



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, OCTOBER 12, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET

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 was televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/#/watertown/video/5f490e6f9e1d640008a803ae?page=HOME&type=live>
- 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 the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present in Chamber were Councilors 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, Anthony J. Donato, 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

The Executive Session was cancelled.

3. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:00 P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

David Kane – He asked that the use of masks be made optional; he felt that COVID is not a big threat to the public health and masks are a burden.

Russ Arico – Fayette Street – He questioned the need for a Civil Rights Commission as proposed in the Charter. He feels there is no major discrimination in Watertown and that the use of racial slurs comes more from media than from homes.

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

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2021

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

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Sideris stated that the Cunniff School officially opened earlier in the day, an exciting event. He thanked all who made a special effort this weekend to get the building open for students to make it a successful day.

He also mentioned that the RFP for a Town Manager search brought in two responses: one from Community Paradigm Associates, LLC and the other from Municipal Resources Inc. He stated he reached out to each group and will be scheduling a meeting soon that will be open to the public.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding Policy Guidance on Possible Regulations and Zoning Rules for [Firearms Businesses, July 13, 2021](#) and [August 9, 2021](#) – Lisa J. Feltner, Vice-Chair
ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Move Forward with Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as Presented to the Committee in the Attachment to the Minutes of August 9, 2021 and Further to Ask the Town Attorney to Clarify State and Federal Law as Its Application to the Proposed Zoning Amendment as well as the Selling of Antique Guns

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to move up Item 11A in the discussion; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Feltner read the minutes of the August 9, 2021 Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report of the Committee; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council move forward with the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as presented to the Committee in the attachment to the minutes of August 9, 2021, and further to ask the Town Attorney to clarify state and federal law as to its application to the proposed Zoning Amendment as well as the selling of antique guns; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

First Reading and Referral to the Planning Board for Public Hearing an Amendment of the Zoning Ordinance to Create a Definition of Firearm Business, and Amend the Table [of Permissible Uses to Include Firearms Business](#), and Create Regulations Specific to This Use

Mr. Magoon provided background on the matter. Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer to the Planning Board for Public Hearing an Amendment of the Zoning Ordinance to create a definition of firearm business, and amend the table [of permissible uses to include firearms business](#), and create regulations specific to this use; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

9. 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 \$1,250,000 Under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(1B, or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority to Pay Costs of [Purchasing and Equipping a New Ladder Truck](#) for the Use of the Fire Department, Including the Payment of All Other Costs Incidental or 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 M.G.L. 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 the request. Fire Chief Quinn stated the Department needs equipment with the latest safety features and capabilities to

maximize the capability of and minimize any injury to firefighters. Significant safety feature improvements have been made in the last 10-15 years which would help to achieve this goal. Apparatus more than 15 years old have a difficulty meeting the NFPA Apparatus Standards which recommend vehicles over 15 years old should be placed in a reserve status. Trucks, such as the Ladder Truck, are built to order with an anticipated 13-14 month wait until receipt. The current truck requires increased maintenance; therefore, increasing the costs of repair.

Council President Sideris opened the public hearing; there being no speakers, he closed the meeting.

Mr. Driscoll stated the funding of the truck would be for a period of 15 years, beginning in Fiscal Year 2023 and ending in Fiscal Year 2037.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the loan order authorizing the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$1,250,000 under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(1B), or pursuant to any other enabling authority to pay costs of purchasing and equipping a new ladder truck for the use of the Fire Department, including the payment of all other costs incidental or 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 M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

In the discussion, Chief Quinn stated the truck needs to be customized in size so it can fit in Station 2. The new equipment is transitioning from gas to battery-operation making it better to use and providing firefighters easier access.

He believed there would be an increase in service requests especially in areas of development, Arsenal Yards, and laboratories. There are more high rises and residences that will have issues with alarms and items such as stoves that will require equipment to ventilate the building.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

10. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. 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 \$4,733,900 Under and Pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §8(6), or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority, to Pay the Costs of Purchasing and Installing New Water Meters, 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 provided some background on this request and stated that it would be considered at the next Town Council Meeting on October 28, 2021.

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

Mr. Driscoll stated the proposed budget amendment would increase the revenues and expenditures by \$6,893,133 and would include

- ☞ The new growth number would be updated
- ☞ The receipt of the actual Cherry Sheet
- ☞ A one-time \$5,000,000 increase for inspection fees revenue
- ☞ An appropriation of \$50,000 for a Nexus Study for Affordable Housing Linkage Fees
- ☞ An appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Unfunded Pension Liability Stabilization Fund

With the changes, the Fiscal Year 2022 budget for revenues and expenditures would be \$176,524,354. This matter would be considered at the next Town Council Meeting on October 28, 2021.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Move Forward with Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as Presented to the Committee in the Attachment to the Minutes of August 9, 2021 and Further to Ask the Town Attorney to Clarify State and Federal Law as Its Application to the Proposed Zoning Amendment as well as the Selling of Antique Guns

Please see the minutes for this item after Item 5. President's Report.

B. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding a [Communication Plan As It Relates to the Proposed Charter Recommendations](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

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

C. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report Regarding [Equity in Watertown's Workforce](#) – Caroline Bays, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Vote to Go Forward with Hiring a Management Consultant to Review the Structural Operations of the Personnel Department and to Make Recommendations for Improvements
2. That the Town Council request the Town Manager to Direct the Personnel Department to Use the MAPC List in Filling Job Vacancies and to Otherwise Broaden the Search to Find More Opportunities to Expand the Diversity of the Town's Workforce.

Councilor Bays read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

In the discussion, a request was made to include the MAPC list referred to in the report and the data compiled by the Personnel Department and to change the reference of the Human Services Department to Human Resources.

Council President Sideris suggested the Council accept the report with the suggested changes and that Item B of the Action Items be taken up at the next Town Council Meeting.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to change the reference from Human Services to Human Resources and to attach to the report the data compiled by the Personnel Department and the MACP list; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to go forward with hiring a Management Consultant to review the structural operations of the Personnel Department and to make recommendations for improvements; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion.

In the discussion, the cost and the specifics of the RFP were discussed. Councilor Palomba stated if the motion were reworded to read to "request the Administration" to hire the consultant, then these issues would be worked out as the Administration would provide the specifics for the RFP. Councilor Piccirilli moved to make a friendly amendment to the motion to read "to request the Administration to go forward with hiring a Management Consultant to review the structural operations of the Personnel Department and to make recommendations for

improvements”; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Council President Sideris stated the second action item would be taken up at the October 26, 2021 meeting.

12. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business requests.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

A. Request for Confirmation of Appointments to the Public Arts & Culture Committee.

Mr. Driscoll stated the newly created Public Arts and Culture Committee would consist of nine members: six members appointed by the Town Manager and confirmed by the Town Council to serve staggered terms; one member of the Watertown Cultural Council, selected annually by the Cultural Council; and two members under the age of 21 to be appointed by the Town Manager.

He requested that Dawn Evans Scaltreto and Carole Katz be appointed for a one-year term to expire on November 15, 2022; Roberta Miller and Erin Webb be appointed for a two-year term to expire on November 15, 2023; and Leah Craig and Archy LaSalle be appointed for a three-year term to expire on November 1, 2024. These appointee requests should be referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

Sally Young would be the appointee selected by the Cultural Council. May Cort and Kara O’Neil would be the two under 21 appointees. All of these terms would terminate on November 15, 2022.

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

B. Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2023.

Mr. Driscoll presented his statement regarding the financial conditions of the Town. The FY 2022 budget is \$176.5 million plus \$19.7 million for the Water and Sewer enterprises for a total budget of \$196.2 million.

Fiscal Year 2021 (Revenues)

- Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes and State Aid made up 82.2% of the budget

- There was a positive variance of more than \$8.3 million due to the Town's ability to tax the Tufts Building as a business property rather than a non-profit one, the delayed payment of FY 2020 taxes due to the payment extension given as a result of COVID 19, and the replacement of the Free Cash Balance.
- Local Receipts were 7.4% of the budget and brought in \$2.7 million more than anticipated (Budgeted: \$12,042,635 – Actual: \$14,801,007)
 - * Motor Vehicle increased by \$465,000
 - * Meals – The budget was lowered to \$412,000 and the actual revenues were \$407,000
 - * Hotels were significantly affected by COVID - \$525,000 of revenue was anticipated but only \$250,000 was realized
 - * Pilot was substantially reduced due to the sale of the Tufts Building. The Town received a first quarter payment of \$230,000 and then the building was sold. As the building is now a taxable business property, the PILOT payment for Tufts terminated and the property was placed on the taxable property rolls. The PILOT for FY 2022 was budgeted at \$81,000
 - * Fees showed a substantial increase of \$3.3 million due largely to inspection fees
 - * Fines decreased from \$610,000 to \$356,000
 - * Investments decreased from an anticipated \$500,000 to \$119,000. As a result, the budgeted amount for FY 2022 decreased to \$250,000
 - * Miscellaneous shows a revenue of \$350,000 – this was due to the closing of the books and a collection of \$112,000 from the sale of marijuana. There should be stabilization funds established for the use of the marijuana monies.
- Revenue – Other Sources represents 10.4% of the budget
- Total Revenues
 - * The FY 2021 budgeted amount for the general budget was \$163,453,280; the actual amount collected was \$175,790,594 – a positive variance of \$12.3 million

(Expenses)

- The budgeted expenditure amount for Departments was \$96,924,571; the actual expenditure amount was \$95,155,531, an expenditure of \$1.7 million less than anticipated.
 - * Snow and Ice Removal came in underbudget
 - * Debt Retirement – Increased by about \$600,000 from FY 2020
 - * School Capital Projects – Had an infusion of money to repair the bathrooms and the provide air conditioning to the Middle School and to paydown the elementary school debt by \$5.5 million
 - * Town Capital Projects – Funds from Debt Retirement were used to provide for Town needed projects

- The budget excluding the water and sewer enterprises was \$163,453,280; the actual spending was \$161,328,025, or \$2,125,255 less than budgeted
- Unreserved Fund Balance
 - * The Town received \$12,337,314 in additional revenues and spent \$2,125,155 less than budgeted, used \$11,000,000 of Free Cash resulting in a surplus of \$2.6 million
 - * The Town increased its Free Cash by \$2,638,838 with the total Free Cash being \$24,851,447
 - * The amount of the Town's unreserved balance increased to \$26,125,725 when the Stabilization Fund of \$1,274,278 is included, representing a 16% unreserved fund balance
- Permanent Debt
 - * The current debt is \$127,185,000
 - * In FY 2022, \$10,215,000 will be paid down leaving a balance of \$116,970,000 without the addition of any other debt incurred
 - * An additional \$11,444,564 Debt spending has been authorized since July 1, 2021
- Sewer Enterprise has a positive variance of \$271,000
- The Water Enterprise has a positive variance of more than \$500,000
- Overlay and Special Revenue Accounts have a surplus
- Community Preservation (CPA) – Has a balance of \$10.1 million with another \$3 million anticipated for FY2022

Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Overview

(Revenues)

- The projected new growth is \$4,000,000 for FY's 2023-2025
- Inspection Fees were budgeted at \$5,000,000 for FY 2022 but are already at \$7,200,000; the projected inspection fees are \$2,200,000 for FY2023
- Taxes
 - * The anticipated Tax levy for FY2023 includes
 - \$134,368,298 – Current Tax Levy
 - \$ 3,359,207 – 2.5% Tax Increase
 - \$ 4,000,000 – Projected New Growth
 - \$141,727,505 – Projected Tax Levy for FY 2023
 - * The new growth for FY 2022 currently is \$7,892,192 and is due to the Tufts Health Plan Building coming on the tax rolls; growth at 64 Grove Street, Arsenal Yards; new growth due to laboratory conversions at 311 Arsenal Street, 650 Pleasant Street, 66 Galen Street, 99 Coolidge Avenue, and 85 Walnut Street; and increased personal property growth
- State Aid – Is anticipated to be the same as the FY2022 receipts - \$13,482,722
- Local Receipts – Some accounts are affected by COVID-19

- * Meals Excise – In FY 2020, the account was budgeted at \$550,000 but received just \$200,000; the amount was adjusted for FY2021 to \$412,000 with the Town realizing \$407,000; FY 2023 is being budgeted at \$550,000 with a planned increase of \$50,000 per year thereafter
- * Hotel Excise - In FY 2020, the account was budgeted at \$700,00 and then adjusted downward for FY2021 to \$525,000 with the Town realizing only \$250,000; FY 2022 is budgeted at \$525,000; FY2023 is being budgeted at \$675,000 with a planned increase of \$150,000 per year thereafter
- * Fees – There is a decrease in the budgeted amounts from \$8,850,000 in FY 2022 to \$3,850,000
- * The anticipated total amount from Local Receipts will decrease from \$16,123,387 in FY 2022 to \$11,629,824. The reduction is due to a decreased amount as being a more realistic outlook for FY 2023
- * Other Financing Sources is expected to decrease from \$13,549,947 to \$6,822,392. This is a result of the funding of the New High School Stabilization fund at \$5,000,000
- * Total anticipated revenue for FY2023 will be \$172,612,506

(Expenses)

- Departmental Expenditures are expected to increase by \$1,055,958 or 2.5% with School Expenditures increasing 3.5% annually
- Agreement with Republic Services ends on June 30, 2022
- The Debt payments for the Elementary Schools are expected to be \$13,286,494 and \$783,333 for the new High School
- The expenses for the Departmental budgets will increase from \$101,185,724 to \$104,307,726, a variance of \$3,122,002 due to an increases in the school appropriation, Town needs, and the waste disposal contract
- Elementary Schools Project
 - * There were two borrowings in the 2022 calendar year - January 26 – a bond for \$64,000,000 with a net premium of \$7,200,000 plus a Council approved transfer that reduced the amount due to \$52,145,000. The average rate for the borrowing is 1.343% - a second bond on April 14, for \$39,455,000 with an interest rate of 1.46%.
 - * The total bonding of \$103,455,000 was able to retire \$17,200,000 16% of the debt, as of June 30, 2021 by using the net premium of \$11,900,000 and a transfer of \$5,200,000.
- New High School Project – MSBA has approved the schematic design for a building on the existing sight. In 2022, the Town will seek MSBA approval to participate in the funding of the school
- Unfunded Pension Liability and OPEB
 - * The pension is fully funded

- * The Town is seeking to fully fund the OPEB obligation as soon as is feasible
- * The full funding was anticipated to be in 2029; however, in order to pay for the High School without a debt exclusion request, it is estimated to be paid off in 2031
- * An actuarial valuation is being completed to confirm this estimate
- * Due to the substantial increase in inspection fees, an additional \$1.78 million will be added to the OPEB pay down for FY 2023. The payment will increase from \$9,588,553 to \$11,372,981.
- * As of July 1, 2021, the unfunded liability for OPEB is \$70,824,000 which is a decrease from the \$115,300,000 due on July 1, 2019.
- School Projects
 - * FY 2023 will be the high point of annual payments, \$1,286,494, for the Elementary Schools which then begin to decrease annually thereafter
 - * FY2026 will be the high point of annual payment, \$11,525,000, for the High School and then begins to decrease annually thereafter
 - * There will be a payment to the High School Stabilization fund for FY2023 only
 - * It was anticipated that there would be funding to the High School Stabilization fund for FY 2024 and 2025 but that was eliminated as these anticipated payments will be used to fund the debt service
 - * The debt service obligation for the elementary schools will be for twenty years while the high school will be for thirty years

(Forecast)

- It is anticipated that Expenditures will exceed Revenues for FY 2023 by \$1,011,238 but this shortfall has decreased from the \$1,500,000 that was previously anticipated
- Budget surpluses are expected in FY 2024 and 2025
- Taxes will increase by \$7,39,207 for FY 2023
- Budget Issues
 - ☞ Elementary Schools – Cunniff has opened; Hosmer will open in early 2022; and Lowell will begin construction in early 2022
 - ☞ High School – Funding will be sought through the MSBA; schematic design needs to be completed by December 2021 and then the Town will seek approval for funding. The Moxley Temporary High School will begin with the establishment of modules in June 2023 and the school will open in 2026
 - ☞ Pension and OPEB – The full funding of OPEB will be delayed for two years in order to pay for the High School within the confines of Proposition 2 ½
 - ☞ American Rescue Plan – The matter has been referred to the Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight
 - ☞ Acquisition of Open Space – More funds will be added to the stabilization fund

- ☞ Community Preservation Act – Applications have been received; recommendations for spending will be referred to Town Council for approval
- ☞ Community Development and Planning – Increased personnel is needed for inspectional services due to significant development; the Climate and Energy Master Plan is underway; a Nexus study with linkage fees is being looked into; implementation of the Comprehensive Plan will begin; funding for the Shuttle Bus is needed; completion of the Community Path; and seeking funding for the Public Arts Plan
- ☞ Insurance and Benefits and Collective Bargaining – The GIC is up for renewal June 2023 and the contracts for 6 Town and 6 School unions for 2023 – 2025 need to be completed
- ☞ IT – Significant enhancements and improved services have been made with increased staffing
- ☞ CIP – The major concerns are a DPW a staging space; a Phillips School/Senior Center Master Plan feasibility study; building improvements; and departmental equipment
- ☞ Park Improvements – Start the Arsenal Park Phase B project; renovate Moxley courts with added lighting; begin Victory Field Phase 2; improve Saltonstall Park and Casey Park
- ☞ Street and Sidewalks – There is a need for water and sewer improvements. The design of the Mount Auburn Street project continues
- ☞ Bond Market – Would like to see continued low bond ratings for future loan orders and the maintenance of the AAA rating
- ☞ Town Council Budget Guidelines – Some major concerns are the hiring of a consultant for a new Town Manager search; the adoption of an Affordable Housing Trust Ordinance; the reuse of the former police station and north branch library to provide space for added personnel and a permanent home for the Hatch project; improved tree canopy for the Town; improved stormwater infrastructure; and shared regionalized services.

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

There were no requests for information.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Piccirilli stated that the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committee would be scheduling three meetings to make the FY2023 Budget Policy Guidelines recommendations. He asked Councilors to provide their lists to him by October 27.

Council President Sideris announced that October 13, 2021 was the last day to register to vote and the last summer concert to be held from 5:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

16. PUBLIC FORUM

David Kane – 199 Pleasant Street – Requested speakers to use their microphones so those who have hearing problems can hear.

John Portz – On behalf of the School Committee he wanted to thank the Town Manager and the Town Council for support of the schools and the education program. He thanked Mr. Driscoll for his financial leadership and strong fiscal management over his career.

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 9:21 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 October 26, 2021.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 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 – September 28, 2021 – Item 4
2. First Reading for Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance – Sale of Firearms and Short-Term Rentals – Steve Magoon, Director of the Department of Community Development and Planning/Assistant Town Manager to Town Council – September 22, 2021 – Item 6
3. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Replacement of Ladder Two – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 23, 2021 – Item 7
4. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Replacement of Ladder Two – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – October 7, 2021 – Item 7
5. Agenda Item Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Water Meter Replacement Program – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – October 7, 2021 – Item 8A
6. Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – October 7, 2021 – Item 8B
7. Committee on Economic Development Report Regarding Policy Guidance on Potential Regulations and Zoning Rules for Firearms Businesses – Lisa J. Feltner, Vice Chair – August 9, 2021 – Item 9A
8. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding a Communication Plan to Increase Awareness of Suggested Charter Changes Prior to the Election – Anthony Palomba, Chair – September 21, 2021 – Item 9B
9. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report Regarding Equity in Hiring of the Watertown Workforce – Caroline Bays, Chair – September 23, 2021 – Item 9C
10. Public Arts and Culture Committee Appointees – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – October 12, 2021 – Item 11A
11. Fiscal Year 2023 Town of Watertown Preliminary Budget Overview – October 12, 2021 – Item 11B

*Addendum to the
City Council
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021*

POSTED
10/07/2021
3:05PM



Watertown Town Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
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Phone: 617-972-6470

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AGENDA

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ACCESS INFORMATION:

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<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/#/watertown/video/5f490e6f9e1d640008a803ae?page=HOME&type=live>
- B. The Public was able to join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
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- D. Public was able to comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

1. ROLL CALL
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
3. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:00 P.M.
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
5. PUBLIC FORUM
6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2021

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

First Reading and Referral to the Planning Board for Public Hearing an Amendment of the Zoning Ordinance to Create a Definition of Firearm Business, and Amend the Table [of Permissible Uses to Include Firearms Business](#), and Create Regulations Specific to This Use

9. 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 \$1,250,000 Under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(1B, or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority to Pay Costs of [Purchasing and Equipping a New Ladder Truck](#) for the Use of the Fire Department, Including the Payment of All Other Costs Incidental or 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 M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, Thereby Reducing the Amount Authorized to Be Borrowed to Pay Such Costs by a Like Amount

10. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. 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 \$4,733,900 Under and Pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §8(6), or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority, to Pay the Costs of [Purchasing and Installing New Water Meters](#), 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.

B. First Reading on a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding Policy Guidance on Possible Regulations and Zoning Rules for [Firearms Businesses, July 13, 2021](#) and [August 9, 2021](#) – Lisa J. Feltner, Vice-Chair
ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Move Forward with Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as Presented to the Committee in the Attachment to the Minutes

of August 9, 2021 and Further to Ask the Town Attorney to Clarify State and Federal Law as Its Application to the Proposed Zoning Amendment as well as the Selling of Antique Guns

B. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding a [Communication Plan As It Relates to the Proposed Charter Recommendations](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

C. Committee on Personnel and Town Organization Report Regarding [Equity in Watertown's Workforce](#) – Caroline Bays, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Vote to Go Forward with Hiring a Management Consultant to Review the Structural Operations of the Personnel Department and to Make Recommendations for Improvements
2. That the Town Council request the Town Manager to Direct the Personnel Department to Use the MAPC List in Filling Job Vacancies and to Otherwise Broaden the Search to Find More Opportunities to Expand the Diversity of the Town's Workforce.

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

A. Request for Confirmation of Appointments to the Public Arts & Culture Committee.

B. Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2023.

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

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

16. PUBLIC FORUM

17. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

TOWN COUNCIL ATTENDANCE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021

	YES	NO	PRESENT
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY J. DONATO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

**TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	___X___	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY J. DONATO	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 AS WRITTEN

**TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI	___X___	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY J. DONATO	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

MOTION TO MOVE UP ITEM 11A – COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
PLANNING REPORT REGARDING FIREARMS SALES REGULATION

**TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	___X___	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY J. DONATO	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
REPORT REGARDING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS SALES THROUGH ZONING
REGULATIONS

**TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI	___X___	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY J. DONATO	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

MOTION TO FORWARD WITH AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE AS PRESENTED IN THE COMMITTEE IN THE ATTACHMENT TO THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2021, AD TO ASK THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO CLARIFY STATE AND FEDERAL LAW AS TO ITS APPLICATION TO THE PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT AS WELL AS THE SELLING OF ANTIQUE GUNS

**TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY J. DONATO	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

MOTION TO REFER TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR PUBLIC HEARING AN AMENDMENT OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO CREATE A DEFINITION OF FIREARM BUSINESS, AND AMEND THE TABLE OF PERMISSIBLE USES TO INCLUDE FIREARMS BUSINESS, AND CREATE REGULATIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS USE

TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021

	YES	NO	PRESENT
ANTHONY J. DONATO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

MOTION TO APPROVE 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 \$1,250,000 UNDER M.G.L. CHAPTER 44, SECTION 7(1B, OR PURSUANT TO ANY OTHER ENABLING AUTHORITY TO PAY COSTS OF PURCHASING AND EQUIPPING A NEW LADDER TRUCK FOR THE USE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF ALL OTHER COSTS INCIDENTAL OR 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 M.G.L. CHAPTER 44, SECTION 20 OF THE GENERAL LAWS, THEREBY REDUCING THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED TO BE BORROWED TO PAY SUCH COSTS BY A LIKE AMOUNT



Watertown Town Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

ORDER # 76

2021 - O - 76

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President and
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Donato,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

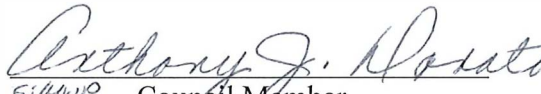
Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

ORDER TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF FUNDS TO PAY COSTS OF PURCHASING AND EQUIPPING A NEW LADDER TRUCK FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

ORDERED: That the sum of \$1,250,000 is appropriated to pay the costs of purchasing and equipping a new ladder truck for the Fire Department, including all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, 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 the 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That a copy of said Order be forwarded to the Town Auditor and Town Treasurer/Collector.


6/14/2020 Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 12, 2021.


Marilyn D. Pronovost, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

**TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY J. DONATO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE ON MEDIA AND PUBLIC OUTREACH REPORT
REGARDING A COMMUNICATION PLAN AS IT RELATES TO THE PROPOSED CHARTER
RECOMMENDATIONS

**TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY J. DONATO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PERSONNEL AND TOWN PERSONNEL REPORT REGARDING EQUITY IN WATERTOWN'S WORKFORCE WITH THE CHANGE OF WORDING FROM "HUMAN SERVICES" TO "HUMAN RESOURCES" AND THE INCLUSION OF THE COMPILED DATA AND MACP RESOURCE LIST

**TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY J. DONATO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

MOTION TO REQUEST THE ADMINISTRATION TO GO FORWARD WITH HIRING A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT TO REVIEW THE STRUCTURAL OPERATIONS OF THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS WITH THE AMENDMENT THAT IT BE TO ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO COMPLETE THE HIRING

**TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI, JR.	___X___	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY J. DONATO	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

MOTION TO REFER THE NOMINEES OF THE PUBLIC ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
FOR CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

TOWN COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021

	YES	NO	PRESENT
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI	___X___	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY J. DONATO	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
ANGELINE B. KOUNELIS	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____
MOTION TO ADJOURN			