



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, SEPTEMBER 8, 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, September 8, 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. The 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 Driscoll, Town Manager, Steve Magoon, Assistant Town Manager and Director of Community Development and Planning, Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor and Assistant Manager for Finance, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Russ Arico – 49 Fayette Street – Suggested that if a new noise ordinance is passed that there should be a 5–year compliance period for replacement of equipment for contractors.

Mary Russo – Stated her concern that no apology was received from the Town regarding its earlier decision of using [100 Warren Street](#) as a polling place. She was concerned about the lack of adequate servicing of the construction site at the Hosmer School. She also requested changing the Town form of government to a mayor.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the July 14, 2020 Town Council Meeting](#)

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

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

A Proposed Resolution Regarding the [Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Process](#)

Council President Sideris read the resolution regarding the Budget Process. Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the Resolution regarding the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Process; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

He also thanked John Flynn, Town Clerk, and his staff for their efforts in the election as well as Tom Tracy, Steve Magoon, and Councilor Piccirilli for their work to create teams to make the process efficient.

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

Confirmation of the Proclamation Regarding the [Retirement of Patricia Farrell from the Watertown Free Public Library](#)

Council President Sideris read the proclamation honoring Patricia Farrell and wished her a happy retirement. Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the proclamation honoring Patricia Farrell on her retirement from the Watertown Free Public Library; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition for a Grant of Location from Comcast Cable Inc. to Install 1 X 3-Inch Conduit and New Vault East of Utility Pole

47 (3-Feet) Capturing Existing Conduit, Placing New Conduit from New Vault in Sidewalk to Building [365-375 Pleasant Street](#); also to Install a 1 X 3-Inch Conduit From Utility Pole 45 to Private Property Located at 345 Pleasant Street, each Conduit from Vault and Up Will Be 5-Feet in Length for a Total Footage of 10-Feet to the Property Line

Manuel Furtado representing Comcast stated that there is a need to provide two underground feeds for new construction on Pleasant Street. Comcast has worked with the DPW to ensure that this installation does not affect anything else in the area.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the grant of location from Comcast Cable Inc. to install 1 x 3-inch conduit and new vault east of utility pole 47 (3-feet) capturing existing conduit, placing new conduit from new vault in sidewalk to building [365-375 Pleasant Street](#); also to install a 1 x 3-inch conduit from utility pole 45 to private property located at 345 Pleasant Street, each conduit from vault and up will be 5-feet in length for a total footage of 10-feet to the property line; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition for a Grant of Location from Crown Castle Communications to place One 4-Inch PVC Communication Conduit from Utility Pole #12, Approximately 145 Feet ± Northeasterly to an Existing Private Property Manhole at [486 Arsenal Street](#) 100 feet ± of the Conduit to be Constructed Within the Public Right of Way

Bill Conway representing Crowne Castle Communications stated that the Grant of Location is being requested because the conduits into the building are full and a new location is being requested.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the grant of location from Crown Castle Communications to place one 4-Inch PVC communication conduit from utility pole #12, approximately 145 Feet ± Northeasterly to an existing private property manhole at 486 Arsenal Street 100 feet ± of the conduit to be constructed within the public right of way; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. In the discussion that followed, the address was clarified as 486 Arsenal Way.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to amend his motion to be the acceptance of the grant of location from Crown Castle Communications to place one 4-Inch

PVC communication conduit from utility pole #12, approximately 145 Feet ± Northeasterly to an existing private property manhole at 486 Arsenal Way 100 feet ± of the conduit to be constructed within the public right of way; Councilor Woodland seconded the amended motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition for a Grant of Location from NTSAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY to Install Approximately 15 ± Feet of Conduit in Cypress Street, Westerly from Pole 194/13, Thence Turning Southerly, Approximately 100 Feet West of Dexter Avenue to Replace the Existing Overhead Electric Service to [165 Dexter Avenue](#) with an Underground Electric Service

Jackie Duffy representing Eversource requested the grant of location.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the grant of location from NTSAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY to install approximately 15 ± feet of conduit in Cypress Street, Westerly from Pole 194/13, thence turning southerly, approximately 100 feet west of Dexter Avenue to replace the existing overhead electric service to 165 Dexter Avenue with an underground electric service; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading 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 \$355,000 under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(1) or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority, and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town therefor; for the Purpose to Pay Costs of [Purchasing a New Ambulance for the Fire Department](#), Including the Payment of All Costs Incidental or Related thereto. Any Premium Received Upon the Sale of any Bonds or Notes Approved by this Order, 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 that this matter would be taken up at the next Town Council meeting on September 22, 2020.

- B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$18,182 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2021 Transfer to Other Funds Account in order to [Fund the Local Match](#)

[Requirement for a Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Watertown Fire Department received a Federal Grant of \$200,000 to replace its radios. Fire Chief Quinn stated that the Department has 35 portable radios and that about 32% are at the end of their 8-10 year life expectancy. The manufacturer no longer supports the equipment; therefore, repairs are not available. With the new equipment, the clarity of communication will be enhanced and allow the firefighters to do their job better.

Mr. Driscoll stated the request is for the Town's local match for the equipment - \$18,182 with the Federal match being \$181,818.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$18,182 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2021 Transfer to Other Funds Account in order to fund the local match requirement for a Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award; 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 [6 Bike Share Stations and 38 Bicycles from MetroFuture, Inc.](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that this is a donation of 6 bike share stations and 38 bicycles for a value of \$224,257.60. The bikes will be leased and operated by Lyft.

Mr. Magoon stated that the Town received a grant to bring Blue Bikes to the community that will allow for a better coordinated bicycle share system in the Boston Metro Area. The Town has provided a share of \$100,000 - \$80,000 from a grant and \$20,000 from TMC funds. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council will receive the bicycles and give them to Watertown, who will then lease the maintenance and operation of the service to Lyft.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance of a gift of tangible personal property of 6 Bike Share stations and 38 bicycles from MetroFuture, Inc.; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

In the discussion, the following items were mentioned:

- The bicycles will be available year round and the stands may be removed during a severe snowstorm
- Signage should include a notice that helmets should be worn when using
- There will be seven stands – 3 on public property and 4 on private; the public sites are already available while the private sites are under negotiation

- There is a fee if the stand needs to be relocated; funds were set aside from TMC Funds for this potential cost
- Even though the Town will be the owner of the bicycles, the lessee in the agreement will hold the Town harmless of liability and if the Town is sued the lessee will defend the Town
- Any lost or stolen equipment is the responsibility of the lessee Motivate
- Although some calls may be received by the Town regarding the bicycles; most concerns will be placed with the lessee as they are responsible for the operation of the system

Councilor Piccirilli moved to amend the motion regarding the approval of the acceptance of a gift of tangible personal property of 6 Bike Share stations and 38 bicycles from MetroFuture, Inc. to include the words “the signage at the stations shall indicate riders need to wear helmets”; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion to amend the motion

The amended motion to approve of the acceptance of a gift of tangible personal property of 6 Bike Share stations and 38 bicycles from MetroFuture, Inc. which shall include signage at the stations that shall indicate riders need to wear helmets; seconded by Councilor Woodland was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding [Various Transportation Issues](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Appropriate the Transportation Network Company Funds as Follows:

- 1) \$8,000 in CY 2018 Funds for the Town of Watertown’s Annual 2020 TMA Dues
- 2) \$8,000 in CY 2019 Funds for the Town of Watertown’s Annual 2021 TMA Dues
- 3) \$20,000 in CY 2019 Funds to Pay for a Portion of the 7th Bluebike Station and Incidental Costs
- 4) \$5,488 in CY 2018 Funds to Remain Unappropriated for Any Allowable Future Use
- 5) \$35,257 in CY 2019 Funds to Remain Unappropriated for Any Allowable Future Use

Councilor Woodland read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Committee Report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appropriate \$8,000 of the CY 2018 Transportation Network Company Funds for the Town of Watertown’s annual 2020 TMA dues; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appropriate \$8,000 of the CY 2019 Transportation Network Company Funds for the Town of Watertown's annual 2021 TMA dues; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appropriate \$20,000 of the CY 2019 Transportation Network Company Funds for a portion of the seventh Bluebike Station and incidental costs; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to have \$5,488 of the CY 2018 Transportation Network Company Funds remain unappropriated for any allowable future use; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to have \$35,257 of the CY 2019 Transportation Network Company Funds remain unappropriated for any allowable future use; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Committee on State, Federal, and Regional Government Report Regarding a [Reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners](#) – Angeline B. Kounelis, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council Approve the Reappointment of Christopher Dunn to the Board of Election Commissioners to a Term to Expire on April 1, 2024

Councilor Kounelis read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to approve the reappointment of Christopher Dunn to the Board of Election Commissioners to a term to expire on April 1, 2024; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. Committees on Human Services and Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding the [Proposed Noise Ordinance](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair, Human Services; Anthony J. Donato – Chair, Rules and Ordinances

ACTION ITEM: Action on the Discussion and Vote of the Proposed Noise Ordinance Will be Placed on the Agenda at a Later Date

Councilor Donato read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Council President Sideris stated that the ordinance is an important issue that has been worked on for a long time. He stated that the Zoom format can be difficult and would like to meet in a more open manner to discuss the proposed ordinance; however, there may be a limit of having 25 people in the room. Due to complexity of the material, this will most likely be taken up at a special Town Council Meeting. He asked for the community's patience.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Palomba requested a referral to the Committee on Media and Public Outreach. Town Council President Sideris stated that under Council Rules the matter will be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

Councilor Feltner stated her appreciation of taking up the noise ordinance in a special meeting.

Councilor Gannon asked about the status of Charter Review; Council President Sideris stated that he would address the matter later in the meeting.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Watertown Housing Partnership has set up an Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide rental assistance for up to three months to those who have lost income due to COVID-19 with an income of less than 80% of the Area Median Income. The deadline for application is Thursday, September 24, 2020. Anyone needing service should contact Robyn Rufo at Metro West Collaborative at 617-923-3505, ext. 5 or email her at robyn@metrowestcd.org.

He mentioned Micro Enterprise Business Grants of up to \$10,000 are available and the Town is accepting applications to provide for emergency needs for small commercial operations with up to five employees.

He stated that the plastic bag ban would be reinstated on October 1, 2020.

Mr. Driscoll stated that he received the voting statistics for the September 1, 2020 primary ballot. There were 11,160 ballots cast; the breakdown of voting methods were

- Early ballots sent out, cast, and counted – 7,620
- Absentee ballots, cast, and counted – 250
- Early in person or Election Day in person voting – 3,290

He wished to thank John Flynn, Town Clerk, Mr. Flynn's staff, poll workers, the Board of Election Commissioners and others who helped. He mentioned that there is still a need for poll workers for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election.

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

Councilor Palomba stated that Governor Baker plans not to reduce local aid and that towns should expect to receive the same amount as last year. Based on that assumption, he asked how the Town Manager [plans to allocate that funding](#) especially as it relates to the hiring of a

- Assistant Town Manager
- Town Planner for the Department of Community Development and Planning
- Recycling/Solid Waste Coordinator at DPW
- Public Works Construction Inspector at DPW
- Community Outreach Librarian

He also requested information on the [status of the leadership of the DPW](#).

Councilor Kounelis requested a [tutorial for presenting the agenda on screen](#).

Councilor Gannon asked for a [report on the staffing for the upcoming election](#):

- Is the staffing sufficient?
- How will needed staff be added?
- Is the current funding for the election sufficient?
- Does state law allow the Town to tabulate and count absentee ballots prior to the election?
- How many ballot drop off boxes will there be in town?
- If there will only be one ballot drop off box near the Town Clerk's office, what was the rationale for the single drop off box?

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Palomba announced that on Sunday, September 13, 2020, there would be Zoom meeting from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm presented by the Task Force on Substance Abuse Disorder entitled “Erase the Stigma of Substance Abuse Disorders, Recovery is Possible”. The featured speaker will be Dr. John Kelly, Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Resource Recovery Institute. Dr. Laura Kehoe, a Watertown resident who is the Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Substance Abuse Bridge Clinic, will be the moderator. Anyone wishing to pre-register may do so at www.watertown-cares.com.

Councilor Feltner announced three upcoming meetings:

- Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., there would be a Zoom meeting regarding 48 North Beacon Street, the proposed location for a marijuana facility run by Sira Naturals, regarding its proposal and planned construction.

- Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., there would be a Zoom meeting with Crescent and WF Development at Arsenal Street for a Life Science Space
- October 1 and 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., there would be meetings regarding the Life Science Building at Galen Street by Boston Development Group and Elkus Manfredi Architects.

Councilor Palomba thanked Larry Fields, a new planner in the Department of Community Development and Planning, for his efforts and that of the Department of Community Development and Planning regarding the Emergency Rental Assistance Program; he urged all to inform others of the program and its deadline of September 24, 2020.

Town Council President stated applications were being accepted for Micro Enterprise Business Grants for businesses with 5 or less employees for emergency assistance up to \$10,000. Anyone interested may go to the Town's website that will link them directly to the online application at <https://massgcc.submittable.com/submit>.

He also announced that Charter Review will proceed; however, he was reluctant to start the process using Zoom meetings only. He has been reaching to possible appointees and hopes to create a hybrid model meeting as a meeting may not have more than 25 people in attendance. Further information will be provided at the end of the month or early October.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the public forum.

15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 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 October 13, 2020

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the July 14, 2020 Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Process – Item 5
3. Proclamation Regarding the Retirement of Patricia Farrell – September 1, 2020 – Item 6
4. Grant of Location Request by Comcast Cable, Inc. Regarding 365-375 Pleasant Street – Gerald S. Mee, Superintendent of Public Works to Steve Magoon, Planning Director – March 19, 2020 – Item 7A
5. Grant of Location Request by Crown Castle Communications Regarding 486 Arsenal Way – Kevin Duffy, Project Engineer to Steve Magoon, Planning Director – July 30, 2020 – Item 7B
6. Grant of Location Request by NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY Regarding 165 Dexter Avenue – Kevin Duffy, Project Manager, to Steve Magoon, Planning Director – August 10, 2020 – Item 7C
7. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Purchase of New Ambulance – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 3, 2020 – Item 8A
8. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Local Match for FY2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 3, 2020 – Item 8B
9. Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property of Six Bike Share Stations and 38 Bicycles – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 3, 2020 – Item 8C
10. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding Various Transportation Issues – Kenneth Woodland, Chair – August 4, 2020 – Item 9A
 - Lyft/Bikeshare Agreement
 - Boylston Properties TDM Agreement
 - Request for Proposals Pleasant Street Shuttle Service
 - Wayfinding Signage Grant – July 27, 2020
 - Transportation Network Companies (TNC) Funds

11. Committee on State, Federal, and Regional Government Report Regarding a Reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners – Angeline Kounelis, Chair – July 22, 2020 – Item 9B
12. Committees on Human Services and Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding the Proposed Noise Ordinance – Anthony Palomba, Chair Human Services and Anthony Donato, Chair, Rules and Ordinances – August 11, 2020 – Item 9C
13. Request for Information Regarding the Allocation of Local Aid Funds – Anthony Palomba – September 8, 2020 – Item 12
14. Request for Information Regarding the Leadership of the DPW – Anthony Palomba – September 8, 2020 – Item 12
15. Request for Information Regarding the Presentation of the Agenda at a Zoom Meeting – Angeline Kounelis – September 8, 2020 – Item 12
16. Request for Information Regarding Staffing for the November Election – John Gannon – September 8, 2020 – Item 12