



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, NOVEMBER 12, 2019 AT 6:30 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 6:30 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 Driscoll, Town Manager, Attorney Mark Reich, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M

To Consider the Purchase, Exchange, Lease, or Value of Real Property as an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Negotiating Position of the Public Body – 165-183 Grove Street and 175 North Beacon Street.

Councilor Piccirilli moved for the Town Council to enter into Executive Session; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. RETURN TO SESSION – 7:15P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

David Kane – Stated that Police took two flash drives, an electronic tablet, and a telephone from him, and that he has not been charged with any offense. He asked for the return of his property.

There being no other speakers, the public forum was closed.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the October 22, 2019 Town Council Meeting](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the minutes as amended by including in Item 8B the following:

“authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$80,000 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Debt Retirement – Short Term Interest Account to the Fiscal Year 2020 Transfer to Capital Projects – School Department Account in order to move forward with the replacement of the Middle School classroom laminate floors;” Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

There were no items to report.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Consideration and Action on a [Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Department of Revenue confirmed the new growth for the Town. Based on that confirmation, the Revenues and Expenditures of the Town would increase by \$2,153,809 for a total of \$149,911,809. Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council approve the amendment of a budget increase of \$2,153,809 as presented; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing and Vote on a Grant of Location from RCN Telecom Services, Inc., to Lay, Maintain, and Operate Underground Conduits, with Cables to be Placed Therein Under the Surface of the Public Way, for 175 North Beacon Street, from Existing (2) 4-Inch Conduits and (2) Quad Conduits Blocked on North Beacon Street Place (2) 4-Inch PVC Communication Conduit 56-Feet ± (of which 16 Feet is in the Public Way) in Southerly Direction to the Building Located at [175 North Beacon Street](#).

Mr. Ken Bates, Senior Engineer at RCN, asked the Town to allow the grant of location to utilize two dead-ended conduits and to add two new conduits to provide service to 175 North Beacon Street. The utility would require the intrusion of 16 feet in the public right of way.

President Sideris opened the Public Hearing; there being no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed. Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council allow the grant of location from RCN Telecom Services, Inc., to lay, maintain, and operate underground conduits, with cables to be placed therein under the surface of the public way, for 175 North Beacon Street, from existing (2) 4-inch conduits and (2) quad conduits blocked on North Beacon Street Place (2) 4-inch PVC communication conduit 56-feet ± (of which 16 feet is in the public way) in southerly direction to the building located at 175 North Beacon Street;

Councilor Woodland seconded motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

10. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Informational Presentation on the [Community Health Needs Assessment Report](#) - Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health

Dr. Larry Ramdin, Director, Board of Health, stated the assessment was completed with a grant from Mount Auburn Hospital and included interviews with interested parties. The issues that were of greatest concern included mental health issues, substance abuse, affordable housing, stresses of meeting basic needs, equitable access to services, and events for Middle School and High School students and the elderly. Dr. Ramdin stated the report was not comprehensive and that it did not include environmental health concerns, but it reflects a broad overview of local health concerns. Follow up activities need to include LBGT adults and youth, immigrants, non-English speakers, disabled, people of all faiths, ethnics, and racial backgrounds, and people in recovery.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer this study to the Human Services Committee for further discussion and recommendations; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Informational Presentation on the possibility of a strategic partnership between [Buckingham Browne & Nichols School](#) and the Town of Watertown - Dr. Jennifer Price, Head of Buckingham Browne & Nichols School

Mr. Driscoll stated that Mount Auburn Cemetery is selling six acres of its property on Grove Street. The Town has goals to increase access to open space and to develop sites for recreational use. The Buckingham Browne & Nichols School (BB&N) would like to work out a joint use of property with the Town. Under the agreement, the School would acquire the Mount Auburn land and allow the Town to use it on evenings, weekends, and summer; in turn, the Town would allow BB&N to have access of the fields at Filippello Park daily after school for their athletic fields. This would increase open space use through a public/private partnership.

Dr. Jennifer Price made her presentation to the Council. She stated that BB&N is a school with 1,000 students providing education from Pre-K to Grade 12. Students, of which 24% receive financial assistance, come from 90 communities. Twenty-five students are from Watertown; 32 of BB&N's faculty and staff, or 16% of employees, are from Watertown. The school has three campuses.

The School needs more space and has insufficient space especially for Athletics. There are ten teams using only three fields creating a situation where practice often starts at 5:00 -5:30 pm causing a long day for the students. Also there are parking issues.

The School is proposing a private/public partnership relating to property that is being sold by Mount Auburn Cemetery. The School is proposing to purchase the property and establish two fields, a fieldhouse, and eighty parking spots on the property that is adjacent to Filippello Park. BB&N would allow Watertown to use the Grove Street fields on evenings, Saturday afternoons, and Sundays and the Town would have scheduling rights to the fields in the summer. In return, Watertown would permit BB&N to use Filippello Park after school and have all day access to it in late August and during the March break.

BB&N has submitted its bid to Mount Auburn, which is competitive but is not competitive with a biotech or development bid. Final bids need to be made on November 26; Finalists will make their presentations on December 4; and the Cemetery Trustees will be make a decision on December 12.

After the presentation, the Councilors stated their support and raised the following items:

- This is a huge opportunity for the Town to provide additional open space and assist with recreational fields for the community
- This situation would allow for 20 acres of contiguous open space
- The Council would oppose a large development in that area
- This purchase would slow development and would not increase an already difficult traffic situation along Grove Street
- The proposed use would be compatible with the historic cemetery site
- This is something the community needs to communicate its approval of to the Cemetery Trustees
- A letter of support for the BB&N proposal signed by Town Council President Sideris and Mr. Driscoll was sent to the Trustees on October 17, 2019
- There was a request that an additional letter be signed on behalf of the Council for this proposal.

11. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading on a Proposed Order [Allocating the Property Tax Levy Among or Between Property Classes](#) for Fiscal Year 2020.

Mr. Driscoll stated this is a first reading and reminded the Council that since 2002 the Town has shifted the tax burden 175% to commercial property. In addition, a 23% tax shift within the residential class was approved for FY 2020. The public hearing and vote would be heard at the next Town Council Meeting on November 26, 2019.

B. First Reading on a Proposed Order Setting [Optional Tax Exemptions for Fiscal Year 2020](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that this would be a vote to allow the Town to provide the maximum allowable exemption over the statutory requirement and that the vote would be held on November 26, 2019 Town Council Meeting.

C. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of \$19,139 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Council Reserve to the Town Auditor Prior Year Full Salaries Account and the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Auditor Full Time Salaries Account to Reflect the Adopted Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2019 [Compensation of the Town Auditor](#)

The transfer request is the funding of the Order previously adopted to increase the salary of the Town Auditor. The adjustment needed to be completed in the FY 2020 budget year. Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to authorize a transfer of \$19,139 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Council Reserve to the Town Auditor Prior Year Full Salaries Account and the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Auditor Full Time Salaries Account to reflect the adopted ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2019 Compensation of the Town Auditor; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding [Marijuana Local Option Tax and E Scooters](#) – Kenneth Woodland, Chair
ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) That the Town Council Adopt Chapter 64 N Section 3 for a 3% Marijuana Sales Tax
- 2) That the Town Council Ask the Administration to Continue Discussions with the MAPC and Surrounding Communities on Electric Scooters, and to Come Back to the Committee After Legislation is Passed in Order to Decide How Best to Proceed

Councilor Woodland 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.

The action item that the Town Council adopt Chapter 64 N Section 3 for a 3% Marijuana Sales Tax was tabled as the it needed to be in a resolution form and will be taken up on November 26, 2019, the next Town Council Meeting.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council ask the Administration to continue discussions with the MAPC and surrounding communities on

electric scooters, and to come back to the committee after legislation is passed in order to decide how best to proceed; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the [Mass DOT Workforce Transportation Grant](#) – Kenneth Woodland, Chair
ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Appropriate the \$56,576 in 2019 Transportation Network Company Funds as Follows:

- A) \$23,088 to Partially Fund the Shuttle Bus Pilot Program:
- B) \$20,000 for BlueBike Matching Funds if the Grant is Successfully Awarded, Otherwise the Funds Remain Unappropriated;
- C) \$13,488 will Remain Unappropriated for any Allowable Future Use.

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 appropriate the \$56,576 in 2019 Transportation Network Company funds as follows:

- A) \$23,088 to partially fund the Shuttle Bus Pilot Program:
- B) \$20,000 for BlueBike matching funds if the grant is successfully awarded, otherwise the funds remain unappropriated;
- C) \$13,488 will remain unappropriated for any allowable future use

Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. A concern was raised as to why residents will not be using the Shuttle. Mr. Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning, stated that funding would be used for the Pleasant Street corridor but not on Arsenal Street. Statements were made to endorse the expansion of use. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

C. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding [Confirmation of the Reappointment of Janet Buck and Gary Shaw to the Planning Board](#) – Kenneth Woodland, Chair
ACTION ITEMS:

- A. That the Town Council Confirm Janet Buck for Re-Appointment to the Planning Board for a Term to Expire February 15, 2022
- B. That the Town Council Confirm Gary Shaw for Re-Appointment to the Planning Board for a Term to Expire February 15, 2022

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 made a motion for the Town Council to confirm Janet Buck for re-appointment to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2022; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion for the Town Council to confirm Gary Shaw for re-appointment to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 15, 2022; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- D. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding the [Presentation of the Results of the Kitchen Table Conversations](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

Councilor Palomba 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.

13. NEW BUSINESS

There were no New Business items.

14. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- A. Request for Confirmation of Appointments and Reappointments to Cable Access Corporation Board of Directors

Mr. Driscoll stated that he was requesting the confirmation of Laurie Mc Manus, Ninos Hanna, Michael Shepard, Robert Kaprielian, Shirley Lindberg, George Skuse, Christopher Mc Kenzie, and John S. Airasian to the Board of Directors of the Watertown Cable Access Corporation for terms to expire between and including September 15, 2020 – September 15, 2022. The review was referred to the Committee on Education and School System Matters.

- B. Request for Confirmation of Appointment and Reappointments to the Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee

Mr. Driscoll stated that he was requesting the confirmation of Ari Stern, Edward Lewis, Jeanne Trubek, Emma Clement, Meredith Fields, and Andrew Airasian to the Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee for terms to expire between and including November 15, 2021 – November 15, 2022. The matter was referred to the Committee on Public Works.

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

Councilor Falkoff stated that she became aware of an [exemption under Chapter 40B based on acreage or square footage](#). She wondered why the Council had not been informed of this and if the Watertown Housing Partnership was aware of this matter.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Piccirilli announced that on Saturday, November 23, 2019, the Boy Scouts of Troop 30 and the Cub Scouts of Pack 30 would be participating in a Food Event at Stop and Shop on Watertown Street. A list of popular items can be found at the store; the items will be stocked at the Watertown Food Pantry. In the past, the community has filled more than 150 bags.

Councilor Palomba announced that the Community Foundation was holding a Trivia Night, as an Educational Fundraiser, from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Sons of Italy Hall on 520 Pleasant Street. A team of Town Councilors will be participating.

He also mentioned that on Thursday, November 21, 2019, there will be a session on Narcan Training (the nasal spray that can be used to reverse a drug overdose) at the Watertown – Belmont United Methodist Church on 80 Mount Auburn Street at 7:00 pm. Watertown has suffered four fatal overdoses from January – November of this year; 53 overdoses were successfully treated with Narcan.

He further stated that he wanted to thank Superintendent Mee for attending a forum on Composting on Sunday, November 3 where 50 residents attended.

Councilor Bays wanted to thank the employees of the Department of Public Works for assisting her earlier in the day.

Councilor Donato announced that the Watertown Tree Lighting ceremony would be on December 6, 2019 on the delta around 5:15 p.m.

President Sideris announced that on November 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., the first Community Forum regarding the Watertown High School would be held. This would be a preliminary session with the Owner's Project Manager, Compass; the Architect, AI3; the Superintendent of Schools; and some members of the School Building Committee.

He also stated that Councilor Falkoff would like to expand the referral to Human Services and Rules and Ordinances regarding the Noise Ordinance. She would like the Committees to consider leaf blowers within the ordinance.

President Sideris stated that this would be taken up at the next Council Meeting on November 26, 2019.

17. PUBLIC FORUM

David Kane – Reminded the Councilors to speak into their microphones to assist those with hearing issues in the audience.

18. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

President Sideris congratulated those who were elected to the Council, including newly elected Councilor John Gannon.

He thanked Councilor Falkoff for assisting the Council and for her service.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 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 November 26, 2019.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the October 22, 2019 Town Council Meeting – Item 6
2. Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget - Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 7, 2019 – Item 8
3. Grant of Location Request from RNC to Place 16 Feet of Conduit in Public Right of Way to Provide Service to 175 North Beacon Street – Item 9
4. Agenda Item – Informational Presentation Regarding Community Health Needs Assessment Report – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 7, 2019 – Item 10A
~ Community Health Needs Assessment Report, Town of Watertown Health Department and Live Well Watertown – February 2019
5. Agenda Item – Informational Presentation Regarding a Possible Public/Private Partnership for Mutual Use of Grove Street Property and Filippello Park – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 8, 2019 – Item 10B
~ A 6.1 Acre Transformative Development Opportunity in Watertown’s East End – Confidential Offering Synopsis
~ BB&N and Watertown: A Proposal for Joint Use – November 12, 2019
6. Fiscal Year 2020 Tax Classification Hearing – November 26, 2019 – Item 11A
7. Fiscal Note – Exemptions Regarding Optional Additional Property Tax Exemption Order – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 7, 2019 – Item 11B
8. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Compensation of the Town Auditor – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 7, 2019 - Item 11C
9. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding Marijuana Local Option Tax and a Regional Electric Scooter Policy – September 16, 2019 – Item 12A
Attachment A: MGL Chapter 64N Section 3 Local Option Marijuana Tax
Attachment B: Memo Dated August 1, 2019 Requesting Policy Guidance on Electric Scooters
10. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding A Policy Guidance for Use of MassDOT Workforce Transportation Grant – September 16, 2019
Attachment A: Sign-In sheet

Attachment B: Proposed Budget for Transportation Network Company Funds – October 29, 2019

11. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the Reappointment of Janet Buck and Gary Shaw to the Planning Board for Terms to Expire on February 15, 2022 – October 22 and 29, 2019 – Item 12C
12. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding Results of the Kitchen Table Conversations – October 3 and 10, 2019 – Item 12D
13. Request for Confirmation – Appointments and Reappointments to the Cable Access Corporation – Board of Directors – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 7, 2019 – Item 14A
14. Request for Confirmation - Appointment and Reappointments to the Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 7, 2019 – Item 14B