



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, JUNE 23, 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 held a public meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 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 was televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <https://wcatv.org/government-channel/>
- B. Public was permitted to join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public was permitted to join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344#
- D. Public was permitted to 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; therefore, the forum was closed.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the June 8, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes as written with a correction of the title from Agenda to Minutes; Councilor Woodland seconded the minutes. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There were no comments made under President's Report.

6. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds in the Amount of \$64,786 to the [Watertown Food Pantry](#) from 255 Donors for the Period of April 27 – June 17, 2020 in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Food Pantry received several donations to help people in the community. Donations of \$21,250 were from ten generous donees:

- \$1,000 each from Armenian Memorial Church, Bay State Consultants, and G M Walsh Plumbing
- \$1,250 from St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church
- \$1,500 each from Grace Chapel, Arsenal Yards, and Roche Brothers
- \$2,500 from Francis Market
- \$5,000 each from Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation and Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation

He thanked all who gave and stated that the funds were used to purchase food from the Greater Boston Food Bank, Russo's, and various other grocers. Mr. Driscoll thanked the Watertown Foundation for processing credit card donations and the Food Pantry and Kathy Cunningham and her team. The Community has donated \$105,479 between this gift and a previous gift of over \$40,000.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of gifts of funds in the amount of \$64,786 to the Watertown Food Pantry from 255 donors for the period of April 27 – June 17, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. Resolution Approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property of a Used [32" Vizio Flat-Screen Television](#) from the Estate of Mr. Ted Wayne.

Mr. Driscoll stated that the TV was a donation from the estate of Ted Wayne and would be mounted in the Senior Center to list daily programs and upcoming events.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance of gift of tangible personal property of a used 32” Vizio Flat-Screen Television from the estate of Mr. Ted Wayne; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. Resolution Approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property of 8 Pre-Owned, [Lenovo Thinkpads](#) via the Watertown Community Foundation and the Efforts of Ms. Natalie Singer of Brandwatch.

Mr. Driscoll stated that this was a gift of eight Thinkpads to assist seniors access to Senior Center virtual programming via Zoom and to help reduce social isolation of citizens.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance of a gift of tangible personal property of 8 pre-owned, Lenovo Thinkpads via the Watertown Community Foundation and the efforts of Ms. Natalie Singer of Brandwatch; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- D. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$45,416 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2020 Transfer to Capital Projects – [Radio Room @ Arsenal Yards](#) Account in order to Move Forward with Addressing the Future Radio Needs of the Town.

Mr. Driscoll stated that this is a request to address future radio needs for the Town. This would add repeaters, transmitters, microwaves and other equipment on the roof top of Building C at Arsenal Yards; Boylston Properties would provide a room on the top floor to house the equipment. The transfer would cover the cost for the construction of the radio room.

Fire Chief Quinn stated that this amount would allow for the housing of the equipment and added some antennas to the roof as well provide a lease of \$1/year for 24-hour building access. Boylston Properties would like to complete this construction. Also, the current radio equipment is nearing the end of its life span.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$45,416 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2020 Transfer to Capital Projects – Radio Room @ Arsenal Yards Account in order to move forward with addressing the future radio needs of the town; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

During the discussion that followed, Chief Quinn stated that this is the first step in improving the radio transmission of the Town by providing a space to house the equipment. He also stated this change would reduce the need for Bi-Directional Amplifiers (BDA) in the surrounding buildings. Such equipment is often needed in high rises because the building density often creates communication dead spots. The equipment will provide better transmission capability in the East End. Currently the Town is using Fire Station #2 and a site on Coolidge Hill Road.

The Coolidge Hill site will probably not be used as the Arsenal Yards site will replace it; the other sites will still remain in operation. The equipment will improve coverage as it will permit the Town to have a site where it can both transmit and receive, something that is not currently available to the community.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- E. Resolution Authorizing a [Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \\$1,825,050](#) from the Fiscal Year 2020 Debt Retirement – Short Term Interest Account to the Fiscal Year 2019 Transfer to Capital Projects – Town Streets & Sidewalks, Transfer to Capital Projects - Town Filippello Lights and Transfer to Capital Projects – 3 Elementary School Project Accounts.

Mr. Driscoll stated that this transfer of money would be applied from Short Term Interest funds to reduce the amount of permanent borrowing for projects previously bonded:

1. Elementary Schools OPM Designer Services Loan Order originally borrowed in September 2019 at \$4,080,875 would be reduced by \$559,000, reducing the amount owed to \$3,521,875
2. The Streets and Sidewalk Improvements Loan Order originally borrowed in September 2019 at \$2,500,000 would be reduced by \$1,139,600, reducing the amount owed to \$1,360,400.
3. Filippello Lights and Scoreboard Loan Order originally borrowed in April 2020 at \$1,301,825 would be reduced by \$126,450, reducing the amount owed to \$1,175,375.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,825,050 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Debt Retirement – Short Term Interest Account to the Fiscal Year 2019 Transfer to Capital Projects – Town Streets & Sidewalks, Transfer to Capital Projects - Town Filippello Lights and Transfer to Capital Projects – 3 Elementary School Project Accounts; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- F. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,778,200 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Debt Retirement – Short Term Interest Account and the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2020 Transfer to Capital Projects – Arsenal Park Account in order to Move Forward with [Arsenal Park Phase A Improvements](#).

Mr. Driscoll provided some project background and stated that there were seven bids for this work that ranged from \$1,884,000 to \$3,363,275.

Mr. Howard of CDM Smith stated that the bids were 15% in excess of what was anticipated, but that they reflected market value as there were three bids within the estimated bid. The project could be rebid but he did not feel this would change the bids; it would also require the Town to reduce the quality of the materials.

The low bidder was Heimlich Landscape and Construction Corporation. They had previously completed work on the Filippello Park dog park renovations. The Town was happy with their work; they would be able to start work once the transfer is authorized.

Mr. Driscoll explained that the bid for services was \$1,792,000 plus \$92,000 for the addition of a pavilion for an amount of \$1,884,000. Included in this is a 5% contingency of \$94,200 which brings the total cost of the project to \$1,978,200. This amount is reduced by \$200,000 from the Housing Choice Grant; the amount needed for the transfer is reduced to \$1,778,200.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,778,200 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Debt Retirement – Short Term Interest Account and the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2020 Transfer to Capital Projects – Arsenal Park Account in order to move forward with Arsenal Park Phase A improvements; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- G. An Order Relative to [Release of a Highway Easement and Grant of Easements](#) by the Town to BP Retail Watertown and Grants of Easements to the Town by BP Retail Watertown and Arsenal Yards Holding at Arsenal Street and Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute the Aforesaid Documents on Behalf of the Town

Mr. Driscoll explained that the Developer is converting a residential property to an R & D Lab. This order would consist of an exchange of Arsenal Street easements so that the project can be completed with improved traffic flow.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute the documents releasing a highway easement and grant of easements by the Town to BP Retail Watertown and grants of easements to the Town by BP Retail Watertown and Arsenal Yards Holding at Arsenal Street on behalf of the Town; Councilor Donato seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business items were requested.

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town Hall was open to the public by appointment only. Any visitor must wear a face covering and remain socially distant. Business continues to operate by phone and online.

As of June 23, 2020, playgrounds and tot lots will be open as well as basketball courts. Picnic tables and grills will be available by permit only.

He thanked the Town Council for approving the expansion of outdoor restaurant seating and staff for streamlining the process. As a result, ten restaurants received temporary approval to serve outdoors.

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

There were no requests for information.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council President Sideris announced that the School Building Committee, the Project Architect, and the Project Management Team would be meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 for a Phase 1 Construction Groundbreaking ceremony at the Cunniff School. The public was invited but attendees must practice social distancing and wear masks.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers.

12. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 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 August 11, 2020.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the June 8, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditure for the Watertown Food Pantry – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 18, 2020 – Item 6A
3. Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property – Vizio Flat Screen Television for Use at senior Center – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 18, 2020 – Item 6B
4. Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property – Eight Lenovo Thinkpads – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 18, 2020 – Item 6C
5. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Town of Watertown Radio Upgrade – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 18, 2020 – Item 6D
6. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding Debt Retirement for Certain Loan Orders – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 18, 2020 – Item 6E
7. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding Arsenal Park Improvements – Phase 1 – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 18, 2020 – Item 6F
8. Agenda Item – Order Relative to Release of a Highway Easement and Grant of Easements by the Town to BP Retail Watertown and Grants of Easements to the Town by BP Retail Watertown and Arsenal Yards Holding at Arsenal Street and Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute the Aforesaid Documents on Behalf of the Town – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – June 18, 2020 – Item 6G