



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 26, 2019 AT 6:15 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 6:15 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 Driscoll, Town Manager, Attorney Mark Reich, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:15 P.M.

A. 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 – 321 Arsenal Street.

B. To Conduct Strategy Sessions in Preparation for Negotiations with Non-Union Personnel or to Conduct Collective Bargaining Sessions or Contract Negotiations with Non-Union Personnel – Town Manager, Michael J. Driscoll

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council enter into executive session; Councilor Woodland 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

David Quilter – 12 Upland Street – Stated that he other residents began an [online petition](#) regarding the sale of the Grove Street property of the Mount Auburn Cemetery and the potential development of the property. He provided a list of the signatories so that it could be made part of the public record.

Libby Shaw – Expressed her disappointment at losing Chris Hayward, the Forestry Supervisor, to the City of Quincy. While the specifications for the job describe the position clearly, it should also include the ability to communicate and provide education to the public and to engage in the resolution of urban forestry issues.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the November 12, 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.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report on the Performance Evaluation of the Town Manager for Fiscal Year 2019

President Sideris stated that the Town Council completed its [annual evaluation](#) of the Town Manager. The Town Manager has worked for 43 years for the Town of which 27 years have been as Town Manager. Based on the remarks, these were the findings:

- A. Relations with the Town Manager – 4.3 (average) Exceeds Expectations
- B. Community Relations – 3.5 (Meets Expectations to Exceeds Them)
- C. Staff and Personnel – 3.7 (Meets Expectations to Exceeds Them)
- D. Leadership and Professional Capability – 4.4 Exceeds Expectations
- E. Business and Finance – 4.5 Exceeds Expectations
- F. Personal Qualities – 4.7 Exceeds Expectations
- G. Fiscal Year 2020 Goals and Objectives – 4.0 Exceeds Expectations

President Sideris stated that he hoped to continue working with Mr. Driscoll to maintain the quality of services being provided now and in the past.

Mr. Driscoll thanked the Councilors for their efforts and comments; he mentioned that he looked forward to working with the Council to provide the highest level of services using the taxpayers' dollars wisely.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

ACTION ITEM Relating to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding [Marijuana Local Option Tax](#) :

That the Town Council [Adopt Chapter 64 N Section 3 for a 3% Marijuana Sales Tax](#)

Attorney Reich provided some background on the order and the date of implementation of the Tax. Councilor Piccirilli read the Order. He then moved that the Town Council adopt Chapter 64 N Section 3 for a 3% Marijuana Sales

Tax; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Order [Allocating the Property Tax Levy Among or Between Property Classes](#) for Fiscal Year 2020

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the matter. Mr. Smith, Chair of the Board of Assessors, stated that the FY19 levy limit was \$109,523,765. A 2 ½% increase would be \$2,738,094 and the new growth of \$4,919,268 combined allows for a tax levy for FY20 of \$117,181,127. This amount represents a 6.99% increase over FY19. To determine the single tax rate, the tax levy of \$117,181,127 is divided by the Town's total assessed value of \$9,098,604,508 for a single rate of \$12.88. With the 175% tax shift, the basic rates would be \$22.54 for commercial and \$10.35 for residential properties.

The Board is recommending increasing the residential exemption to 24% this year, with a hope of increasing it to 25% next year and an annual review thereafter.

After discussion, Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the 175% Commercial Tax Shift; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the 24% Residential Exemption; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Order Setting [Optional Tax Exemptions for Fiscal Year 2020](#)

Councilor Kounelis recused herself from this discussion. Mr. Driscoll provided some background.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the noted exemptions up to 100% of the maximum allowable increase above the statutory limits; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

C. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Zoning Map Amendment by Removing the Parcels of Land Located at [70, 78, 84-86, and 88 Galen Street from the Limited Business District and into the I-2 \(Industrial-2\) Zoning District](#) in Keeping with Abutting Properties.

President Sideris stated that he would open the public hearing and continue it until the January 28, 2020 Town Council meeting. He opened the

meeting; there were no speakers stating the hearing would be continued to January 28, 2020.

10. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property of [Fitness Equipment from Tufts Health Plan](#).

Mr. Driscoll stated that Tufts Health Plan was donating used exercise equipment consisting of three ellipticals, three treadmills, and three spin bikes, for the use of the Fire Department. He requested the Council's favorable consideration. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance of tangible personal property of fitness equipment from Tufts Health Plan; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance Amending the Town Manager's Compensation

President Sideris stated that in order to change the compensation of the Town Manager, it must be done by Town Ordinance and that the matter will be taken up at the next Town Council meeting.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Reports Regarding [Recommendations on the FY2021 Budget Policy Guidelines](#) – Vincent Piccirilli, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Adopt the FY2021 Budget Policy Guidelines as Drafted

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

Councilor Piccirilli [read the guidelines](#). He then moved that the Town Council adopt the FY2021 Budget Policy Guidelines as drafted; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. He stated he would provide a list of the [guidelines as ranked](#).

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

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

12. NEW BUSINESS

Request for a Referral to the Human Services and Rules and Ordinances Committees Regarding the Expansion of the Consideration of the Noise Ordinance to Include Leaf Blowers

Councilor Falkoff moved to refer to the Human Services and Rules and Ordinances Committees the expansion of the consideration of the Noise Ordinance to include leaf blowers; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. After a discussion as to the purpose of the referral, the Town Council voted 4-5 against the motion. Those voting in the affirmative included Councilors Bays, Falkoff, Feltner, and Woodland; those voting in the negative included Councilors Donato, Kounelis, Palomba, Piccirilli, and President Sideris.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER.

A. Request for Confirmation of an Appointment to the Licensing Board

Mr. Driscoll stated that under Town Council Rules the matter is being referred to the Committee on Personnel and Town Organization.

B. Request for Confirmation of Appointment and Reappointments to the Stormwater Advisory Committee

Mr. Driscoll stated that under Town Council Rules the matter is being referred to the Committee on Public Works.

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

Councilor Falkoff asked if there would be a report regarding an [update of the Town's website](#).

Councilor Feltner asked

- ~ Why there were [ads for electrical services](#) on the Delta in the Square
- ~ What can the Council expect in terms for IT support and equipment in the next term;
- ~ What methods were being used to report issues and work orders at DPW how was the status being reported.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

16. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the forum.

17. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

President Sideris wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The

motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 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 December 10, 2019.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2019 AT 6:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Petition to Mount Auburn Cemetery Regarding Grove Street – David Quilter – November 26, 2019 – Item 5
2. Minutes of the November 12, 2019 Town Council Meeting – Item 6
3. Fiscal Year 2019 Town Manager’s Composite Evaluation – Mark S. Sideris, Town Council President, to Town Council – November 26, 2019 – Item 7
4. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding Marijuana Local Option Tax on Recreational Marijuana Sales – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair – Item 8
5. An Order Accepting the Provisions of General Laws Chapter 64N, Section 3 Allowing for Imposition of a Sales Tax Upon Marijuana Retailers – September 16, 2019 – Item 8
6. Fiscal Year 2020 Tax Classification Hearing – Board of Assessors – November 26, 2019 – Item 9A
7. Fiscal Note – Exemptions – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 7, 2019 – Item 9B
8. Planning Board Report Regarding Zoning Map Amendment for 70, 78, 84-86, and 88 Galen Street – Item 9C
9. Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property (Exercise Equipment – Tufts Health Plan) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – Item 10A
10. Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding Recommendations for FY2021 Budget Policy Guidelines – Item 11A
11. Watertown’s FY2021 Budget Policy Guidelines As Approved and Ranked by the Town Council – November 26, 2019 – Item 11A
12. FY2021 Budget Policy Guidelines, Ranked by Priority December 3, 2019 – Item 11A

13. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding the Analysis of the Results of the Kitchen Table Conversations – October 23, 2019 – Item 11B

ATTACHMENTS:

- ~ Sign-In Sheet
- ~ Agenda October 23, 2019 Report Back
- ~ Overview of Kitchen Table Conversations (KTC) Results
- ~ Key Recommendations Worksheet
- ~ Key Recommendations Worksheet
- ~ WCC Overview November 2018
- ~ KTC Demographic Final
- ~ KTC Statistics Final
- ~ Survey-Tools Currently Used Final
- ~ Survey-Top 3 Currently Used Tools Final
- ~ Survey-Options to Explore Final
- ~ Community Groups and Activities Final
- ~ Detailed Summary of KTC Conversations Final

14. Request for Confirmation – Appointment to the Licensing Board – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 21, 2019 – Item 13A

15. Request for Confirmation - Appointment and Reappointment to the Stormwater Advisory Committee – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 21, 2019 – Item 13B

16. Request for Information Regarding the Town’s Website Status – Councilor Susan Falkoff – November 26, 2019 – Item 14

17. Request for Information Regarding IT Support; DPW Methods for Issues, Reports, and Resolution; Ads on the Square Delta – Councilor Lisa Feltner – November 26, 2019