



Watertown City 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

John M. Airasian
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

**RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET**

MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting was televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- B. The Public was permitted to join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public was permitted 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 permitted to comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors John M. Airasian, Caroline Bays, John Gannon, Nicole Gardner, Lisa J. Feltner, Emily Izzo, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were George Proakis, City Manager, Joseph Fair, City Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Road – Asked if the Council had developed a process for notifications of public hearings especially with the loss of local newspapers.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. City Council Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2022

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

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS

A. Proclamation Honoring Ed Lewis, Energy Planner, on His Retirement

Council President Sideris stated that on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 there would be a nine minute animated presentation regarding the new High School at the Library and on Zoom. He encouraged everyone to view the film.

He then read the proclamation honoring Ed Lewis on his retirement as Watertown’s Energy Planner. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Lewis stated he was honored and appreciated the proclamation. He thanked all who helped to improve the quality of life for Watertown’s citizens, including the Environmental and Energy Efficiency Committee, the Department of Community Development and Planning under Mr. Magoon, the Department of Public Buildings, the Superintendent of Schools, City Manager Proakis, former City Manager Driscoll, and the City Council. All of these people helped make it easy to lead by example for improvements for the future and to save money and provide a safer environment.

7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Discussion and Vote for Additional Funding in the Amount of \$119,805 for the Community Preservation Committee Approved Irving Park Project

Mark Krackiewicz, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, stated the Irving Street Park renovation project went out to bid. There were five bids, with one bidder considered not qualified, and all bidders were over the current estimate. The DPW would like to contract with Argus Construction Corporation. In order to complete the contract, CPC feels it needs an additional \$45,000 plus a 20% contingency fee. DPW would like

to be able to sign the contract in the fall so that the contractor is ready to go in the spring.

Council President Sideris stated this project is subject to the rising cost escalations that is being seen for other projects. He hoped the Council would look favorably on this request.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve additional funding in the amount of \$119,805 for the Community Preservation Committee approved Irving Park Project; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding New Trash and Recycling Policies and Inflow and Infiltration Fees - Vincent Piccirilli, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the City Council Endorse the Trash and Recycling Policy and Fee Changes as Recommended by the Department of Public Works, with an Effective Date of October 17, 2022
2. That the City Council Endorse the Inflow and Infiltration "In Lieu Of " Fee Change From \$10/Gallon to \$20/Gallon as Recommended by the Department of Public Works

Councilor Piccirilli read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Committee on Public Works report regarding new trash and recycling policies and inflow and infiltration fees; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to endorse the trash and recycling policy and fee changes as recommended by the Department of Public Works, with an effective date of October 17, 2022; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to endorse the inflow and infiltration "in lieu of " fee change from \$10/gallon to \$20/gallon as recommended by the Department of Public Works; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Council President Sideris requested Councilor Bays to read a report from the Committee on Personnel and City Organization regarding the process to be used to hire a Municipal Analyst for the City Council. He stated the acceptance of the report would be taken up at the City Council meeting on October 25, 2022. Councilor Bays then read the Committee report.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Referral to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning a Discussion and Recommendations for Providing a Process to Notify Neighborhoods Affected by a Proposed Development

Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning a discussion and recommendations for providing a process to notify neighborhoods affected by a proposed development; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Proakis announced the Farmers' Market would be open on October 12, and October 19, 2022 from 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. October 19 would be the last day of the market for 2022.

He announced the voting schedule:

- Vote by mail: The deadline to request a mail application is November 1, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. and stated the ballot must be received by November 8, 2022, election day.
- Registration to Vote: The deadline for registration is October 29, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in person and 11:59 p.m. if completed online
- Early Voting: This will be conducted for two weeks from October 22, 2022 – November 4, 2022. Voting will be held on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Voting on Election Day: Voting will be conducted at local precincts locations on November 8, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

- A. Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2024

Mr. Proakis began his presentation by stating his leadership strategies and his strategic priorities.

Leadership Strategies:

- Maintaining Highest Ethical Standards
- Ensuring Collaborative Departments – This means the Departments should be working together rather than in silos to provide optimum services
- ACE (Accurate, Courteous, Easy) Customer Service
- Transparency in Process and Outcomes – Citizens should know and understand how their local government works
- “Be Abnormal” – This expression encapsulates the concept of people providing new ideas as they may lead to novel solutions for a particular situation.

Strategic Priorities

- Enhancing the Leadership Team
- Building an Effective Organizational Structure
- A Commitment to Planning
- Climate Mitigation and Resiliency
- Continued Fiscal Stability
- Building for the Future

He then reviewed the revenues received for FY2022.

- Real and Personal Property Taxes and State Aid
Watertown received \$750,000 in excess of what was anticipated for property taxes and \$228,000 in excess of anticipated state aid for FY 2022.
- Local Receipts
FY 2022 budgeted \$8,850,000 for Fees; however, the actual amount was more than \$15,000,000, an increase of more than \$6,200,000 than anticipated.
- Other Sources
These funds come from various sources and include stabilization funds, overlay surplus, free cash, and water and sewer enterprises. The amounts were the same as budgeted for the current fiscal year – about \$13,500,000.

The City ended with an actual budget of \$186,000,000, a surplus of more than \$9,800,000 for FY 2022

He discussed the expenditures for FY 2022.

- Departmental Expenses
The expenses were about \$1,000,000 less than anticipated. This figures out to about a 1% discrepancy
- Debt Service and Capital Projects
The expenses debt services and capital projects were about \$200,000 less than budgeted
- State and County Charges
- Pension and OPEB
- Insurance and Employee Benefits
- Other Financing Uses

The funding for the last four categories was about \$1,400,000 more than actually used. The amount budgeted for FY was \$176,574,197 but actual expenses were \$175,135,125.

Unreserved Fund Balance – It is anticipated the State will certify that Watertown has around \$27,000,000 in Free Cash at the end of FY 2022.

He stated his financial reserve goals are

- Preservation of the City's AAA Bond Rating
- Promotion of Financial Flexibility and Stability

- Meeting Extraordinary and Unforeseen Events
- Having Sufficient Liquidity and Cash Flow to Pay Bills on Time Without the Necessity of Short-Term Borrowing

The permanent City debt at the end of FY 2022 is \$184,393,970; it is anticipated the amount of permanent debt due by the end of FY 2023 will be \$138,920,000. Currently there is \$203,844,242 of debt that is authorized but not yet issued; the largest part of this amount is \$198,844,242 that is designated for the construction of the new Watertown High School. Combining the authorized, short term, and authorized but un-issued debt, the City's total debt is \$342,764,242.

The sewer enterprise had a slight profit of about \$335,000, while the water enterprise had a small deficit of \$35,000. It is anticipated that the funds will increase with the more normalized life after the COVID isolation.

The City has fund balances in

- Overlay Accounts – these are funds set aside to provide for the tax exemptions provided to citizens. Currently there is \$1,919,123 set aside for abatements.
- Special Revenue Accounts – There are 134 special revenue accounts for a total of \$17,656,171. The largest is the ARPA Fund for \$5,371,206. \$269,269 were set aside for the Affordable Housing Development Trust as seed money.
- CPA Fund – The statute requires that 10% of the CPA must go to Open Space/Recreation (current balance is \$905,805); 10% to Historic Preservation (current balance is \$1,167,000); and 10% for Community Housing (current balance is \$1,200,000). The remaining undesignated balance is \$9,897,899. It is estimated this fund will receive \$3,700,000 in FY 2023.
- Capital Projects Accounts – There are 69 capital project funds. The largest account is \$36,877,804 set aside for the construction of the Lowell School. The top 11 accounts total \$42,842,527; the remaining 58 accounts total \$1,911,230 for a capital projects budget total of \$44,753,756.
- Stabilization, Trust, and Agency Accounts – There are 73 such funds. The largest are the OPEB Trust Fund at \$19,796,631 followed by the Acquisition of Land/Open Space Stabilization Fund at \$10,000,000. Thirteen funds make up the majority of the total at \$47,904,069; the remaining 60 funds total \$1,029,795 for a grand total of \$48,933,864.

For FY2023, Mr. Proakis wants the budget to help preserve the City's financial condition by

- Providing the highest level of essential services with the most efficient use of resources
- Ensuring that annual costs are funded annually through current revenues

- Maintaining capital equipment, facilities, and infrastructure for the future
- Remaining focused on the goal of sound financial management and fiscal stability
- Providing budgets based on sound business practices

For FY2023, the City will focus on these priorities

- Enhancing the Leadership Program: This will include hiring a Deputy Manager; working with a new Auditor; appointing a Residents' Advisory Committee; filling the vacancies of a Police Chief, a Fire Chief, and a Director of Senior Services; and connecting with the Watertown community through Meet and Greet sessions in each district
- Building an Effective Organizational Strategy: This will include the Human Resources Study; the Health and Human Services study; the Compensation study to retain personnel; negotiations for union contracts; and a strategy for developing a 311 line
- Commitment to Planning: This includes the completion of the Comprehensive Plan review; the implementation of the housing linkage; and the joining of the Metro Mayors/Managers Coalition to create regional housing and planning strategies.
- Climate Mitigation and Resiliency: This includes the increase in the composting/organics program; the completion of the tree inventory; the addition of electric vehicle charging capacity; and the monitoring of the state's opt-in net-zero building code, an enhanced energy code.
- Fiscal Stability: This means maintaining the City's strong reserves; adding more support for the High School Stabilization Fund to provide the best building for a 70-year building; and implementing the City Council's strategy for investing the ARPA Funds.
- Building for the Future: This means completing the Lowell School renovations, begin working on the temporary building for the High School and completing the high school design and financing plan; buying the Walkers Pond Site – Lot 8, providing additional open space to the City, and the Parker School as an office building for City office needs; and commissioning a study of municipal office use for the Administration Building, the Philips School/Senior Center site; and the former Parker School.

There will be a budget amendment submitted for Fiscal Year 2023 reflecting a \$4,325,000 increase for the following items:

- \$2,354,675 – Property Taxes
- \$ 192,746 – State Aid
- \$ 150,000 – Hotel Excise Tax
- \$ 400,000 – Investment Income
- \$1,227,579 – Other Sources - (O'Neill Fund)

Of that amount, the funds will be used as follows:

- \$2,000,000 – Acquisition of land
- \$2,000,000 – New High School Stabilization Fund
- \$ 75,000 – Organic composting to remove the wait list
- \$ 85,000 – Municipal Space Use Study
- \$ 90,000 – Health and Human Services Study
- \$ 29,611 – City Council Reserve

The additional funding for the High School will provide for a reserve fund of about \$4,000,000 to provide for unknown needs. The School will be a substantial benefit to the community and the students; therefore it is essential to build the right physical plant. This will be the second net zero LEED platinum high school in the country, providing a commitment to climate control. The future is uncertain as to costs, but the schools do have good estimators. Watertown should not sacrifice on what needs to be done for the building as this will be a 70 plus year building. Mr. Proakis stated the City needs to have strategies to provide for a quality building if there cost issues.

The preliminary figures for the Fiscal Year 2024 budget are an estimate and are subject to change. New Growth is projected to be \$6,000,000 for FY 2024 but \$4,500,000 for both FY 2025 and 2026. State aid is level funded at the FY 2023 amount. Most local revenue is projected to remain constant or at an increase of 2.5%:

- Inspections Fees: \$2,750,000
- Investment Income: \$650,000 for FY's 2024 – 2026
- Motor Vehicle Excise: A projected increase of \$125,000 annually from FY 2024 – 2026
- Meals Excise: A projected increase of \$50,000 annually from FY 2024 - 2026
- Hotel Excise: \$825,000 for FY 2024 with an increase to \$975,00 for FY 2025

Transfers are expected from the Cemetery Trust Fund and the sale of lots to partially offset the DPW cemetery budget; transfers are likely for the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds to cover indirect costs; and transfers are likely from the Parking Meter Fund to partially offset the Parking Lots and Meters Budget. About \$2,000,000 of Free Cash will be used annually through FY 2026 and will include \$250,000 annually for the Special Education Stabilization Fund for FY 2024 – 2026. It is also anticipated there will be transfers from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund and the ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund.

The projected revenue for FY 2024 is based on the prior year's tax base plus an increase of 2.5% and new growth minus the overlay amount:

Prior Year (FY2023) Levy Limit: \$144,133,269

Plus 2.5% Increase:	\$ 3,603,332
Plus Anticipated New Growth:	\$ 6,000,000
Minus the Overlay Expenses:	<u>\$ (1,050,000)</u>
Tax levy Limit (FY2024)	\$ 152,686,600

State aid is anticipated to remain level at \$14,435,775. Local receipts are expected to rise about \$175,000 with small increases in the motor vehicle excise and the meals excise. It is anticipated the City will have a revenue base of \$186,807,238.

Expenditure considerations will include furthering the strategic strategies:

- Enhancing the Leadership Team: This will include the launch of an ACE customer service program and training and the implementation of recommendations from the Human Resources and Health and Human Services studies
- Build an Effective Organizational Strategy: This includes an expansion on the economic development efforts for small businesses and local business districts and the launching of a 311 strategy
- Commitment to Planning: This would provide annual funding for the Affordable Housing Trust; continue support for the Mt. Auburn Street and the Arsenal Street projects; begin community conversations on the North Branch Library; and work on the Watertown Square Initiative. There have been many good planning discussions, but they are only in particular topics: the intersection, development and zoning plans, small business strategies, development, and city owned land, parking lots, and the former police station. There should be an emphasis on making the Square a center piece and the seeming competing interests of growth and providing housing need to be addressed. These pieces need to be pulled together to provide a plan that is in alignment with the revised Comprehensive Plan. Funding will be requested for such a plan.
- Climate Mitigation and Resiliency: This will include identifying opportunities to use electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles when replacing the city fleet; continuing with the tree planting program; growing the organics recycling program; providing solar panels at DPW; investing in the stormwater infrastructure; and encouraging homeowners to add solar panels and heat pumps through public education.
- Continued Fiscal Stability: This means the continuation of OPEB funding and providing additional funds to the High School Stabilization Fund, the Pension Stabilization Fund, and the SPED Stabilization Fund.
- Building for the Future: This would include the implementation of the Parker School plan; completing the Parks and Recreation projects (Victory Field Phase 2, Saltonstall Park, and Arsenal Phase B); increasing funding for streets and sidewalks to make them walkable in alignment with a “Complete Streets” concept; and the beginning of the High School construction.

The budget forecast assumptions for Fiscal Years 2024 – 2026 are

- Departmental expenses will increase by 2.5% to \$109,287,038 while Education will increase by 3.5%
- Snow and Ice Removal is estimated to be \$1,500,000
- Waste Disposal will increase 5% annually
- The MBTA assessment will increase 2.75% annually
- Health Insurance will increase by 7.5% annually
- OPEB payments are projected to be \$9,719,429 in FY 2024; \$9,044,806 in FY 2025, and \$5,659,275 in FY 2026
- Elementary School payments are projected to be \$12,916,675 in FY 2024; \$12,318,988 in FY 2025, and \$11,952,550 in FY 2026
- Streets and Sidewalks costs will increase by 5% annually
- The Acquisition of Land/Open Space Stabilization will be funded at \$1,250,000 annually
- The Special Education Stabilization Fund will be funded at \$250,000 annually

The City has decided to group the debt for Elementary Schools, the new High School, the High School Stabilization Fund, and the Pension and OPEB services together. It was determined that \$28,000,000 would be spent for these programs annually. Using this mechanism allows the City to be flexible in its payments for all of these needs. Mr. Proakis suggested using a new floor of \$31,000,000 so that the City can work to fully fund the OPEB liability by 2031 which is advantageous when seeking to fund other projects. This would also allow the City to be flexible as needed. He suggested adding \$2,000,000 to the High School Stabilization Fund this year. The funding would also begin funding the new High School debt service with an allocation of \$5,238,905 in FY 2024.

The debt and interest costs will increase by about \$10,100,000 due to the expenditure of \$1,140,000 to be used for the purchase of the Parker School, the beginning of the payment of the new High School of \$5,238,905, and the increase of the streets and sidewalks repairs. Capital Projects expenditures drops by about \$500,000. Total expenditures for FY 2024 will increase by approximately \$7,700,000 from \$179,114,000 to \$186,894,152. The revenue side will increase by about \$7,690,000 which leaves a slight deficit of \$86,914.

Mr. Proakis stated it was a prudent budget and that he wanted to monitor the needs of the schools for a successful completion, to continue to deliver quality services, and to end the year with a balanced budget. If necessary some of the anticipated services may need to wait but he would like to plan for them.

11. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

There were no requests for information.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Piccirilli announced the Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight would begin reviewing the budget guidelines for FY 2024 which needed to be completed by November 22, 2022. An email would be sent to the Councilors to get their thoughts on the guidelines.

Councilor Palomba announced that on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 6:30 he would hold a meeting with the Department of Community Development and Planning in the Council Chamber. The purpose of the meeting would be to provide a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan and discuss zoning as a planning tool. There would be a case study of a residential and a commercial development.

He also mentioned that the Committee on Human Services would be meeting on Monday, October 24, 2022 in the Council Chamber to discuss the rodent problem and how the concern could be addressed.

Another item was that Watertown Forward would hold a meeting on Sunday, October 23, 2022 at 6:30 pm to discuss the Comprehensive Plan.

Council President Sideris took the podium to thank Tom Tracy for his many achievements and to wish him well in his retirement. He then read the proclamation thanking Mr. Tracy for his accomplishments on behalf of the city.

Mr. Tracy thanked the City Council for being allowed to serve the community; stating it was his honor to serve the community. During his tenure, he had seen many significant changes, most of which were for the good; he felt fortunate to work with the many heads and staff of the City. Along his way, he met many citizens who volunteered and he appreciated their efforts because they all had the common goal of making Watertown the best it could be. He thanked his family for understanding the sacrifice of not always being with them. He stated it was a pleasure working with former City Manager Michael Driscoll; he was grateful to the City Council for naming him as Interim City Manager and Mr. Magoon for his considerable assistance. He thanked the City Council for appointing George Proakis as City Manager and felt the City was in good hands. He was also happy to be able to ease into retirement by working part time until a new City Auditor is appointed.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

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 ___ for, ___ against, ___ present on October 25, 2022.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
WITH REMOTE ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. Minutes of the City Council Meeting – September 27, 2022 – Item 4A
2. Proclamation Honoring Ed Lewis, Energy Planner on His Retirement – October 11, 2022 – Item 6A
3. Revised CPA Committee Funding Recommendation Regarding the Irving Park Renovations – Item 7A
 - Letter of Request for Increased Budget – Thomas P. Watkins, Director of Administration and Finance, Department of Public Works, to the Community Preservation Committee, August 9, 2022
 - Irving Park Bid Tabulation – Brian Wyncoop, Purchasing Agent – August 18, 2022
 - Irving Park Project Description
4. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding Recommendations on New Trash and Recycling Policies and Inflow and Infiltration Fees – October 3, 2022 – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair – Item 8A
5. City of Watertown Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary Budget Review – George Proakis, City Manager – October 11, 2022 – Item 10

*Addendum to the
Minutes of the
October 11, 2022
City Council
Meeting*



Watertown City Council

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Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022 AT 7:00 PM

**RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET**

AGENDA

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

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- 1. ROLL CALL
 - 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - 3. PUBLIC FORUM
 - 4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - A. City Council Meeting Minutes - September 27, 2022
 - 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - 6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS
 - A. Proclamation Honoring Ed Lewis, Energy Planner, on His Retirement
 - 7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS
 - A. Discussion and Vote for Additional Funding in the Amount of \$119,805 for the Community Preservation Committee Approved Irving Park Project
 - 8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - A. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding New Trash and Recycling Policies and Inflow and Infiltration Fees

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the City Council Endorse the Trash and Recycling Policy and Fee Changes as Recommended by the Department of Public Works, with an Effective Date of October 17, 2022
2. That the City Council Endorse the Inflow and Infiltration "In Lieu Of " Fee Change From \$10/Gallon to \$20/Gallon as Recommended by the Department of Public Works

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Referral to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning a Discussion and Recommendations for Providing a Process to Notify Neighborhoods Affected by a Proposed Development

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2024

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. PUBLIC FORUM

14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2022

	YES	NO	PRESENT
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	___X___	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____



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PROCLAMATION HONORING ED LEWIS, ENERGY PLANNER

WHEREAS: Ed Lewis was hired in 2013 as the City of Watertown's first Energy Manager to increase sustainability of municipal operations by identifying energy and cost savings opportunities, reviewing and analyzing energy consumption data, recommending and implementing best practices for mechanical and building systems operations, and providing energy efficiency consulting regarding city and school facilities; and

WHEREAS: Ed achieved the status of a Certified Energy Manager in 2014 as one who maximizes a building's energy performance and cost-effectively decreases energy use; and

WHEREAS: In 2015, the Council created the Energy Office that Ed has headed to reduce the Town's/City's carbon footprint to save energy and money; and

WHEREAS: Ed was instrumental in securing grants to fund an LED streetlight retrofit at no cost to the City to reduce greenhouse gases and the costs for electricity and maintenance and assisted with the ECSO contract to reduce the City's energy consumption; and

WHEREAS: Ed has worked with the schools to create an activity-based module to save energy and with the Green Communities Division of the Department of Energy Resources to make Watertown a Green Community allowing the City to receive grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; and

WHEREAS: Ed has helped to provide solar arrays on public buildings substantially reducing emissions and controlling energy costs; and

WHEREAS: Ed has worked with the Environmental and Energy Efficiency Committee, which he chairs, to provide a Community Choice Residential Supply by purchasing electrical power under a bulk purchase plan to provide price stability for electricity with at least 50% of the energy coming from renewable sources thereby reducing the City's carbon footprint; and

WHEREAS: Ed stepped in as the Interim Department of Public Buildings head while also working on the Resilient Watertown Climate and Energy Plan to provide the City with a roadmap to allow the City to be carbon neutral by 2050.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED: That the City Council and the community offers Mr. Ed Lewis its thanks for a job well done and their best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

IN WITNESS HEREOF,

I have hereunto set our hand and
Caused the Great Seal of the
City of Watertown to be affixed
On this 11th day of October 2022


Mark S. Sideris, City Council President



**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2022**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<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>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<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>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

MOTION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$119,805 FOR THE
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPROVED IRVING PARK PROJECT



Watertown City 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

John M. Airasian
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

PROCLAMATION HONORING CITY AUDITOR THOMAS J. TRACY ON HIS RETIREMENT

WHEREAS: Thomas J. Tracy, a native of Watertown, was educated in Watertown and through his abilities on the football field earned a scholarship to Holy Cross College in 1978, he went on to follow a family tradition of public service with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and then the City of Watertown as its City Auditor

WHEREAS: Tom became the Auditor for the Town of Watertown on February 28, 1994 and has served in that capacity with a brief hiatus in 2004 with his reappointment in 2005 and has served this City since. As City Auditor, he has worked with 16 sets of Councilors diligently serving the community with his efforts to build upon sound fiscal policies that have provided success for the City; and

WHEREAS: Through his efforts, Tom was able to assist Michael Driscoll achieve major improvements for the City by ensuring there were funds available to improve Watertown's quality of life: a curbside recycling program; the building of the Senior Center and the Police Station; the renovation of the Library and its expansion, the Public Works Building, three fire stations, City Hall, the Skating Arena, and the parks and playgrounds; and

WHEREAS: Tom worked arduously with Mike Driscoll to achieve a AAA bonding rating from Standard and Poor's which cited the City's very strong economy and budgetary flexibility, liquidity and strong budgetary performance and management conditions on November 13, 2013; and

WHEREAS: Tom served as a member of the Retirement Board and through the use of sound fiscal policies, he and Mr. Driscoll provided the City with a fully funded Retirement program; produced a plan for having a fully funded OPEB Liability system by approximately 2031; created Stabilization Funds in anticipation of community needs such as those for the new Elementary and High Schools, Land/Open Space; worked to enroll the City in the Group Insurance Program providing quality health services whose costs increased on an average of 2.86% annually since Fiscal Year 2009; and

WHEREAS: Most recently, he worked tirelessly to find the financing for the construction and renovation of the Elementary Schools and was instrumental in accelerating the project's completion by at least a year by leasing St. Jude's School in Waltham; and serves on the School Building Committee, and

WHEREAS: Tom, in his last great civic achievement, was willing to serve as Interim City Manager doing an admirable job, leaves knowing that he has served Watertown well, with honor and dignity; and.

WHEREAS: Tom, in his retirement, can now enjoy his time freely with his wife Julie, his daughters, Erin, Meghan, and Colleen, and his grandchildren, Lara, Claire, Declan, and Connor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown and the community thank Tom for always providing strong support to everyone and extend its heartfelt congratulations to

THOMAS J. TRACY ON HIS RETIREMENT AS WATERTOWN'S CITY AUDITOR AND INTERIM CITY MANAGER

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

I have hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the City of Watertown to be
Affixed on this 11th day of October.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

