



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, APRIL 28, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. MEETING WILL ONLY HAVE REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS MINUTES

The Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. In accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 COVID-19 emergency and to avoid group congregation, this meeting will only have remote opportunities for participation with public access provided as follows:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <https://wcatv.org/government-channel/>
- B. Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://zoom.us/j/686435824>
- C. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 686 435 824 #
- D. Public may also comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the Town Council at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 COVID-19 emergency and to avoid group congregation, through remote opportunities for participation with public access. 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

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the April 14, 2020 Town Council Meeting

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes as written; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Sideris stated that he would make his comments at the end of the meeting.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 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 \$295,000 under Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws or Any Other Enabling Authority to Pay Costs of [Remodeling and Making Extraordinary Repairs to the Men's Locker Room and Bathroom](#) at the Middle School, Including All 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 stated the project would cost \$548,000 - \$253,000 would come from redirected school capital projects and the remainder of \$295,000 would be funded with the proposed loan order.

Lori Kabel, Director of Public Buildings, stated this request is the second phase of the project. Last year, the women's bathroom was refurbished and this phase will update the men's locker room and create an all gender bathroom that will be separated from the men's room. The project will start in mid-May and be completed by the opening of school in September.

Mr. Driscoll stated the loan order would be paid over a ten-year period with ten annual payments of \$130,000 for principal from Fiscal Year 2021 to Fiscal Year 2030.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing. Superintendent Galdston stated that this would assist with the maintenance of the Middle School and appreciated the Town's willingness to fund it. There being no other speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$295,000 under Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws or

any other enabling authority to pay costs of remodeling and making extraordinary repairs to the men's locker room and bathroom at the Middle School, including all 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.

In the discussion, Ms. Kable stated the current floor layout was an open bay providing privacy. The change would add stalls and a bathroom. The showers are not being used and will be removed. The locker room presents a privacy and personal space issue more than a safety concern. The bathroom fixtures on the older side of the building are corroding and falling and do need to be replaced for safety reasons. This is an opportunity to use the space more efficiently.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. 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 \$1,320,825 under Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws or Any Other Enabling Authority to Pay Costs of [Installing Sports Field Lighting and an Upgraded Scoreboard at Filippello Park](#), Including All 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 background on the loan order and introduced Glenn Howard of CDM Smith who provided a presentation of the project.

Mr. Howard stated the scope of the project was to

- ♦ Replace the existing lights on the Grove Street field with a 7 pole LED sports field lighting system
- ♦ Provide a new 4 pole LED field lighting system at the Arlington Street field along with lighting controls in the restroom building
- ♦ Add a scoreboard for the Grove Street Field
- ♦ Provide a new backstop and chain link fence in front of players benches

Mr. Howard said the lighting would be upgraded for the Grove Street area and added for the Arlington Street field. Both systems would have dimming

controls. He mentioned that the project received the International Dark Skies Association Award of Excellence.

Mr. Driscoll stated the suggestion to replace the pathway lights with LED fixtures would not be put in place as they would not meet the International Dark Skies Association standards and because the lights had been repaired when the pathway wiring had been upgraded. As a result, the borrowing amount would be reduced to \$1,301,825. The financing would be for ten years with principal payments of \$132,082.50 annually beginning Fiscal Year 2021 and ending Fiscal Year 2030. He further stated that with the School construction at the Hosmer School, the O'Connell playground would not be available. The Filippello Park fields could be used for the Youth Sports Programs.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing; Councilor Piccirilli read statements sent to the Council.

Aaron Dushku – Garfield Street – Stated his [thanks for completing the project](#). He was grateful for the Town addressing the needs of the community and felt that the lighting solution was a good response to its needs.

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Street – Stated she advocated for the Dark Skies standards, but felt that the [specifications for the Grove Street Field](#) exceeded what was needed. A Class III designation is for a field with up to 2,000 spectators. She questioned as to whether this was a good time to proceed with the project in light of potential costs related to COVID – 19 demands.

Mark Leonard – Stated as one who is involved with youth sports that services over 600 Watertown children, he favored the lighting project. He mentioned that it is a challenge to schedule sports times on fields. With only three lighted fields, adding these two fields will be appreciated. His only caveat was that the fields be used only for Watertown children and that they not be rented out. He thanked the Council for moving forward with this project.

There being no other speakers, Council President Sideris closed the Public Hearing. He asked for a motion to authorize the Loan Order stating that the amount to be borrowed needed to be revised to \$1,301,825 as the suggested light replacement was deleted.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$1,301,825 under Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws or any other enabling authority to pay costs of installing sports field lighting and an upgraded scoreboard at Filippello park, including all 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 Gannon seconded the motion.

In the discussion that followed, the following items were mentioned:

- ♦ There would be two sets of controls located in the storage area of the restroom that would not be accessible to the public
- ♦ The lights were capable of being remotely controlled by computer by an Administrator; currently the Recreation Department controls the lighting
- ♦ There should be no spill over lighting to affect the neighborhood
- ♦ Previously the pathway lights near the dog park had about 30% of non-functioning lights; these have been repaired but the lights are not LED's
- ♦ Dark Skies Classification III: this is based on skill level of play and the anticipated number of spectators up to 2,000 while Dark Skies Classification IV is for a field where no spectators are anticipated
- ♦ Grove Street Field was classified as Class III (higher level of lighting); Arlington Street Field is Class IV (lower level of lighting)
- ♦ There had been several meetings with significant neighborhood turnout and the lighting plan was well received
- ♦ A post installation certification from Dark Skies would need to be submitted by the Town
- ♦ In an earlier study relating to the needs of use of the fields, it was determined that up to 80-90% of the fields were used by the Watertown School System or youth sports organizations
- ♦ A related concern for this project is the fence and the trees and how it relates to the safety of the field users
- ♦ There was a concern as to whether the loan order should be voted on due to current uncertain financial conditions; it might be better to wait and concentrate on funding items that help residents survive on a daily basis
- ♦ Despite financial concerns, there is a need for lighted fields especially in the fall in light of the Hosmer School renovations
- ♦ Despite uncertainty, the Town is in a good financial place due to careful and prudent financial management; the payments could easily be paid from various sources; and that costs of annual payments of \$130,000 is something the community can afford
- ♦ With the school start delay, the need for the fields begins at a later time and the need for lights increases especially in the fall with less daylight hours

The motion was adopted on an 8-1 roll call vote. All Councilors voted in the affirmative, except for Councilor Bays who voted in the negative.

7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds in the Amount of \$40,693 to the [Watertown Food Pantry](#) from 184 Donors Since March 13th in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mr. Driscoll stated the Town had received donations of \$40,693 from 184 donors for the Food Pantry: four individuals made donations of \$1,000 each and these foundations also provided substantial gifts

♦ Music for Food	\$1,420
♦ Payson Park Church	\$3,300
♦ Tufts Health Plan Foundation	\$5,000
♦ Watertown Community Foundation Resilience Fund	\$1,055

As a result, Kathy Cunningham, Watertown Food Pantry Coordinator, and her staff are able to efficiently distribute food purchased from Greater Boston Food Bank, Russo's, and other local grocers. Mr. Driscoll asked for the Council's favorable consideration in accepting this sum.

Council President Sideris thanked the residents and the foundations for their generous support of their fellow citizens.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of gifts of funds in the amount of \$40,693 to the Watertown Food Pantry from 184 donors since March 13th in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$45,000 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Council Reserve to the Fiscal Year 2020 Transfer to Capital Projects Account in Order to Move Forward with Proposed [Improvements at the John A. Ryan Arena](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the need for the improvements and stated that funds would come from the Town Council Reserve to upgrade the security system for a cost of \$25,000 and to re-vent the dehumidification system for a cost of \$20,000. He asked for the Town Council's favorable consideration.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the transfer of funds in the amount of \$45,000 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Council Reserve to the Fiscal Year 2020 Transfer to Capital Projects Account in order to move forward with proposed improvements at the John A. Ryan Arena; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There were no New Business requests.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town issued its eighth update on COVID-19 on Friday, April 24, 2020. As of the meeting date, there were

- ♦ 212 confirmed cases in Watertown, of which 51 have recovered
- ♦ 4 Town employees were infected; two have returned to work
- ♦ 9 virus related deaths

Governor Baker has extended the essential services opening only order for two weeks from May 4, 2020 to May 18, 2020. An Advisory Board has been established to produce a statewide reopening plan. The Town Hall, Senior Center, Library, and Parks and Recreation will remain closed during this time.

The Town's Board of Health will meet via Zoom to consider an Order requiring all residents to wear a face mask when out in public.

Mr. Driscoll thanked the Town employees who continue to aid and service the community. The Town has instituted social distancing and hygiene protocols to provide for the safety of the employees. He thanked the Town Council for being available to help and the community for their cooperation and efforts to limit the spread of the virus. He asked residents to check on their neighbors who may be alone.

If anyone had concerns, he suggested that they email the COVID-19 team at covid19@police.watertown-ma.gov or call the Police at 617-972-6500.

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

There were no requests for information.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Bays stated that the Watertown Community Foundation in partnership with Wayside has established a program for neighbors to connect with neighbors to provide assistance. Sophia Suarez Freeman is running the program and may be contacted at 617-744-9585.

She also requested that residents wear masks when they are out to help with containing the spread of the coronavirus.

President Sideris stated that Steve Magoon and Gideon Schreiber are working with Helen Chatel at CATV to create protocols for Zoom meetings with subcommittees; they will be submitted to the Town Council so that meetings can resume. The meetings will need to be limited because it is difficult to set up multiple meetings in one night.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Council President Sideris thanked Mr. Schreiber and Mr. Magoon for their efforts in working with cable to set up Zoom conferences for the public meetings. He [thanked all those who are working through this pandemic](#) to provide necessary services to the community: First Responders; the Emergency Management Team; Town Employees; and the Superintendent of Schools and the School community. He also thanked the Town residents for following guidelines that helps reduce the number of coronavirus incidents.

He stated that if anyone is interested, they may make donations to the Watertown Foundation to provide aid to the Food Pantry, or they can check the Town's website for suggestions to provide assistance for various needs. He urged residents to support local restaurants whose businesses are in need at this time.

He stated that despite the difficulties, the Town would come through this situation.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote at 8:26 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 May 12, 2020.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY HAVE REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the April 14, 2020 Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order – Men’s Locker Room in the Watertown Middle School – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 23, 2020 – Item 6A
3. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order – Filippello Park Field Lights and Scoreboard Upgrades – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 23, 2020 – Item 6B
4. Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditure – Food Pantry Donations – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 23, 2020 – Item 7A
5. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding Improvements at the John A. Ryan Arena – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 23, 2020 – Item 7B
6. Statement of Aaron Dushku Regarding Filippello Park Field Lights – April 23, 2020 – Item 7B
7. Statement of Elodia Thomas Regarding Filippello Park Field Lights – April 23, 2020 – Item 7B
8. Statement of Council President Mark Sideris Regarding the COVID-19 Situation – April 28, 2020 – Item 13