



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, AUGUST 10, 2021 AT 6:15 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER MINUTES

The public may participate in person, or they may attend remotely by using any of the public access methods listed below:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- 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, Anthony J. Donato, 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), John G. Gannon, 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.

- A. 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 – One Arsenal Place.
- B. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to Comply With, or Act Under the Authority of, any General or Special Law or Federal Grant-In-Aid Requirements, Specifically to Review the Following Executive Session Minutes Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g): November 12, 2019 and November 10, 2020

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

Russ Arico – Fayette Street – He raised concerns about the proposed charter changes especially items relating to the public input on the Town Manager’s performance evaluation and the establishment of a Citizens’ Advisory Board. He feared such a Board would hinder the Town from finding quality candidates due to micromanaging. He urged citizens to vote no on the changes.

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

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the [July 13, 2021 Town Council Meeting](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes with a minor change in the heading from “Agenda” and replacing it with “Minutes”; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Release of Executive Session Minutes from November 12, 2019 and November 10, 2020

Council President Sideris stated there was a request for public records for the minutes of the stated executive session meetings. The minutes will be sent to the requestor by Thursday with an unrelated business matter redacted.

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

A. Proclamation of Appreciation for [COVID-19 Testing](#) in the Watertown Public Schools

Councilor Piccirilli read the Proclamation. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

In the comments, it was noted that Watertown’s actions made national news and the Watertown practices set the standard for other schools across the country. A thank you was also expressed for the efforts of the Department of Health and their staff in assisting the schools.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

The proclamation was given to the school nurses in thanks for their innovation. Dr. Galdston, Superintendent of Schools, thanked the Council for their recognition of what the team of nurse leaders and the Department of Health accomplished and for working with other districts to demonstrate Watertown's action plan. Dr. Galdston expressed her pride in Watertown school nurses being able to provide an example for the nation and surrounding communities, but she was especially proud of being part of the team effort that enhanced the health of children within the Commonwealth.

B. Acceptance of the [Report](#) and [Proposed Charter Revisions](#) Submitted by the Charter Review Committee

Mr. Ward, Director of the Collins Center, stated that the report link goes to the goes to final report. The proposed revisions link includes the red-lined changes of the charter; however, the link in 8C lists the suggested amendments. He suggested the report be accepted and the proposed changes be adopted so that the report could be forwarded to the Attorney General for review pursuant to Chapter 43B.

Council President Sideris stated the Charter Review Committee had an extensive number of meetings to review the charter and is proposing amendments to the Charter that will benefit the community.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report from the Charter Review Committee; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to amend the report links to include a complete copy of the report with the inclusion of a copy of the red-lined charter changes in the appendix. Councilor Palomba moved to include the Charter changes he suggested to the report section "Non-Charter Ideas Worthy of Implementation or Continued Discussion, and Topics Not Covered by the Committee but Worthy of Review".

The vote on accepting the report as amended was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proposed Charter revisions as approved by the Charter Review Committee; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a vote of 7-1. All Councilors voted in the affirmative except for Councilor Kounelis who voted in the negative.

C. Vote to Send the [Charter Amendments as Proposed](#) to the Attorney General for Review and Subsequent Submission of Approved Amendments to the Voters, Pursuant to Chapter 43B (Requires Two-Thirds Vote)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to send the Charter amendments as proposed to the Attorney General for review and subsequent submission of approved amendments to the voters, pursuant to Chapter 43B which requires a two-thirds vote; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a vote of 7-1. All Councilors voted in the affirmative except for Councilor Kounelis who voted in the negative.

D. Any [Other Steps](#) Needed to Finalize for [Transmittal to the Attorney General](#)

Based on the votes taken, there were no other steps that were needed to finalize the information to be transmitted to the Attorney General. Council President Sideris thanked the Collins Center for their efforts.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Ordinance [Amending the Town Manager's Compensation](#).

Council President Sideris read the ordinance that provided a 2% salary increase and a 1.5% performance bonus for Fiscal Year 21 and a 2% salary increase for Fiscal Year 22. He noted that a performance bonus was also provided to the Town Auditor and other Department Heads.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the ordinance amending the Town Manager's compensation; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing.

James Mello – Warren Street – Thanked the Manager for his service to the Town stating he deserves the compensation being provided. He felt the Town Manager has achievements that are the envy of other towns who wish they had the same opportunity for their budgets.

Elodia Thomas – Marion St – Thanked the Town Manager for his years of service and his steady administrative hand. She made a statement of appreciation for his fiscal responsibility and for all the accomplishments done over the years.

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

Councilors expressed their support for the compensation increase for Mr. Driscoll's many accomplishments during the COVID-19 crisis and over the years. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Council President Sideris requested a referral to the Committee on Media and Public Outreach to plan and implement, in conjunction with the IT Department, the Town Clerk, and community organizations, a media and outreach campaign

design to make Watertown residents aware of the results of the Charter Review Committee and how such information will appear on the ballot in the November election. Councilor Piccirilli so moved; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. 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 \$150.00 to Offset Expenses Related to the [“Faire on the Square 2021.”](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the gifts of funds given in memory of John Flynn, former Town Clerk, to offset costs of the Faire in the Square in the fall. Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of a gift of funds in the amount of \$150.00 to offset expenses related to the “Faire on the Square 2021”; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Resolution Approving the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the Amount of \$5,000.00 from The Reveliotty/Carosella Family for support of the [Pequossette Summer Program Facilitated by the Recreation Department.](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the gifts of funds to offset costs or other extraordinary costs of the camp program due to COVID-19 or offset costs of enrollment. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance and expenditure of a gift of funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Reveliotty/Carosella Family for support of the Pequossette Summer Program facilitated by the Recreation Department; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. An Order Accepting Pedestrian and Bicycle [Easements Across 330, 340 and 350 Pleasant Street to the Charles River Path](#) and Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute the Acceptance of said Easements

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the easements that were a zoning relief granted on February 8, 2017 providing pedestrian and bicycle access from Pleasant Street to Charles River Path. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the pedestrian and bicycle easements across 330, 340 and 350 Pleasant Street to the Charles River Path and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the acceptance of said easements; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Committee for the [Town Manager Search](#) Regarding the Development of a Request for Proposal – July 20, 2021 – Mark S. Sideris, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Proceed with the Request for Proposal as Amended by the Committee.

Council President Sideris read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Ad Hoc Committee report for the Town Manager Search regarding the development of a request for proposal – July 20, 2021; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to have the Town Council proceed with the request for proposal as amended by the Committee; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

12. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the Council.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Planning Board.

Mr. Driscoll sought the reappointment of Jeffrey W. Brown and Jason D. Cohen as members of the Planning Board for terms that expire on February 15, 2024. The matter under Town Council Rules would be referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning for their review and report.

He thanked the Council for their support of the ordinance regarding his compensation.

Mr. Driscoll stated that many summer concerts scheduled for Wednesday evenings unfortunately have been rained out. A makeup concert was scheduled for Friday August 13.

The modified hours of the Administration Building and the Senior Center would end on September 3, 2021. The Administration Building would be closed on Labor Day, September 6, 2021.

14. CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENTS

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

Councilor Palomba reiterated his July 13, 2021 request regarding the American Rescue funds: a summary of the purpose of the [American Rescue Plan funds](#);

what the funds could or could not be used for; what limits there might be on its usage for any one purpose; and if there is a deadline for which funds must be used.

He also asked for an explanation of the ramifications of a ruling by KP Law regarding [the filling of vacancies on the Board of Library Trustees](#) which seemed to contradict the interpretation of the Library personnel, Library Trustees, Town Councilors, and interviewees.

He requested information regarding the feasibility including a 2021 [Vote by Mail Application with the Charter Review revision explanation](#) to all registered voters in the November 2, 2021 election.

His last request was a [detailed description and timeline for the complete budget process](#) as detailed in the Charter.

Councilor Gannon requested a report regarding the current process of review and timing of the [release of executive session meeting minutes](#) so that they might be released to the public in as timely a manner as possible. He also asked for the number of outstanding unreleased minutes.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

17. PUBLIC FORUM

Leeann Hammond – Chair, Watertown Board of Library Trustees – She reviewed Attorney Reich’s opinion and appreciated his explanation for leaving the fourth seat off the ballot this year. She did feel that this is a departure from the method used to fill vacancies in the past and appreciated Councilor Palomba’s request as to how this affects future vacancies for the Library and the School Committee. She looked forward to this discussion at a future meeting.

18. 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 8:01 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 14, 2021.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 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 – July 13, 2021 – Item 6
2. Proclamation Of Appreciation for COVID-19 Testing in the Watertown Public Schools – August 10, 2021 – Item 8A
3. Watertown 2020 Charter Review Committee Final Report – Charter Review Committee – Mark S. Sideris, Chair – August 3, 2021 – Item 8B
 - Background
 - Overview of Process
 - Proposed Charter Changes (Red-Lined Charter in Appendix)
 - Non-Charter Ideas Worthy of Implementation or Continued Discussion, and Topics Not Covered by the Committee but Worthy of Review
4. Proposed Charter Revisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter – Item 8B
5. Non-Charter Ideas Worthy of Implementation or Continued Discussion, and Topics Not Covered by the Committee but Worthy of Review – Item 8D
6. Next Steps to Be Taken – Item 8D
7. Proposed Ordinance Amending the Town Manager’s Compensation – Item 9
8. Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditure Regarding \$150.00 to Offset Expenses Related to the Faire on the Square – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – August 5 2021 – Item 10A
9. Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Funds and Expenditure Regarding Support of the Recreation Department’s Pequotsette Summer Program – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – July 20, 2021 – Item 10B
10. Agenda Item – An Order Accepting Pedestrian and Bicycle Easements Across 330, 340, and 350 Pleasant Street to the Charles River Path and Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute the Acceptance of Said Easements – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – August 5, 2021 – Item 10C
11. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Town Manager Search – Mark S. Sideris, Chair – July 20, 2021 – Item 11

- Advertisement for Request for Proposals – Town of Pembroke Seeking Requests for Proposals Search Firm to Assist with Town Manager Recruitment
 - RFP Chief of Police Selection Consultant, Town of Abington
 - Correspondence Received by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Town Manager Search
12. Request for Confirmation – Reappointments of Jeffrey W. Brown and Jason D. Cohen to the Planning Board for Terms to Expire on February 15, 2024 – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – August 5, 2021 – Item 13
 13. Request for Information Regarding the Federal American Rescue Plan – Councilor Anthony Palomba – July 13, 2021 – Item 15
 14. Request for Information Regarding KP Law Interpretation of Filling Vacancies to the Board of Library Trustees – Councilor Anthony Palomba – August 10, 2021 – Item 15
 15. Request for Information Regarding Vote by Mail Application Insertion in the Charter Explanation – Councilor Anthony Palomba – August 10, 2021 – Item 15
 16. Request for Information Regarding the Budget Process Timeline – Councilor Anthony Palomba – August 10, 2021 – Item 15
 17. Request for Information Regarding the Process for Making Executive Session Minutes Open to the Public – Councilor John G. Gannon – Item 15