



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, JANUARY 26, 2021 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, January 26, 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://imd0mxanj2.execute-api.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ssr/live/60195e83b9696d00075a2e67>
- B. The Public was able to join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public was able 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 able 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, Director of Community Development/Assistant Town Manager, 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

There being no speakers, Council President Sideris closed the public forum.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the January 12, 2021 Town Council Meeting](#)

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

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Sideris requested that the Town Council authorize him to send a letter of thanks to Ms. Kathy Cunningham at the Watertown Food Pantry and all volunteers for their services during the pandemic.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize Town Council President Sideris to send a letter of thanks to the Watertown Food Pantry for their services during the pandemic; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

6. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution Approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property of [151 Pairs of New Sneakers](#) from Rob Marra, a Former Native of Watertown and Owner of Marra Flooring and Design, Ashland.

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the gift from Rob Marra to provide 151 pairs of sneakers for Watertown residents in need. He requested the Council's favorable consideration. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance of a gift of tangible personal property of 151 pairs of new sneakers from Rob Marra, a former native of Watertown and owner of Marra Flooring and Design, Ashland; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of \$100,000 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2021 [Fire Department Indemnification Account](#).

Mr. Driscoll stated the transfer request is needed due to a shoulder injury suffered by a firefighter on December 4, 2020. Surgery is anticipated to be \$80,000 and rehabilitation another \$20,000. He asked for the Council's favorable consideration.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the transfer \$100,000 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2021

Fire Department Indemnification Account; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. 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 \$921,800 under M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority for the Purpose of Paying Costs of [Replacing Two Boilers at the Middle School](#), and All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor; and That 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 Order in Accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §20, Thereby Reducing the Amount Authorized to Be Borrowed to Pay Such Costs by a Like Amount.

Mr. Driscoll indicated that this is a first reading of a request for a loan order to replace two boilers in the Middle School that are 21 years old and inefficient; they will be replaced by 5 smaller more efficient boilers. The matter will be advertised and a public hearing will be on February 9, 2021.

- D. First Reading and Referral to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing Regarding a Proposed Zoning [Amendment to the Central Business \(CB\) District](#).

Mr. Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning, stated that this was a request on behalf of Boylston Properties seeking to amend the Zoning law to permit the use of historic building for lab use in the Central Business District, a use that is currently not permitted.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing regarding a proposed zoning amendment to the Central Business (CB) District; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Committee on State, Federal and Regional Government Report Regarding [Repositioning Some Federal Public Housing Units at E Joyce Munger Housing to Section 8 Vouchers](#), Angeline B. Kounelis, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Submit a Letter of Support for the WHA Plan to Convert 50 Public housing Units at the E. Joyce Munger Building, 100 Warren Street to Section 8 Program, as Outlined

Councilor Kounelis read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report of the Committee on State, Federal and Regional Government Report regarding repositioning some federal public housing

units at E Joyce Munger Housing to Section 8 vouchers; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the submission of a letter of support for the WHA Plan to convert 50 public housing units at the E. Joyce Munger Building, 100 Warren Street to the Section 8 Program, as outlined; Councilor Gannon 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

Submission of the Proposed [Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program](#).

Mr. Driscoll spoke on the proposed FY 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) totals \$67,799,100 and is a decrease of \$56,351,400 from the previous CIP. The CIP has a subcategory of \$289,500,000 for the renovation/reconstruction of school facilities. The bonding requirement for the CIP is \$152,184,800; however, the bonding of \$53,235,800 for streets and sidewalks is not included in the total bonding amount. The funding source for \$6,400,000 for the reuse of the former police station (\$4,800,000) and the former North Branch Library (\$1,100,000), and the renovation of the Multi-Service Center (\$500,000) has not yet been determined.

The major items discussed include

- Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds Capital Improvement Program - \$22,670,000
- Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements - \$36,100,000 (the funding source is TBD)
- Options for town-wide replacement of water meters will be discussed
- DPW will be involved with inflow and infiltration removal; sewer and drain replacement and relining; water system improvements; and water main replacements. These projects will affect water and sewer rates; however, interest free loans and grants will minimize the impact on rate payers.
- Several 2020 Loan Orders were brought forward to the 2021 Loan Orders totaling \$85,536,000 – the two largest are \$64,000,000 for the elementary schools and \$7,500,000 for the high school funded through a debt exclusion vote
- The schools \$64,000,000 loan order will be reduced to \$52,154,000 due to a transfer of funds of \$4,640,000 and a reduction of premium of \$7,215,000 as the average interest rate of 1.343% will be assessed on the bonds.
- The funding of the High School project will be pushed to the FY 2022 CIP budget

- Bonding for Schools will be \$313,695,000 and includes the elementary and high school projects
- Leasing St. Jude School until 2023 will allow for the Cunniff and Lowell Schools to be completed two years earlier than originally planned. The Cunniff School will be completed at the end of 2021 and the Hosmer School will be completed by the summer of 2022. The changes to the Lowell School will begin in the summer 2022 and be completed by the end of 2023.
- The High School project is being funded with the aid of the MSBA. The preliminary design is completed and the preferred schematic study and report was submitted to the MSBA on December 29, 2020 for their approval. The plan would be a phased construction of a school using the Phillips Building and the current High School. If approved, the Town will complete a schematic design with the anticipated submission date being Fall of 2021
- \$200,000,000 is the anticipated cost of the High School Project and a successful debt exclusion vote is the anticipated source of funding.
- Over the next five years, the CIP budget for streets and sidewalks is \$105,333,400
- The Town Manager recommended issues that required discussion: the reuse of Town Buildings; the resolution of record storage management issues; the location of DPW staging areas; and the acquisition of land for open space/recreational use.

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

Councilor Kounelis stated that the lease for the [Drug Task Force](#) at 1 Arsenal Place will not be renewed and hoped that the administration would aid the Task Force in locating another place. The Town has benefitted from their presence. She requested an account of money the Police Department has received as a result of the Task Force's presence.

Councilor Feltner requested a list of [Boards, Commissions, and Committees](#) with a current membership, member contact information, and term periods.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Feltner stated that she attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting and that it was beneficial to learn that other communities also were working through difficult situations during this past year and that we are not alone in the COVID effort. She thanked all of those in public health and public safety for their efforts.

Councilor Piccirilli announced that there would be three Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committee meetings in February and that the recommendations would be considered at the March 9, Town Council meeting.

Councilor Kounelis announced that on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, there would be a community meeting regarding the Arsenal on the Charles property purchased by Alexandria. Information is on the Town website.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

There being no speakers; Council President Sideris closed the public forum.

13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 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 February 9, 2021.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the January 12, 2021 Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property Regarding the Donation of 151 pairs of Sneakers – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – January 21, 2021 – Item 6A
3. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request for the Fire Indemnification Fund - Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – January 21, 2021 – Item 6B
4. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Replacement of Two Boilers at the Middle School – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – January 21, 2021 – Item 6C
5. Agenda Item – First Reading on a Proposed Zoning Amendment to the Central Business (CB) District and Referral to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing - Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to the Town Council – January 21, 2021 – Item 6D
6. Committee on State, Federal, and Regional Government Report Regarding Repositioning Some Federal Public Housing Units at the E. Joyce Munger Housing to Section 8 Vouchers – Angeline B. Kounelis, Chair – December 22, 2020 – Item 7
7. Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – January 26, 2021 – Item 9
8. Request for Information Regarding the Relocation of the Drug Task Force – Councilor Angeline B. Kounelis – January 26, 2021 – Item 10
9. Request for Information Regarding a List of Boards, Commissions, and Committees – Councilor Lisa J. Feltner – January 26, 2021 – Item 10