



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

John G. Gannon,
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, FEBRUARY 25, 2020 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, John G. Gannon, Lisa J. Feltner, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Angeline B. Kounelis arrived at 6:40 p.m. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager and Attorney Mark Reich.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.

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 to enter into executive session 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 Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote of 8-0.

3. RETURN TO SESSION – 7:15 P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Libby Shaw – Trees for Watertown – She raised concerns regarding the placement of the new Watertown High School at the Victory and Moxley Fields area stating that this would remove needed open space from the community. She recommended using the current site for the school.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
[Minutes of the February 11, 2020 Town Council Meeting](#)

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

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Re-Establish the Committee on Media and Public Outreach with the Previous Members.

Council President Sideris stated that he would reestablish the Committee on Media and Public Outreach with the same membership to continue its work as there is a need to keep the community aware of community activities.

B. Referral to the Committee on Media and Public Outreach: The Establishment of a Protocol to Create a Monthly, or if Not Monthly at Least Quarterly, Town Council Newsletter and Determine How it Can Be Distributed to the Community

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer to the Committee on Media and Public Outreach the matter of the establishment of a protocol to create a monthly, or if not monthly at least quarterly, a Town Council Newsletter and to determine how it can be distributed to the community; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order Authorizing the Town Treasurer, with the Approval of the Town Manager, to Borrow and/or Expend Monies in the Amount of \$2,500,000 under Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws or any Other Enabling Authority to Pay Costs of Constructing, Reconstructing, Paving, Repairing or Otherwise [Improving Streets and Sidewalks](#), Including if Necessary, Convenient or Desirable Improving Underground Ducts and Conduits and Paying All Other Costs Incidental and Related to Such Street and Sidewalk Work, Including if Necessary, Convenient or Desirable, Underground Duct or Conduit Improvements, and the Payment of All Other Costs Incidental and Related Thereto. Any Premium Received by the Town 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 provided some initial background information. Mr. Shuman, Town Engineer, stated that DPW moved up its decisions for the road program.

The work will affect Piermont Street, Tappan Avenue, Downey Street, Wheeler Lane, Frank Street, Louise Street, and Kimball Road. There will be full depth reclamation with four inches replacement of asphalt, new sidewalks, and granite curbing. All driveway openings have been reviewed for compliance with notices sent for those that did not; a review where trees might be located was completed; and stormwater analysis was done. Work has begun on replacing substandard hydrants. Four bids were received and a recommendation will be made soon. Letters were sent to residents notifying them of the upcoming work.

Mr. Driscoll stated that the loan would be for five years, FY 2021-2025 with an estimated interest rate of 4.5%.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing; there being no speakers, the hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the Loan Order authorizing the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$2,500,000 under Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws or any other enabling authority to pay costs of constructing, reconstructing, paving, repairing or otherwise improving streets and sidewalks, including if necessary, convenient or desirable improving underground ducts and conduits and paying all other costs incidental and related to such street and sidewalk work, including if necessary, convenient or desirable, underground duct or conduit improvements, and the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto. any premium received by the town 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; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Consideration and Action on a Proposed [Third Amendment to the Service Agreement for Waste Disposal with Wheelabrator](#) for an Extended Term from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025

Mr. Driscoll stated that this would be a five-year extension of the contract with Wheelabrator. The tipping fee would be \$77/ton with approximately a 3% increase annually. Council approval is required because the contract is for more than three years.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the third amendment to the service agreement for waste disposal with Wheelabrator for an extended term from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Resolution Approving the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in an Amount of \$5,359.10 Which Will Be Used to Purchase Two Pieces of [Equipment for the Watertown Police Department's Fitness Center](#).

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Watertown Police Foundation would like to gift funds to purchase two pieces of equipment for the fitness center at the police station. He requested the Council's favorable consideration.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance and expenditure of a gift of funds in an amount of \$5,359.10 to be used to purchase two pieces of equipment for the Watertown Police Department's Fitness Center; councilor woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- C. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer to Fund [Salary Adjustments for Three Non-Union Confidential Employees](#) Covering the Period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022

Mr. Driscoll stated that this was a request to provide a 2.25% salary adjustment to three employees, two of which are in the Town Manager's Office and one in Personnel; this would be similar to the salary changes made in recent contracts. Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer \$4,250 to fund salary adjustments for three non-union confidential employees covering the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- D. First Reading Setting the [Compensation of the Clerk of the Town Council](#)

Council President Sideris stated that this was a request for a salary increase of 2.25% for the Clerk of the Council and was similar to the previous transfer. The change must be completed as an ordinance and the public hearing and vote would be at the next Town Council meeting.

- E. First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance to [Modify Hours of Operation of the Administration Building and Senior Center](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the request for modified hours from May 19 to September 4, 2020. The matter would be voted on at the next Town Council meeting.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding [Confirmations to the Watertown Historic District](#) – Kenneth Woodland, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) That the Town Council Confirm Linda Sternberg for Reappointment to the Historic District Commission for a Term to Expire on November 15, 2022
- 2) That the Town Council Confirm James Bensinger for Appointment to the Historic District Commission for a Term to Expire on November 15, 2021

Councilor Woodland 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 to confirm Linda Sternberg for reappointment to the Historic District Commission for a term to expire on November 15, 2022; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to confirm James Bensinger for appointment to the Historic District Commission for a term to expire on November 15, 2021; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding [Veterans Tax Exemption and Town Council Rules Review](#) – Anthony J. Donato, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) That the Town Council Adopt Clause 22G of MGL Chapter 59 Section 5 Concerning Veteran Exemptions
- 2) That the Town Council Adopt the Revised Town Council Rules with the Recommendations Outlined by the Committee

Councilor Donato read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the report as amended to include the corrected attachment; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council accept Clause 22G of MGL Chapter 59 Section 5 concerning Veteran Exemptions; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council adopt the revised Town Council Rules with the recommendations outlined by the Committee; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Council President Sideris stated that the Town Council Meeting time change would start with the March 24, 2020 meeting.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Referral to the Economic Planning and Development Committee to Consider and Make Recommendations on Updating or Amending the Comprehensive Plan and to Suggest Strategies on How to Fulfill Them

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer to the Economic Planning and Development Committee to consider and make recommendations on updating or amending the Comprehensive Plan and to suggest strategies on how to fulfill them; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 8-1 on a voice vote. All members voted in the affirmative except for Councilor Woodland who voted in the negative.

President Sideris stated that any Councilor wishing to serve on the new Committee on Open Space and Recreation should contact him so that he can assign the membership.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

A. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Board of Health

Mr. Driscoll is seeking the reappointment of Dr. John Straus to the Board of Health for a term to expire on February 6, 2023. Under Town Council Rules, this request will be referred to the Committee on Human Services.

B. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Conservation Commission

Mr. Driscoll requested the reappointments of Leo G. Martin, Jamie O'Connell, and Maria P. Rose to the Conservation Commission for terms to expire on February 15, 2023. Under Town Council Rules, this request will be referred to the Committee on Public Works.

C. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Planning Board

Mr. Driscoll requested the reappointment of Payson R. Whitney III to the Planning Board for a term to expire on February 15, 2023. Under Town Council Rules, this request will be referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

D. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Driscoll requested the reappointments of Melissa Santucci Rossi, as a Full Member, to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on February 15, 2025, and Michael Brangwynne, as an Alternate Member to

for a term to expire on February 15, 2022. Under Town Council Rules, this request will be referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

E. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Community Preservation Committee

Mr. Driscoll requested the reappointments of Dennis J. Duff and Mark Krackiewicz to the Conservation Preservation Committee for terms to expire on February 1, 2023. Council President Sideris suggested that because this matter is closely aligned to the purpose of the newly created standing Committee on Open Space and Recreation, it should be referred there. Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the matter to the Committee on Open Space and Recreation; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Councilor Kounelis raised two concerns: one a concern from a resident regarding safety at the [intersection of Bigelow and Nichols Street](#) with the other regarding [Calvin Road](#) business activity.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Palomba announced that early voting for the Presidential primary began on February 24, 2020 and would end on Friday, February 28, 2020. The hours for voting are 8:30 – 5:00 pm

Council President Sideris stated that the School Building Committee would be meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chamber to discuss matters relating to the Watertown High School.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

David Cane – 99 Pleasant Street – Stated that recently Police Chief Lawn mentioned the Police Department hired someone to assist the Department when interacting with people of the Muslim faith. He raised concerns that people of other faiths should be included as well so as not to violate the 1st and 14th Amendments of the Constitution.

Leo Martin – Conservation Commission – Raised a concern about using Victory Field as site of the new Watertown High School building as it would be losing 21 acres of open space.

16. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

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 8:07 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 April 14, 2020.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the February 11, 2020 Town Council Meeting – Item 6
2. Agenda Item Proposed Loan Order – Streets and Sidewalks Improvements – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 6, 2020 – Item 8
3. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order (Streets and Sidewalks) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 20, 2020 – Item 8
4. Agenda Item – Proposed third Amendment to the Service Agreement with Wheelabrator North Andover – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 20, 2020 – Item 9A
5. Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Funds and Expenditure (Exercise Equipment – Police Department) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – Item 9B
6. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request (Salary Increase for Non-Union Employees) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 20, 2020 – Item 9C
7. Ordinance Setting the Compensation of the Clerk of the Town Council – Item 9D
8. Proposed Ordinance to Modify Administration Building and Senior Center Hours – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 20, 2020 – Item 9D
9. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding Confirmations to the Watertown Historic District Commission - Kenneth Woodland, Chair – February 10, 2020 – Item 10A
10. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding Veterans Exemptions and a Review of the Town Council Rules – Anthony Donato, Chair – January 30, 2020 – Item 10B
 - A. Remarks by Councilor Anthony Palomba – Email – January 30, 2020
 - B. Markup of Current Town Council Rules with Proposed Changes
 - C. Proposed Town Council Rules as Approved by the Rules and Ordinances Committee
11. Request for Confirmation – Reappointment to the Board of Health – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 20, 2020 – Item 12A
12. Request for Confirmation – Reappointments to the Conservation Commission – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 20, 2020 – Item 12B
13. Request for Confirmation – Reappointment to the Planning Board – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 20, 2020 – Item 12C

14. Request for Confirmation – Reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 20, 2020 – Item 12D
15. Request for Confirmation – Reappointments to the Community Preservation Committee – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 20, 2020 – Item 12E
16. Request for Information Regarding Safety at the Intersection of Bigelow and Nichols Streets – Councilor Angeline Kounelis – February 25, 2020 – Item 13
17. Request for Information Regarding the Safe Access of Residents on Calvin Road – Councilor Angeline Kounelis – February 25, 2020 – Item 13