



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, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 AT 6:15 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER SECOND FLOOR, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

MINUTES

The public is invited to attend the meeting in the Richard E Mastrangelo Council Chamber or participate remotely using any of the public access methods listed below:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/#/watertown/video/5f490e6f9e1d640008a803ae?page=HOME&type=live>
- B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public may 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 may 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 the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present in Chamber were Councilors Caroline Bays (until the end of the Executive Session), Anthony J. Donato, John G. Gannon, Lisa J. Feltner, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Those attending virtually were Councilors Caroline Bays (when the Council returned from Executive Session) and Angeline B. Kounelis. Also present were Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor/Assistant Manager for Finance, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:15 P.M.

To Consider the Purchase, Exchange, Lease, or Value of Real Property as an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Negotiating Position of the Public Body – Stanley Avenue – Parcel 807 1B 1A

Councilor Piccirilli moved to enter into executive session; 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

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

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Minutes of the [Town Council Meeting – August 10, 2021](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of August 10, 2021 as written; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously with Councilor Bays not being present for the roll vote.

B. Minutes of the [Charter Review Committee Meeting – August 3, 2021](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of the Charter Review Committee of August 3, 2021 with a revision of the title from “Agenda” to ”Minutes”; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously with Councilor Bays not being present for the roll vote.

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

A Proposed Resolution Regarding the [Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Process](#)

Council President Sideris read the resolution regarding the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Process. Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the proposed resolution Regarding the Fiscal Year 2023 budget process; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously with Councilor Bays not being present for the roll vote.

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

Proclamation Honoring Those [Watertown Citizens Who Served in the War in Afghanistan](#)

Councilor Piccirilli read the Proclamation. Mr. Patrick George, Veterans Services Officer, spoke regarding the proclamation and informed veterans that services are available for those returning home.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the proclamation honoring those Watertown citizens who served in the War in Afghanistan; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing and Vote to on a Petition for a Grant of Location from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY for Consideration of a Grant of Location for the Installation in Main Street, Northeasterly from Manhole MH11281, a Distance of About 70 ± Feet of Conduit. [Forest Street](#) at Main Street, Northeasterly to Pole 52/3, a Distance of About 253 ± Feet of Conduit. The Purpose of this Work is Necessary to Upgrade Existing Electrical System and to Improve Reliability in the Area. Upon Completion of the Department of Public Works Review, Said Work Is Subject to the Recommendations and Conditions by the Town Council Should the Grant of Location be Approved for This Application.

Joanne from Eversource provided background on the project. Councilor President Sideris opened the Public Hearing; there being no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the petition for a grant of location from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY for the installation in Main Street, Northeasterly from manhole MH11281, a distance of about 70 ± feet of conduit. Forest Street at Main Street, Northeasterly to Pole 52/3, a distance of about 253 ± feet of conduit. The purpose of this work is necessary to upgrade existing electrical system and to improve reliability in the area. Upon completion of the Department of Public Works review, said work is subject to the recommendations and conditions by the Town Council upon the approval of the grant of location for this application; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

A question was raised regarding the restoration of the street. Mr. St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works, stated the road is so narrow that the whole road will probably need to be repaved, but that will be worked out in the process.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Public Hearing and Vote to on a Petition for a Grant of Location from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY for Consideration of a Grant of Location for the Installation in Coolidge Hill Road Southerly from Pole 2/3, Approximately 248± Feet West of Kondazian Street a Distance of About 10± Feet of Conduit. This Work is Necessary to Provide OH/UG [Electric Service to 19 Coolidge Hill Road](#). Upon Completion of the Department of Public Works Review, Said Work Is Subject to the Recommendations and Conditions by the Town Council Should the Grant of Location be Approved for This Application.

Joanne from Eversource provided background on the project. Councilor President Sideris opened the Public Hearing; there being no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the petition for a grant of location from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY for the installation in Coolidge Hill Road Southerly from Pole 2/3, approximately 248± feet west of Kondazian Street a distance of about 10± feet of conduit. This work is necessary to provide OH/UG electric service to 19 Coolidge Hill Road. Upon completion of the Department of Public Works review, said work is subject to the recommendations and conditions by the Town Council upon the approval of the grant of location being approved for this application; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

A question was raised regarding rodent control. Mr. St. Louis stated that DPW is working with the Board of Health to remove the problem. It is looking to provide solutions for the problem.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

10. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the Amount of \$5,000 from Watertown Savings Bank to Offset Expenses Related to the [Faire on the Square 2021](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background information. He also thanked Mr. George for adding the responsibility of the Faire to his regular duties as Veterans Services Officer. The Faire will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2021, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Applications for booths will be accepted until September 20, 2021.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of a gift of funds in the amount of \$5,000 from Watertown Savings Bank to offset expenses related to the Faire on the Square 2021; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. First Reading on a [Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated the amendment relates to the receipt of additional funds of \$5,201,221 for the new High School Project for the preparation of the schematic design plan. The matter is to be considered in two weeks at the September 28, 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 \$423,826 Under M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority, to Pay the Costs of [Replacing the Town Hall Chiller](#), Including 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 stated this would be heard in two weeks at which time a full presentation would be made to the Council to replace the Chiller

- D. 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 \$410,000 Under M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority Including All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto: and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor; to Pay the Following Costs of the Following [Capital Projects for the Department of Public Works](#):

\$110,000 Improvements to DPW Building Sidewalks and Parking Lots
\$300,000 Replace and/or Add Underground Duct for Utilities to Roadways

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 to Be Borrowed to Pay Such Costs by a Like Amount.

Mr. Driscoll stated there would be full presentation in two weeks relating to underground ducts improvements as well as to the DPW sidewalks and parking lots.

- E. 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 \$1,628,000 Under M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority Including All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto: and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor to Pay the Costs of [Purchasing Equipment for the Department of Public Works](#):

\$243,000 Purchase Highway 48.000 GVW Dump Truck
\$265,000 Purchase Snow and Ice 6-Wheel Combo Body Truck
\$ 85,000 Purchase Highway Service Flatbed
\$120,000 Purchase Property and Building Sign Truck
\$ 85,000 Purchase Street Vactor (MadVac)
\$280,000 Purchase Salter 6-Wheel Snow Fighter
\$300,000 Purchase Snow and Ice Loader

\$250,000 Purchase Street Sweeper

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 stated this was a first reading for the purchase of eight capital equipment items. There would be a public hearing and a full presentation at the next meeting.

- F. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of \$19,549 from the Fiscal Year 2022 Town Council Reserve Account to the Town Manager Prior Year Full Time Salaries and the Fiscal Year 2022 [Town Manager Full Time Salaries](#) Accounts to Reflect the Adopted Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022 Compensation of the Town Manager.

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the matter. Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize a transfer of \$19,549 from the Fiscal Year 2022 Town Council Reserve Account to the Town Manager Prior Year Full Time Salaries and the Fiscal Year 2022 Town Manager Full Time Salaries Accounts to reflect the adopted ordinance amending the Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022 compensation of the Town Manager; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the [Reappointment of Members to the Planning Board](#) – Lisa J. Feltner, Vice-Chair

ACTION ITEM:

1. That the Town Council Confirm Jeffrey Brown for Reappointment to the Planning Board for a Term to Expire on February 15, 2024
2. That the Town Council Confirm Jason Cohen for Reappointment to the Planning Board for a Term to Expire on February 15, 2024

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to confirm the reappointment of Jeffrey Brown to the Planning Board for a term to expire on February 15, 2024; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to confirm the reappointment of Jason Cohen to the Planning Board for a term to expire on February 15, 2024; Councilor Gannon 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.

- B. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding Implementing a [Media Campaign to Increase Citizens' Awareness of the Proposed Charter Revisions](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Approve the Distribution of the Charter Review Committee's Final Charter Report, a Summary of the Questions Prepared by Town Counsel, an Exploratory Cover Letter, and the Vote by Mail Application No Later Than Three Weeks from the Date of the Election

Councilor Palomba read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. Councilor Gannon offered a friendly amendment stating that the legal citation in the report should read "Chapter 43B §11" rather than "Chapter 11 §43b". Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report as amended; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion as amended. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the distribution of the Charter Review Committee's final charter report, a summary of the questions prepared by Town Counsel, an exploratory cover letter, and the vote by mail application no later than three weeks from the date of the election; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

12. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items brought up.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Driscoll stated those concerts that were rained out this summer would be rescheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 22, and 29, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m.

The Faire on the Square is scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Farmers' Market will continue on Wednesdays and will close in October.

He also stated the Police Department has been reaccredited by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. In order to receive this honor the Department needed to meet 322 standards regarding policy development,

use of force, training requirements, emergency response planning, records and communication, property and evidence handling. Of the 351 cities and towns within the Commonwealth, only 95, or 27% of Massachusetts communities, have achieved this status.

On Monday, September 13, 2021, Melissa A. Morrissey was appointed as Treasurer/Collector for Watertown. Ms. Morrissey has had similar experience in East Bridgewater, Stoughton, and Braintree.

He also mentioned that Martin J. Walsh who had filled the same position as Ms. Morrissey had died on August 5, 2021 and that he had a major contributor to the development of the Town's five-year capital improvement plan. He extended his condolences to Mr. Walsh's family.

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

Both Councilors Kounelis and Palomba stated they had outstanding requests for information and requested a response to these inquiries.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Feltner announced that Commonwheels would be sponsoring an event on Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Little Greenough Boulevard. Events would include the provision of free bike helmets, a kids bike rodeo, a fix-it stations and other related activities.

Councilor Palomba thanked Lt. Unsworth for his efforts coordinating the Police reaccreditation.

He also announced that the Committees on Economic Development and Planning and Human Services would be holding a hybrid meeting in the Council Chamber on Thursday, September 16, 2021 on affordable housing with the Watertown Housing Partnership and the Department of Community Development and Planning.

16. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

17. 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 7:58 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 September 28, 2021.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021, AT 6:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
WITH REMOTE ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting – August 10, 2021 – Item 6A
2. Minutes of the Charter Review Committee Meeting – August 3, 2021 – Item 6B
3. Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Process – Item 7
4. Proclamation Honoring Those Watertown Citizens Who Served in the War in Afghanistan – Item 8
5. A Request for a Grant of Location for NSTAR Electric d/b/a Eversource to Place Conduit in Forest Street at Main Street (WO #4584680) – Department of Public Works – July 14, 2021 – Item 9A
6. A Request for a Grant of Location for NSTAR ELECTRIC d/b/a Eversource to Install of Conduit to Provide Electrical Service at 19 Coolidge Hill Road (WO# 4581478) – Department of Public Works – August 25, 2021 – Item 9B
7. Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditure to Offset Expenses for the Faire on the Square from Watertown Savings Bank – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 9, 2021 – Item 10A
8. Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 10, 2021 – Item 10B
9. Agenda Item Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Replacement of Town Hall Chiller– Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 9, 2021 – Item 10C
10. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Provision of Underground Duct for Utilities and Improvements to the Sidewalks and Parking Lots at the Department of Public Works – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 9, 2021 – Item 10D
11. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Purchase of Eight Pieces of Equipment for the Department of Public Works – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 9, 2021 – Item 10E
12. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request for the Compensation of the Town Manager – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 9, 2021 – Item 10F

13. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the Reappointment of Jeffrey Brown and Jason Cohen to the Planning Board – Lisa J. Feltner, Vice-Chair – August 24, 2021 – Item 11A
14. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding the Implementation of an Information Campaign to Increase Voters' Awareness of the Charter Review – Anthony Palomba, Chair – September 8, 2021 – Item 11B