



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, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 AT 6:15 P.M. MEETING WITH ONLY 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, February 9, 2020 at 6:15 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 6:15 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. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:15 P.M.

To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with the DPW Union, Town Hall Associates Union, Library Union, Fire Union, Police Patrol Union, Police Supervisors Union, as an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Town’s Bargaining Position

Councilor Piccirilli moved to enter into executive session; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. RETURN TO SESSION – 7:00 P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Russ Arico – 49 Fayette Street – Stated that the Bicycle – Pedestrian plan should stick to core issues and not promote environmental profiteers. He further added that no public fields should have artificial turf as such turf only benefits commercial interests.

There being no other speakers, the public forum was closed.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the January 26, 2021 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.

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

A. Confirmation of [Letter to the Watertown Food Pantry](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the letter sent on behalf of the Town Council to the Watertown Food Pantry; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. Consideration of Extending the CIP Recommendations from March 9, 2021 to March 23, 2021 and the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Submission Date from April 13, 2021 to April 27, 2021

Councilor Piccirilli moved to extend the CIP recommendations from March 9, 2021 to March 23, 2021 and the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget submission date from April 13, 2021 to April 27, 2021; Councilor Kounelis seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

C. Proclamation [Honoring Michael McNamara](#) on Becoming an Eagle Scout
Council President read the proclamation honoring Michael McNamara on becoming an Eagle Scout.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the proclamation honoring Michael McNamara on becoming an Eagle Scout; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

Councilor Feltner read an email from Chris Durocher, Boy Scout Volunteer, regarding [Mr. McNamara's achievements](#).

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Council President Sideris read a statement regarding Mr. McNamara's project of creating a locked storage area for the Food Pantry and congratulated him on his achievement and his entry into the U.S. Marine Corps.

Council President Sideris also commended the Department of Public Health for all of their efforts to help the citizens of Watertown.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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 \$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 provided background on the request for the new boilers. Ms. Kabel, Director of Public Buildings, stated the Middle School has two large boilers that are inefficient and require constant repairs. She noted that the normal shelf life of a boiler is 10-15 years; the boilers at the Middle School are almost 22 years old. They should be replaced before they break and can no longer provide heat for the school. The boilers will be replaced by five efficient boilers. The project should start around May/June and should be completed prior to the school opening in the fall.

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Loan Order would be for \$921,800 and would be funded over 10 years beginning FY 2022 and ending FY 2031.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing; there being no 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 \$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; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. A Resolution Authorizing Transfers in Order to [Fund an Agreement with the Town Hall Associates](#), SEIU, Local 888 Covering the Period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town had reached agreement with the Town Hall Associates Union for FY 20 – FY 22. Basic provisions include wage increases for FY 20 at 2.25%, FY 21 and 22 at 2% for each year; removal of a few supervisory positions from this agreement; changes in sick leave usage, longevity pay and clothing allowances. To complete the funding, there would need to be two transfers: one from the Town Council Reserve for \$356,625 and the other from the Water Reserve for \$21,629. He stated there would be a budget amendment request from the Stabilization Fund to replenish the Town Council Reserve for the FY 21 budget.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer \$356,625 from the Town Council Reserve to fund the Town Hall Associates agreement; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer \$21,629 from the Water Reserve to fund the Town Hall Associates agreement; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. 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 \$2,500,000 under Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws or any Other Enabling Authority to Pay Costs of [Constructing, Reconstructing, Paving, Repairing or Otherwise Improving Streets and Sidewalks](#), Including if Necessary, Convenient or Desirable Improving Underground Ducts and Conduits and Paying All Other Costs Incidental and Related to Such Street and Sidewalk Work, Including if Necessary, Convenient or Desirable, Underground Duct or Conduit Improvements, and

the Payment of All Other 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 background on this request and stated that it would be taken up at the February 23, 2021 Town Council meeting.

- 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 \$548,000 under M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority for the Purpose of Paying Costs of [Installing an Air Conditioning System in the Middle School Cafeteria](#), and All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor. 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 provided background on this request and stated that it would be taken up at the February 23, 2021 Town Council meeting.

- D. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$20,000 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2021 [Police Department Indemnification Account](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that three police officers were injured and all required surgery and rehabilitation: two officers had shoulder surgery and the third had knee surgery.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer funds in the amount of \$20,000 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Town Council Reserve Account to the Fiscal Year 2021 Police Department Indemnification Account; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- E. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$4,640,000 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Debt Retirement – Planned Debt Account to the Fiscal Year 2021 Transfer to Capital Projects – 3 Elementary Schools Project Account in Order to Pay Costs Related to [Financing the Construction of a New Hosmer and Cunniff Elementary Schools](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background. Councilor Piccirilli moved to transfer funds in the amount of \$4,640,000 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Debt Retirement – Planned Debt Account to the Fiscal Year 2021 Transfer to Capital Projects – 3 Elementary Schools Project Account in order to pay costs related to financing the construction of a New Hosmer and Cunniff Elementary Schools; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the [Wayfinding Grant Design](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair

Councilor Woodland read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. Councilor Feltner stated that the minutes should be tabled as there were substantive material not included in the report. Councilors Piccirilli and Woodland withdrew the motion to accept the report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to table the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report to address the changes regarding the Wayfinding Grant Design; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding Special Legislation to Enable Local Control over [Transitioning from Beer and Wine Package Store Licenses to All Alcohol Package Store Licenses](#) – Anthony J. Donato, Chair

Councilor Donato read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. Councilor Feltner offered a slight correction to the minutes. Under COVID requirements, the minutes must reflect when someone gets disconnected. She stated that she was disconnected between 5:47 and 5:49 and asked that the report be revised to reflect that information. The motion with the correction was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. Committees on Economic Development and Planning and Public Works Report Regarding the [Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Report](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair, Economic Development and Planning; Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair, Public Works

ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Accept the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Report, with Added References to the 100% Renewable Energy Resolution, and the Addition of the Commission on Disability to the Report, Subject to the Condition that the Administration Develop Implementation Plans for Specific Recommendations, for Review by the Town Council, Prior to Proceeding

Councilor Piccirilli read the report of the Committees. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the rReport; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Report, with added references to the 100% Renewable Energy Resolution, and the addition of the Commission on Disability to the Report, subject to the condition that the administration develop implementation plans for specific recommendations, for review by the Town Council, prior to proceeding; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Feltner asked for information regarding the scheduling of meetings. Council President Sideris stated that he would clarify matters with Ms. Chatel at WCATV. He further stated that Ms. Chatel is trying to get more help due to the Town's busy schedule.

Council President Sideris also stated he would be seeking a referral of a 311 System to the Committee on Public Works.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

[Watertown Housing Plan](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that Mr. Magoon is seeking a referral to a Committee to discuss the proposed Watertown Housing Plan. Council President Sideris stated that he would like to refer the matter to the Human Services Committee, which has completed a substantial amount of work on the matter, and the Economic Development and Planning Committee, which is charged with Housing under Town Council Rules. He also stated that the EDP Committee should take charge of the matter and that a report should be made within two months.

Councilor Piccirilli moved the matter; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Driscoll stated the Town has issued it 45th update on COVID-19. As of the meeting day, there are 1,949 confirmed cases in Watertown, of which 1,799 have recovered; 25 employees have been infected; and there are 31 fatalities due to COVID-19. The Town's free COVID-19 testing has had a positive response from the public. He thanked Mr. Tracy for his efforts as the lead on this program. The Town is using the Commonwealth's guidelines and has received 200 doses of the vaccine which will be distributed on February 10, 2021; that will assist 12.3% of the 1,600 people who are over 75 in Watertown. An additional 100 doses will soon be available. Ms. Gagnon, Director of the

Council on Aging, has been assisting make appointments for people who have limited access to the internet or have insufficient computer skills. Senior Housing residents will receive their vaccines from the Commonwealth; the Board of Health will partner with the Housing Authority to vaccinate residents. Over the weekend, 536 employees and residents of Perkins School for the Blind were vaccinated; the Board of Health received commendation for the high quality of their work. To date, 749 vaccines have been given out; 186 were for first responders.

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

Councilor Feltner stated she was impressed with the work of the Department of Public Health and recommended a change in the wording that the deadline to register had expired to all appointments were filled.

Councilor Bays requested an opinion as to [whether Title III, Chapter 30 needs to be updated](#) as there are references to Town Meeting which has not existed for forty years.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments made at the Public Forum.

16. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn; Councilor Gannon 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 March 9, 2021.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 AT 6:15 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the January 26, 2021 Town Council Meeting – Item 6
2. Letter to the Watertown Food Pantry Regarding Its Service to the Town During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Mark S. Sideris, Town Council President, to Kathy Cunningham and the Watertown Food Pantry Volunteers – Item 7A
3. Proclamation Honoring Michael McNamara on Becoming an Eagle Scout – Item 7C
4. Email Regarding Michael McNamara – Chris DeRocher, Watertown Scout Volunteer, to Councilor Lisa Feltner – February 9, 2021 – Item 7C
5. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Replacement of Two Boilers in the Middle School – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to the Town Council – January 21, 2021 – Item 8
6. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Replacement of Two Boilers in the Middle School – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to the Town Council – February 4, 2021 – Item 8
7. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding Watertown Town hall Associates, SEIU, Local 888 – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to the Town Council – February 4, 2021 – Item 9A
8. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding Street and Sidewalk Improvements – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to the Town Council – February 4, 2021 – Item 9B
9. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Addition of Air Conditioning in the Middle School Cafeteria – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 4, 2021 – Item 9C
10. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding Additional Funding of the Police Indemnification Account – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 4, 2021 – Item 9D
11. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Funding of the Construction of New Hosmer and Cuniff Elementary Schools – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 4, 2021 – Item 9E
12. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the Wayfinding Grant Design – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair – January 21, 2021 – Item 10A

- Attachment A – Revised Wayfinding Logo
 - Attachment B – Examples of Logos for Other Communities
13. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding Special Legislation to Enable Local Control over Transitioning from Beer and Wine Package Store Licenses to All Alcohol Package Store Licenses – Anthony J. Donato, Chair – January 29, 2021 – Item 10B
 14. Committee on Economic Development and Planning and Public Works Report Regarding the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Report – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair, Economic Development and Planning and Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair, Public Works – January 21, 2021 – Item 10C
 15. Watertown Housing Plan – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 4, 2021 – Item 12
 16. Request for Information Regarding Title III, Chapter 30 – Councilor Caroline Bays – February 9, 2021 – Item 13