



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, MARCH 10, 2020 AT 7:15 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER AGENDA

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, John G. Gannon, 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, Attorney Mark Reich, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Sharon Bromberg-Lim – 101 King Street – Stated that the Town should request more from developers [to provide more open space and to plant more trees](#) because of the beneficial aspects.

Marilyn Petitto Devaney – Governor's Councilor – Stated that Filippello Park had lighting previously, but was removed after two residents convinced the Town Council to do so. The Town needs playing fields and that entails the need for lights. She asked the Town Council to appropriate the needed funds.

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Road – Stated that the fields should fit into Class IV national standards. She does not understand why the fields specifications are for larger fields. She is concerned that the process is not being followed and would like to see this improved.

There being no other speakers, Council President Sideris closed the Public Forum.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Consideration and Action on the [Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Submission Date](#)

Council President Sideris requested the Council delay the submission of the Town Budget. Councilor Piccirilli moved that pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, a proposed operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall be submitted by the Town Manager by the second regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting in April; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Consideration and Action on an Employment Agreement Between the City Known as the Town of Watertown and Michael J. Driscoll

Council President Sideris stated that the Town would like to enter into an employment agreement with the Town Manager who has been working as an at will employee since December 2011. The terms of the new agreement are similar to that agreement. The changes state the agreement will be effective until June 30, 2021. The Town Council and the Town Manager will notify each other in writing that they wish to continue the contract by December 31, 2020 and try to reach an agreement by March 31, 2021. There will be a salary increase of a little more than 2.25% effective July 1, 2019 to bring the Town Manager's salary to \$210,000. His current town vehicle will be replaced with a similar fuel-efficient vehicle; there will be no further replacement without authorization of the Town Council. Vacation and Buy Back Sick days provisions will be similar to that recently agreed upon with the Department of Public Works. There will be a reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for personal term life insurance; previously it was \$1,000. The Town Manager will receive up to \$2,500 for Long-Term Disability insurance, previously the limit was \$2,000; however, the Town Manager may choose deferred compensation of up to \$2,500 instead.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize Council President Sideris to sign the employment agreement as amended between the city known as the Town of Watertown and Michael J. Driscoll; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Driscoll stated he was pleased that the agreement was completed and that together he and the Council could continue to build on the progress made in the Town.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on Setting the [Compensation of the Clerk of the Town Council](#)

Council President Sideris opened the public hearing; there being no speakers, the public hearing was closed. Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the ordinance to set the compensation of the Clerk of the Town Council at

a 2.25% increase for Fiscal Year 2020; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Ordinance to [Modify Hours of Operation of the Administration Building and Senior Center](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the request stating that the change would be effective from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Council President Sideris opened the public hearing; there being no speakers, the public hearing was closed. Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the proposed ordinance to modify the hours of operation of the Administration Building and Senior Center; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

6. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Informational Presentation on the [Filippello Park Field Lights and Scoreboard Project](#) – Glen Howard, CDM Smith

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town would be seeking a revised request of a loan order of \$1,300,000 for lighting at Filippello Park and for fees from CDM Smith. He stated the first reading would be on March 25, 2020 with a vote on April 14, 2020. He then introduced Glen Howard, a Project Manager and landscape architect of CDM Smith.

The lighting project concerns two fields: Arlington Street Field and the Grove Street Field. The Arlington Street field is a multi-purpose field without any lighting; the Grove Street Field is a multi-use field for softball that operates with an old lighting system of 9 light poles and a mixture of fixtures. The improvements include a new 7-pole LED field lighting system at the Grove Street Field; a 4-pole LED sports lighting system at the Arlington Street Field; new lighting controls inside the Arlington Street restroom field; a new scoreboard at Grove Street; and a new backstop and chain link fence in front of the players benches.

Mr. Howard mentioned that any excavated material will remain on site and will require DEP approval as the site was a former landfill. A mound of the material will be covered with three feet of clean cover. Placing the conduit and wiring will be less stringent as the digging will only be 2 feet below the surface. The mound will be covered with flowering trees.

There were six bids and CDM Smith is recommending the low bidder, Dagle Electrical Construction Company, at a cost of \$1,115,511.

There were two alternate solutions provided – upgrading the pathway light wiring at Arlington Street and replacing the pathway lights with LED fixtures that would run from Grove Street through the dog park to Arlington Street.

The lighting for Arlington Park is for a Class IV field that has no provisions for spectators, a lower skill use field while Grove Street is designated as a Class III field that has some provisions for spectators and serves a higher level of skill play. The classes were designated based the current programming of the fields and the amount of spectators at the fields.

After the presentation, the Council members:

- Asked if
 - ~ The Town curfew of 10:00 pm would be enforced
 - ~ The lights would not be in use if there is no permit for the field
 - ~ The baseball flood lights would be used only when playing baseball
- Requested to see the Town's lighting policy before voting on of the loan order
- Received assurance that the specifications had not changed (other than the decrease of the candle power for the Arlington Street field lighting) from the neighborhood meeting in July, 2019
- Raised a concern that if the candle power needs increased at Arlington Street, it would it be better to install the 30 candle power lights and set the power at 20 rather than install new fixtures at a later date at a substantially higher cost; this option provides flexibility for the Town
- Stated the schools would like to maintain the 30 candle power specifications while retaining them at lower lighting level due to the uncertain nature of the school projects
- Raised a concern that with the uncertainties of the school buildings location, the option for the higher level of lighting needs to be considered
- Learned
 - ~ That Arlington Street, designated Class IV, was used more for community purposes with little or no seating available, had almost no spectators, and lacked space for large spectator capacity
 - ~ Grove Street, designated a Class III, was used for groups with higher skill levels with a seating capacity for about 100 people and had spectators
 - ~ There were two ways to set the dimming capacity of the lights: using three designated percentages of lighting and then adjusting the capacity through a computerized system or the limit could be set at the pole and could be readjusted only by resetting the limit at the pole.
- Affirmed that the Town should consider both methods of dimming.
- Stated that the 30 candle power lighting for the Arlington Street lighting should be a hard wiring method because anyone with computer access can change the level and there is current frustration with the lights being kept on under any conditions
- Stated that the area cannot accommodate increased parking and that the Administration needs to determine how the fields will be used

Council President Sideris closed the presentation stating the Administration was aware of the Town Council's concerns, that the bid has gone out, and that

the Town Manager can answer these questions when the Loan Order is considered.

7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds in the Amount of \$900 from Watertown Savings Bank to Offset Expenses Related to the [“Saltonstall Park Concert Series”](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Watertown Savings Bank made a gift of \$900 to offset the expenses of the Summer Concert Series that begins on Wednesday, June 24, 2020. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance and expenditure of gifts of funds in the amount of \$900 from Watertown Savings Bank to offset expenses related to the “Saltonstall Park Concert Series”; Councilor Gannon 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

Council President Sideris stated that the compensation increase would be taken up at the next Town Council meeting.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding the [FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program](#) – Vincent J. Piccirilli – Chair
ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) That the Town Council Adopt the 28 Conceptual Recommendations Contained in the Committee Report
- 2) That the

Councilor Piccirilli read the recommendations of the Fiscal Year 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program. He moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to have the Town Council adopt the 28 conceptual recommendations contained in the committee report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion that Town Council recommend that the Town Manager maintain the FY 2021 capital spending so that it does not exceed 8% of the submitted FY2021 operating budget in order to meet the Town Council’s Budget Policy Guideline that the Town should seek to make capital expenditures (including debt and exclusive of the school building for the future initiative funding and enterprise funds) equal to at

least 7.5 – 8% of the Operating Budget; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report Regarding the Confirmation of the Membership of the [Board of Directors of the Cable Access Corporation](#) – John G. Gannon, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) That the Town Council Confirm the Reappointment of Michael Shepard to the Board of Directors of the Cable Access Corporation for a Term to Expire on September 15, 2020
- 2) That the Town Council Confirm the Appointment of David Stokes to the Board of Directors of the Cable Access Corporation for a Term to Expire on September 15, 2022
- 3) That the Town Council Confirm the Reappointment of Shirley Lundberg to the Board of Directors of the Cable Access Corporation for a Term to Expire on September 15, 2020
- 4) That the Town Council Confirm the Reappointment of George Skuse to the Board of Directors of the Cable Access Corporation for a Term to Expire on September 15, 2021

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council confirm the reappointment of Michael Shepard to the Board of Directors of the Cable Access Corporation for a term to expire on September 15, 2020; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council confirm the appointment of David Stokes to the Board of Directors of the Cable Access Corporation for a term to expire on September 15, 2022; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council confirm the reappointment of Shirley Lundberg to the Board of Directors of the Cable Access Corporation for a term to expire on September 15, 2020; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council confirm the reappointment of George Skuse to the Board of Directors of the Cable Access Corporation for a term to expire on September 15, 2021; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

C. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report Regarding an [Appointment to the Licensing Board](#)

ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Confirm the Appointment of John Labadini to the Licensing Board for a Term to Expire on February 15, 2023

Councilor Bays read the Committee Report. Councilor Bays noted the report contained an error in the Action Item vote that read the vote on the motion was 3-0 in favor of the motion while it should be 2-0. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report with the error corrected; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council confirm the appointment of John Labadini to the Licensing Board for a term to expire on February 15, 2023; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

A. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Conservation Commission

Mr. Driscoll stated that he was seeking confirmation of Darya Mattes to the Conservation Commission to complete an unexpired term that would expire on February 15, 2021. Under Town Council Rules, the matter would be referred to the Committee on Public Works.

B. Request for Confirmation of Appointment and Reappointment to the Board of Assessors

Mr. Driscoll requested the confirmation of the appointment of Kathleen Colleary to the Board of Assessors to complete an unexpired term that would expire on May 15, 2021 and the reappointment of Earl J. Smith as Chair of the Board of Assessors for a term to expire on May 15, 2023. Under Town Council Rules, the matter would be referred to the Committee on Personnel and Town Organization.

Mr. Driscoll stated that Fire Chief Quinn and the Emergency Team met to discuss the impact of coronavirus. Due to the evolving nature of the situation, the team would be meeting on a continuous basis; that social media and the Department of Health's website page would be the main sources of information regarding the virus; and that the Department would create handouts and flyers for posting at public buildings.

Mr. Driscoll further stated that Mr. Ramdin, Director of the Watertown Department of Health mentioned that there were currently no cases in Watertown; that he is in contact with the Schools to plan for methods of minimal spread; that a separate webpage was created to provide information to the public; and that messaging would be through Everbridge, the Town's website and social media. He noted that Governor Baker created a state of emergency that will allow for a more coordinated response to the virus. The Town will be guided by advice from the MA Department of Public Health and CDC. Updates would be provided as needed.

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

Council President Sideris requested the Town Administration to review removing the enforcement of the [parking ban](#) due to the mild weather.

Councilor Kounelis requested an update on the update of the [Calvin Road](#) business cleanup and [short-term rentals](#) as they relate to Cypress Street.

Councilor Feltner requested an update on [remote participation](#). She also requested information about a method to allow for public participation in light of the coronavirus emergency.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Donato confirmed that the next Town Council Meeting would be at 7:00 p.m. rather than 7:15 p.m.

Council President Sideris stated that David Stokes would be resigning from the Stormwater Advisory Committee due to his many commitments. Council President Sideris stated he will make a recommendation as to the appointee because the Town Council appointed Mr. Stokes to that position. He also commented that another position remains open on that committee and suggested that anyone interested in serving on the Committee or any other Board should contact the Town Manager.

Council President Sideris announced the membership of the newly created Parks and Recreation Committee: Councilor Woodland, Chair; Councilor Gannon, Vice-Chair; and Councilor Palomba, Secretary.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Street – Requested that the Recreation Facilities calendar be published online; that the public attend field activities to see the number of spectators at events; and that lighting issues were discussed thoroughly for Victory field. She also stated that lighting is a community concern as the lights are on at all times even if a field is not in use causing community ill will.

14. 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 9:16 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, MARCH 10, 2020 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Statement Regarding the Need for Open Space and Trees - Sharon Bromberg-Lim – March 10, 2020 – Item 3
2. Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Submission – Mark S. Sideris, Town Council President, to Town Council – March 5, 2020 – Item 4A
3. Ordinance Regarding the Compensation of the Clerk of the Town Council – Item 5A
4. Proposed Ordinance to Modify Administration Building and Senior Center Hours – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 20, 2020 – Item 5B
5. Agenda Item – Informational Presentation Regarding Filippello Park lights and Scoreboard Upgrades – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – March 6, 2020 – Item 6
 - Filippello Park Field Lights and Scoreboard – Steve Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning/Assistant Town Manager and Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor/Assistant Town Manager for Finance – March 5, 2020
 - Filippello Park Sports Field Lighting Project – Town of Watertown – CDM Smith – March 10, 2020
6. Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditure Regarding the Saltonstall Park Concert Series – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – March 5, 2020 – Item 7A
7. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding FY 2020 – FY2025 Capital Improvement Program as submitted by the Town Manager – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair – February 10 and 18 and March 2, 2020 – Item 8A
 - Manager’s Handout – Capital Spending as a Percentage of the Revised Revenue/Expenditure Forecast and Remaining Proposed Loan Orders from FY2016-2020 as of February 10, 2020
 - Watertown Public Schools – Facilities Capital Plan FY 21-FY25 – Lori E. Kable, Director of Public Buildings
 - School Department FY21 CIP Supporting Documents – February 18, 2020
 - School Department Emails on FY20 Proposed Loan Orders – February 18, 2020
 - School Department Unspent Capital Funds Redirected for FY20 Projects – February 24, 2020
 - FY 2021 Capital Requests and FY 2020 Project Updates – Gerald S. Mee – superintendent of Public Works, to Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager – February 18, 2020
 - Filippello Lighting and Scoreboard Project Update – February 18, 2020
 - Filippello Lighting and Scoreboard Project Bid Results – February 18, 2020
 - Capital Fund Balances as of February 26, 2020

8. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report Regarding a Reappointment to the Board of Directors of the Cable Access Corporation – John G. Gannon, Chair – February 11, 2020
9. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report Regarding an Appointment to the Licensing Board – Caroline Bays, Chair – March 5, 2020
10. Request for Confirmation – Appointment to the Conservation Commission – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – March 5, 2020 – Item 10A
11. Request for Confirmation – Appointment and Reappointment to the Board of Assessors – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – March 5, 2020 – Item 10 B
12. Request for Action Regarding the Lifting of the Parking Ban – Council President Mark S. Sideris – March 10, 2020 – Item 11
13. Request for Information Update Regarding the Safe Access of Residents on Calvin Road – Councilor Angeline B. Kounelis – March 10, 2020 – Item 11
14. Request for Information Update Regarding Short Term Rentals – Councilor Angeline B. Kounelis – March 10, 2020 – Item 11
15. Request for Information Update Regarding Remote Participation – Councilor Lisa J. Feltner – March 10, 2020 – Item 11