



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, OCTOBER 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 J. Driscoll, Town Manager and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Barbara Epstein – 56 Spruce Street – She spoke on behalf of the Watertown Arts and Public Culture group and invited all to participate in two upcoming meetings to begin the planning of a [Public Arts Master Plan](#). The first meeting will be on October 30 at the Watertown Middle School from 6 – 8:30 p.m., and the second will be on December 9 at the Mosesian Arts Center to discuss investment and funding.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the September 17, 2019 Special 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

Approval of Sending a Letter to MassDOT Regarding the [MassDOT Workforce Transportation Program](#)

Mr. Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning, stated that this is a request for a second grant for a cooperative regional plan to allow Blue Bikes to be used in Watertown. Lime Bikes will no longer be the provider as of this spring. Blue Bikes can be used in Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston which Lime Bikes does not allow. Also with Bike stations, the placement will be more organized and will have five stations. This should be a one-time investment as the fees charged should allow the program to be self-sufficient. Locations for the stands are not determined yet but most likely will include the Mount Auburn Corridor, the Pleasant Street Corridor, and the Square.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to have the Town Council send the [Letter of Support to MassDOT](#); Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

6. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of \$514,510 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Council Reserve Account to Various Fiscal Year 2020 Police Department Accounts in order to Adjust the Fiscal Year 2020 Police Department Budget as a Result of [Fiscal Year 2017-2019 Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Police Association and Police Supervisors Association](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that \$600,000 was removed from the FY 20 Police Budget to the Capital Reserve pending an agreement with the Police. Funds need to be transferred for the 2019 payment from the Capital Reserve to fulfill the agreement. Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize transfer of \$514,510 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Council Reserve Account to various Fiscal Year 2020 Police Department Accounts in order to adjust the Fiscal Year 2020 Police Department Budget as a result of Fiscal Year 2017-2019 Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Police Association and Police Supervisors Association; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. First Reading on a [Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that this matter would be considered at the October 22 Town Council meeting. There is a positive change of \$2,091,194 due to
New Growth Numbers
Cherry Sheet Receipts
Replenishing the Collective Bargaining Stabilization Fund
Transfer of \$500,000 to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund.
As a result of the change, the Town's revenues and expenditures will now be \$149,849,194.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- B. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report Regarding the [Salary of the Town Auditor](#) – Caroline Bays, Chair

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to move up Item 7B; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Bays read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Committee Report; Councilor Falkoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

6. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- C. First Reading on an [Ordinance Amending the Town Auditor's Salary](#)

President Sideris returned to Item 6C and stated that this matter would be considered at the next Town Council meeting.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding [Interviews for the Zoning Board of Appeals](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair
ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) That the Town Council Confirm Francis Goyes Flor for Appointment as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term to Expire on February 15, 2021
- 2) That the Town Council Confirm David Ferris for Reappointment as a Full Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term to Expire on February 15, 2024

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council confirm Francis Goyes Flor for appointment as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on February 15, 2021; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council confirm David Ferris for reappointment as a Full Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on February 15, 2024; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report Regarding the [Salary of the Town Auditor](#) – Caroline Bays, Chair

The minutes for this item are located above following Item 6B

- C. Committee on Public Safety Report Regarding [Interviews for the Traffic Commission](#) – Lisa J. Feltner, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) That the Town Council Reappoint John S. Airasian to the Traffic Commission for a Term to Expire on May 15, 2020
- 2) That the Town Council Reappoint Kelly J. Gallagher to the Traffic Commission for a Term to Expire on May 15, 2021

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council reappoint John S. Airasian to the Traffic Commission for a term to Expire on May 15, 2020; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council reappoint Kelly J. Gallagher to the Traffic Commission for a term to Expire on May 15, 2021; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- D. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding [Interviews for the Conservation Commission](#) – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) That the Town Council Confirm Patrick Fairbairn for Reappointment to the Conservation Commission for a Term to Expire on February 15, 2022
- 2) That the Town Council Confirm Charles Bering for Reappointment to the Conservation Commission for a Term to Expire on February 15, 2022
- 3) That the Town Council Confirm Colleen Egan for Appointment to the Conservation Commission for a Term to Expire on February 15, 2021

Councilor Piccirilli 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 confirm Patrick Fairbairn for reappointment to the Conservation Commission for a term

to expire on February 15, 2022; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion as adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council confirm Charles Bering for reappointment to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire on February 15, 2022; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion as adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council confirm Colleen Egan for appointment to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire on February 15, 2021; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion as adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the Town Council.
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER
Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2021

Mr. Driscoll provided a [preliminary overview of the Fiscal year 2021 budget](#). He noted the following information for the relevant Fiscal Year budgets:

FISCAL YEAR 2020

Property Taxes and State Aid equaling \$129,249, 124 represents 86.25% of the budget and Local Receipts of \$13,406,684 represents 8.95% of the budget or about \$2.7 million more than anticipated

- ~ The major factors in Local Receipts are Fees (for Inspections) – an increase of \$1.3 million; Investment Income – an increase of \$800,000; Motor Vehicle Expenses – an increase of \$500,000; and Medicaid Reimbursement – a decreased reimbursement of \$272,000
- ~ The anticipated budget for FY 20 is \$149,849,194
- ~ The Actual Budget for FY2019 was \$145,032,391, an increase of \$2.8 million more than anticipated, or a 1.97% increase
- ~ Expenditures were expected to be \$90,415,406; actual expenditures were \$88,477,540, or a return of \$1.937 million
- ~ Currently the Unreserved Fund is 14.38% which meets the budget goal of maintaining an 8-15% balance
- ~ Debt: Permanent, Short Term, and Authorized Un-issued debt is \$47,831,891. The low amount helps in retaining good bond ratings
- ~ Both the Sewer and Water Enterprise budgets had deficits. As a result, the FY21 budget will contract with Weston and Sampson to review the rate structure
- ~ There are carryovers from water and sewer that will be used to complete improvements to the water and sewer infrastructure
- ~ Overlay Accounts are set up to pay for tax abatements and uncollected taxes; if a surplus is declared, the funds are transferred to the general budget.

In 2019 there was a \$500,000 surplus that will be used for the elementary schools project

- ~ Funds for CPA require 10% set-asides for Open Space, Historic Preservation, and Community Housing; the remainder is undesignated. With the FY appropriation, there will be about \$635,000 for each designated account and about \$6.8 million for undesignated use. This includes funds from FY 2018-2020.

FY 2020 FORECAST

- ~ Retirement: Due to the use of a new mortality table that considers longer life expectancy and the lower rate of return expectations based on the assumption that current economic conditions will not sustain large growth, the anticipated Retirement pay off will be completed in FY 2021 rather than FY2020.
- ~ Anticipated new growth has been reduced from past projections based on market issues. The anticipated tax levy limit for 2021 is \$123,646,475
- ~ State Aid is being level funded to maintain conservative estimates; the anticipated new growth has been adjusted downward from \$3,750,000 to \$3,600,000
- ~ Revenues:
 - * Hotel Excise taxes are expected to increase from \$700,000 to \$950,000 due to the hotel being built at Arsenal Yards
 - * Fees are anticipated to rise in FY 2021 but be reduced in FY 2022 due to a decrease in licensing fees
 - * Medicaid Reimbursement needs watching as the Town only received \$149,000 for current reimbursement
- ~ FY 2020 revenue budget is \$149, 849,194 and the budget for FY2021 indicates that it will be \$156,325,317, an increase of \$6.5 million or 4.32%
- ~ Expenditures:
 - * Department Operations will increase by \$3,644,282.
 - * The increase will be 5% for the Schools; 2.5% for the Departments; and 3% for waste disposal.
 - * Insurance will be \$17,190,498, an increase of \$1,118,472. As a member of the State Group Insurance Plan, the increase over the last 11 fiscal years represents a 1.84% increase of the budget
 - * Schools
 - ♦ Anticipated budget for FY 2021 is \$52,963,495
 - ♦ The budget of the Building for the Future Initiative in FY 2021 will be \$4,601,296, increasing to \$8.7 million in FY 2022 and \$12.7 million in FY 2023
 - ♦ MSBA has designated AI3 as the High School Architect
 - * Debt and Interest
 - ♦ Due to the changed mortality table and the expected lower rate of return, the Town's expectation of paying off the unfunded pension fund will be delayed by a year
 - ♦ Pension payment for FY 2021 will be \$14,625,789 rather than the expected \$827,670

- ♦ As a result, the OPEB anticipated payment of \$16.7 million will be reduced to \$4.2 million dollars, a reduction of \$12.5 million
 - ♦ By changing the payment schedule, it is anticipated that the OPEB liability will be paid by FY 2029 along with the elementary schools
 - ♦ The anticipated debt will increase by \$4.5 million due to an increase of \$3.36 million due to the funding for the elementary schools
- * Overall expenditures are anticipated to grow from \$149,849,194 in FY 2020 to \$155,768,488 in FY 2021, an increase of \$5.9 million or a 3.95% increase
- ~ At this point, the Town can anticipate a surplus of \$500,000 for FY 2021
- ~ Elementary Schools
 - * The Building Committee is working on preparing the construction bidding documents, which should be completed in Spring of 2020
 - * The Hosmer and Cuniff Schools renovations will be bid out as a single construction project to
 - ♦ Receive the most competitive bidding
 - ♦ Rely on a contractor providing same materials and systems for both schools
 - ♦ Manage only one contractor
- ~ Watertown High School
 - * Currently this is in the Feasibility and Schematic Process that consists of three phases
 - ♦ Preliminary Design Program
 - ♦ Preferred Schematic Study and Report
 - ♦ Schematic Design
 - ♦ Each task will take about six months to complete
 - * Preliminary Design Program has five tasks
 - ♦ Develop an educational program for the high school – primarily a School Department task
 - ♦ Develop an initial space summary regarding the details of the size
 - ♦ Evaluate the existing high school regarding the current condition and organization of the school and its potential reuse as a school
 - ♦ Site Development Requirements - identify and evaluate potential sites
 - ♦ Preliminary evaluation of alternatives – planning options with an explanation of what options are viable and what are eliminated and why
 - * In order to fund this project, there will need to be a debt exclusion vote in 2021 with a need to educate the community as to why this is necessary
- ~ Collective Bargaining – The library union has a contract for 2020-2022 but there are five other Town unions and six school unions that need a contract
- ~ ICubed – athena campus is up for sale with the Town awaiting a determination from the Commonwealth if the obligations can be assigned to the new owner. Communication will be made to learn athena's intentions regarding its participation in the program

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

Councilor Kounelis mentioned an [IT glitch that was problematic](#) to several herself and constituents and that there is a need to have the matter resolved.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Piccirilli announced that the Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight will be setting the budget's priority guidelines. He asked the Councilors to provide him with their priorities by Friday, October 25, 2019. There are 3 committee hearings scheduled on October 29, and November 4 and 18, 2019. The priorities would be discussed at the November 26, 2019 Town Council meeting.

Councilor Feltner announced that everyone was invited to the Fire Department Open House on Main Street from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 12, 2019.

Councilor Palomba announced

- Saturday, October 26, 2019 was the Annual Prescription Take Back Day. Any unused prescriptions may be dropped off at the Police Station from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- The Watertown Youth Coalition has prepared a plan to hear from residents on how to best support the wellness of the community and the types of events that best serve the wellness of youth. This will be on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 and will be held at the Library from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. and at the Watertown High School from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- There would be a Media and Public Outreach Committee meeting on October 23, 2019 at the cafeteria of the Watertown Middle School to discuss the summary of the results of the Kitchen Table Conversations.

Councilor Kounelis stated that on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, there would be an informational meeting at 19 Coolidge Hill Road regarding the proposed plan to develop self-storage units on the property. She also raised concerns about the servicing of an IT glitch regarding her emails to constituents with comcast.net email addresses.

Councilor Falkoff announced that on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 from 2:30 – 6:00 p.m., the last Farmers' Market of the season would be held at Saltonstall Park.

Councilor Piccirilli announced that the developer's meeting for the project at 166 Main Street, the former Tedeschi Market, has been rescheduled to Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Police Station.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

12. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 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 ___ for, ___ against, ___ present on October 22, 2019.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

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

1. Public Arts Master Plan – Barbara Epstein – October 8, 2019 – Item 3
2. Minutes of the September 17, 2019 Special Town Council Meeting – Item 4
3. Letter of Support Regarding MassDOT Workforce Transportation Program – Mark S. Sideris, Council President to Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator, MassDOT, October 1, 2019 – Item 5
4. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding Collective Bargaining with Police and Police Supervisors Associations – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – October 3, 2019 – Item 6A
5. Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – October 3, 2019 – Item 6B
6. Proposed Ordinance Amending the Town Auditor’s Salary – Item 6C
7. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding Confirmations to the Zoning Board of Appeals – September 25, 2019 – Item 7A
8. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report Regarding the Salary of the Town Auditor – September 25, 2019 – Item 7B
9. Committee on Public Safety Report Regarding Confirmations to the Traffic Commission – September 18, 2019 – Item 7C
10. Fiscal Year 2021 Town of Watertown Preliminary Budget Overview – Presented by Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council 0 October 8, 2019 – Item 10
11. Request for Information Regarding an IT Glitch – Councilor Kounelis – October 8, 2019 – Item 11