



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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021, AT 6:30 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, May 25, 2021, at 6:30 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): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- 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 6:30 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, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Lisa J. Feltner arrived at 6:41 p.m. Also present were Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, Steve Magoon, Director of Community Development/Assistant Town Manager, Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor/Assistant Manager for Finance, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 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 Executive Session 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 Gannon 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

There being no speakers, the Public Forum was closed.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Minutes of the April 13, 2021 Town Council Meeting

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

B. Minutes of the April 27, 2021 Town Council Meeting

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

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Sideris stated that there would be a community meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. regarding the High School Project.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Council President Sideris returned to the Public Forum.

Russ Arico – Fayette Street – Stated that the Town has benefitted from the conservative fiscally sound procedures used by the Town Manager. He is concerned, however, as to how long this will last, especially if the Town Manager were to retire and a weak one were hired in his place. The Town is adding several positions; he hoped that if need be they would be laid off prior to all public safety and education positions. He asked all candidates to pledge to this policy.

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of [Gifts of Funds in the Amount of \\$187,253 to the Watertown Food Pantry from 799 Donors Since June 22, 2020 in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Food Pantry had received generous support from the community with both in-kind and cash donations and he was grateful for people's support. Since June 22, 2020, 799 donors have given \$187,253 in donations; several were for \$1,000 or more which allowed the Food Pantry to purchase food the Greater Boston Food Bank, Russo's, and other grocers. From July 1, 2020 to May 7, 2021, \$72,542 has been spent to assist the community. He asked for the Town Council's favorable consideration.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of gifts of funds in the amount of \$187,253 to the Watertown Food Pantry from 799 donors since June 22, 2020 – April 30, 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds in the Amount of \$1,400 from [Watertown Savings Bank and Eversource](#) to Offset Expenses Related to the "Saltonstall Park Concert Series."

Mr. Driscoll stated the Town had received two gifts to offset the costs of the Summer Concert Series: \$900 from the Watertown Savings Bank and \$500 from Eversource. The Concerts will begin June 23, 2021, and will run for 12 Wednesdays from June 23, 2021 until September 8, 2021. He asked for the Council's favorable consideration for the gifts.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of the gifts of funds in the amount of \$1,400 from Watertown Savings Bank and Eversource to offset expenses related to the "Saltonstall Park Concert Series"; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. Resolution Approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property from [Ben & Jerry's for the "Saltonstall Park Concert Series."](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that Ben and Jerry's of Watertown would like to provide ice cream samples at some of the concerts and asked for the Council's favorable consideration of this gift.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance of a gift of tangible personal property from Ben & Jerry's for the "Saltonstall Park Concert Series."; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- D. Resolution Approving the Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property from the ["Perfect Crime" Band for the "Saltonstall Park Concert Series."](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated the “Perfect Crime” band, a classic rock band, was donating a free concert on August 25, 2021, as a way to pay it forward to thank first responders.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance of a gift of tangible personal property from the “Perfect Crime” Band for the “Saltonstall Park Concert Series.”; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- E. An Order Relative to a Temporary Construction [Easement Agreement relative to Property at 204 Arsenal Street among Watertown Gables LLC; BP3-BOS4 85 Walnut Street LLC and the Town of Watertown](#) and Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute the Temporary Construction Easement Agreement on Behalf of the Town; and An Order Relative to an Amendment to Grant of Easements between Watertown Gables LLC and the Town of Watertown and Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute the Amendment to Grant of Easements on Behalf of the Town

Mr. Driscoll stated that there are two easement orders being considered: one at 204 Arsenal Street and the other at 85 Walnut Street. The order for Arsenal Street, as an adjoining property, would create temporary easements to allow for the relocation of a sewer line and a pedestrian path in order to not interfere with the construction of buildings at 85 Walnut Street. The order for 85 Walnut Street would amend the previous easement and relocate the sewer line and the pedestrian path.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the order relative to a Temporary Construction Easement Agreement relative to property at 204 Arsenal Street among Watertown Gables LLC BP3-BOS4 85 Walnut Street LLC and the town of Watertown and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Temporary Construction Agreement on behalf of the Town; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion.

In the discussion, a clarification was made regarding the Indemnification Agreement, the status of the pathway, the recording of the second easement, and the location of the pedestrian path.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve an order relative to an amendment to grant of easements between Watertown Gable LLC and the Town of Watertown and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the amendment to grant of easements on behalf of the Town; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Committee on District D Councilor Vacancy Report Regarding the [Process for Filling the District D Vacancy](#), Anthony J. Donato, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

That the full Town Council adopt the process recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on District D Councilor Vacancy

Councilor Donato read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion.

A question was raised as to how the request to seek election for the seat would be enforced. Attorney Reich stated there is no mechanism for preventing the appointee from seeking election, but if the appointee were to do so, that person would not be listed as the incumbent on the ballot and the appointment would automatically be revoked.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the process recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on District D Councilor Vacancy; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 6-2. All Councilors voted in the affirmative except for Councilor Kounelis and Council President Sideris who voted in the negative.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A Referral to the Committees on Rules and Ordinances and Personnel and Town Organization for Consideration of an Ordinance Establishing the Position of a Research Analyst for Appointment by the Town Council.

Councilor Feltner requested the referral. Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer to the Committees on Rules and Ordinances and Personnel and Town Organization the consideration of an ordinance establishing the position of a research analyst for appointment by the Town Council; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 7-1. All Councilors voted in the affirmative, except for Councilor Kounelis who voted in the negative.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

[Firearms Restrictions in Zoning](#)

Mr. Driscoll mentioned that a request is being made regarding restrictions on firearms and zoning. It was stated that is not a prohibition of the business but like the cannabis solution, it is a matter of determining where the business might fit in the community.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the matter to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

The Town Manager spoke about the several Memorial Day observances:

- Wednesday May 26, 2021, volunteers would be placing flags on the graves of veterans at the Ridgelawn and St. Patrick's Cemeteries.
- Friday, May 28, 2021, there would be the 1st Annual Poppy Picnic at the Commander's Mansion. A conceptual design of a veterans garden would be presented along with information regarding a brick wall dedication sponsored by local businesses.
- Sunday, May 30, Veterans organizations would process through Town to honor veterans.
- Monday, May 31, the Watertown High School band would observe the holiday at Victory Field at 10:30 a.m. The Waltham Legion Band would be playing music, followed by speeches, closing with Taps.

All events were planned by Patrick George of the Veterans Office.

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

Councilor Feltner requested information on when Irving Street between Mount Auburn and [North Beacon Streets reconstruction would be completed, and will there be a MassDOT 25% Design Public Hearing](#) to be held for the Mount Auburn Street project.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

Mary Russo – Asked when the Town Council meetings would return to its open forum. Council President Sideris mentioned that the Council is awaiting guidance from the Governor and the Legislature.

Anne Fitzpatrick – Stated she was glad the Town Council made the requested referral for the Council Analyst. She also hoped that other items such as the Council salaries and the establishment of a human rights commission would be given serious consideration so that the Town Charter does not have to include what items that should be managed by Town ordinances.

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

15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. Council President Sideris stated that the Council would be moving into the Committee of the Whole to consider some budget items after the adjournment. The motion to adjourn was adopted on a unanimous roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 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 _8_ for, _0_ against, _0_ present on June 8, 2021.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021, AT 6:30 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the April 13, 2021 Town Council Meeting – Item 6A
2. Minutes of the April 27, 2021 Town Council Meeting – Item 6B
3. Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditures Regarding Donations Received by the Watertown Food Pantry – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 20, 2021 – Item 8A
4. Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditures Regarding Gifts of Funds from Watertown Savings Bank and Eversource to Offset the Expenses of the Saltonstall Park Concert Series – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 20, 2021 – Item 8B
5. Agenda Item – Acceptance of A Gift of Tangible Personal Property Regarding the Donation of Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream Samples at the Saltonstall Park Concert Series – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 20, 2021 – Item 8C
6. Agenda Item – Acceptance of A Gift of Tangible Personal Property Regarding the Donation of Free Concert by the “Perfect Crime” Band – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 20, 2021 – Item 8D
7. Agenda Item – An Order Relative to a Temporary Construction Easement Agreement Relative to Property at 204 Arsenal Street; and Order Relative to an Amendment to Grant of Easements – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 20, 2021 – Item 8D
8. Ad Hoc Committee on District D Councilor Vacancy Report Regarding the Process for the Selection Method a Town Councilor to Fill the Vacant District D Seat – Anthony Donato, Chair – May 17, 2021 – Item 9
9. Firearms Restrictions in Zoning – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council, May 20, 2021 – Item 11
10. Request for Information Regarding the Irving Street Construction and the Public Hearing for the MassDOT Mount Auburn Street Repair Program – Councilor Lisa J. Feltner – May 25, 2021 – Item 12