



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, JUNE 11, 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

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

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the May 28, 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

President Sideris stated that the Town Council previously authorized him to send a letter of support for a grant application to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. As a result, the Town Council received notice that it would receive a grant of \$73,760 to assess the Town's vulnerability to and preparedness for climate change impacts and to build community resilience based on that assessment.

6. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. First Reading on a Proposed Order Establishing [Water and Sewer Rates for Fiscal Year 2020](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that this matter would be taken up in a public hearing on June 25, 2019. The Water and Sewer Enterprise budget of \$19,340,902 was adopted on June 4, 2019. The proposed rates will be sufficient to pay for such services.

B. First Reading on a Proposed Order Authorizing the Town Treasurer with the Approval of the Town Manager to Borrow and/or Expend Monies in the Amount of \$1,050,000 Under and Pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 of the General Laws, or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority, and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor for the Costs of [Sewer System Improvements](#) at Various Locations Throughout the Town, and for the Payment of All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto. Any Borrowing Pursuant to this Order May be Obtained Through the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Infiltration and Inflow Local Assistance Program or Through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The Borrowing Authorized by This Order Shall be Reduced to the Extent of Any Grants Received by the Town on Account of this Project. 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 Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, Thereby Reducing the Amount Authorized to be Borrowed to Pay Such Costs by a Like Amount

Mr. Driscoll stated that this matter would be taken up in a public hearing on June 25, 2019. The request consists of a \$787,500 grant along with a \$262,500 interest free loan order.

C. First Reading on a Proposed Order Authorizing the Town Treasurer with the Approval of the Town Manager to Borrow and/or Expend Monies in the Amount of \$500,000 Under and Pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8 of the General Laws, or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority, and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor for the [Costs of Water System Improvements at Various Locations](#) Throughout the Town, and for the Payment of All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto. Any Borrowing Pursuant to This Order May Be Obtained through the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Local Water System Assistance Program or Through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The Borrowing Authorized by This Order Shall be Reduced to the Extent of Any Grants Received by the Town on Account of this Project. 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 Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, Thereby Reducing the Amount Authorized to be Borrowed to Pay Such Costs by a Like Amount

Mr. Driscoll stated that this matter would be taken up in a public hearing on June 25, 2019.

D. First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance Establishing the [Salary for School Committee Members](#)

Mr. Sideris stated the School Committee reviewed the pay for other communities and is requesting a pay raise to be effective for the next term. He noted that there has been no pay increase for the School Committee for several years.

E. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$28,500 from Various Fiscal Year 2019 Police Department Accounts to the Fiscal Year 2019 [Police Vehicle Replacement](#) Account.

Mr. Driscoll stated that by using unexpended funds from the Police budget, this transfer would allow the Town to purchase a pre-owned unmarked vehicle. Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer the funds for an amount of \$28,500; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

F. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,242,443 from the Fiscal Year 2019 Debt Retirement – Short Term Interest Account and the Fiscal Year 2019 Town Council Reserve to the Fiscal Year 2019 Transfer to Capital Projects – Town Account in order to fund the [North Fire Station Project](#) Account.

Mr. Driscoll stated that a loan order was previously authorized; however, the loan order was not advertised. As a result, the authorization is ineffective. The Town will be using \$1,242, 443 from free cash to pay for the repairs. Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer funds of \$1,242,443 to fund the Fire Station Project; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

G. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the amount of \$1,250 from Toyota of Watertown to Offset Expenses Related to the [“Faire on the Square 2019”](#).

Mr. Driscoll stated the Town received a gift of \$1,250 from Toyota of Watertown to offset the expenses of the Faire on the Square 2019, the 20th celebration to be held, on September 28, 2019. Councilor Piccirilli moved

to accept and expend the funds given by Toyota of Watertown; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted on a roll call vote.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding [Government Outreach](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Ask the Town Manager to Have the Staff Directory on the Town’s Website Include the Names of All Town Employees, Their Email Addresses, and Their Direct Phone Extensions.

Councilor Palomba read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report with the corrections of the spelling of the Pane Room in the header, and the spelling of Feltner in the fourth paragraph and the addition of the attachments; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion that the Town Council ask the Town Manager to have the staff directory on the Town’s website include the names of all Town employees, their email addresses, and their direct phone extensions; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding a Proposal for a [Community Engagement Program](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

Councilor Palomba read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report with the correction of the spelling of the Pane Room; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Councilor Palomba read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report with the correction of the spelling of the location and a correction in the first paragraph from “Watertown Community Connections” to “Watertown Community Conversations”; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

President Sideris cautioned the committees that having third parties provide services may be outside the scope of a committee’s role. Such cooperation should be approved by the Town Council.

D. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding the Town Council [Request for Information Process](#) – Anthony Donato, Chair.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Amend Rule 8.9 of the Town Council Rules to read: *A member may make a request for information by providing a written summary of his/her request to the Town Manager and a copy to the Clerk of the Council. If two consecutive weeks pass without a response to said request or if the requester considers the response to his or her request for information to be inadequate or incomplete, the requester may repeat said request at the subsequent Town Council meeting.* If, after the second request, the member feels that the response is inadequate or incomplete and wishes to request further information on the same or substantially the same matter, he or she must make a motion seeking a vote of the majority of the Council for his or her request.
2. That the Town Council Request the Town Manager Respond to Requests for Information in Stand-Alone Communications to the Full Town Council.
3. That the Town Council Recommend the Council Clerk Publish Requests for Information and Their Respective Responses on the Town Council Website Page

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council amend Rule 8.9 of the Town Council Rules as listed above; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The matters were taken up in the discussion that followed were

- The suggested change did not address the issue of requests for information
- Councilors may want the public to know that a question is being asked and this is a helpful method for informing the community
- The language seems to eliminate verbal requests
- Documentation is needed but disallowing requests in the public forum is an intentional stifling of the Council's voice
- Information can be provided by the asking the Town Manager, Department Heads, or Staff without using Town Council meetings to respond to requestors
- The conversation regarding the requests is important – it is a way to clarify what should be asked in public and what is private and to whom
- Request should be referred back to Committee to further develop the matter

The motion failed on a voice vote of 2 – 7. All Councilors voted against the motion except for Councilors Donato and Woodland who voted in the affirmative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council request the Town Manager to respond to requests for information in stand-alone communications to the full Town Council; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council recommend the Council Clerk publish requests for information and their respective responses on the Town Council website page; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

A. [Rejection of 2019 Road Program Bid](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Roads Program went out to bid with only one bid made which was 33% higher than the estimated costs. As a result, Mr. Mee, Superintendent of Public Works, felt that the bid should be rejected and put out to bid in December with the hopes of a March 1, 2020 starting date for road repair if the weather permits.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the matter to the Committees on Public Works and Budget and Fiscal Oversight for review; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. [School Planning Bonds](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that the legal ad listing the public hearing incorrectly listed the date of the public hearing. The notice must be placed again in the paper, which it will be for Friday, June 14, 2019 and the Public Hearing will be on June 25, 2019. Once the Loan Order is reconfirmed, the Town will be able to obtain Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN) twenty-one days after approval.

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town would be able to apply for a capital project up to \$250,000 to support Housing. He requested guidance on the Town's priorities and stated that the application was due on June 20, 2019.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer to the Committees on Human Services and Budget and Fiscal Oversight asking them to review and provide a

recommendation to the Department of Community Development and Planning on the [Housing Choice Award](#); Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion.

Councilor Woodland questioned as to why the matter was not being sent to Economic Development and Planning as this Committee is charged with housing matters. Councilor Piccirilli moved to amend his motion and refer the matter to the Committees on Economic Development and Planning and Human Services; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion.

The discussion that followed considered these matters:

- Economic Development and Planning Committee is charged with Housing
- Human Services is charged with Elderly issues, veterans services, and social services needs and is not prohibited from housing discussions
- Human Services reviewed the appointments to the Housing Authority
- A clarification may be needed regarding authority over the matter of housing
- As this matter will not be referred back to the Town Council, a joint referral allows for a majority of the Council will have a say in the matter

The motion was adopted on a voice vote of 8-1. All Councilors voted in the affirmative, except for Councilor Woodland who voted in the negative.

Mr. Driscoll announced that the Farmers' Market would begin on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 and would run until October 9, 2019 from 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Saltonstall Park.

In addition, Patrick George, the Veterans' Agent, on Friday, June 14, 2019, Flag Day, would be completing a Retire the Colors ceremony at Ridgelawn Cemetery.

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

There were no requests for information.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Feltner announced that on Monday, June 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., there would be an on-site meeting at 101-103 Morse Street regarding the conversion of the property to residential units.

Councilor Palomba announced that on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, the Annual Community Spirit Awards program would take place at Arsenal Community Park from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. and would be hosted by the Watertown Youth Coalition and the Wayside Youth and Family Support Network's Multi-Service Center.

He also announced that there would be a meeting of the Human Services and Rules and Ordinances Committees regarding the proposed revisions to the Noise Ordinance in July. Councilor Palomba reiterated that the meeting regarding being a host for kitchen conversations would take place on Sunday, June 23, 2019 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the Watertown Savings Room at the Library.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers at the Public Forum.

13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Palomba moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 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 25, 2019.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the May 28, 2019 Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Fiscal Year 2020 Water and Sewer Rates – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 6, 2019 – Item 6A
3. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order (Sewer System Improvements) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 6, 2019 – Item 6B
4. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order (Water System Improvements) Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 6, 2019 – Item 6C
5. Legal Notice – Salary Increase of the School Committee
6. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request (Police Vehicle Replacement) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 6, 2019 – Item 6E
7. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request (North Fire Station) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 6, 2019 – Item 6F
8. Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditure (Faire on the Square) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 6, 2019 – Item 6G
9. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding Increased Participation in Government – April 4, 2019 – Item 7A
10. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding Community Engagement – April 18, 2019 – Item 7B
11. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding Community Engagement – May 17, 2019 – Item 7C
12. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding Requests for Information Rules – May 7, 2019 – Item 7D
13. Rejection of 2019 Road Program Bid – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 6, 2019 – Item 9A

14. School Planning Bonds – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 6, 2019
– Item 9B
15. Housing Choice Grant Opportunity – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council –
June 10, 2019 – Item 9