



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, MAY 12, 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 held a public meeting on Tuesday, May12, 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 had only 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

Thomas Sullivan – 11 Upland Park – Stated that [Arsenal Park](#), once a park to be prized, has lost its luster due to long-term neglect. He does not favor the renovation of Arsenal Park because the proposal eliminates many of the park's current recreational activity stations.

Daunte Howe – Lowell School Student – Stated that he has played at Arsenal Park and requested that the Council [fix the fields to improve play](#).

There being no other speakers; the Public Forum was closed.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the April 28, 2020 Town Council Meeting

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

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Sideris stated that an online meeting protocol had been established and was available on the Town's website. Only necessary and critical meetings would be held and there would only be one meeting per evening due to the difficulty of coordinating resources needed to provide public access. A comment was made that the Town Council have priority as they were the Town's legislative body.

Council President Sideris further stated that on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, the bids for the construction of the Hosmer and Cunniff Schools were opened. The Town anticipated that the costs would be

- \$99,000,000 for the base bid
- \$700,000 for the Town's required 50% Solar on the roofs
- \$5,000,000 for the Solar equipment

There were two general contractors who bid on the project. The low bidder came in at \$92,335,000 and \$2,600,000 for solar issues. While the bid is under budget, there is a concern that there will be new costs related to COVID-19 procedures that need to be followed at the construction sites. The School Building Committee will meet on May 20, 2020 to discuss this matter.

6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS

Informational Presentation on the Proposed [Renovations and Improvements Related to Arsenal Park Phase A](#) - Glen Howard, CDM Smith

Mr. Driscoll provided historical and financial background on the project.

Glen Howard, CDM Smith, stated that Phase A renovations of Arsenal Yard are at the east end of the park, provide a formal gateway to the park, and will be for residents' use as passive open space. The project was broken into phases in part to use the Housing Choice Grant of \$200,000, which must be expended by June 2021, and will take about 3-4 months to complete in the October-November period. He stated that this might also be a good bidding environment as there have been few construction projects open for bid since the COVID-19 crisis.

Nicholas Watkins, Lead Landscape Architect at CDM Smith, stated the majority of the park will be for programmed active use; therefore, Phase A will focus on an unprogrammed open space. The park's emphasis is to provide an attractive entry point. There will be an eight foot raised knoll with a seating area to enhance park views and is handicapped accessible by an elliptical pathway. An abutting terraced lawn can be used for general activities. The pavilion will be adjacent to a tree bosque with picnic style seating situated on a stone dust surface. In addition, there will be a gateway sign between Arsenal Yards and Arsenal Park designed to emphasize the industrial past.

The plantings will be mostly native species that are excellent pollinators and will provide enhanced coloring in the spring and fall. The trees will be selected for minimal maintenance that can easily grow to mature size

A full irrigation system will allow for minimal maintenance of the area. The runoff from the berm and bosque areas will be collected and sent to two rain garden areas. Overflow will be sent to an underground storage tank and will be treated onsite so that the water will not be sent to the local sewer system.

Mr. Howard stated the cost of this portion of the project is estimated to be \$1,650,000 including a Pavilion. If the bidding is approved, the bidding period would be from May 28 – June 11, 2020. Town Council approvals could be completed on June 23 and July 14, 2020; construction would be completed by mid-November with a goal of having the landscaping and sod completed by the end of October.

In the discussion that followed, these matters were brought up:

TREES

- Honey locusts, which have a 4-6 inch caliper, will be used in the tree bosque area because they are good in high traffic areas, can provide a large canopy, and have a shallower root system that will utilize the moisture in the area
- In 5-10 years, the caliper should double and within 20 years, there should be a full canopy with trees touching each other in a 25 foot span
- The majority of the trees will have a 2.5 – 3 inch caliper similar to the ones planted at the entrance of Filippello Park
- All trees within the park should mature around the same time

TABLES – STONE DUST SURFACE

- Wheelchair accessible tables will be available in the bosque; the table seating will vary to accommodate people with needs
- The proposed square seating on the tables is uninviting and should be replaced with oval or round seats
- The stone dust was designed to minimum grades to provide a positive flow of slope water so as not to create rutting or water concentrating in a location
- The catch basins were elevated to the elevation of the stone dust
- The stone dust will be placed on a layer of stone to aid the water infiltration
- Stone dust stabilizer will be applied to the surface for high traffic areas
- There will be some tracking of the stone; the concrete will need sweeping

TRASH

- Three to four Big Belly trash receptacles that notify when filled and will be placed at main access points
- There should be an agreement with Arsenal Yards for daily maintenance of the area

RAIN GARDENS

- The rain gardens will capture water prior to draining into the subsurface drainage system
- They are needed to meet storm water reductions and will aid the quality of the storm water before it is released to the drainage
- The gardens should remove about 90% of the phosphorus suspended solids before being stored in the infiltration chamber

PARK USAGE

- The Pavilion is planned as an event space
- The berm and lawn will provide partial views to the river especially during the spring and fall and is intended to be used for informal activities
- The Conservation Commission and Recreation Department would need to determine if the use of some areas need to be reserved or are able for reservation

CONSTRUCTION STAGING

- Staging will be kept to a minimum; most of the earthwork will be to install the subsurface for drainage
- Staged elements will be on the tennis courts

PROJECT PROCESS

- Town Council will need to permit the Town to bid the project
- The Town will create a bid package in May
- The project will be bid the first two weeks in June
- The First Reading of the Loan Order will be on June 23, 2020 and the Public Hearing and Vote will be on July 14, 2020
- The borrowing will be reduced by \$700,000: \$500,000 will be from mitigation funds from Arsenal Yards and \$200,000 from the Housing Choice Grant

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Arsenal Park Phase A project go out to bid as presented; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Referral to the Committee on Personnel and Town Organization to Review and Update the Evaluation Tool Used for the Town Auditor and the Town Council Clerk

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer to the Committee on Personnel and Town Organization the review and update of the evaluation tool used for the Town Auditor and the Town Council Clerk; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

A. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Licensing Board

Mr. Driscoll stated that he was seeking the reappointment of Donna Doucette to the Licensing Board for a term to expire on February 15, 2022. Under Town Council Rules, the matter is referred to the Committee on Personnel and Town Organization.

B. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners

Mr. Driscoll stated that he was seeking the reappointment of Christopher Dunn to the Board of Election Commissioners for a term to expire on April 1, 2024. Under Town Council Rules, the matter is referred to the Committee on State, Federal, and Regional Government.

Mr. Driscoll mentioned his office sent out its tenth COVID-19 notice to the community the previous Tuesday. He also provided a status of the COVID-19 situation in Watertown:

- 331 confirmed cases of Coronavirus with 148 recovered
- 4 employees had COVID-19; 2 employees have returned to work
- 22 fatalities due to the virus

He thanked the Town Council for making itself available to the community; the employees who are meeting the needs of the community while trying to protect their safety; and the community for cooperating in their actions to limit the spread of the virus. He asked for neighbors to check up on each other, and if there were any concerns to call the Police at 617-972-6500.

9. CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENTS

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

There were no requests for information.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Palomba asked if the Town could recover the costs related to new construction site safety protocols under the Disaster Recovery Declaration of the Commonwealth. Council President Sideris stated this would be reviewed.

Council President Sideris thanked the Administration and the First Responders for their efforts and extended his sympathies to those who have lost family and friends to COVID-19. Watertown has lost 22 people and he asked the community to stay vigilant to continue to save lives. He thanked the community for cooperating with their actions to contain the spread of the virus despite our desires to return to a more robust life style.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

Councilor Piccirilli read remarks from Mary Russo who raised concerns about the [safety of the schools](#), including the one that will be used in Waltham, and the effects the buildings will have on the children.

She also asked for the date and time of the School Building Committee meeting.

Council President Sideris stated it would be on May 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 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 26, 2020.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the April 28, 2020 Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Statement of Thomas Sullivan Regarding Arsenal Park Renovations – May 12, 2020 – Item 3
3. Statement of Daunte Howe Regarding the Playing Conditions of the Arsenal Park Fields – Item 3 – May 12, 2020
4. Agenda Item – Informational Presentation Regarding Arsenal Park Renovations Phase A – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 7, 2020 – Item 6
~ Arsenal Park Phase A - Town Council Presentation, Town of Watertown, May 12, 2020 – CDM Smith
5. Request for Confirmation – Reappointment to the Licensing Board – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 12, 2020 – Item 8A
6. Request for Confirmation – Reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 12, 2020 – Item 8B
7. Statement of Mary Russo Regarding the Health and Safety Conditions of School Facilities – May 12, 2020 – Item 12