average cost per kilowatt hour for this year is 11.87 cents. It is estimated that an additional 35% of renewables could be purchased for that stated rate; this would make the Town's use of renewable energy be about 50% (14-16% state mandated plus 35% additional town wide purchase). This would allow the Town to reduce its emissions by more than 16,000 tons of CO2.

Mr. Lewis was requesting the Town Council to authorize the Town Manager to accept a supply bid for a default residential if it is lower than the estimated yearly rate from Eversource. If the bid were accepted, then the Town would send out required notices, hold public meetings, and provide opt-out choices. If the bid does not come within the desired range, it can make another supply bid later.

The following matters were discussed:

- ~ The program is an opt out program because it mandated by State law
- ~ Income eligible customers would continue to receive the same discount and accounts will automatically be transferred
- ~ The actual percentage of renewables could increase depending on the bids
- ~ In previous estimates, once the renewables hit 40%, the potential monetary savings were negated
- ~ In other programs, about 90% stayed at the default rate
- ~ The cost of the renewable source is currently not decreasing
- ~ Due to a timing issue, the purpose of the request is to authorize the Town Manager to accept a bid from providers within a 4 hour window and before rates change for Eversource
- ~ Concerns were raised that the amount of renewable energy should be increased to 60%
- ~ The renewable resources are regional and consist of Solar, Wind (the majority), Small Hydroelectric, and BioMass

Councilor Woodland moved to accept the authorization as presented; Councilor Donato seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Referral to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances for: "Consideration of a Veterans Work-Off Program and Adoption of Clause 22H under the Brave Act.

Councilor Woodland moved to refer a consideration of a veterans work-off program and the adoption of Clause 22H under the Brave Act to the Committee on Rules and Ordinances; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Request to Refer to Committee on Economic Development and Planning Consideration of the Request from NS AJO Holdings Inc., Currently Approved for Operation of a Registered Marijuana Dispensary at 123 Elm Street, to Operate as an Adult Use Marijuana Establishment at the Same Location

Councilor Woodland moved to refer to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Consideration of the request from NS AJO Holdings Inc., currently approved for operation of a registered marijuana dispensary at 23 Elm Street, to operate as an adult use marijuana establishment at the same location; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- A. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Board of Assessors

Mr. Driscoll stated that he would like to reappoint Richard V. Moynihan to the Board of Assessors for a term that expires on May 15, 2022. Under Council Rules, the matter is referred to the Committee on Personnel and Town Organization.

- B. [Parking Management Plan](#)

Mr. Driscoll requested that the Parking Management Plan be referred to committee. Councilor Woodland moved to refer the matter to the Public Works Committee; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. Councilor Palomba stated that the matter should be a joint referral to Public Works and Economic Development and Planning and so moved; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion for the joint committee referral was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

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

There were no requests for information.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Bays announced that the Farmers' Market would begin at 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. on June 12, 2019 and run every Wednesday in the summer at Saltonstall Park.

Councilor Donato announced that Watertown High School alumni would be hosting game at the Lowell Playground on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. Money raised will be for the Alzheimer's Research Foundation.

Councilor Feltner announced that on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, the Traffic Commission would be meeting in the Council Chamber at 1:30 p.m. She also announced that on Saturday June, 8, 2019, there would be a free Arts for All at

the Mosesian Arts Center from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Teens for Trees also will have a fundraiser at the Branch Line Restaurant from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

Helen Soussou – 69 Garfield Street – Stated that the education program for the Energy Program voted on could be set up in each Councilor's District making it easy for members of the neighborhoods to attend.

14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Palomba made a motion to adjourn; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 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 June 11, 2019.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the May 14, 2019 Town Council Meeting – Item 6
2. Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property – Plaque in Casey Park for Lia James Madigan – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 23, 2019 – Item 8A
3. Agenda Item – Consideration and Action on Authorization to Move Forward with the Watertown Electrical Aggregation Program – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 23, 2019 – Item 8B
4. Watertown Electricity Choice – Presentation by Ed Lewis, Watertown Energy Manager – May 28, 2019 – Item 8B
5. Request for Confirmation – Reappointment to the Board of Assessors – Richard Moynihan – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council - May 23, 2019 – Item 10 A
6. Parking Management Plan – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 23, 2019 – Item 10B