



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, MAY 23, 2023, 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 G. Gannon, Nicole Gardner, Lisa J. Feltner, Emily Izzo, Anthony Palomba (joined via Zoom), Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were George Proakis, City Manager, Mark Reich, City Attorney, and Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Janelle Tribble -12 Paul St – Special Education Teacher with the Connection Program at the Hosmer School. Stated that special ed teachers interact closely with Instructional Assistants. She stated that Unit A contracts have been ratified, but Unit D -unit which includes the "I.A.s"- contracts are still in negotiations, and poorly so because the I.A.s are asking for more money than what Watertown wants to pay them. Janelle went on to describe the essential role that I.A.'s play in the classroom in providing additional support beyond what a teacher can provide to each student - assisting children during outbursts, restroom trips, material assistance, implementing behavior plans, they are trained in crisis prevention and assisting differently abled children. She stated that in many other school systems there is a significantly higher pay scale for professionals in the same role, which has led to a decline in I.A. applicants for Watertown schools. She implored the Council to reconsider their pay scale.

Angela Carosella – Emerson Rd – Compared the school budget to a pyramid. – top is buildings and administration, things that help a community grow; middle being items like standardized test or any data driven items; the base in this case are the I.A.'s. Vital but lastly considered. They support children, and indirectly, families immensely. Angela shared that her son was born with many medical complications that delayed his education, but with the support of I.A.s, he has grown into a young individual who is giving back to the community. She concluded that I.A.s deserve the support that they give the community, and that the community should invest in them in return.

Cindy St. Claire – 77 Townley Road – Lifelong Watertown Resident whose children are in the Watertown school system – one of which is special education. She stated that when they were told of her child's autistic diagnosis, they were worried, but through years of educational support, including the support from his I.A.s, he has been able to flourish. Cindy went on to claim how vital I.A.s are, and that we (Watertown) need to properly support them, or we risk individuals seeking employment in neighboring towns for higher wages.

Stephanie Poirier – 25 Main St Upton, MA – Former Watertown Resident and current employee Hosmer School as an I.A. (connection program). With cost of living in Watertown so high, she states she had to move out of the area, and work three jobs to support herself. Stephanie went on to explain that the role of the I.A. has significantly changed and requires many certifications as a requisite including being able to read IEP Behavioral plans and implement them in the classroom as well as maintain de-escalation certifications. Stephanie finished by recalling that they were considered essential workers during the pandemic, and that essential workers should be paid a living wage.

Stacy Vachon – 93 Union St – Stacy is an I.A. in Watertown. She stated she has seen the position of I.A. evolve and become an integral element of the educational system, specifically in regard to socialized services. Stacy claimed that with the ever changing and growing inclusiveness of classrooms, I.A.s are tasked with learning and implementing an ever-growing list of skills. She claimed that despite the demands that are placed on I.A.s, the pay they receive in Watertown is significantly disproportionate to their crucial contributions.

Jimmy Distefano – 11 Jefferson Ave – Jimmy stated that he saw that the council will be reviewing the reports from the sub committees (re: Columbus Dela), but was unclear as to whether there would be a vote on the matter. He had heard there would be no vote and asked for clarification.

President Sideris remarked that there would be no vote, but that this wasn't the forum to answer questions.

Jimmy Distefano claimed it was unclear on the Agenda

President Sideris confirmed that it was very clear, and that the Agenda correctly did not include an action item to vote on the matter.

Jimmy Distefao asked if the Council had received the letter he had sent to the Council.

President Sideris affirmed that they did and thanked him for his time.

Linda Scott – 55 Olcott St – Spoke on the proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance item on the Agenda. Linda pointed out that the preliminary review process that will be used by the Historical Commission Chair and just one other member of the Commission is not laid out in the document which could lead to unintended consequences and lack of transparency. She strongly recommended that before this amendment of language is passed, that the preliminary review be included and specific documentation be designed. She claimed that more articulation is necessary to be clear about the preliminary process in general, and there needs to be a plan as to how this language will be shared with the public. Linda concluded by saying that transparency will make the document stronger and will build trust with the public.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

President Sideris tabled examination of the minutes from the previous meeting as they were not available.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sideris mentioned that while City Manager Proakis will go into the subject with more detail, the Watertown High School received a low bid that was only \$80,000 over what was budgeted, and so the contract was awarded. The project will be moving forward as scheduled.

6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATION, AND SIMILAR PAPERS

A. Proclamation Celebrating June as Pride Month -2023

President Sideris invited Councilor Gardner to present the Proclamation of June 2023 as Pride Month in Watertown.

Councilor Gardner presented the Proclamation Celebrating June as Pride Month in the City of Watertown.

President Siders Called of a Motion to accept the Proclamation.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Proclamation and Councilor Gannon Seconded. President Sideris opened for discussion, there being none, the motion was accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

7. PUBLIC HEARING MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Ordinance Establishing City Council Salaries, with salaries to be established pursuant to Section 2-3(a) of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter for Councilors at \$8700 per annum and Council President at \$12,000 per annum, effective January 1, 2024; And Councilors at \$8,900 per annum and Council President at \$12,500 effective January 1, 2025.

President Sideris gave context that the City Council cannot vote to increase their salary, but rather this is a vote for the salary change in the incoming City Council that takes their seats in January 2024. President Sideris also made note that the increase reflects what a 2.5% year over year increase would look like if the salaries had increased every year – which they had not.

President Sideris opened the Public Hearing.

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Rd – Stated that she thought the increase was well deserved and voiced that she believes the yearly increase should be implanted automatically without a vote being necessary.

Christina Catenzaro – 113 Forest St – Raised issue with Watertown being fixed at a 2.5% increase in salary and claimed that the increase in salary for the City Council was approximately 18% from its previous figure. She asked the community to consider that while considering educators salaries, and what the community should put at the top of its values.

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the ordinance. Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner made note that while it's not included in the attachments for the ordinance, the final report recommended a Blue Ribbon Commission be formed to review the salaries for upcoming changes.

President Sideris stated that it wasn't included because it is not part of the ordinance but confirmed Councilor Feltner's reference to the Blue Ribbon Commission.

The Ordinance was adopted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

President Sideris asked for a Motion to move up Item 8-E.

Councilor Piccirilli Moved. Councilors Bays seconded.

There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- B. Zoning Map Amendment Public Hearing - 126-134 Templeton Parkway - To consider Watertown Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment to apply the Religious/School Building Overlay District (R/SOD) to 126-134 Templeton Parkway.

President Sideris clarified that this item should have been placed under Public Hearings.

President Sideris welcomed Steve Magoon to present the proposed amendment.

Mr. Magoon stated that this was a request that came from Eagle Brook Capital as they would like to make new use of the property. The proposed

overlay does not change the basic zoning of the property but adds additional zoning aspects of the property. Mr. Magoon stated its purpose is to make better use of, in this case, an old religious structure. He believed that the question brought before the council is whether the building is worth preserving/worth developing, and if so, he believed the overlay would be appropriate.

Mr. Magoon recognized that during the Planning Board Public Hearing, 17 individuals spoke, and all but one were in opposition of the zoning amendment. Most concerning about the future developments, the possibility of the property being demolished, loss of green space, and traffic impact.

President Sideris remarked that before he opened the Public Hearing he wanted to remind everyone that the Council is not voting on any specific development, but just the zoning amendment.

President Sideris opened the Public Hearing.

Jamie Gordon – 84 Fitchburg St – Supported the rezoning. She believes that it will preserve the building and add density to the area.

Josh Rosmarin (Spoke via Zoom) - Echoed the support of the rezoning and was eager to see future plans.

Bob Leibowitz (Spoke via Zoom) – 210 Belmont St – Raised question to the effects of the overlay. He was concerned that there would be no current way to predict what types of businesses would be built in that location – restaurants and bars all fall under that zone. He cited that the residents at the hearing were almost unanimously against the overlay, and urged the council to take their concerns into consideration.

Roland Jaeckel (Spoke via Zoom) – 210 Belmont St – Spoke his opposition to the overlay, speaking the only guarantee is that the church will not be demolished. He went on to say the church is not fit for revitalizing.

Jackie VanLeewan (Spoke Via Zoom) – Spoke to support the overlay.

Libby Shaw – 73 Templeton Pkwy – Voiced confusion due to the would-be developers and Planning Board stating there isn't any viable option to make the church habitable. She was concerned with the diminishing open space in Watertown, and would only support the overlay if it could guarantee open space. She recommended that the space would be a prime location for a public park.

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Road – Expressed her disappointment with the planning board presentation. To her, she didn't feel like proper research was done in consideration in the property. She expressed confusion because there were no firm alternative use plans for the property.

There being no other speakers, President Sideris closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the Zoning Map Amendment and Councilor Bays Seconded.

Discussion Ensued.

Councilor Gardner recognized it was a complicated topic. At first, she believed it to be a great idea as it was a way to preserve an aesthetically pleasing and historic church. She also believed it would be a good housing opportunity. Councilor Gardner remarked that there have been other religious structures in Watertown that have been preserved and repurposed into housing, but that those developments presented clear intent from the onset, while this particular project did not. She expressed concern with the lack of clarity and direction from the developers. She expressed that at this point she is not comfortable moving forward to support the amendment.

Councilor Palomba asked Mr. Magoon if the possibilities of what could be developed in the space are endless.

Mr. Magoon answered that the overlay would allow commercial use, but that any type of property would have to be brought forward and approved.

Councilor Bays remarked in response to Councilor Gardner's concern that when the issue of zoning is brought forward, you are voting on the zoning itself and not a particular development plan. She expressed that there is an opportunity in the zoning amendment to benefit from denser housing, and that she is in support of that.

Councilor Piccirilli remarked that is purpose of this overlay is to preserve the church which is part of the community, and turn it into something new purpose. He recognized that the developers did not have any real plans for the church. Councilor Piccirilli claimed he is for overlays in general for the purpose of housing, but that these developers' negligence in their plans for the church made the project flawed and unfavorable.

Councilor Feltner asked for Mr. Magoon's input, in that the Council is not voting on proposals, but they do want to hear ideas.

Mr. Magoon answered by saying their support is backed by the fact that they believe it is the best way to preserve the structure.

Councilor Gannon asked Mr. Magoon if the owners of a previous similar project at Common and Mt. Auburn St presented a concrete plan for their development.

Mr. Magoon Stated that the zoning was different – no overlay - for that project in question so the comparison was not applicable.

Councilor Gannon recalled the church that Councilor Gardner previously mentioned. He asked if it was rezoned and if the developer brought forth concrete plans.

Mr. Magoon confirmed that it was rezoned, and that that particular developer did in fact present an in-depth plan.

Councilor Gardner asked if the church were to be demolished and the property subdivided and two family houses were put in its stead, how many units would it be?

Mr. Magoon speculated that it would be 4 or 5 lots with 8 to 10 units.

Councilor Gardner asked how many townhouses were shown on the rough sketch from the developer.

Mr. Magoon answered that they showed 5 townhouses, reuse of the church, and parking.

Councilor Gardner asked if the developer could build commercial property there in the existing structure and new.

Mr. Magoon confirmed that they could develop some commercial property, but reiterated that the intent is to preserve the existing building that would not otherwise occur.

President Sideris recalled other projects that the overlay was used successfully. He also cited the Parker school had plans to convert to a retirement home, but didn't follow through with it. He also mentioned the hotel on Arsenal had plans to become assisted living, but again it didn't come to pass. He concluded that the successful projects have steady plans, and that this project is not a well thought out request.

President Sideris asked if there were any further questions.

There being none, President Sideris asked for a vote.

The Zoning map Amendment failed in a Roll Call for with 3 votes for (Bays, Feltner, Palomba), and 6 votes against (Gannon ,Gardner, Izzo, Piccirilli, Airasian, Sideris).

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCE, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading for a New Demolition Ordinance Chapter 153 as Proposed to Replace the Existing Chapter 153 in its Entirety, and Endorse the New Demolition Delay Regulations.

President Sideris explained this is a first reading, and that they will follow up in a subsequent meeting.

- B. First Reading on an Ordinance to Establish the Salary of the City Auditor in Accordance with Section 2-7(e) of the City Charter

President Sideris explained that the Auditor Position and Salary has already been discussed and agreed upon, and that the Ordinance will be on the next meeting.

- C. Consideration and approval of exemptions of interests of existing City employees in contracts with the City including summer, winter, holiday, and after school program employment positions in response to disclosures filed with the City Clerk by prospective employees and certification by the Recreation Director that no employee of that Department is available to perform those services as part of their regular duties, in accordance with G.L. c. 268A, sec. 20(b) – Recreation Department: Anderson, Ann Marie; Anderson, Naomi; Cafua, Edward; Campbell, Jason; Cinar, Nursel; Cinar, Sevim; Donato, Brian; Morris, Walter; Petrillo, Lauren; Smith, Judith and Spillane, Michael.

City Manager Proakis explained how the uniqueness of some of the part time employees in the Rec Department in that they are seasonal and that some of the individuals already hold positions in the city. He reiterated the importance of clarity that this exemption provides.

President Sideris asked to get a motion to approve the exemption.

Councilor Piccirilli so moved and Councilor Feltner Seconded.

There being no discussion, the exemption passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- D. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of \$508,660 from the Fiscal Year 2023 Debt Retirement – Planned Debt Account to the Fiscal Year 2023 Transfer to Capital Projects IT Department Account.

City Manager Proakis explained that this is an opportunity to take money that had been budgeted in preparation for a potential debt, and transfer funds directly to specific needs, in this case the IT Capital Account.

President Sideris asked to get a motion.

Councilor Piccirilli so moved and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The Resolution passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- F. Resolution authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$680,000 from the Fiscal Year 2023 Planned Debt Account to the Fiscal Year 2023 Transfer to Capital Projects -- Arena Account.

City Manger Proakis recalled previous plans to update the arena, as well as raised the need to updated the ammonia detection system as well as ADA updates. He continued to say that they are still actively receiving bids.

President Sideris asked to get a motion.

Councilor Piccirilli so moved and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Gannon asked if the new bleacher seating area will be more accessible.

Mr. Brothers confirmed that that is one of the goals.

Councilor Gannon asked if they are working with professionals who have experience updating bleachers to be accessible.

Mr. Brothers confirmed that they are and cited that they are using the same company that successfully renovated Arlington's arena.

President Sideris stated that with this item, as well as the previous item, it is an exercise in a prudent city management in how the city can use funds without having to borrow.

Mr. Brothers added that the outside ADA ramp and exterior has been completed at the arena.

The Resolution passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Human Services Regarding Minutes of the Committee on Human Services meeting on March 23, 2023 - "Initial Rodent Policy Brief" and "Rodent Policy Brief- Human Service Committee" - Anthony Palomba, Chair

President Sideris tabled 9A.

- B. Committee on Climate and Energy Regarding Minutes of the Committee on Climate and Energy meeting on March 27, 2023 "March 2023 City Council committee presentation" - Anthony Palomba, Chair Submission of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

Councilor Palomba recognized that there were a few typos in the reports that he will correct. Councilor Palomba recognized those individuals that were present at the meeting and read the report.

President Sideris asked to get a motion to accept the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved with the caveat that the errors be corrected and Councilor Gannon Seconded.

There being no discussion, the report was accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- C. Joint Economic Development Planning and Human Services Regarding local preference policy for affordable housing. - Lisa Feltner, EDP Chair, Anthony Palomba, HS Chair

ACTION ITEM:

City Council Endorse the July 2021 Local Preference Policy with Rental Units up to 50%; Condo Units "to be determined" with More Data; and Recommend Staff Continue Gathering Data with Policy to be Reassessed as Needed.

Councilor Feltner read the report.

President Sideris asked for a motion.

Councilor Piccirilli so moved and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The report was accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

President Sideris asked for a motion to vote on the Sub Committee's Action Item.

Councilor Piccirilli so moved and Councilor Bays seconded.

The Action Item passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- D. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding a Request from the Public Arts & Culture Committee to change the youth membership as defined in Resolution 21-R-23. (Attachments A & B) - Lisa Feltner, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend the City Council approve the resolution amending the membership of the Public Arts & Culture

Councilor Feltner read the report.

President Sideris asked to get a motion to accept the report.

Councilor Piccirilli so moved and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The report was accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

President Sideris asked to get a motion on the Action Item.

Councilor Piccirilli so moved and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner said that for the health of the committee going forward, it serves to forgo the designated youth seats, and made a motion that the seats would be 7 as opposed to 9. There was no second.

Councilor Palomba claimed he was not going to support this resolution. He recognized that the committee has experienced trouble filling youth required seats, but didn't see any hindrance as an effect of the absence of youths being present. He concluded by saying that continuing to try to find youth seats is not something that we should give up on.

Mr. Magoon, clarifying that the new resolution wouldn't stop youths from having a seat.

Councilor Feltner appreciated the effort that individuals in the committee and the schools to try to get the seats filled. She recognized that young individuals' schedules are constantly changing, and so it's difficult for them to serve in a full time position.

Councilor Izzo asked to clarify the terms of the members.

Councilor Piccirilli explained that the 8 members would serve staggered 3-year terms, and that an additional member is selected annually.

Councilor Gannon spoke on Councilor Palomba's concerns. He stated that the proposed change does not preclude youth individuals to serving as a member.

Councilor Palomba appreciated the clarification on membership, but continued to urge a great effort to include individuals that are under 21.

Councilor Gardner suggested that the Manager make sure that the community is as proactive as possible to include youths in committees and other similar programs.

President Sideris asked if there were any other comments. There being none, he called for a vote.

The Resolution passed with a vote of 8 for, and 1 (Palomba) voting present.

E. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding the Petition for the name of Columbus Delta. - Vincent Piccirilli, Chair

Councilor Piccirilli gave an executive summary of the report.

President Sideris asked for a motion to accept the report.

Councilor Piccirilli so moved and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The report was accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

A. City Council Approval for City Attorney

City Manager Proakis Presented his support to continue the relationship with the current City Attorney. He noted it is important to maintain institutional knowledge that the City Attorney – Reich – has in an every changing and complicated environment.

President Sideris asked for a motion to support KP Law as the City Attorney.

Councilor Piccirilli so moved and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Gannon asked if a pending litigation would interfere with the procedure of appointing the City Attorney

President Sideris clarified that that's the job of the City Attorney, and that any specific litigation will be addressed as planned.

The motion passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

B. Update on Cannabis Host Community Agreements

City Manager Proakis recalled the current agreement with Cannabis stores and the 3% local sales tax attached with the agreement with an opportunity for a second 3% for a "host community" in regard to the effect their business has on the community. He went on to mention that that many communities are debating on the host community 3%. He noted that it has become clear that it is difficult for local governments to establish those direct impacts. He asked that this issue be referred to the Committee of Economic Development and Planning to address editing their agreement with the dispensaries.

President asked for a motion to refer this issue to the Committee of Development and Planning.

Councilor Piccirilli so move and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner asked the request was made by any of the current dispensaries in the City, and if any of the funds collected to date had been used.

Mr. Magoon said that they do get inquiries from the current dispensaries, but also that the City had initiated contact with this specific issue.

There were no other questions.

The motion to refer passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

C. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Board of Health

City Manager Proakis sought approval of reappointment of the current head of the Board of Health.

President Sideris stated that the issue will go to the Committee of Human Services

D. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Conservation Committee.

City Manager Proakis presented the request to reappoint the current members of the Conservation Committee.

President Sideris stated that the issue will go to the Committee of Public Works.

President Sideris mentioned that the individuals have already gone in front of the Residence Advisory Board in accordance with the new Charter.

Councilor Feltner asked for clarity on where to refer this issue as there is now a Parks and Recreation Committee.

President Sideris stated that the issue had gone to Public Works since its inception, and that he didn't think that should change at this point of time.

City Manager Proakis appreciated the continued work with the Budget Hearings. He also reiterated the low bid for the High School project, but addressed that they still have work to do in order to find more funds. Manger Proakis was excited to begin executing their large planned upcoming borrowing of funds.

City Manager Proakis discussed Summer Hours as well as upcoming City Events – in particular the Victory Field project and the Pride Extravaganza.

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

There was no request for information.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

There were no additional announcements.

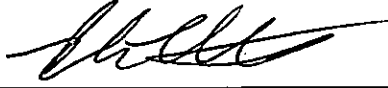
14. PUBLIC FORUM

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Rd - Raised concerns with minute taking at sub committee meetings – in particular omitted information she presented concerning affordable housing.

15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 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 9 for, 0 against, 0 present on June 13, 2023.



Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/BTM

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

Administration Building, 149 Main Street

List of Documents

1. A Planning Board Report regarding the Templeton Parkway Overlay Zoning Ordinance Amendment.
2. Legal Notice regarding the Templeton Parkway Overlay Zoning Ordinance Amendment.
3. A proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance/Regulations with a memo from the DCDP.
4. A summary of proposed delay regulations.
5. A memo from the City Manager's Office regarding the Transfer of Funds request from the FY23 Planned Debt Account to the Capital Projects - IT Department.
6. A report from Hub Technology.
7. A memo from the City Manager's Office regarding the Transfer of Funds request from FY23 Planned Debt Account to the FY23 Capital Projects – Skating Arena Account.
8. Committee on Climate and Energy presentation and minutes.
9. Joint Economic Development Planning and Human Services report regarding affordable housing.
10. Committee on Economic Development and Planning report regarding a request from the the Public Arts & Culture Committee.
11. Committee on Public Works report regarding the name of the Columbus Delta.
12. A memo from the City Manager for the City Council's approval of the City Attorney.

ADDENDUM TO THE
MINUTES OF THE MAY 23, 2023
CITY COUNCIL MEETING



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Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER

AGENDA

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, the meeting and public hearing will be conducted with remote opportunities for participation. Remote participation and access methods include:

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
 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 6. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS
 - A. Proclamation Celebrating June as Pride Month - 2023
 7. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Ordinance Establishing City Council Salaries, with salaries to be established pursuant to Section 2-3(a) of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter for Councilors at \$8700 per annum and Council President at \$12,000 per annum, effective January 1, 2024; And Councilors at \$8,900 per annum and Council President at \$12,500 effective January 1, 2025.
 8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS
 - A. First Reading for a New Demolition Ordinance Chapter 153 as Proposed to Replace the Existing Chapter 153 in its Entirety, and Endorse the New Demolition Delay Regulations

- B. First Reading on an Ordinance to Establish the Salary of the City Auditor in Accordance with Section 2-7(e) of the City Charter
- C. Consideration and approval of exemptions of interests of existing City employees in contracts with the City including summer, winter, holiday, and after school program employment positions in response to disclosures filed with the City Clerk by prospective employees and certification by the Recreation Director that no employee of that Department is available to perform those services as part of their regular duties, in accordance with G.L. c. 268A, sec. 20(b) – Recreation Department: Anderson, Ann Marie; Anderson, Naomi; Cafua, Edward; Campbell, Jason; Cinar, Nursel; Cinar, Sevim; Donato, Brian; Morris, Walter; Petrillo, Lauren; Smith, Judith and Spillane, Michael.
- D. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of \$508,660 from the Fiscal Year 2023 Debt Retirement – Planned Debt Account to the Fiscal Year 2023 Transfer to Capital Projects IT Department Account
- E. Zoning Map Amendment Public Hearing - 126-134 Templeton Parkway - To consider Watertown Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment to apply the Religious/School Building Overlay District (R/SOD) to 126-134 Templeton Parkway.
- F. Resolution authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$680,000 from the Fiscal Year 2023 Planned Debt Account to the Fiscal Year 2023 Transfer to Capital Projects – Skating Arena Account.

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Human Services Regarding Minutes of the Committee on Human Services meeting on March 23, 2023 - "Initial Rodent Policy Brief" and "Rodent Policy Brief- Human Service Committee" - Anthony Palomba, Chair
- B. Committee on Climate and Energy Regarding Minutes of the Committee on Climate and Energy meeting on March 27, 2023 "March 2023 City Council committee presentation" - Anthony Palomba, Chair
- C. Joint Economic Development Planning and Human Services Regarding local preference policy for affordable housing. - Lisa Feltner, EDP Chair, Anthony Palomba, HS Chair
ACTION ITEM:
City Council Endorse the July 2021 Local Preference Policy with Rental Units up to 50%; Condo Units "to be determined" with More Data; and Recommend Staff Continue Gathering Data with Policy to be Reassessed as Needed.
- D. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding a Request from the Public Arts & Culture Committee to change the youth membership as defined in Resolution 21-R-23. (Attachments A & B) - Lisa Feltner, Chair
ACTION ITEM:
To recommend the City Council approve the resolution amending the membership of the Public Arts & Culture Committee.
- E. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding the Petition for the name of Columbus Delta. - Vincent Piccirilli, Chair

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. City Council Approval for City Attorney
- B. Update on Cannabis Host Community Agreements
- C. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Board of Health
- D. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Conservation Committee

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

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

14. PUBLIC FORUM
15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE
MEETING DATE: MAY 23, 2023

	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 (v. zoom) </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>

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 23, 2023

	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 the Proclamation of June 2023 as Pride Month in the City of Watertown.



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 CELEBRATING JUNE AS PRIDE MONTH - 2023

WHEREAS: Our nation has officially celebrated Pride Month in June since 1999; and

WHEREAS: During Pride Month, Americans everywhere recognize the right of each of us to live freely and authentically, consistent with our country's vision of equality for all; and

WHEREAS: While society at large increasingly supports Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and their Allies (LGBTQIA+) equality, the need for education and awareness remains vital to end discrimination and prejudice; and

WHEREAS: The Watertown Free Public Library and Watertown Public Arts and Culture are offering a robust month of programs including Pride Extravaganza to show the vibrancy and strength of the City of Watertown because of this diversity; and

WHEREAS: The City of Watertown stands in solidarity with LGBTQIA+ people and calls upon the people of this municipality to embrace the dignity of every individual and work to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists; and

WHEREAS: celebrating Pride Month builds awareness and provides support and advocacy for the City of Watertown's LGBTQIA+ people and is an opportunity to take action and engage in dialogue to build acceptance and advance equal rights.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Watertown hereby proclaims the month of June 2023 Pride Month and urges all citizens to join the celebrations.

IN WITNESS HEREOF,

I have hereunto set our hand and caused the
Great Seal of the City of Watertown to be
affixed on this 23th day of May 2023



Mark S. Sideris, City Council President



CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 23, 2023

	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 an Ordinance to establish the City Council Salaries in the year 2024 to be as follows:

Councilor - \$8,700 per annum.

Council President - \$12,000 per annum.

And in the year 2025:

Councilor - \$8900 per annum.

Council President - \$12,500 per annum.



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

ORDINANCE # 26

O-2023- 26

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CITY COUNCIL SALARIES

WHEREAS, Section 2-3(a) of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter provides that the City Council may, by ordinance, provide an annual salary for its members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the Council hereby establishes the City Council Salaries as follows:

Effective January 1, 2024, the salaries of the City Council shall be established as follows:

Councilor - \$8,700 per annum.

Council President - \$12,000 per annum

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED as follows:

Effective January 1, 2025, the salaries of the City Council shall be established as follows:

Councilor - \$8,900 per annum.

Council President - \$12,500 per annum


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against and 0 present on May 23, 2023.


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 23, 2023

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

Motion to approve an Ordinance To consider Watertown Zoning Ordinance Map
Amendment to apply the Religious/School Building Overlay District (R/SOD) to 126-134
Templeton Parkway.



CITY OF WATERTOWN
Department of
Community Development and Planning
Planning Board

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472
Phone: 617-972-6417
www.watertown-ma.gov

Board Members:
Janet Buck, Chair
Jason Cohen
Payson R. Whitney, III
Abigail Hammett

Planning Board Report

This Report provides the Planning Board's recommendation to the Honorable City Council for the Council's public hearing on a Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment applying the Religious/School Overlay District to 126-134 Templeton Parkway.

ZONING AMENDMENT:	Amend the Zoning Ordinance Map to apply the Religious/School Building Overlay District (R/SOD) to.
PARCEL NUMBERS:	1144 1A 0
ADDRESS:	126-134 Templeton Parkway
DATE OF CITY COUNCIL FIRST READING:	February 14, 2023
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:	Adopt Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment
DATE OF PLANNING BOARD HEARING:	March 8, 2023
PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION:	Adoption (4-0)

I. PUBLIC NOTICE

A. Procedural Summary:

As required by the Watertown Zoning Ordinance § 9.22, notice was given as follows:

- Published in the newspaper of record (Boston Globe) on February 21 and 28, 2023;
- Posted at the Administration Building on February 21, 2023; and,
- Mailed to parties of interest on February 22, 2023.

B. Planning Board Public Notice:

"City of Watertown Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday March 8, 2023 with the meeting starting at 7:00 pm, City Council Chamber, Administration Building, 149 Main St., Watertown, MA. Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, or as updated, the meeting will be conducted with remote participation opportunities identified on the agenda posted 48 hours prior to the meeting. To consider Watertown Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment to apply the Religious/School Building Overlay District (R/SOD) to 126-134 Templeton Parkway."



II. DESCRIPTION

A. Nature of the Request

Article III, §3.02 provides for amendments to the Zoning Ordinance Map. Article V, §5.14 establishes zoning that can be applied "from time to time" to specific portions of the zoning map. The proposed map amendment applies the Religious/School Building Overlay District (R/SOD) to 126-134 Templeton Parkway. The proposed zoning map amendment is attached as Exhibit 1.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Background

Article V, §5.14, establishes zoning intended to "guide and encourage the reuse and redevelopment of both religious and school buildings as defined in accordance with G.L. c. 40A, §3...and further protecting the historic building structures and preserving architectural features and character along with the associated tracts of land in a manner that is beneficial to the City." Under this section, the City Council may "from time to time" apply the Religious/School Building Overlay District (R/SOD) to specific portions of the map.

The property is a .714-acre site at the corner of Templeton Parkway and Belmont Street. It consists of a religious building (the First Belmont Street Shalom International Baptist Church), a lot with an estimated 15 parking spaces and open space east of the church. The building is three stories, with 9,318 square feet of finished space. The lot is a triangular shape, with the longest segment on Belmont Street. The site is in the Two-Family (T) zone. To the north, the site abuts a condominium complex with 16 units. To the south (across Templeton Parkway) are one- and two-family homes and (along Belmont Street) a gas station and one-story retail uses. To the west, on Belmont Street (in Belmont) is a mix of one-story retail uses and small multi-family homes.

The First Belmont Street Shalom International Baptist Church has agreed to sell the property to Eaglebrook Capital LLC. The rezoning request includes a proposed use for the property: rehabilitation of the church and reuse for an educational, daycare or other non-profit use, and development of townhomes along Belmont Street. While this conceptual plan is illustrative of how the property could be repositioned under the R/SOD, such a plan will require filing and approval of a special permit application.

B. Analysis

In evaluating the request, there are two questions: (1) does the property contain a historic religious or school building? and (2) is applying the R/SOD zone to this property "beneficial" to Watertown?

According to the Petitioner, the church was built between 1923 and 1927.* Under the city's demolition delay ordinance, any structure built 50 years ago or more is required to go before the Historical Commission to determine if it is "preferably preserved" and if a demolition delay should

* Although the Petitioner's request correctly states that the city's assessor database uses 1900 as the construction date, aerial photographs, historic maps, and similar sources put the date in the mid-1920s.

be imposed. Based on a visual inspection of the church's exterior, it still includes architectural features and character dating from the early 20th century. As shown in the attached photos, the building is Greek Revival-style with front columns, front pediment, low gable roof, brackets, brick façade, and a rooftop cupola. In sum, this property contains a historic religious building.

Applying the R/SOD zone to this property will benefit the city. First, applying the designation is essential to preserving the existing building. It is economically infeasible to rehabilitate and reuse the structure without development elsewhere on the site. Rehabilitating a church structure is notoriously challenging without a potential use that has a significant financial return. The small floor plates of this church limit its use for apartments/condo units. Potential reuse as retail or office is highly speculative in today's real estate market.

Second, the designation would allow the remaining land to be developed with uses and dimensions that are appropriate for this site. Any proposal utilizing R/SOD zoning will require a special permit application under §5.14 (i). The city's special permit criteria include whether the site is "an appropriate location for such a use, structure or condition" and that the use "as developed will not adversely affect the neighborhood." R/SOD zoning provides for dimensions that correspond to the R.75 or R1.2 zones (depending on whether the number of proposed residential units is more than 10) and correspond to the Neighborhood Business zone for a "residential and mixed use-limited business development." Given the surrounding land uses, and with special permit requirements, the R/SOD zoning is appropriate for the site. Accordingly, staff recommended that the Planning Board favorably report on the proposed Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment to apply the Religious/School Building Overlay District (R/SOD) to 126-134 Templeton Parkway.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments received before the staff report. On March 8, 2023, 17 individuals spoke at the Planning Board hearing (one speaker sent an email just before the hearing and another speaker sent one the next day). Of the 17 individuals, all but one opposed the zoning amendment and cited concerns about developing the site.

More than half expressed concern that any development would entail the loss of the green space on Belmont Street. Many suggested that the city purchase the property. Several of the speakers noted the unusual value of the green space because it has avoided development over the last century (possibly more). The other speakers opposing development cited concerns about what could be built and adverse impacts from those potential developments (some of these individuals also were concerned about loss of green space). Staff, as well as several board members, noted that there was no specific development proposal and that a special permit and public hearing would be required at that time. These concerns included:

- The developers would build townhomes and raze the church anyway. Staff said use of the zoning overlay would not allow for demolition.
- The developers will build commercial uses, possibly including a restaurant or liquor store. The petitioner said the site was not conducive to a restaurant or liquor store and that they would propose a use such as day care for the church and townhomes

- elsewhere. Staff noted that the special permit process focuses, in significant part, on whether a particular site is appropriate for the development proposed.
- Any development will add traffic and an additional driveway on Templeton Parkway would be dangerous.
 - The underlying zoning (T zone) would be better than the zoning overlay. Staff noted that the zoning overlay may result in less intense development than the T zone. A developer using T zoning could develop 85% of the site and demolish the church. Or a developer could use 100% of the site for a protected religious/educational use.

One speaker noted the need for housing and said approving the zoning overlay would allow the city to consider a specific proposal for the site.

V. PLANNING BOARD DELIBERATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Planning Board members asked about the proposed reuse of the church for day care to confirm the Petitioner was committed to reuse. Member Jason Cohen asked what would happen if the overlay were not applied to the site. Petitioner said the backup plan would likely be demolishing the church and building a smaller day care building with several townhomes.

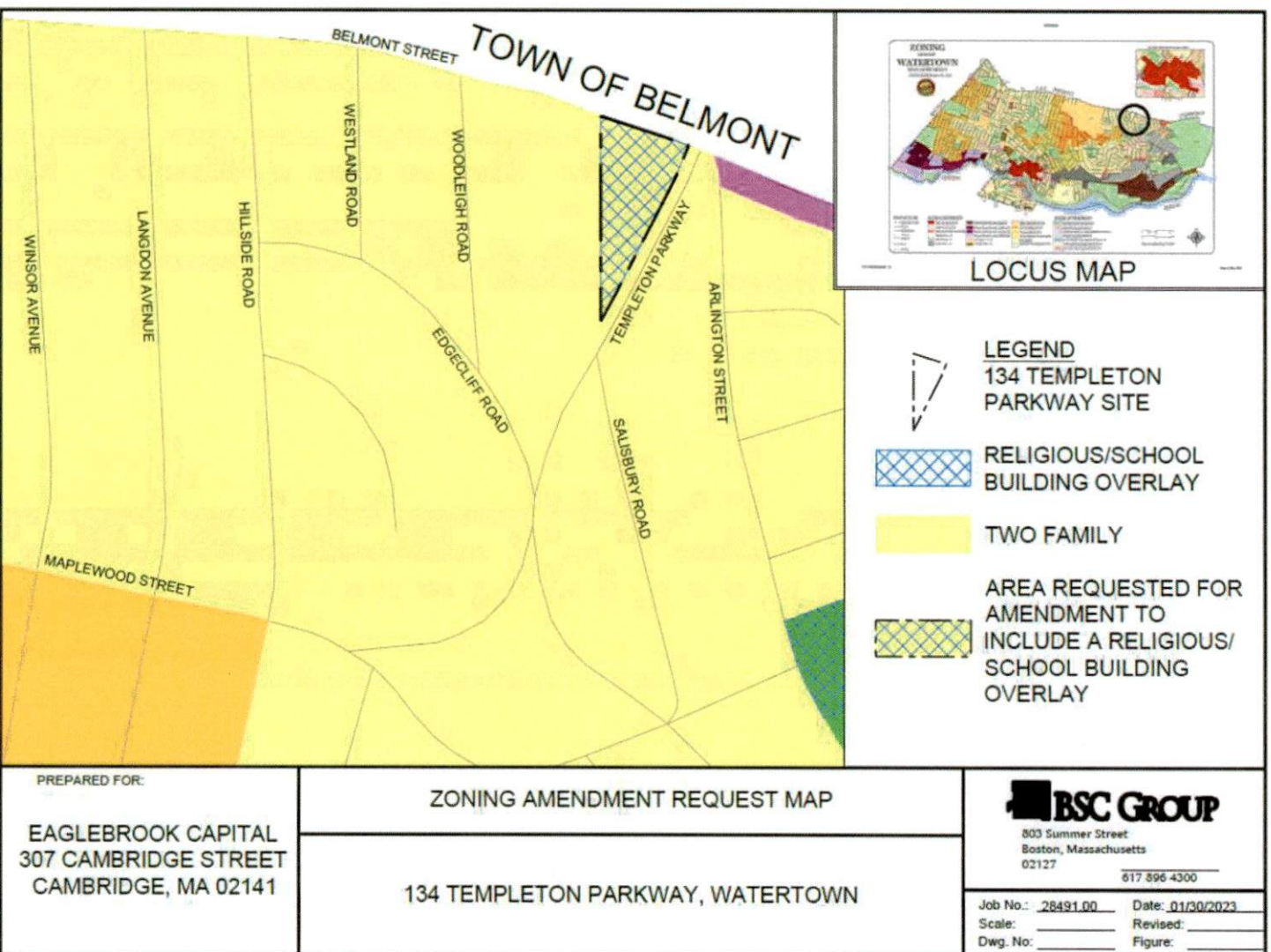
During deliberations, members said that the R/SOD district was the zoning path most likely to preserve the church building and that the particular issues raised by potential development were appropriately considered when a specific proposal was made. Member Hammett noted that it was unlikely that there was a zoning choice that would both preserve the church and the existing green space. Member Whitney said that it was up to the city council to consider if buying the property was an option.

The Planning Board voted (4-0) to favorably recommend the proposed zoning amendment, with the note that public comments requested that the City Council purchase the property and preserve the existing green space.

VI. PROPOSED ZONING LANGUAGE:

Exhibit 1 is the proposed amendment.

Exhibit 1 - Map Amendment Request (Parcel # 1144 1A 0)





CITY OF WATERTOWN
CITY COUNCIL
Administration Building
149 Main Street
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02472

LEGAL NOTICE

Watertown City Council Public Hearing: **Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 7:00 pm**, Council Chamber, Administration Building, 149 Main St, Watertown, MA, with remote access link on the Agenda posted 48 hours prior to the meeting.

To consider Watertown Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment to apply the Religious/School Building Overlay District (R/SOD) to 126-134 Templeton Parkway.

Published: 5/9 and 5/16/23 Boston Globe
Posted: 5/9/23 Watertown Administration Building

SUMMARY OF ALL PROPOSED CHANGES IN DEMO DELAY PROPOSAL

Intent	Description of proposed change	Ref in proposal	Ref in DCDP text
Conform to applications now in use	Authorize Commission to request info not in permit app, but put list of specific info in Regs	153.03 (B) Regs; ID	153.05 (B) Regs, IIB & D
Better differentiate between demo and renovation permit process	Definition of permit application distinguishes between the two, and ordinance uses separate sub-sections for each application type	153.02 Demolition Permit Def 153.03 (A)	153.02 Incorporated into new definitions of Permit Application & Permit 153.03 (B) and (C)
Cleaner flow within DCDP (& clearer to applicants)	Separate sections to show process within DCDP, preliminary review at Commission, hearings at Commission	153.03 covers every part of process	153.03, 153.04, 153.05 within prelim review hearings (2 new sections, later sections renumbered)
Explain how 50-year determination made	DCDP uses best public records, while Commission may use historical research	None	Regs, IA
Notice	Clarify websites that can be used, incorporate objective standard currently used for mailings (while retaining flexibility to provide more notice)	153.03 (F)	153.05 (A) --Website offering local news/public notice --abutters and abutters to abutters within 300 ft

Proposed by KP Law and adopted by Historical Commission April 2023

Intent	Description of proposed change	Ref in proposal	Ref in DCDP text
Clarify the factors for criteria the Commission would consider in determining "Preferably Preserved"	Added more specificity for "Preferably Preserved" definition and determination, including two bulleted factors	153.02 add specific bullets	153.02 edit
Clarify Commission criteria in determining the why for, and the length of a demolition delay, in working with the property owner	Edits to text in 153.05 Commission Hearings (C) (1)	153.05 (C) (1)	153.05 (C) (1)
Avoid language that is too open-ended under Enforcement which could lead to challenge; confirm legality of 3-year penalty for voluntary demolition	Delete clause "or as otherwise agreed by the Commission". Yes, 3-year penalty is legal and prudent under Enforcement	153.07 (B)	153.07 (B)



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Department of
Community Development and
Planning

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617 972 6417

Fax: 617 972 6484

www.watertown-ma.gov

To: Committee on Economic Development & Planning
From: Steve Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning/Assistant
City Manager; Gideon Schreiber, Assistant Director; Larry Field, Senior Planner
CC: Elise Loukas, Chair, Watertown Historical Commission
Date: May 16, 2023
Re: **Proposed demolition delay ordinance/regulations**

We are pleased to provide you with clean drafts of the proposed demolition ordinance and regulations as they evolved under your direction after the ED&P Committee's November 21, 2022 meeting. The drafts incorporate: 1) changes you made at the meeting, 2) changes made directly by KP Law PC during the review you requested, and 3) changes made by the Watertown Historical Commission prompted by the KP Law review.

Before summarizing the proposed ordinance and regulations, we do want to note one legal issue that may need to be resolved. The proposed ordinance authorizes the Commission "to adopt a schedule of reasonable fees to cover the cost associated with the administration of this ordinance." However, this would require adoption of G.L. c. 40, Section 22F—something already contemplated by the council and city manager.

As discussed in the Committee's report, the proposed ordinance and regulations are designed to accomplish the following goals:

- 1) Our ordinance requires every application proposing to demolish a building 50 years/older to come before the Commission. The proposed ordinance would use a two-step process where two members of the Commission could find a building "not historically significant," obviating the need for a hearing.
- 2) Our ordinance is not clear about when renovation or alteration amounts to "substantial demolition" because so much of the existing structure is being torn down. The proposed ordinance and regulations would provide a clear path for considering such situations for buildings 50 years and older.
- 3) The proposed ordinance would allow the Commission discretion to impose a demolition delay up to two years to encourage the owner/potential owner to consider options that would preserve some or all of a building found to be "preferably preserved." The Commission, as shown by the statistical data presented to the committee, has been judicious in imposing delays and in imposing maximum delays. Over the 20 years studied, the Commission imposed delays in only 15% of its cases and only 21 cases had the maximum 12 months imposed.

The changes made by the ED&P Committee and suggested by KP Law have made this a better document. One change, although it took time to work through, was to identify specific criteria to be used by the Historical Commission in making its discretionary decisions on whether a building is "preferably preserved" and if/how long a demolition delay should be imposed. The Commission discussed the criteria it has previously weighed and articulated them in a way that will be clear to owners/potential owners and members of the public.

Proposed Demolition Delay Regulations, May 2023:



City of Watertown
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

DEMOLITION DELAY REGULATIONS

These regulations are developed pursuant to the Watertown Demolition Delay Ordinance, Chapter 153, to enable the Historical Commission to carry out the City's goal of preserving and protecting significant buildings within the City which are outside designated local Historic Districts and to encourage owners of such buildings to seek out persons who might be willing to purchase, preserve, rehabilitate, or restore the buildings rather than demolish them. Further, the regulations are intended to provide clear guidance and requirements for applicants seeking to demolish buildings or undertake renovation or alterations that constitute substantial demolition of significant buildings. The regulations shall take effect on the date that the 2023 Demolition Delay Ordinance goes into effect.

I. Definitions

The definitions contained in Chapter 153.02 of the City Code are incorporated by reference.

II. Determinations by the Department of Community Development and Planning to Assist the Historical Commission

- A. **Fifty Years Old or More-** In order to appropriately route applications to the Historical Commission or the Zoning Enforcement Officer, the Department of Community Development and Planning (the Department) shall use the best public record then available to make a preliminary determination of building age. Examples of such public records are the City's Assessor Database or Building Card files. This preliminary determination shall not affect the Historical Commission's authority to use historical research from private or public sources to further determine a building's age.
- B. **Substantial Demolition-** In order to appropriately route applications to the Historical Commission, the Zoning Enforcement Officer will determine whether the proposed scope of work constitutes substantial demolition as defined in the ordinance. In making that determination, the Zoning Enforcement Officer will deem any of the following as substantial demolition:
 - 1. Removal of 50% or more of a roof (for example, raising the overall height of a roof, rebuilding the roof to a different pitch, or adding another story to a building).
 - 2. Removal of any part of a roof if the ridge line is changed.
 - 3. Removal of any exterior wall.

III. Procedural Requirements

- A. A copy of these regulations, and any additional written guidance on the operation of the Demolition Delay Ordinance, shall be available to all applicants for demolition permits or renovation/alteration permits, in a manner to be determined by the Department.

- B. All applications to demolish a building that is fifty years or more will be forwarded to the Chair of the Historical Commission for preliminary review. If the building is determined not to be a historically significant building, the Department will proceed with its usual review of the application, such as review for compliance with the State Building Code and any of the City's General or Zoning Ordinances. The demolition application shall attach the following:
1. Dimensioned site plan of existing building(s) and of the proposed replacement project, signed by the current record owner of the property (and if the current record owner is not the applicant, then the applicant must also sign). The site plan should indicate the relationship between the existing buildings(s) and the surrounding structures and properties.
 2. Schematic elevation drawings of the proposed replacement project signed by the current record owner of the property (and if the current record owner is not the applicant, then the applicant must also sign). Dimensions and construction materials should be indicated. Elevations that demonstrate the grade, scale, and height in relation to neighboring structures are preferred.
 3. Exterior photographs of the existing building(s) and immediately abutting properties as seen from a public way.
- C. All applicants for renovation/alteration building permits shall provide sufficient information in the application to allow municipal staff to determine the scope of the proposed work. If any application for renovation/alteration permit is determined to involve a scope of proposed work that constitutes substantial demolition, as defined in Section II of these regulations, and the building, or any part, is fifty years or more old, the application will be forwarded to the Chair of the Historical Commission for preliminary review pursuant to Section 153.03 of the City Code. If the building is determined not to be of historical significance, the Department will proceed with its usual review of the application. Otherwise, pursuant to Section 153.04 of the City Code, the application will be referred to the full Historical Commission for a public hearing and further consideration under the Demolition Delay Ordinance.
- D. Any applicant whose renovation/alteration application is referred to the full Historical Commission shall supplement its initial application by providing the following information to the Commission at least five (5) business days before the scheduled hearing:
1. A description of the building elements to be demolished or removed.
 2. The reason for requesting a building permit, including information on the building's condition if this is a reason for removing parts of the building.
 3. A brief description of the proposed reuse, reconstruction, or replacement of those elements of the building to be removed.
 4. Exterior photographs of the existing building showing those elements of the building to be removed.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 23, 2023

	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 a Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds in the amount of \$508,660 from the Fiscal Year 2023 Debt Retirement – Planned Debt Account #0171000-590927 to the Fiscal Year 2023 Transfer to Capital Projects IT Department Account #0193059-596511.



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

RESOLUTION # 27

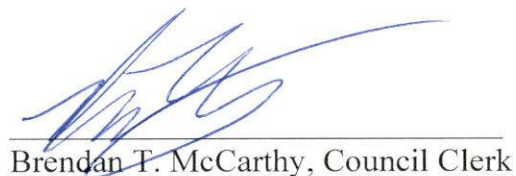
2023 - R - 27

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$508,660 from the Fiscal Year 2023 Debt Retirement – Planned Debt Account #0171000-590927 to the Fiscal Year 2023 Transfer to Capital Projects IT Department Account #0193059-596511

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on May 23, 2023


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager *GJP*
Date: May 18, 2023
RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request

Attached please find correspondence from Christopher McClure, Chief Information Officer regarding Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Improvement Program - Information Technology funding request. As indicated in Mr. McClure's correspondence, there are three projects as follows:

- IT Infrastructure: \$244,011.80 (State Contract Purchase from HubTech)
- Document Management: \$99,250.00 (Sole Source Contract with King Information Systems approved by purchasing)
- Permitting and Transparency: \$165,398.00 (State Contract Purchase from Zones)

I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the May 23, 2023 City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Christopher McClure, Chief Information Officer
Melissa A. Morrissey, City Treasurer/Collector
Thomas J. Tracy, City Auditor/Assistant City Manager for Finance
Sharon Gallagher, Assistant City Auditor

Transfer Amount \$508,660

From: FY 2023 Debt Retirement - Planned Debt \$508,660
0171000-590927

To: FY 2023 Transfer To Capital Projects - IT Dept. \$508,660
0193059-596511

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy and appropriate fiscal year.

5/19/23
Date

Sharon Gallagher
Sharon Gallagher
Assistant City Auditor

Osmond, Marsha

From: McClure, Christopher
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Osmond, Marsha
Cc: Hand, JoAnna
Subject: FW: FY23 IT Capital Projects Funding Request
Attachments: infrastructure hubtech quote.pdf; Document Management King Watertown Phase 2-3 Final.pdf; Permitting and Licensing Zones_Quote_K2090090.pdf

Christopher McClure

Chief Information Officer

City of Watertown, MA

617-715-8631

cmccclure@watertown-ma.gov

watertown-ma.gov

From: McClure, Christopher
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 10:31 AM
To: Proakis, George <gproakis@watertown-ma.gov>; Tracy, Tom <ttracy@watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: FY23 IT Capital Projects Funding Request

George and Tom,

Per the approved FY 2023 conceptual \$500,000 IT Capital plan, I am submitting a request to fund **~~\$508,659.80~~**

- IT Infrastructure: **~~\$244,011.80~~** (State Contract Purchase from HubTech)
- Document Management: **~~\$99,250.00~~** (Sole Source Contract with King Information Systems approved by purchasing)
- Permitting and Transparency: **~~\$165,398.00~~** (State Contract Purchase from Zones)

The IT Infrastructure project continues our network upgrades to complete 10gb switch upgrades, UPS, and city WIFI to PW, Fire, Commander's Mansion, Skating Rink, and Senior Center. These upgrades complete the first pass of city-wide network upgrades. The project also completes city hall upgrades including server optimization for our new server hardware (installed under the FY 2022 plan) and cabling and equipment cleanup after the completion of our phone

upgrade project. This will remove most IT equipment from the ground floor boiler room and finalize cabling for city hall data closets.

The Document Management project completes the clean up of the old police station, allows for continued document cleanup and auditing to prepare for additional scanning, and microfilms scanned documents we are required to keep physical copies of. This meets the retention requirements while continuing to optimize space and organization. This supports the \$200,000 Community Compact Grant we received to scan over 1 million pages of planning and zoning records into Laserfiche.

The permitting and transparency project builds upon the successful migration of building and health permits to OpenGov by adding a mobile inspection app and unlimited permits. It also includes development, implementation, and training of all Clerk, Licensing, Planning, Zoning, and Fire forms and workflow along with a comprehensive construction services reporting dashboard. This project ties into additional plans for OpenGov tools across the city.

I will be available to answer any questions on this request and provide updates on all IT capital projects to date.

Thank you.

Christopher McClure

Chief Information Officer

City of Watertown, MA

617-715-8631

cmclure@watertown-ma.gov

watertown-ma.gov

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 23, 2023

	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 a Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds in the amount of \$680,000 from the Fiscal Year 2023 Planned Debt Account #0171000-590927 to the Fiscal Year 2023 Transfer to Capital Projects Skating Arena Account #0193059-596502.



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
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Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

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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

RESOLUTION # 28

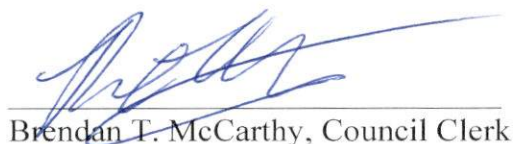
2023 - R - 28

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$680,000 from the Fiscal Year 2023 Planned Debt Account #0171000-590927 to the Fiscal Year 2023 Transfer to Capital Projects Skating Arena Account #0193059-596502

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Resolution was adopted by a vote of 7 for, 0 against, and 0 present on May 23, 2023


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager *GJP*
Date: May 18, 2023
RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request

Attached please find correspondence from Daniel F. Brothers, Skating Rink Manager regarding John A. Ryan Arena improvements as approved in the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Improvement Program. As indicated in Mr. Brothers' correspondence, there are two projects due to be completed are the replacement of the board and glass system and the replacement of the bleacher seating area.

Given the above, I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the May 23, 2023 City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Daniel F. Brothers, Skating Rink Manager
Melissa A. Morrissey, City Treasurer/Collector
Thomas J. Tracy, City Auditor/Assistant City Manager for Finance

Memo

To: George Proakis, City Manager
From: Daniel Brothers, Skating Rink Director
cc: Tom Tracy, Emily Monea, Peter Centola, Melissa Morrissey, Brian Wyncoop
Date: May 18, 2023
Re: Capital Items – FY23 – Board System; Bleachers

Sir, as approved in the FY23 Capital Improvement Program, there are two projects due to be completed.

The first will be the replacement of the board and glass system. The current system is in its 24th season. We have, with the amount of use and maintenance, reached the life expectancy of the current system. As presented, the new boards and glass will be an upgrade over our existing boards, focusing on all the latest safety features.

The second is the replacement of the bleacher seating area. The current bleachers are from the original building in 1972. The proposal for the new bleachers will provide a major upgrade in safety to current standards. The replacements would be a significant upgrade in comfort, but more importantly, the safety of the patrons of the arena.

The demolition, disposal of old products; and installation of the new is included in this project.

I appreciate the consideration on these items.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any other information or have questions.

Many regards,

Daniel F. Brothers, Skating Rink Director

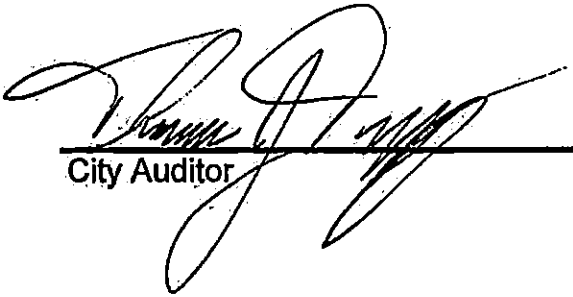
Transfer Amount \$680,000

FROM: FY23 Planned Debt \$ 680,000
0171000-590927

TO: FY23 Transfer To Capital Projects- Skating Arena \$ 680,000
0193059-596502

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy and appropriate fiscal year.

5/19/23
Date



City Auditor

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 23, 2023

	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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </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 a Resolution to modify the Public Arts and Culture Committee membership requirements and terms.



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

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE PUBLIC ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION # 24

R-2023- 29

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2021, the City of Watertown approved Resolution 2021-R-23 to establish a Public Arts and Culture Committee (PACC), and

WHEREAS, the City Council felt that reserving two seats on the PACC to residents under the age of 21 was an opportunity to include youth perspectives in the City's decision-making processes, and

WHEREAS, the PACC has found that it has been very difficult to recruit and retain members under the age of 21 to participate fully in the work of the PACC because of their limited time, and often unpreventable conflicts, due to summer and collegiate activities, and

WHEREAS, the PACC ultimately decided that, if the goal is to include youth perspectives on public art projects, the PACC could offer a better alternative, using Youth Outreach Sessions, rather than PACC membership, and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2021-R-23 authorized the creation of the Public Arts and Culture Committee consisting of nine members, as follows:

- a) Six members at-large who will serve staggered three-year terms, with two expiring each year, who shall live in Watertown, to be appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council.
- b) One member of the Watertown Cultural Council, to be selected annually by the Cultural Council, to serve a one-year term on the Public Arts and Culture Committee.
- c) Two members who shall live in Watertown and be under the age of 21 at the date of appointment, to be appointed by the City Manager to one-year terms.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby modifies the membership of the Public Arts and Culture Committee, as originally defined in Resolution 2021-R-23, as follows:

- a) Eight members at-large who will serve staggered three-year terms, with three expiring each year, who shall live in Watertown, to be appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council.
- b) One member of the Watertown Cultural Council, to be selected annually by the Cultural Council, to serve a one-year term on the Public Arts and Culture Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Member-at-Large Qualifications should include, if possible:

- a) Experience in the visual arts, performing arts, arts education, curation, architecture, design, or landscape architecture. Members may include staff and board members of arts and cultural organizations.
- b) At least two members should be working artists, arts administrators, or cultural historians. At least one member will have direct experience with or knowledge of public art installation and maintenance.
- c) Membership should reflect a diversity of ages, genders, incomes, ethnicities, racial identities, cultures, and abilities.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a voice vote of 8 for and 0 against and 1 present on May 23, 2023.


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

Watertown City Council

Committee on Climate and Energy

Councilor Palomba, Chair, Councilor Bays, Vice Chair, Councilor Airasian, Secretary

Committee Report of March 27 Meeting

The Climate and Energy Committee convened on Monday, March 27th. The meeting was called to order at 5:39 PM by Councilor Palomba. It was offered as hybrid so residents could join on Zoom and broadcast on WCA-TV. The purpose of the meeting was to hear updates on the Climate and Energy Plan (C&E Plan).

Present were Councilor Palomba (Chair), Councilor Bays (Vice Chair) and Councilor Airasian (Secretary). Also present in the room were Steve Magoon, Director of the Department of Community Development and Planning and Assistant City Manager, Laurel Schwab, Senior Environmental Planner, Silas Fyler, Energy Manager, Katherine Swan, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent, and residents, Ernesta Krackiewicz, Deborah Peterson, Pat Rathbone, and Brian Hebeisen. Joining online were Councilor Feltner, Ellen Rothman, and David Bearg.

Councilor Palomba opened the meeting explaining that the Committee had decided at its last meeting in July to reconvene six months after the full City Council approved the Climate and Energy Plan to see how the implementation was progressing.

Ms. Schwab began her presentation (see attachment) noting there has been significant progress in the past several months. She also noted, in response to Councilor Palomba's concern that at earlier meetings the Committee did not discuss the metrics, baseline data, or target dates of the various action steps, that as time goes on and more baseline data is collected they will be able to measure the progress against the metrics in order to evaluate the success of the action steps.

Ms. Schwab highlighted to specific achievements; the diversion of 230 tons of food waste from landfills thanks to our organic composting program and the diversion of 1,900 pounds of textiles/month from landfills because of partnerships and initiatives.

She went on to say there were 33 actions that were hoping to be launched in year 1. As of March 2023, 22 are underway (see attached) and 2 are complete (Adoption of Stretch Code and Creating an Organic Recycling Program). All these actions have been given a timeline and will be reviewed annually by staff, WE3C, and other relevant partners. There will also be a more substantial review of the plan every 5 years. Following Ms. Schwab went through her presentation; there were several questions and comments.

- Councilor Bays stated she attended the CIP department budget hearings and was happy to see that many departments not only incorporating aspects of the C&E Plan, but some made it a priority.

-Mr. Fyler explained about Eversource grants and how those will be applied for and if received, would be used for building the infrastructure needed for additional charging stations.

- Mr. Fyler went on to answer a query from Councilor Palomba about battery backup for the solar panels at the Hosmer and Cunniff schools. He explained that battery backup at the Hosmer was necessary because it went over the 500 kW threshold. Whereas the Cunniff did not reach that threshold. However there were plans to look into adding battery backup at Cunniff in the future.

There were a few comments from the attendees.

Pat Rathbone was pleased to see how much has started but also disappointed that the updated draft of the Comprehensive Plan doesn't stress the C&E Plan enough. This concern was shared by Deborah Peterson as well as Brian Hebeisen who felt the wording and language in the Comprehensive Plan wasn't strong enough in regard to the C&E Plan.

Councilor Airasian noted that the Comprehensive Plan is a separate, broader document and that the C&E Plan was brought up frequently during Comprehensive Plan meetings and workshops, and that the Comprehensive Plan draft revealed that the C&E Plan was certainly considered while being crafted. Mr. Magoon stated the Comprehensive Plan is overarching, but it is the goal to incorporate and implement the many strategies of the C&E Plan. Ms. Schwab also pointed to a diagram in her presentation that demonstrated there were many synergies between the two and cited some examples.

Following the public comments, Ms. Schwab wrapped up her presentation noting that The Resilient Watertown website is being updated and will be interactive with drop down menus, blog posts, status bars to see progress, etc. Also, Councilors Palomba, Bays and Airasian agreed that while the C&E Plan continues to be implemented it is critical to keep the public informed on what can be expected and when, so that all groups can participate and add input as more actions/ordinances evolve.

Committee and others identified some next steps including:

- inclusion of the C&E Plan's action steps into the FY 24 budget
- possible request for ARPA funds to facilitate the implementation of key actions
- expanded public outreach
- meet again in six months for another update
- preparation of a chart that plots the progress of the 22 items already begun and the 10 items to be initiated.

Councilor Bays made a motion to adjourn, second by Councilor Airasian. Motion passed 3-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM.

All the specific items discussed are on the attached presentation.
Minutes were prepared by Councilor Airasian.



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Department of
Community Development and
Planning

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617 972 6417

Fax: 617 972 6484

www.watertown-ma.gov

To: Joint Committees on Economic Development & Planning and on Human Services
From: Steve Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning/Assistant City Manager; Larry Field, Senior Planner
Date: April 7, 2023
Re: **Somerville local preference policy**

During your April 4, 2023 meeting focusing on local preference, a member of the public stated that the City of Somerville has a 100% local preference policy. The statement suggested that Watertown could and perhaps should go higher than 70% (the maximum in the state's guidelines). Somerville's policy is, in fact, more nuanced.

As stated in a 2018 memo from the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development to the Board of Aldermen:

Developments that receive State funding are required to limit the local preference to 70% local residents for initial occupancy only. Due to high acquisition and construction costs, development projects require funding from multiple sources and this often will include State funds. The inclusionary housing program has a local preference of 100% for initial occupancy for those who currently live and/or work full time in Somerville....(pgs. 3-4)

Watertown, therefore, cannot go higher than 70% in any project that requires federal or state tax credits or state grants or loans. While Watertown could go higher in its inclusionary zoning program, the city would not be able to put any of its new inclusionary units on the state's Subsidized Housing Inventory.



Watertown City Council

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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

Report of the Committee on Economic Development & Planning Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

The Committee convened on Tuesday April 25, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, with remote participation by Zoom. Present were Lisa Feltner, chair; John Gannon, vice chair; and Vincent Piccirilli, secretary. Staff present was Liz Helfer, Public Arts & Culture Planner. Also present was Roberta Miller, chair of the Public Arts & Culture Committee.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a request from the Public Arts & Culture Committee to change the youth membership as defined in Resolution 21-R-23. (Attachments A & B)

Ms. Helfer and Ms. Miller reviewed the problems with recruiting and retaining youth members, as was detailed in the PACC letter. Everyone loves the idea of involving the perspectives of young residents in public art projects, but the demands of school schedules makes it very difficult for them to participate on a regular basis.

Councilors Piccirilli and Gannon agreed with the request to eliminate the two "under 21" members and replace them with regular members. Councilor Feltner expressed concerns that 9 members would be too big, based on discussions during the original creation of the committee which suggested 5 or 7 members plus two youths, comparisons to other working boards/committees, and the realistic long-term manageability of a 9-member committee, such as requiring a larger quorum and maintaining membership appointments. Ms. Miller said there is waiting list of people wanting to join the Committee, and as a working Committee that runs events, it helps to have nine members.

Councilor Piccirilli prepared a draft resolution for discussion purposes, in anticipation of agreeing to making the change. (Attachment C). After discussion, the Committee agreed with this approach, with the following changes:

- Change to 3 members expiring each year (from two)
- Include the Qualification section from the original resolution, and add "gender" in paragraph c).

➔ **ACTION ITEM:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Gannon, to recommend the City Council approve the resolution amending the membership of the Public Arts & Culture Committee. Voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Report prepared by Vincent Piccirilli

Attachments:

- A. Public Arts & Culture Committee letter dated March 6, 2023
- B. Resolution 21-R-23 Establishing A Public Arts & Culture Committee
- C. Proposed resolution for Committee discussion
- D. Final Resolution for City Council Approval



Watertown City Council
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

March 6, 2023

Dear City Council,

The Public Arts & Culture Committee requests a change to the committee structure outlined in the Resolution to Establish a Public Arts and Culture Committee adopted on April 13, 2021. In the Resolution, the PACC has six members at-large, one Watertown Cultural Council designee, and two members under the age of 21 at the time of appointment. At the formation of the PACC, no under 21 candidates were forthcoming and a request was made to the Watertown High School Art Teacher, Angela Fitzpatrick, to recommend two students. May Cort and Kara O'Neil attended most monthly meetings from December 2021 through June 2022, when they resigned their positions to pursue summer and collegiate activities. Both "Under 21" members were very willing but had very limited time and often unpreventable conflicts to participate fully in the work of the committee.

Since their departure, the PACC has actively searched for and tried to recruit two "Under 21" members with no success. One young applicant applied but was too young to serve independently. Even when other prospective "Under 21" members expressed interest, they ultimately didn't have time to serve. After exhausting outreach through the schools, Boys & Girls Club, Watertown Community Foundation, and personal connections, the PACC ultimately decided that – if the goal is to include youth perspectives on public art projects – the committee could offer a better alternative than PACC membership.

The PACC would like to change the committee structure as follows, removing the two "Under 21" members:

- a) Eight members at-large who will serve staggered three year terms, with three expiring each year, who shall live in Watertown, to be appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council.
- b) One member of the Watertown Cultural Council, to be selected by the Cultural Council, to serve a one-year term of the Public Arts and Culture Committee.

In the addition to this change, the PACC propose to undertake Youth Outreach Sessions at least once a year at the Watertown Public Schools and with other youth-based organizations as available. We'd also like to explore outreach to families and the elderly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roberta Miller".

Roberta Miller
Chair, Public Arts & Culture Committee



Watertown Town Council

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Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

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Council President

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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

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION # 23

2021 - R - 23

WHEREAS, the City known as the Town of Watertown has established a Public Arts Master Plan that was created through the efforts of a steering committee that included a number of representatives of stakeholder organizations in the community that deal with arts and culture, as well as Town departments and the Town's consultant, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration, the Honorable Town Council did adopt the Watertown Public Arts Master Plan at its meeting on February 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, said Plan includes a number of implementation strategies, including Implementation Item 1A, a recommendation for the creation of an appointed Public Arts and Culture Committee (PACC) that acts as a permanent, standing advisory body to the Town of Watertown, to make recommendations over two core program areas:

1. Art in Public Places: Permanent, semi-permanent, temporary, and ephemeral artworks and activations that create a vibrant, welcoming, inclusive, and connected public realm. This may include semi-permanent projects as well as temporary artworks and installations funded through a variety of funding sources,
2. Cultural and Community Life: Programming that enhances the public realm, engages Watertown's community life and cultural diversity, and fosters social cohesion; and

WHEREAS, the Plan further provides that the PACC be staffed by staff member from the Department of Planning and Community Development; and

WHEREAS, the PACC will make final recommendations regarding various forms of public art and culture to the Town Manager and Town Council for final approval; and

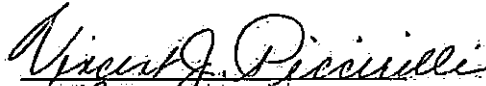
WHEREAS, the PACC may convene working groups to attend to business such as evaluation, fundraising, and community partnerships and outreach as needed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown hereby authorizes the creation of the Public Arts and Culture Committee to be established as provided herein, consisting of nine members:

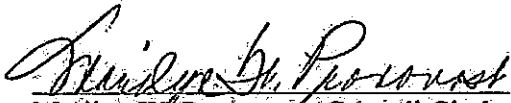
- a) Six members at-large who will serve staggered three-year terms, with two expiring each year, who shall live in Watertown, to be appointed by the Town Manager and confirmed by the Town Council.
- b) One member of the Watertown Cultural Council, to be selected annually by the Cultural Council, to serve a one-year term on the Public Arts and Culture Committee.
- c) Two members who shall live in Watertown and be under the age of 21 at the date of appointment, to be appointed by the Town Manager to one-year terms.

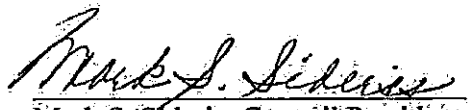
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Member-at-Large Qualifications should include, if possible:

- a) Experience in the visual arts, performing arts, arts education, curation, architecture, design, or landscape architecture. Members may include staff and board members of arts and cultural organizations.
- b) At least two members should be working artists, arts administrators, or cultural historians. At least one member will have direct experience with or knowledge of public art installation and maintenance.
- c) Membership should reflect a diversity of ages, incomes, ethnicities, racial identities, cultures, and abilities.


5/14/21 Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a voice vote of 8 for and 0 against and 0 present on April 13, 2021.


Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President
5/14/21

**RESOLUTION TO MODIFY
THE PUBLIC ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE**

RESOLUTION #

R-2023-

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2021, the City of Watertown approved Resolution 2021-R-23 to establish a Public Arts and Culture Committee (PACC), and

WHEREAS, the City Council felt that reserving two seats on the PACC to residents under the age of 21 was an opportunity to include youth perspectives in the City's decision-making processes, and

WHEREAS, the PACC has found that it has been very difficult to recruit and retain members under the age of 21 to participate fully in the work of the PACC because of their limited time, and often unpreventable conflicts, due to summer and collegiate activities, and

WHEREAS, the PACC ultimately decided that, if the goal is to include youth perspectives on public art projects, the PACC could offer a better alternative, using Youth Outreach Sessions, rather than PACC membership, and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2021-R-23 authorized the creation of the Public Arts and Culture Committee consisting of nine members, as follows:

- a) Six members at-large who will serve staggered three-year terms, with two expiring each year, who shall live in Watertown, to be appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council.
- b) One member of the Watertown Cultural Council, to be selected annually by the Cultural Council, to serve a one-year term on the Public Arts and Culture Committee.
- c) Two members who shall live in Watertown and be under the age of 21 at the date of appointment, to be appointed by the City Manager to one-year terms.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby modifies the membership of the Public Arts and Culture Committee, as originally defined in Resolution 2021-R-23; as follows:

- a) Eight members at-large who will serve staggered three-year terms, with two expiring each year, who shall live in Watertown, to be appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council.
- b) One member of the Watertown Cultural Council, to be selected annually by the Cultural Council, to serve a one-year term on the Public Arts and Culture Committee.

Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a voice vote of ____ for and ____ against and ____ present on _____.

Council Clerk

Council President

Watertown City Council
Committee on Public Works

Councilor Piccirilli, Chair, Councilor Feltner, Vice Chair, Councilor Palomba, Secretary

Committee Report of April 18, 2023 Meeting

The Committee on Public Works met on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 in the City Council Chambers at 7:00 PM. It was a hybrid meeting so residents could attend the meeting on Zoom. The meeting was recorded by Watertown Community Access Television. Also, comments could be directed through email to vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov. It was noted that WBZ Television was also recording the meeting.

Notation from the Secretary: There are many attachments to these minutes. They appear in the order that they are mentioned in the minutes.

The purpose of the meeting was to **"Make a Recommendation on the Petition for the Name of the Columbus Delta"**. (Petition Attachment A)

Attendance: In addition to the three members of the Committee, the following Councilors attended either in-person or on zoom – Council President Sideris, Councilor Gardner, Council Gannon, Councilor Airisian, and Councilor Izzo. There were approximately 35 individuals in the audience, of whom approximately 27 were residents of Watertown. There were also about 17 individuals on zoom of whom approximately 11 were residents (Sign-in sheets Attachment B)

Notation from the Secretary: This meeting lasted three hours and fifteen minutes and there were many residents (and one former resident) who spoke and many who spoke more than once. The Committee members also engaged in conversation with each other. The Secretary has chosen not to attribute comments to individuals, but rather to provide a summary of the key comments and opinions shared by those attending and the Committee members. Please visit WCA-TV to view the complete meeting at <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/show/2445?channel=3>.

Councilor Piccirilli distributed to the Committee members two sets of questions, **Part 1 – Fact-finding** (8 questions) and **Part 2 Review Criteria** (13 questions). (Questions Attachment C) He said he would like to use the questions as the format for the meeting.

Councilor Piccirilli call the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. He stated the purpose of the meeting and introduced the members of the Committee. He then announced that the meeting is not a Public Hearing, but rather it is a committee meeting at which the public may attend but may only speak at the discretion of the chair. He also stated that the Committee would be hearing from Watertown residents only, and asked speakers to be respectful and not interrupt each other. He noted that he will present information for discussion by the Committee members and then, at his discretion, members of the public will be invited to speak. He acknowledged that this was an important issue for many by presenting a list of individuals who had sent the Committee on Public Works emails since the June 21, 2022 Public Hearing in front of the City Council. There were 52 emails with the overwhelming (43) from Watertown residents. (The list of emails Attachment D)

Councilor Piccirilli then proceeded to present a series of documents that provided information about how the delta was named the Columbus Delta (Attachment E), the Watertown Council 155 of the Knights of Columbus (Attachment F) the 1882 founding origin of the name Columbus on the monument (Attachment G), and the history and current status of the Knights of Columbus (Attachment H).

The articles establish the following:

1) At a Special Town Meeting on December 12, 1939, with 141 of the 185 members of the Town Meeting present, the members, by margin of 85 in favor and 59 opposed "Voted: That the "delta in Watertown Square be named Columbus Delta".

2) That the Watertown Council No 155 of the Knights of Columbus donated a monument to the Town that included the Knights of Columbus emblem and the following inscription:

COLUMBUS DELTA
HE GAINED A WORK
HE GAVE THAT WORLD
ITS GRANDEST LESSON
ON! SAIL ON!

DEDICATED OCT. 12, 1940
BY WATERTOWN COUNCIL No 155.

3) That though it appeared the Watertown Council No 155 has not been active as demonstrated by the lack of response to an email sent by the Committee Chair to invite them to the Committee meeting, it was announced that the Council has again begun meeting monthly and has approximately 80 members.

4) That the Knights of Columbus was not founded as an Italian-American organization. It was founded by an Irish Catholic priest, Michael J. McGivney of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT. His intention was to offer men a lay organization that served "one's Church, community and family with virtue". The organization "took Christopher Columbus - recognized as a Catholic and celebrated as the discoverer of America - as their patron". The organization was formally established on February 6, 1882 and incorporated on March 29 of the same year.

Councilor Piccirilli also shared two articles about the concept of the "Doctrine of Discovery", which legitimized the colonial-era seizure of Native lands. The doctrine was "introduced into United States municipal law by U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Marshall in 1823". In his formulation of the doctrine, "discovery of territory previously unknown to Europeans gave the discovering nation title to that territory against all other European nations". The articles also noted that recently the Vatican, responding to Indigenous peoples, rejected the "Doctrine of Discovery". (Attachments I and J)

The presentation of the two sets of questions and the documents laid the foundation for a nearly two hour discussion. Below is a summary of the key points made by those opposing the petition and those in favor of it, as well as comments made by Committee members.

Statements of support included the following.

- 1) The history of the Knights of Columbus supports the claim that the naming of the delta had more to do with recognizing a Catholic patron than with honoring an Italian-American.
- 2) Naming the delta the Columbus Delta does not acknowledge the indigenous people who occupied the land prior to colonization.
- 3) Christopher Columbus never "discovered" the United States. Also, he represented Spain, not Italy, during his three expeditions.
- 4) The name of the delta should recognize the diversity of those who have come to Watertown in the past and who are still coming to Watertown today and the contributions these diverse groups have made to Watertown.
- 5) Some see the name of the delta and the monument as a response to the discriminations against Italian-Americans. However, we must recognize this situation as an issue of fairness. There are many who have been discriminated in the past and continue to be discriminated against today. The name should recognize that reality.
- 6) The vast majority of historians accept the fact that Christopher Columbus committed acts of atrocity against indigenous peoples during his expeditions to the point that he was removed from his position by the Spanish government.

Statements in opposition included the following.

- 1) The Sons of Italy and the Knights of Columbus view Christopher Columbus as an honored and respected member of the Catholic Church.
- 2) There is evidence presented by historians such as Carol Delaney and others that debunk the claims that Columbus committed atrocities. They particular debunk the work of Professor Howard Zinn.
- 3) We must judge historical figures by recognizing the context and circumstances in which they lived. We must respect history and not attempt to re-write it.
- 4) If there are those who want to change the name of the delta, they should put it on the ballot and not let the view of 150 or so residents determine the future of the delta and the monument.

5) The fact that there are streets, cities, schools, etc. named after Christopher Columbus demonstrates that he is perceived to have made important contributions to the country.

There were also some suggestions about how to proceed if the Committee and the Council removed the name. These included turning to the Historical Society and the Arts Council for suggestions, and keeping the monument, but changing the inscription to be more inclusive of the diversity of Watertown.

It should be noted that while many of the questions presented in the two lists developed by the Chair were directly or indirectly commented on by residents, some questions were not addressed. For example, what the impact of the recent Supreme Court's decision in *Shurtleff v. City of Boston* might have on the present name of the delta and a possible future name was not discussed.

After hearing from residents, the Committee discussed the next steps. There was not consensus that the delta was a well-known gathering place in Watertown like Saltonstall Park and other public locations. Similarly there was some disagreement about whether you could change the name without having to address the issue of the monument. Eventually the Committee agreed that if the name is changed the issue of what to do about the monument must be determined. It could be removed or it might be resurfaced with a new inscription and name.

The meeting concluded without a formal Action Item to be voted on by the full City Council. However, the Committee voted unanimously on a "sense of the Committee" for the un-naming of the Columbus Delta. The Committee will schedule another meeting and invite members of the Administration to attend as they might have suggestions regarding how to address the issue of the monument.

Councilor Palomba made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilor Feltner and passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 PM.

The minutes were prepared by Councilor Palomba

Attachments:

- A. Petition
- B. Sign-in sheets
- C. Questions for the Committee
- D. List of emails received
- E. How was the Columbus Delta named
- F. Watertown Council 155 of the Knights of Columbus
- G. Foundation of our Fraternal Organization 1882 Knights of Columbus
- H. Knights of Columbus – Wikipedia
- I. Discovery Doctrine – Wikipedia
- J. Responding to Indigenous peoples, Vatican rejects 'Doctrine of Discovery' - The Boston Globe - March 30, 2023

September, 2021

Public Petition To The Members of the Watertown Town Council,

RECEIVED BY
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
WATERTOWN, MASS.

I, the undersigned, petition the Town Council to begin a process of reconsidering the name of the delta in Watertown Square, presently called the Columbus Delta. Our hope is that this process will generate a new name that is more inclusive of all members of our community and the history of the place we now call home.

Eighty years ago, members of Town Meeting named the delta. Today, it is the public meeting place where hundreds of diverse neighbors often gather for a variety of reasons. Resolution # 85, Naming Policy For Squares Or Intersections For Non-veterans, adopted on October 22, 2019 by the Town Council, states that:

"the Town Council understands that said naming may have long-lasting effects and will span future generations whose perceptions and values might change."

As per the stated resolution, "The Town Council shall have sole authority to remove the naming of any Square or Intersection if, with the passage of time, it determines the public interest is no longer being served."

It is our wish as citizens and neighbors for the delta to be renamed so it becomes more welcoming of all members of our community and better reflects the history of the place we now call home. As such, we ask the Watertown Town Council to initiate the process for a change in the naming of the delta in Watertown Square.

If you would like to add your name to this petition, please enter your information below.

PRINT YOUR NAME	YOUR SIGNATURE	STREET ADDRESS	Email (optional)
Ee-Yenn Lin	[Signature]	47 Grant Ave	
✓ Hubert Ho	[Signature]	47 Grant Ave	
✓ JEROLD WHITMORE	[Signature]	105 RUSSELL AVE	
✓ THOMAS P. MELONE	[Signature]	115 RUSSELL AVE	
✓ DEBORAH L. MELONE	[Signature]	115 RUSSELL AVE	
✗ Abby Murphy	[Signature]	119 RUSSELL AVE	abby.s.murphy@gmail.com
✓ Andrew Tzsaik	[Signature]	17 Otis St.	
✓ B. Hausberry	[Signature]	145 Russell Ave.	
✓ David Leon	[Signature]	145 Russell Ave	
✓ Joseph Ferreira	[Signature]	152 Russell Ave	
✓ Lissa Ferreira	[Signature]	152 Russell Ave	
✓ Colleen Doherty	[Signature]	136 Russell Ave	
✓ Kenneth Hung	[Signature]	93 Russell Ave	
✓ Eric Maillis	[Signature]	85 Russell Ave	
✓ Laura Kehoe	[Signature]	85 Russell Ave.	



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Office of the City Clerk
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

Janet M. Murphy
City Clerk/Chief Election Officer

Telephone (617) 972-6486
Fax (617) 972-6595

7 December 2021

Mr. Mark Sideris
City Council President
City of Watertown, MA

Mr. President –

On December 2, 2021, this office received a Petition to the City Council requesting that City begin the process of giving consideration to the renaming of the Columbus Delta in Watertown Square.

This letter is to inform you that I have finished certifying the signatures on the Petition. I was able to certify a total of **154 signatures** as being legal voters here in Watertown. The Petition was filed in this office by Mishy Lesser.

Please inform Dr. Lesser that the certification of her petition has been completed.

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,


Janet M. Murphy
City Clerk

Sign-in sheet April 18, 2023

Public Works Committee

NAME

ADDRESS

Anthony DiTeso 23 Desmoulin Ave Wrentham

Kim Distefano 130 Sycamore St Belmont,

Paul Andre Martocchio 15 Fayette

Amarante Pettiglio 10 Holly St, Watertown Against name change

Patricia Martocchio 15 Fayette Watertown

BRUCE COLTIN 67 MARION RD

Dennis Holland 28 MAEK ST

Linda Beronietelli 65 PRENTISS, Watertown

DAVID A Russo 86 LOVELL Rd WATERTOWN

Wilfred J. CLIFFORD 93 Riversdale St

George Gardner 138 Pelham Island Rd

Virginia Gardner 138 Pelham Island Rd

Joseph Hotaler 157 Common St.

Christopher Ives 42 Oliver St.

Kathy Vasen 44 Joseph Rd.

Sal Tuliopano 120 Spruce St.

MARIO Patriarac 160 Linwood Ave

Jaeger Ross 210 Watertown St #10

Donna's Council

Marilyn Delitha Wey 98 Westmarch Ave

Charlotte D'Angelo 85 Acton St.

SIGN-IN Sheet - April 18, 2023

Public Works Committee

NAME

ADDRESS

Laura Ricci 233 Westminster Ave Watertown
Patricia Martocchio 15 Fayette St.

JOSEPH RIZZA 7 HENSHAW TERR WEST NEWTON 02465

TREVE SANTORO 1 CENTER ST. WATERTOWN

Sandra DiTesa - 23 Desmond Ave Waltham

Tom Beggan 4 Pilgrim Road Watertown

Sue Chioldo 31 TEMPLETON PKWY. WATERTOWN

Virginia Gardner 138 Pelham Island

CHARLES JACOPPO 108 Edenfield Ave Town

STEVE DE ANGELIS WALTHAM

Jill Ladd St MBZ/

Ed Marcus Ed Marcus 47 Morse

Loretta Leone 85 Miriam Rd. Waltham

Bora Leone 85 Miriam Rd. Waltham

Meeting of the Committee on Public Works

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Sign In Sheet

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAMEADDRESS

Jennifer Wilfrum 23 Clyde Rd Watertown
Chris Hissias 125 Morse St Watertown

Nicole Higgins 125 Morse Street Watertown

Guy A. Carbone Woodfale Rd Belmont (C/O 0810A)

JAMES DISTEFANO Jefferson Ave. WATERTOWN

ALFONSO B VISCOMI 129 Fessenden St Newton MA 02460

Meeting for the Committee on Public Works
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
Present on Zoom

Councilors:

John Gannon
John Airasian
Emily Izzo

Attendees:

Gerri Cimino
Aravinda Ananda
Archy LaSalle
Dr. Mishy Lesser
Rachal Kay
Angie Kournelis
Elaine Millo
Tara Moses
Lisa Capoccia
M.J. Munroe
Fred Banin
Donald McDonald
John Bartley
Erik Jepsin
Terry Sauro
Dennis Duff
Tommy Damigella

There a few others on zoom who only listed their first name or only listed their initials

Part 1 Fact-finding

How was the Columbus Delta named?

What is the Watertown Council 155?

Who are the of the Knights of Columbus?

Was the Columbus Delta named by Italian-Americans to honor their Italian heritage?

Who is Christopher Columbus and why is he important?

Why is the legacy of Christopher Columbus being reexamined now?

What is the Doctrine of Discovery?

Any other background info to consider?

Part 2 Review Criteria

Per Resolution 2019-R-85, §5 REVIEW: The Town Council shall have sole authority to remove the naming of any Square or Intersection if, with the passage of time, it determines the public interest is no longer being served.

Do we consider the Watertown Delta the primary public gathering spot for Watertown residents to exercise their right of free speech under the First Amendment?

In light of the US Supreme Court decision in *Shurtleff v. City of Boston*, is the public interest continuing to be served by having the Delta named for Christopher Columbus, the patron of the Knights of Columbus, a religious organization?

In light of the US Supreme Court decision in *Shurtleff v. City of Boston*, is the public interest continuing to be served by having a monument in the Delta with the name and emblem of a specific religious organization?

With the passage of time, is the public interest continuing to be served by honoring the leadership and service of Christopher Columbus, considering the re-evaluation of his role in the New World?

With the passage of time, is the public interest continuing to be served by honoring Christopher Columbus, now that the Vatican formally repudiated the "Doctrine of Discovery," which Columbus used to justify his exploitation of Indigenous people?

Is the public interest continuing to be served by honoring Christopher Columbus, even though he has no association with Watertown, and who never set foot in North America?

Did the 1939 naming of the Columbus Delta demonstrate a broad level of community backing?

Does the petition to re-name the Columbus Delta demonstrate a broad level of community backing?

1. read a lists of emails received since the Public Hearing
2. note attached petition with 154 names of certified voters
3. take a poll of Watertown residents in attendees

Should the City Council consider just the un-naming of the Delta at this time?

Is the term the Columbus Delta in common usage by residents in Watertown?

As the name Columbus Delta does not appear on any street maps, or any street addresses, will removing the name cause any confusion or costs to residents, businesses, or the general public?

Any other questions?

List of emails received by the Public Works Committee since the June 21, 2022 Public Hearing thru April 19, 2023

Date	Name	Address (Watertown unless noted)	Support	Against
22-06-27	Jacqui Gross	Belmont St	X	
22-06-28	Jennifer Wolfrum	Clyde Rd	X	
22-07-03	Nathaniel Harrison	Franklin St	X	
22-07-23	Diana Barlow	Spring St	X	
22-07-23	Robert Varnum	Boylston St	X	
22-07-23	Sarah Bansen & Dan Grossman	Hawthorne St	X	
22-07-24	Elizabeth Del Porto	Hawthorne St	X	
22-07-24	Susan Moore	Clyde Rd	X	
22-07-25	Jeri Bayer	Hillside Rd	X	
22-07-25	Sylvia Missal	Robbins Rd	X	
22-07-26	Michael Schade	Barnard Ave	X	
22-07-29	Carol Delaney	Cambridge MA		X
22-08-02	Sarah Zoen	Partridge St	X	
22-09-25	Aravinda Ananda	Common St	X	
23-04-10	Mishy Lesser	Oliver St	X	
23-04-11	Sarah Demb	Mt Auburn St	X	
23-04-12	Sarah Bansen	Hawthorne St	X	
23-04-13	Christopher Ives	Oliver St	X	
23-04-13	Nathaniel Harrison	Franklin St	X	
23-04-14	Jacqui Gross	Belmont St	X	
23-04-14	Sylvia Missal	Robbins Rd	X	
23-04-15	Bevin Croft	Wilmot St	X	
23-04-16	Inbal Alon	Puritan Rd	X	
23-04-16	Janet Buck	Boylston St	X	
23-04-16	Michael Schade	Barnard Ave	X	
23-04-16	Patti Cassidy	Chester St		X
23-04-16	Sarah Hamburg	Bates Rd	X	
23-04-17	Archy LaSalle	Hillcrest Cir	X	
23-04-17	Bonnie Waltch	Robbins Rd	X	
23-04-17	Eileen Ryan	Pearl St	X	
23-04-17	Eric Kemp-Benedict	Whitney St	X	
23-04-17	Jennifer Wolfrum	Clyde Rd	X	
23-04-17	Sharon Bauer	Pearl St	X	
23-04-17	Sue-Ellen Hershman-Tcherepnin	Russell Ave	X	
23-04-17	Tyler Kemp-Benedict	Whitney St	X	
23-04-18	Alan Dechter	Newton MA		X
23-04-18	Alberto Russo	NO ADDRESS PROVIDED		X
23-04-18	Amleto Martocchia	Franklin St		X
23-04-18	Ann Marie Pettiglio	Holly St		X
23-04-18	Anthony Socci	NO ADDRESS PROVIDED		X
23-04-18	Aravinda Ananda	Common St	X	
23-04-18	Barbara and Jeremy Ruskin	Spring St	X	
23-04-18	Bob Hamel	Bristol RI		X
23-04-18	Carmelina DAlleva	Burlington MA		X
23-04-18	Chuck Dickinson	Church Ln	X	

List of emails received by the Public Works Committee since the June 21, 2022 Public Hearing thru April 19, 2023

Date	Name	Address (Watertown unless noted)	Support	Against
23-04-18	David Meshoulam	Oliver St	X	
23-04-18	Dennis Duff	Spruce St	X	
23-04-18	Elaine Mello	Main St		X
23-04-18	Elizabeth Del Porto	Hawthorne St	X	
23-04-18	Elizabeth Oppenheim	Watertown St	X	
23-04-18	Joan Gumbleton	Falmouth Rd		X
23-04-18	Joan Martin	Main St	X	
23-04-18	John Casamassima	NO ADDRESS PROVIDED		X
23-04-18	John Del Ponte	Tewksbury MA		X
23-04-18	Joseph Rizza	Newton MA		X
23-04-18	Joseph Rotella	Common St	X	
23-04-18	Lisa Capoccia	Carroll St	X	
23-04-18	Marissa Babin	Malden MA		X
23-04-18	Mark Pettiglio	Holly St		X
23-04-18	Meghan O'Connell	Boylston St		X
23-04-18	Richard O'Connor	Channing Rd		X
23-04-18	Robert Varum	Boylston St	X	
23-04-18	Vana Pistoftzian	Forest St	X	
23-04-18	Will Twombly	Marion Rd	X	
23-04-19	Lucille Del Ponte	Tewksbury MA		X

PUBLIC FORUM SIGN IN

MAY 23, 2023

NAME

ADDRESS

Janelle Tribble

12 Paul Street

Angela Carosella

71 EMERSON Rd.

Cindy St. Clair

72 Townly Rd.

Stephanie Poirier

25 main St

Stacy Vachon

⁹³ 68 Waverley Union St.

Jimmy DiStefano

11 JEFFERSON AVE