



City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
149 Main St
Watertown, MA

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on September 26, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Location: Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
 - B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
 - C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
 - D. 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
 - E. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov
 - F. Please Visit the City Council Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/350/City-Council>
-

- 1. ROLL CALL
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. PUBLIC FORUM
- 4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - A. Minutes from City Council Meeting August 8, 2023
 - B. Minutes from Special City Council Meeting August 22, 2023
 - C. Minutes from City Council Meeting September 12, 2023
- 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - A. Report on the Performance Evaluation of the City Manager for Fiscal Year 2023
- 6. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS
 - A. Indigenous Peoples Day Proclamation
 - B. Mary Haley 100th Birthday Proclamation
- 7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing and Vote On a petition from Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location in Main Street to install and maintain approximately 154 linear feet of conduit in Main Street from manhole MH10696 to the property line of #166 Main Street. This work is necessary to provide electric service to #166 Main Street. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.
- B. Public Hearing and Vote to Appoint the Municipal Policy Analyst pursuant to Section 2-7(a) of the Watertown City Charter, and establishing the Municipal Policy Analyst Salary at \$72,000 pursuant to section 2-7(e) of the Watertown City Charter
- C. Public Hearing and Vote on an Ordinance Establishing the Human Rights Commission

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading on a proposed loan order that the sum of \$315,000 is appropriated to pay costs of design and engineering services for the development of plans and specifications for upgrades to the HVAC system to install air conditioning in portions of Watertown Middle School, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(7) or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.
- B. Resolution authorizing acceptance and expenditure of gift of funds in the amount of \$8,300 to offset expenses related to the Faire on the Square 2023
- C. Consideration and action on an Order accepting the provisions of G.L. c.40, §22F allowing City Boards or Officers to fix reasonable fees
- D. Consideration and action on an Order accepting the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §58 allowing for the imposition of a “municipal charges lien” on property located within the City for any local charge or fee that has not been paid by the due date, with the municipal charges lien provided for each type of charge or fee to be undertaken pursuant to a separate vote

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight regarding a report from its meeting on September 7, 2023 - Piccirilli Chair.

ACTION ITEM:

Councilor Gardner made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, that the Committee ask the City Council to approve the detailed ARPA process steps, specifically:

1. Clifton/Larson/Allen review for compliance with the law as the first step, and prior to meetings with proposers; and the BFO Committee will only consider proposals that are legally compliant.
2. The BFO Committee will hold meetings with proposers for presentations and questions, in 15 minute time slots, with the public and Council encouraged to participate. All are encouraged to send questions in to Council Clerk, who will forward them to the proposer prior to the meetings.
3. Independent initial scoring by members prior to deliberation, using 4 point scale.
4. The BFO Committee will collectively score proposals using a 1-4 scale after the meetings.
5. The BFO Committee will then meet to deliberate and develop its preliminary recommendation for the City Council and public feedback.

- B. Committee on Economic Development and Planning a report from its meeting on September 13 & 18, 2023, Feltner, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Gannon, to recommend that the City Council confirm Matthew Hanna for appointment to the Public Arts and Culture Committee for a term to expire November 15, 2025.

ACTION ITEM:

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Feltner, to recommend that the City Council confirm Swati Biswas for appointment to the Public Arts and Culture Committee for a term to expire November 15, 2025.

- C. Committee on Public Safety regarding a report from its meeting on September 11, 2023 - Airasian, Chair
- D. Committee on Public Safety regarding a report from its meeting on September 7, 2023 - Airasian, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, to recommend that the City Council confirm Kelly Gallagher for reappointment to the Traffic Commission for a term to expire May 15, 2025.

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Cable Access Corporation – Board of Directors

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

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

14. PUBLIC FORUM

15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

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

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET**

MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

A. This meeting will be held on August 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):

<http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>

C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>

D. 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

E. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

F. Please Visit the City Council Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/350/City-Council>

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, 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

There were no participants for Public Forum

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the minutes from the City Council meeting from June 27th with minor edits and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 27th City Council meeting was approved unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the minutes from the City Council meeting from July 11th with minor edits and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 27th City Council meeting was approved unanimously in a Voice Vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was no President's Report.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from Eversource for a Grant of Location in Grove Street to install and maintain approximately 8 linear feet of conduit from utility pole #63/16 to the property line of Mount Auburn Cemetery. This work is necessary to provide electric service to the meter cabinet at Mount Auburn Cemetery. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

Joanne Callender - EVERSOURCE - Presented the petition for the grant of location.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the grant of location and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion to approve the grant of location was approved unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from Eversource for a Grant of Location in Howard Street to install and maintain approximately 51 linear feet of conduit from utility pole #225/5 to the property line of municipal parking lot. This work is necessary to provide electric service to a municipal parking lot. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

Joanne Callender - EVERSOURCE - Presented the petition for the grant of location.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the grant of location and Councilor Gannon seconded.

The motion to approve the grant of location was approved unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- C. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from Eversource for a Grant of Location in Paramount Place to install and maintain approximately 8 linear feet of conduit from utility pole #16/68-2 to property line of #532 Pleasant Street. This work is necessary to provide electric service to 532 Pleasant Street. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

Joanne Callender - EVERSOURCE - Presented the petition for the grant of location.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the grant of location and Councilor Gannon seconded.

Councilor Feltner asked if there were any overhead wires included in the grant of location.

President Sideris clarified that the grant of location was for underground conduit.

The motion to approve the grant of location was approved unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- D. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from National Grid for a Grant of Location for the following installations:

Work Requiring a Grant of Location:

Nyack Street – Installation of approximately 215 linear feet of 6-inch plastic in Nyack Street from 71 Nyack Street to Madison Ave.

Work Not Requiring a Grant of Location:

Nyack Street - The relay of approximately 900 linear feet of 4-inch coated steel with approximately 900 linear feet of 6-inch plastic in Nyack Street from Belmont Street to end of main at 71 Nyack Street.

This work is part of the water intrusion program. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

Mary Mulroney – NATIONAL GRID – Presented the petition for the grant of location.

Dennis Holland – 29 Nyack St – Stated that last winter there were a lot of problems on Nyack with lines freezing due to the subsoil being clay that the water doesn't infiltrate through. Water was coming in and the gas lines were freezing up. He acknowledged that the lines needed to be changed but asked that the Superintendent and the DPW make sure that the street is kept clean during the process. He concluded in being optimistic with this grant of location.

Councilor Piccirilli read an email from - Frank Kosco – Nyack Street - He also had his gas meter freeze because of water intrusion last winter, and his water boiler shut down. He supports this replacement of the gas main to stop the water intrusion.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the grant of location and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner asked as to how soon the work could get done.

Superintendent St. Louis stated that he was aware of the desire to get moving on this project, and that he expected shovels would be in the ground in the next few weeks.

The motion to approve the grant of location was approved unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- E. Public Hearing and Vote on New Demolition Delay Ordinance Chapter 153 as Proposed to Replace the Existing Chapter 153 in its Entirety and Endorse the New Demolition Delay Regulations.

TRANSCRIPT (edited)

Elise Loukas - Good evening. Thank you so much. I appreciate you hearing me, and I apologize for not being present in person. This is extremely important to me. However, I managed to find myself with COVID, and I am currently quarantined and ill. I just wanted to say that I have been on the historical commission for approximately 15 years. I've seen the way in which older homes and preservation have evolved in that time. This is a significant part of why I and the commission believe that having a two-year maximum on the demolition delay is the right way to go. The purpose of the demolition delay ordinance is to give people who have recently purchased properties, or have those properties under contract, time to consider options to preserve all or some of a building. It's not happening in several cases where a historical building is involved because those people have made it part of their plan to just sit out the delay that we currently have. The commission's been extremely judicious as many of you already know in its review of applications. We did a study of applications over a 20-year period and 21% were preferably preserved, and only in 15% did we impose a demolition delay and those delays ranged from months to a year. So from those statistics alone, you can see that the commission has been extremely judicious. In the proposed demo delay ordinance that's before you. The commission has increased the maximum delay that can be imposed to provide an incentive to encourage those who've recent recently purchased homes or have them under contract to think about preservation because that's really what it's all about, and as you said, Mr. President,

Larry Field, the senior planner from Watertown is going to speak to other aspects of the proposed demolition delay ordinance before you. Thank you.

Senior Planner Larry Field - Mr. President, members of the council. The Department of Community Development and Planning has been working with Historical Commission for two years to rewrite the demolition delay ordinance to fit the current needs of the community. The department supports the various elements of this proposed ordinance and regulation. The proposal started with the commission spending a lot of time thoughtfully looking at the ordinance that had what the current issues were and trying to come up with a better way of approaching the issue of preserving our historic homes. Along the way, the economic development and planning committee reviewed the proposal and made, several suggestions that have been incorporated as changes. In addition, KP law has reviewed this ordinance and regulations twice. Again, there are aspects that were changed as a result of that review. The strong housing market in Greater Boston has made Watertown an attractive place for older homes to be demolished and replaced by two families. That is a good thing in that we need housing. In many cases, that is a very appropriate thing to happen to that property. But the issue tonight is how we can encourage the preservation of historic buildings, this ordinance and regulation are designed to address that issue. The proposed ordinance does three things, three major things. The first thing is what Chair Lukas has talked about, which is increasing the maximum length that a demolition delay can be imposed. That is from one year to two years, and I'm going to return to that at the very end of my brief remarks. The second thing it does is it reduces the number of cases before they come to the public hearings. It does that through a quick preliminary review by the commission to eliminate those buildings that are not historically significant.

The third thing this does is that it deals with the issue of applications that are less than a full demolition but the amount of the same thing and being able to bring those into some kind of a review. In addition to those three major changes, I referred to changes that were made by the economic development and planning committee and by KP Law. There are really two things that they did. One was to clarify the notice requirements and, in particular, to specify the abutters who are provided notice. The other thing it did was that it had specific criteria established for the decision of preferably preserved and the length of the demolition delay period. So I said that there were three major things that it did, the reduction in the number of cases, is because the current ordinance requires that every building that is 50 years or older come for a public hearing, and those can be a garage a shed, an industrial building, or a home that was built in the fifties, sixties, even the early seventies. Many of those homes the commissions found are just not historically significant. This proposed ordinance introduces a two-step process. The first step is that every application goes to the chair and another member of the store commission for a review of historic significance. If the building is found to not be historically significant, then that finding ends the process. It then goes to the normal building department process to demolish the structure.

This will save significant time and money for applicants, but what it'll also do is focus the commission on the important cases. The other significant change that is made in the ordinance is addressing the issue of what we call substantial demolition where there is a partial demolition, an application that's for renovation or alteration, that involves taking a part of significant parts of the building so that its character was transformed. The ordinance right now does not address that, the proposed ordinance now has a definition of substantial demolition. It is a general definition and there in the regulations, are very

specific criteria for the zoning enforcement officer to use, to identify something that has come to the building department as a substantial demolition. The idea of regulations was proposed by the department because we felt that flexibility is needed and that we have to have the ability to look at how this works in the real world and see whether those specific criteria need to be tweaked. And so having them in the regulations allows quick adaptation to what we find as the zoning enforcement officer gets these applications. If it's too overinclusive or underinclusive, we can act on that. I said that I wanted to return to the subject of the max delay period. When property owners apply for a demolition permit they are usually people who have lived in the home and have looked for options to expand their living space. Often, they'll come to the department, to the zoning enforcement officer, or to the planning office and say, what can we do with this property so that we can add to the building, and make this something that works better for us as a household?

However, when you have a property that is, recently acquired and also properties that are under contract, where you have essentially a new party who has come in and has, acquired the right to apply, they usually have not looked at the options. Often these properties are marketed as teardowns. They're seen by the market as an opportunity to move from one family to a two family. So why is this particularly an issue for Watertown? We are a community that has a very large percentage of one family that by right can be turned into two families. A third of the properties in the two-family zone are actually one family, in the conversion zone about half of the properties are single families. So there is this population of homes that are very attractive to be converted from a one-family to a two-family. So as I said at the beginning, that's not a bad thing. But when you've got a historic home that is subject to that kind of interest by the market, what we're trying to do is to introduce the same considerations that we want them, to keep in mind when they're looking at the property.

We want them to be looking at, whether can they make a significant addition to the home to make it something that is attractive to the buyer when they turn it around. Can they add a floor? Many of the old homes have an original structure that has been added to over the years and those newer parts are really not historic, or there are features there that are not historic. So can they replace those but not touch the core of the house that has the history with it? So what we have in mind is having those perspective owners thinking about how to look at the property, whether to preserve some or all of it because of its historic character. It's our belief that if you have a two-year period, that's a maximum, even if it's rarely invoked, that it will open the conversation to more of these prospective buyers asking the question, coming to the department and exploring those options. That is what a demolition delay is supposed to do. So, with that, I'll close. I'm happy to answer any questions, but I would like to make a request that if after the public hearing there are questions that council members have, I'm happy to come back and answer those. Thank you.

Stephen Corbett – 14 Irving Park -This proposed two-year demolition delay is not reasonable. It would make Watertown the most extreme of all surrounding communities. Any viable option to preserve a structure can certainly be accomplished in one year. Changing it to two is simply a backdoor approach to preventing property owners from redeveloping their property. It really amounts to private property taking. This may save a handful of structures from the wrecking ball, whether they have any historical significance or not. But you should be aware of the unintended consequences of this decision. Many property owners will avoid consideration of redevelopment because the process is too onerous and uncertain. Inferior properties in terms of poor design, lack of maintenance,

and code deficiency will be strung along simply to maintain a revenue stream.

Underutilized lots and inferior buildings won't be replaced with more attractively designed, code-compliant, and energy-efficient buildings. Rather than pursuing demolition, owners will offer renovations and additions, often resulting in poor hodgepodge designs that are not up to current codes or energy standards. The fact is all human-made structures have a useful life and at some point, they need to be replaced. A more sensible and effective approach for the historical commission would be to task it with proactively identifying the historically significant buildings in the city. Hold the required hearings and let the property owners know where they stand up front. This after-the-fact, knee-jerk reaction approach is counterproductive to all. After all, there are thousands of property owners in Watertown who will be impacted by this ordinance. The vast majority will have no idea the extent to which their property rights have been limited until they go to buy sell or redevelop their property. Thank you.

Jim Savage – Resident of Belmont- I work at Berkshire Hathaway Commonwealth Real Estate. I did grow up in Watertown and lived here for a lot of my life and I live in Belmont now. The question I really have that I think it's very important for the Council to get the information on it, what is deemed historically significant. If someone goes to the historical district and we're talking about the beautiful Victorian homes that we have on Russell, Bailey, Garfield - that's one thing. But is a cape on Rutland Ave historically significant. I know they're relating to fact, but we really need to know what is the definition of a historical home. That's really what I want to hear before I say anything else. Thank you.

Linda Scott – 55 Olcott St- The structure of this amendment seems clear, but it's lacking important process details that will add significantly to the transparency of this ordinance. For instance, in Section 153.04 preliminary review by historical condition, it would help if you had answers to these questions. Again, with Jim Savage said, what are the criteria being used to determine significance, and what documents will be used to determine it? What specific references to historic registers and local ordinances are left out? For instance, the national register resort places have been left out of this ordinance now. What special documentation for this process will be used and shared?. What kinds of buildings, if any, will be exempt? Are there districts like the Mount Auburn Street District and the Watertown Square overlay district that'll be exempt from this process? How will the determination of damage and cost to repair be determined? Should the developers' numbers be used regarding the cost of repairs? Or some other less interesting source. In section 153.05 Commission hearings - there's a stipulation of how meetings will be announced to the public.

Will decisions made about a building be shared with the public as well, if yes, how? Should an architectural historian be contracted for any part of this process to review decisions since we haven't determined a complete list of historic properties in the city? Is there an appeals process for the delay no delays decision? In section 153.06 administration, it states the commission may proactively develop a list of significant buildings that will be subject to this chapter. Buildings proposed for the significant building list shall be added following a public hearing, developing a Watertown significant building list even after incorporating lists like Macris seems like a very large but worthwhile task on a number of levels. One, someone is buying the property. They know what they're getting. Two, it adds to the general knowledge of the history of Watertown. Three, once

established, it cuts down significantly on a lot of the time and administrative costs that building by a building can necessitate. I urge you to continue to refine this document for transparency's sake. This is the city's goal, is it not? This document as written leaves all kinds of opportunities for abuse of power. Thank you for your time.

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Rd - One question I had, for a reference point for the change in demolition delay - what year were the six months changed to the 12 months? In the area of a 12-month delay, I know one community, having attended numerous programs through the Mass Historical Commission, that has 18, is there anybody else that has a two-year delay? I'm going to be very direct. I think this is just a backdoor to residential design standards or guidelines that is getting no community vetting, no input, and this idea that the commission may proactively develop a list of significant buildings that will be subject to this bylaw and the buildings proposed for the significant buildings list shall be added following a public hearing. I live in a house that was built in 1897. It was bastardized before I bought it with aluminum siding. I wish I could take it off, but having talked with several contractors in town, that's an \$80,000 price tag at least. This has so many holes; I don't even know why we're listening to this right now, and, Council, you really need to pay attention to this. Let's look at surrounding communities and what their standards are. I've tried to reach all this data today.

I don't even understand the language. I have three projects that come to mind; one was on School Street where they wanted the person that bought the property to promote it for sale because they didn't like what he wanted to do, but it never sold. He put a new building on the property. I don't really like it myself, quite frankly. He turned the property on the access, but you know, he bought it, he did it, you know, that's life. There are other properties near the river, and similar things happened. This is very heavy-handed with the hammer, former Councilor Corbett really summarized exactly how I feel about this. If we have issues in town, we need to address them. It is a backroom way, a backdoor way to set residential design standards, and we know what happened the last time. The community revolted because it was not transparent. It was not above board. This seems really sneaky, and personally, I'm done with the lack of transparency in this town. So please, please vote this down and take it back to the drawing board. You're doing this in August. When people get back and hear about it, you will look like trash. It's just a dumb thing to do right now. And I love old houses. This is not it. Simply put it, it's not a good process and it's dysfunctional for our community. We have enough of that in this town. Thank you for allowing me to finish.

Dennis Holland – 29 Nyack St - From a different perspective, some of the houses aren't in good shape. You know, older residents had them, sold them, or whatever. The condition of the house is maybe in a teardown condition, or maybe some can't be rehabbed. I'm not sure, but one thing that comes to my mind is the public safety aspect of it - delaying a house that's in really bad shape for another year where it may catch fire, and it may spread to the other houses around it - that doesn't need to be. So I wouldn't be in favor of by any means delaying for a year, in the other powers that be, you can all figure it out from there. I'm just thinking that the other person's property. One of the ones that comes to mind a few weeks ago was the Bigelow Ave property, and the older gentleman that lives next door to BNG cheap metal there, he was worried that if anything happened to that building with him being that close, that he could lose his property. Where's he going to go? So just, you know, another thought, any delay could lead to some disaster that's going to affect other people that doesn't need to be. Thank you.

Naomi Depina – Sycamore Street- Hi. My name is Naomi DePina. So when this came to my attention, and I've owned property and buildings in other towns, Winthrop and Chelsea, and I think quite frankly, I'm going to be blunt - this is a little ridiculous. You want younger people to move here - Biotech buildings are being built - you're allowing all these things to happen, and yet a two-year delay. I was listening on Zoom earlier, and it was mentioned for an expansion for families, demolitions are typically for an expansion of families. That's about 30 to 40% if you actually look at statistics. Families are applying for these permits 30 to 40%. What people are doing is renewing historical buildings. Yes. Do we want the town to look more appealing to more residents? For more residents, I think so. Therefore, I do have a few questions I want to just put to your attention. So let's say as a homeowner, if I'm adding a second floor to my home, do I have to wait two years? I don't know if that would work for my growing family, so that's a concern to me. Also, is there any guidance from the city to help with this historical commission? I just feel that what are the qualifications, I'm wondering, to serve on the historical commission. Why did this come up? What is the purpose here? What does an additional 12 months actually do? So one thing I haven't gathered from the comments earlier is what is the true point. Why do we need to do this? Thank you.

Senior Planner Larry Field - So two years is a maximum. So even if a property were deemed to be historic, preferably preserved, the commission needs to look at whether it should be a six-month, two-year. But to the particular question of when you're doing something to expand your living space, you're adding a floor, you're having an addition that's something that is unlikely to lead the commission to impose any delay, even if it is a building that is historic. Basically, someone would come to the commission, with this application, with the two-step process, this preliminary review might end the whole thing right away. But if it does go to the commission, you explain why it is you want to do it, why you've looked at alternatives, and this is the best thing to do. So I think that this is a particular fear which is remote.

Shin Nagpal – 96 Beachwood Ave - I also serve on the Watertown Energy Conservation Committee. In a follow-up question to what the general said here about the assumption that if you're expanding the household it likely does not require, you know, the extension of the delay. That feels like a false promise. If that's the case, that's something that should be incorporated with clear guidelines. I echo someone else's concerns previously where, this is showing a lack of transparency where you're making the assumption that if you come in certain conditions, it'll likely not be a problem. But if that's really truly the case, it's something that should be very specific and included in the amendment. Thanks.

Len Holt – 44 Grenville Rd - Just a couple of comments. I'd like to quote, the theory is remote. Or, if the fuse is remote. The numbers that are in their own report said we've only had 38 cases in 20 years. So we're talking about two houses per year, approximately. I guess my question becomes, if we're talking about two houses per year, then do we have as big a problem as this is making it to make it go from 12 months to 24 months? Because quite frankly, I concur completely with Steve Corbett that what could be done in 24 months could certainly be done in 12 months if that's the issue. My second comment is with regards to the fact that in the state of Massachusetts, according to the report provided in the minutes, there's only one other town in the state with 24 months as a demolition delay. So apparently 24 months is not the standard by any means. Finally, the devil seems to be in the details because the definitions of substantial demolitions, which I found out today, include any change to the ridge of a roof or the height of a building, and to me, that's a

Page 12 of 116

style of design guidelines than a demolition delay. So that's my comments for today. Thank you very much.

Councilor Piccirilli read an email from - John Lavadini. - I'm unable to meet the meeting, tonight in person or via Zoom. Please be advised that the concerned Watertown Homeowners Association has received numerous contacts from your constituents voicing concern and opposition regarding the proposed new demolition delay ordinance for the city of Watertown. For the record, the CWAHA is unequivocally opposed to any new ordinance that adversely affects the rights of property owners in our city specifically including the extension of the current demolition delay ordinance from 12 to 24 months. In addition, we note that only one other Community in Massachusetts has extended a demolition delay to 24 months. As such, we clearly do not stand alone in our position that this proposed ordinance may create an unnecessary burden that will affect the rights of property owners. I'd also like to request that any vote on this matter be postponed for another 30 days to allow all Watertown homeowners to completely understand the issue at hand and provide their elected officials with feedback, which may not be possible during a midsummer meeting while many of us are on vacation. Respectfully, John Lavadini.

Naomi Depina – Sycamore Street - So I just have a follow-up question, and thank you, Larry, for commenting. So to my earlier comment of imposing the additional 12 months for, let's say if it's a basic home if I want to add a second floor, or even if someone wants to you know, restore a historical home - I want to understand what the additional layer of steps, why are there additional layer, why are we adding. What is the true purpose of why we're adding this additional step? Is it weeding out what needs to be proposed versus in that preliminary what they can kind of sort out, or is it just to add an additional 12 months as, while yes, this is the maximum, why does that need to be in place if this is already working?

Senior Planner Field - So we want homeowners to renovate their homes. It's not a bad thing. It's often the right thing to do to add a floor or to have an addition. This proposed ordinance is not aimed at that. It's aimed at the acquisition of property and taking it from one family to two families and demolishing it completely. There are some instances where the renovation application goes further than, or goes so far that it transforms the character of the building, and that's something that we want to look at to see that what is occurring is not avoiding the demolition delay process by saying, well, I am renovating the property, I'm not demolishing it. So I understand and respect your concern, but this is not an attempt to control or regulate or control the renovation of properties. We found over the years that generally when it's a homeowner that comes to the department, comes to the commission, they are looking at more living space. They're not looking at tearing it down to build a two-family. That's what the two-year delay is really focused on. I'm happy to answer other questions that have come up if that's appropriate now. So, Milton is the other community that has been discussed as having a 24-month period. Milton and Brookline are 18 months. Watertown is in a situation where it has more of a need than many of the communities around us because of what I said earlier about, the number or the percentage of single-family homes that by right can be turned into family. That is not something that is true for many of the communities around us, and that is really the force that's bringing the commission and the department to support a two-year delay period as the maximum.

There has been kind of alternative statements here about the impact of this. Thousands will be affected, or it's only two a year. Over the course of 20 years, there have been 250 demo applications. So we're not talking about thousands. Yes, there are relatively low numbers every year where the commission has been imposing a delay. That's why, the Chair noted the judiciousness of the commission. The fact that it's only two a year isn't a reason not to do it. It's a reason to allow discretion in the hands of the commission because they've shown that they're not going to put a delay on everything. There was a question from the gentleman from Berkshire Hathaway about, well, what is, deemed historically significant Well, there is, in the definition, a two-part, two sets of criteria. it's on the first page with the definitions if I may, I'll read them up to you. Actually, it's page two. The building is importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural cultural political economic, or social history of the city or the Commonwealth. Two, the building is historically or architecturally important in terms of period style method of building construction or association with a recognized architecture planner, either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings. There was a concern raised by Dennis Holland about, well what if the building is in bad shape? If there is a building that is condemned, it is automatically off the list, it does not need to go to the historic commission, and it can be demolished as quickly as possible.

The example of the Bigelow property is actually an example of why one part of this ordinance is a good thing, which is, that if there were an application to demolish the Bigelow building, which is, an old industrial building - instead of going to a public hearing, the historical commission will be able to very quickly say this is not a historic structure and give the okay to demolish it. So there will be less risk with buildings like that, not more if the ordinance has passed. There was a series of different questions raised by Linda Scott about this, ordinance, should it have this? Should it have that? Why doesn't it have this? Why doesn't it have that? This is an ordinance that provides a procedure for how to look at demolition delay. It provides criteria, but it is not a regulatory program with all the details filled out. All of those things may be very interesting questions. There may be things that the department should consider, but it's not necessary for this ordinance to be 80 pages long and have all the details laid out. The final point I'll make is that a couple of people have talked about doing an inventory, and I will agree, and the commission agrees that having an inventory of all the historic properties, and potential historic properties in Watertown would be a good thing.

The communities have done that, have done that over the course of five, 10, and 15 years and they have continually invested money in hiring consultants and going building by building. We can do that. But right now, we are in a situation where the strong housing market is leading to properties being demolished and replaced by two families. So, at the same time that we do inventories, and in fact, for the first time since 1982, there's going to be an area inventory in the south side that's not associated with the historic district. So the commission is trying to do an inventory. But at the same time as we go on that path, we have to look at what is in front of us now. What are the problems we have to contend with now? That's why this ordinance is designed to do, as I said, three things. One is the maximum time period, but it's also reducing the number of cases that come before it. So that it's only focusing on the most important. Then it's also dealing with situations that are more ambiguous where you need to have more clarity about what a demolition is. I'm happy to answer any questions that the council members have.

it, and they can get funding from MHC - half the funding - if they go through this. So I'm not sympathetic to this given the shenanigans that have gone on in the city. Larry mentioned three things: The maximum time period. I go back to most communities for 12 months, maybe 18, two years is ridiculous. Ambiguous property. What does that mean? He failed to say what number three was, so I have forgotten that already. There's going to be an inventory of the south side. Before COVID, I made a list of two years of properties that came up for demolition delays and I went out to look at every single one of them. I want to know how many people on the historical commission did that and how many people in the planning department did that. I looked at every single property.

There were only two properties that I thought, wow, they're rather unique. One was on the Common Street. It was right up against the golf course. It was totally hidden. I don't know how you get out of your driveway there. Another one was on Westminster Ave was kind of a cottage beautifully landscaped, very attractive. I mean, those were two out of almost 30 properties. I don't know why we're going to this if the system has been working so well. I think a lot of these things need much more definition. Councilors, you are making a huge mistake if you think this is okay. You need to step back from this, do a lot more public education, and do a lot more investigation. I want to know what are the talents that sit on this historical commission with regard to construction, really understanding engineering etcetera. There are so many holes in this ordinance. I can't even go into it. I'm very disappointed that this has gotten this far with so little advertisement etcetera. It's a bad move. I'm really sorry, I've never fight these things, but this is terrible. I sit on the CPC and I see so many holes in this. It terrifies me. It's just drama, and we have enough drama in this town. This is not transparent - Thank you.

Dennis Holland – 29 Nyack St - Clarification. The longer a property sits empty, the more susceptible it is to something that's going to go wrong, and if we can prevent that by not having it sit empty for two years, I think it'd be better for this public safety. Thank you.

John Cimino - Resident - Hello. My name is John Cimino, a contractor in Watertown. Most of you might know, started back in 1968 with my father being an Italian immigrant. I've developed a lot of properties in Watertown, and I've torn down some houses. I saved a lot of houses that you will see all over this town. I think a lot of people know our business as a well-established high-end when our projects are done. I'm lucky enough that I took the steps for my father to where I am now, and I'm lucky now that I have my son who wants to follow my steps. It keeps asking me, Dad, can we find a project? Well, as well as you know, prices in Watertown are outrageous. So if we buy our house and it sits on the market and has to wait a year, It's about \$90,000 worth of interest. If you guys pass this law and you don't have to be a math genius, you're up to 180. If you still go forward with your project, the only way you're going to get your 180 back is to cut down on the house that you want to develop, which means the town or Watertown will probably get houses that are less developed and not as well high standard. Also what you're doing is, somebody like my son, which is starting out, says, where am I going to come up with this money to sit on a house for two years to satisfy something that probably most people would say needs to come down. So just don't consider a one-way. Think about the land of opportunity for some kid or somebody young who wants to step up and do some construction, because a lot of kids today are on to computers. It's hard to find a young person today who wants to work hard and get into this type of trade. And I hope you understand where I'm coming from, and I'm part of my business, and all the houses I've done in this town over the 40 years, and how many compliments we've got. Thank you.

Elise Loukas - Thank you. I just wanted to also add to a comment that Larry had made regarding the towns that have a 24-month, or an 18-month, or a 12-month. One of the reasons that you don't see more towns within 24 months is that they have other tools. You have a town like Lexington. They have historic districts - multiple historic districts, which means that you can't do anything with those houses. It takes a lot to get anything changed in those houses, but they don't need to have a 24-month because they have the historic district protecting all their houses. So you're not going to see a 24-month delay in Lexington. So when you look at a list and say, oh, there's only one town, that's not really a fair assessment of what's going on with historical preservation of homes, historic homes, across Massachusetts. That's just looking at one tool. There are many tools that towns use. Unfortunately, we don't have many tools. Other towns have used them which is why you're not seeing those numbers. So, I wanted just to clarify that for the council members, just to make sure that you understand that those numbers, although they may seem like Watertown would be just one of a couple. That's not exactly accurate. Yes. We'd be one of a couple that has 24 months, but that's because our town does not have five different historic districts or other tools protecting the houses as you've already heard. I think Larry did a great job of addressing other concerns. But I also wanted to be very clear for the residents who spoke. This is a demolition delay ordinance, which means if you wanted to come in and demolish your property, not necessarily renovated. This is for people who want to knock down the house. So if you wanted to put a dormer or something else - that's different. People come before us like the developers you just heard who want to knock down the house. That's what our commission is about. So I wanted just to make that very clear.

John Cimino – Resident - One more thing I want to say because I like what that last person said about having a tool. If you look behind you, that building that's getting built up there and they're putting up these buildings all over the town and everybody's complaining in the coffee shops on any else in this town, but they don't come here to say something. Why don't you use those tools and have those people have their fees increased so that the money goes to the historical committee? If you guys think a house should be preserved, that money is put in a fund, and you can buy that house yourself for the historical committee and save it. That's what some other towns are trying to do, and that's what you should be doing in Watertown; instead of allowing these people to put these high rises, they're walking in and just paying a permit fee and they're able to do everything and everybody's complaining. Thank you.

City Manager Proakis – Thank you, Mr. President. I didn't expect to speak tonight on this. I know this has been an ongoing conversation with the staff and the historical commission and working to get to this point to bring an ordinance to the Council. But it was just interesting to watch a public hearing where folks who often have very different opinions on different sides of the development issue each have their own challenges. Although all have challenges, it seems that they expressed during the public hearing about this particular item and what it means. This was something that has, you know, I've been here a year now, and work on this was going on before I got here. I wrote the demo ordinance in Somerville. It's one of the few ordinances that I actually sat down typed out beginning to end and wrote. So it's just something that I've spent probably a little bit too much time on as a tool. I just wanted to reflect on where and how this might fit with other pieces of what we do. I think it's really interesting to watch and consider, and this is an issue when we bring up zoning ordinances and zoning updates as well, the balance between how much you specify in detail in an ordinance that you say, okay, this is very specific criteria for

what you can do, versus how much you leave up to a board and discretion, which in zoning, we do a lot with special permits. In general, I spent a good part of my career trying to get more to the specificity side because you often hear the comments of what, you know, we'll what does this guideline mean? What does this circumstance mean? What is this actually going to turn into?

Here, I think that we've had a demo ordinance since 1997, if I'm reading the warehouse clause on the top of your right, which is a long time to have had an ordinance. You're at the 12-month time frame here, which is, where actually Somerville ended up at the end of their process. There was a proposal of 18, and they did actually pull it back to 12, and there was a lot of conversation about that time frame. There was also a lot of conversation about the technical piece of kind of what to make with changes. I can say that one of my biggest challenges is across the board, 1990s-era demo ordinances are poorly written and very difficult to interpret. Not great pieces of law. A lot of them came off of a state template, which honestly is just not that great. I think there's been a lot of effort here to try to provide more specificity to deal with some of the challenges these ordinances typically have. One of them is the definition of partial definition or substantial definition, which is very tricky. Typically, what you don't want to have to happen is you don't want to have a situation where someone leaves half a wall up and claims they're not demolishing the building, and they're just kind of playing around with the ordinance. Well, at the same time, it's reflecting on a lot of the comments made here. You don't want the partial definition to catch circumstances where someone's trying to put a dormer on their house or put an addition on the back of their house, it becomes very disruptive to renovation projects if they have to go through this extra step. The other thing that this ordinance does that I've seen a lot of this ordinance try to do is to provide a first and early level off-ramp.

If someone comes in with a little black garage that was built in 1925. Yes. Technically, it's subject to the ordinance, but there's nothing significant about it. Having a subcommittee or staff committee or some group be able to say, alright, you don't even need to go into the ordinance for this stuff, is a very valuable addition. We don't do that here now, doing that in this ordinance, I think, is an add-on. So I guess I heard a lot of concerns and I understand a lot of concerns. I also think that fitting this in with what else we do, like, you know, if all of our historic buildings were clustered in one place, I would say, you know, just create one more historic district there, and then you wouldn't need a demo ordinance at all. I don't think the intention here is to make it difficult to tear down a falling apart cape house. I think that the issue was every now and then within those two family districts, you find a single family that's a substantially historic structure and you want to be able to at least take a moment to say, can we have a conversation about whether or not there's a way to add on to this house instead of tearing it down. We've been doing that since 1997. So it's not that we haven't been doing that, it's just that making sure to modernize an ordinance and making it work right is something that's still important to me. I think this fits in with what we do on zoning ordinances as well.

I think if based upon the feedback we received here tonight, the Council gives us guidance on things we need to do more on to make sure we're doing that and not capturing some of those other concerns it is something that's important to me as well. I don't think that the intention here is to create vague guidelines or vague processes. I know this team, and that's not what they're trying to do. That's not what I've tried to spend 20 years doing and planning before I became a city manager. I want to be able to make sure that we're actually kind of tightening up on the definitions and the rules so that we're

getting to the point where people know where they stand and know what they're doing and know what circumstances are - circumstances where things are historic. We do have right now a lot of wide variety of things that fall in this demo ordinance, in a commission that, to be fair to them, has been relatively selective in what they send through the process and put a delay on and hold you know, basically determining only a fifth of those is preferably preserved and even less of them is worthy of the one-year delay.

So these are meant for specific circumstances. If we haven't captured that in the language, please, you know, we'll have to try to do more, but I just wanted to share that perspective because I think this is a tool that fits in a very typical property toolkit, that most communities do, and a lot of communities are looking at trying to make them better because I think a lot of them are poorly written vague, and poorly done. And the opportunity to make that clearer, regardless of where the time frame, whether it's 12 months or 15 months or 24 months or whatever it might be - I had someone in Somerville suggest we should do seven years - but, you know, I kind of was like, now wait a minute. That's how we ended up at, at a lot less, we ended up at even at less than 24. But anyway, I appreciate the insight and perspective tonight and sort of putting where we are into a kind of perspective of how some of these processes can work, but at the end of the day, if our goal is to try to make it more predictable, more understandable, more straightforward, easier, and more of an understanding of what the experience coming to the commission is. If we've done that, great. If there are areas where we haven't done that, that's where we need feedback, and I appreciate it. So thank you.

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Rd -Thank you very much, Mr. President. I very much appreciate what our city manager had to say tonight. I went to meetings a long time ago in Summerville, and I was so impressed with how Summerville looked at set back and neighborhoods, etcetera. We know a few years ago people tried to create another historic district in town, and the neighborhood rebelled against it. So like I say, this again seems like a backdoor kind of residential design guidelines standards which offends me. I like high standards. I like beautiful development, but this is wrong. John Cimino spoke. He does beautiful work. There are other developers in our community that do beautiful work. I really wish we our planning department would take as much interest in the commercial development that is going on rather than stifle people who want to add an addition, or a dormer, or something to their home to be able to live in it more effectively for an expanding family. This is totally off the rails. Please send it down - it needs to go back. Please stand up for the residents of your community. It's really important. There's a lot of standing up for developers. You can see the contentious issues that have come up with that around town. It's now ready to stand up for the residents. We have very good developers in this community that do sensitive development. Okay, if there's an issue on a particular building, let's deal with that, but this is overkill, and it's offensive to me. Thank you.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to approve the proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner - Yes. I'd just like to reiterate there seems to be a lot of fear in the room, and on Zoom tonight about this affecting renovation or improving properties. As Mr. Fields explained, there's a whole separate process with zoning and or planning boards for that - this is about demolition. And I just want to remind people that, as the manager pointed out, this has been us, well, this started many years ago, the historical commission's kind of been seeking to improve the ordinance for quite some time, but actively the last year

and a half. Last September, in particular, the committee reported a draft ordinance, and attached to the report were regulations to give people an idea of how a lot of specifics would work with the staff, things that wouldn't be included in the ordinance, but that would be in regulation. So if you look at that, that would answer a lot of the questions that came up. I can say that there are a lot of people that participated in the other committee meetings that aren't here tonight and we heard from other people. So we're not springing this on anybody at the last minute, and this has already had a first reading as well. So I just want to thank the staff, and the public, and the developers, and homeowners, people that are concerned, as well about demolition. Because in here, we've also included enhanced and clear notice, people talking about transparency, but particularly notice about decisions about hearings beforehand, and then about decisions afterward as well. There's more than one review as well by our city attorney, so I appreciate that. Thank you.

Councilor Palomba- Thank you. I have just a few questions about it as I read through it. First, I just want to thank the historical commission for its work. I know a number of people on the commission, and I believe they do excellent work. As one of our many boards and commissions, they do that as volunteers, so I appreciate their work. I did have some questions about it. If I understand this correctly, the thing that I like particularly about it is the idea that two people can decide whether something is historically significant, and well, can decide whether it needs to go to the commission to determine whether it's historically significant, and that would help alleviate quite a number of cases. So if I'm writing this, if someone has a demolition delay request that the chair of the committee, the commission, and one of the other members of the commission can look at the building and determine whether it needs to go on to the full commission, that would have seemed to me to eliminate a lot of work on the part of the commission, and also make it easier for folks to do demolition on their building. The part that's a little bit hard is, and I think this is part of being his being a member of the commission, is that you determine whether something is historical, and needs to be preserved.

The possible keys are on page two. Well, it's on my page three. are a little bit interpretive that's not hard and fast, a little bit interpretive. So I think that part, of what makes something historical, it's determined whether it makes something historical has to be somewhat interpreted, and that's the job of the commission. I do think that 24, if I understand this correctly, the reason that we're doing a bigger term of 24 instead of 12 is that many of the efforts of the commission to work with people who requested the demolition delay, were not fruitful. That is efforts to think about other ways to deal with the building, other things that that the developer could do, there wasn't that dialogue that was happening. I understand this, if I'm correct in this, is that that dialogue wasn't taking place. What was happening was that developers would just wait it out until the demolition delay, expired. Now, why did that happened? I'm not sure, why the commission members and the developers couldn't find ways to address the issues that were of concern.

The purpose of this extension was to give more time, give that dialogue more time, and also not allow someone to sit on the property and just wait it out. I think that's, as I understand the purpose of it. I do think that the regulations, and I think this might be something that could be addressed, about what a substantial demolition is - and that's on page one of the demolition delay regulations, number 2B - says that if we remove 50% or more of the roof, that would deem it as a substantial demolition. Remove any part of the roof if the ridgeline has changed and remove an exterior wall. To me, that's pretty broad, and you could find yourself wanting to expand your house in such a way, but if you need to remove an exterior wall, then you would be considered a substantial

demolition. So, and then finally, I would like to propose an amendment, if I could at this point and during the proceedings. I would like to propose an amendment to the demolition, and this would be in the section number 153.5 C1 and I'd like to change the words "no demolition permit may be issued during the time period set by the commission, starting from the date of determination and lasting no more than 24 months". I'd like to make an amendment to change the 24 months to 18 months.

There was no second so the motion to make an amendment failed.

Councilor Gannon - Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. So, Councilor Palomba alluded to it, but, I'm curious if, Mr. Fields can come and address it. What typically happens after a demolition delay is ordered? I'm interested in learning about the dialogue between, is it the commission, the planning board, and the developer. What typically happens? Does a developer wait or is there dialogue, and who initiates the dialogue?

Senior Planner Field - In some cases, the staff explicitly takes the initiative and asks the developer and the owner if they are interested in exploring options. But it's always clear that the commission is interested in that, and it's often clear that the applicant is not interested. They're just going to wait out the period.

Councilor Piccirilli - Oh, thank you, Mr. President. So we heard a lot of concerns from the public on this. We had some really good committee meetings. During the committee meeting, we actually dove into a lot of these questions and tried to answer them in the committee reports. There are two committee reports on this that seem to answer the question. If you think about the proposed and revised ordinance there are really three elements. One is sort of a streamlining process, and part of that first step is to look at the 80 percent of the petitions that come to the historic commission, which really don't need to go to the historic commission and have a public hearing or research about the historic nature of that building. So the process is designed to sort of streamline that, and so those 80% of the projects that a developer's proposing actually would never have to go to the commission for a public hearing. So that really sort of streamlines it, and it allows then the historic commission and staff to focus on the 20% that are perhaps preferably preserved. So that's the first major element in this change. The second is a definition of substantial demolition.

This has come up through a number of developers that basically said one thing and did something else. We really needed to tighten up the language about what that is. So the original ordinance was very vague on that. We decided to do that in regulation, and the second part of this, if you look at what was proposed, there's an ordinance, and then there's also the regulation. I think the regulation then raised some concerns about the removal of a roof or, the removal of a ridge line on the roof, a removal of an exterior wall, and the concerns about that. So I want to go back to that as part of the regulation. Then the third piece is the change in the demolition delay from 12 months to 24 months. Now the state model demolition regulation recommends 18 months. When we first started, my question to the historic commission and the staff is why? I think the answer is, and you heard chair Elise Loukas and Larry Field explained why that we're at that. Other communities have different things. In Newton, their concern is single-family houses and big lots being torn down and McMansions being built. We don't have a problem with single-family zones in Watertown - that's not really an issue with development. It's all the two family zones. And so it was felt that you know, 24 months would be better even

though there's only one other community in the state that has it. So, I think if you separate the other two elements and talk about the time and delay, that's sort of a third thing. I want to add another point that there were a lot of questions from the public about whether this is going to prevent people from renovating their houses.

I think that question is asking Larry Field answered that this is a demolition delay ordinance to prevent people from tearing down houses, not renovating houses. In fact, if you read the very first sentence in section 153.01 in purpose, it says this is enacted for the purpose of preserving and protecting significant buildings within the city outside designated historic districts, and to encourage owners of the buildings to seek out people who may be willing to purchase, preserve, rehabilitate, or restore buildings rather than demolish them. So the intention of the demolition delay ordinance as written is to have an opportunity for a house that, again, the criteria, a house that is determined by the historic commission to be a significant building and preferably preserved - two steps there. Not any building - just because a building is old, doesn't mean it's a historically significant building. I think that everybody needs to be clear about that and the language of the ordinance is very clear about that. But instead of tearing it down, is there a way to renovate it or restore it rather than tear it down? So, many of the questions you heard about adding a dormer, adding a room, adding a bump out, all those things are actually encouraged under this ordinance, not prohibited. I think that that's the very plain language of the law written that way. That goes back to the regulations, and the question of if you look at the regulations, which is not the law, it's actually guidance for the departments.

It says "determined by the Department of Community Development Planning to assist the historic commission" and says "a substantial demolition, in order to determine whether the scope of work constitutes substantial demolition as defined by the ordinance. Here are some things that the building inspector would look at, removal of 50% or more of the roof, and removal of any part of the roof of the ridgeline's change from moving exterior wall". So those are three things that if that's in the application, that doesn't make it a historic preserve building - it's going to automatically get the demolition delay. What that does is, as it says right here, this preliminary determination is to go to ask the historic commission. If you look at section 1.03, C1, if they determined that, whether it consists of substantial demolition, it actually goes to the preliminary review by the historic commission at 153.04 - they can weed that out to say, no, this is just a renovation, this is not a substantial demolition. So I think that's the sort of checks and balances, about what's happening here. It's not to say if you're removing a roof, you're getting a demolition delay. It's only trying to determine whether it is actually a substantial demolition.

The last point I want to make is if you look at 153.05, paragraph E2, the building commission may issue a demolition permit for preferably preserved significant building if all the other requirements are read". And also, number two, it says "if the historic commission is satisfied that for at least six months, the owner's made continuing bona fide, and reasonable efforts to locate a purchaser to preserve rehabilitate and restore the subject building and that the efforts have been unsuccessful". So I think this is the key paragraph because the whole point of this is if a building is preferably preserved, this is the opportunity to say it can't be preserved. I think all of us know here that there are a lot of old buildings in Watertown, which used to be really nice buildings, but for lack of maintenance, non-intentional, just that's the way life is - they've fallen into disrepair, and they are not economically viable to preserve or renovate unless you want to spend thousands of dollars doing that. But to any business owner that says that you can't make

a return on investment on this - all this is asking is if you go back to the commission and say, we've done our due diligence, this can't be renovated, nobody wants to buy it. The historical commission, after six months, can remove the demolition delay. It doesn't have to wait the full 24 months. So all these pieces work together, and I think the committee sort of tried to hammer out these in a way that we remove 80% of the buildings from the historic commission process in exchange for having a little bit more, look at the remaining 20%. Is that the right balance? I don't know. But that's how we arrived at this decision. Thank you.

Councilor Feltner - Thank you, Mr. President one point, I forgot to mention then councilor Piccirilli's comments reminded me that the 24 months, again, it's Watertown specific. Mr. Magoon spoke to that at one of our committee meetings, and he really preferred that with the staff and the conditions in Watertown. So this isn't I'll just say it's not an arbitrary number, and it's up to 24 months, and all the other things that have been said, we really tried to look at this a whole package. I encourage everybody, to well, I'm happy to talk to anyone as chair on the committee, but again, the regulations are in the former committee reports. There's a lot of detail in there. I'm sure as President Sideris says all time, any of us are happy to talk to people who have questions and I'm sure the staff as well. Thank you.

Councilor Palomba - Thank you. I just wanted to ask if Larry could answer a question - I thought you had said earlier that the commission can put a six-month, 12-month, or a 24-month, that it doesn't have to be 24 months. Is that correct?

Senior Planner Field - Any time period up to 24 months is allowable, and in fact, the commission has from time to time said it's preferably preserved, zero. No delay imposed.

Councilor Palomba - Okay, and then the question that I wasn't clear about, what Councilor Piccirilli said. Are we saying, I'm looking at the regulations, but I was taken by definition 2B, "substantial, demolition". Are we saying that if the zoning enforcement officer sees any of these three things, they could recommend that they could see it as substantial, demolition. Does it go back to the commission, to make a determination after the Code Enforcement Officer sees these three?

Senior Planner Field - Right. So the process is that a renovation application is filed with the billing department. As part of the process now, the zoning enforcement officer looks at it for zoning. In addition to that, they'll look at it for this, and within a matter of hours, a day or two, they will make the determination that it's either is or isn't substantial demolition, and then we'll refer it to the historic commission chair. Then it's that two-step process, the Councilor was referring to, where if it's not historically significant, they make the finding, and then kick it back to the building department right away.

President Sideris – One clarification – Someone stated that Newton was 18 months, Newton is 12 months, but 18 months for a home on the historic register. Cambridge is 12 months. The point I'm trying to make is, we've done many demo delays, and they haven't resulted in us saving houses. So, my point is I'm not supporting adding 12 months to having a house sit there and rot, grass overflowing houses falling apart, just for the sake of adding 12 months. I don't see how this makes sense. I understand that we want to clean some things up, and I can appreciate that we can eliminate some of the problems

that would come with someone making an application in front of the commission. There has been a lot of work done here, and I appreciate it all, but I feel that Watertown has been the lead on many positions throughout my term on this council, and this council is aware. I'm not sure we want to be the second city in Massachusetts to impose another 12 months in a demodely. I think it's sending a bad message, and I can't support this. So at this point we have a motion and second, can I get a roll call please.

***** END OF TRANSCRIPT*****

The motion to approve the proposed Ordinance establishing a new Demolition Dealy passed 6- 3 in a Roll Call Vote.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading on an Order of Taking to acquire, by eminent domain, the necessary easements for the Mt. Auburn reconstruction project.

City Manager Proakis presented the first reading. He explained that, while eminent domain is a scary term, in this case it is referring to small slivers of land in the form of temporary easements. That it is necessary to appease the government funding; that the proper channels are being used every time a construction worker "steps on a piece or owned grass", and that each particular resident is getting compensated for it.

Superintendent St. Louis reiterated that this is project is mostly funded by MASS DOT and that the majority of the easements are temporary. He went on to mention that the entire project is buffered for a total of five years, and that the properties will be restored and improved to meet the ADA standards along the corridor. The appropriate letters have gone out with the appraisals of each piece of property. There will be a public forum, and the city will go out for bid in September and received the \$30 million from MASS DOT.

- B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$27,937 from the Fiscal Year 2024 City Council Reserve to the Fiscal Year 2024 Health and Human Services Study.

City Manager Proakis presented the request for the Transfer of Funds. He made note that they had entered into a contracting process with an organization called Health Management Associates to conduct the study on health and human services. The request represents the balance left over from money that was previously set aside for the study.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The request to approve the Transfer of Funds was approved unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- C. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds in the Amount of \$1,000 from the Watertown Savings Bank for the SNAP match for the Farmers Market.

City Manager Proakis presented the request for the Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The request to approve the Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds was approved unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Parks and Recreation regarding a report from the meetings held on June 26, 2023 and July 17, 2023 - Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Dennis Duff for reappointment to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire on February 1, 2026.

ACTION ITEM:

To Recommend that the City Council confirm Mark Krackiewicz for reappointment to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire on February 1, 2026.

Councilor Palomba presented the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Gardner seconded.

The reports were accepted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept Dennis Duff and Mark Krackiewicz for reappointment to the Community Preservation Committee and Councilor Gannon seconded.

The reappointments were accepted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- B. Ad Hoc Committee regarding interviews for the position of Municipal Policy Analyst.

Councilor Bays presented the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Gardner seconded.

The report was accepted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- C. Committee on Economic Development & Planning regarding a meeting held on July 10, 2023 - Feltner, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council schedules a joint Public Hearing with the Planning Board to adopt the Updated Comprehensive Plan with the eight changes recommended by the Committee.

Councilor Feltner presented the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Gardner seconded.

The report was accepted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Gardner seconded.

- D. Committee on Economic Development & Planning regarding a report from the meeting on July 13, 2023 - Feltner, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council authorize the Administration to negotiate with the three cannabis operators for amendments to the Host Community Agreements as proposed, and to include a release of liability for prior impact fee payments either as part of the HCA amendment or as a separate agreement, and to bring the final agreements back to the City Council for a vote of authorization for the Manager to sign.

Councilor Feltner presented the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Gardner seconded.

The report was accepted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Action Item in from the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The Action Item was accepted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- E. Committee on Economic Development and Planning regarding a report from the meeting on August 2, 2023 - Feltner, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Samuel Odamah for appointment as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring February 15, 2025.

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Christopher Heep for reappointment as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring February 15, 2028.

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Payson Whitney for reappointment to the Planning Board for a term expiring February 15, 2026.

Councilor Feltner presented the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Gannon seconded.

The report was accepted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept to confirm Samuel Odamah for appointment as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring February 15, 2025 and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The Action Item was accepted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept to confirm Christopher Heep for reappointment as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring February 15, 2028 and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The Action Item was accepted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept to confirm Payson Whitney for reappointment to the Planning Board for a term expiring February 15, 2026 and Councilor Feltner Seconded.

The Action Item was accepted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Referral to the Committee on Public Works regarding winter parking bans.

President Sideris made note that this had been requested from several members of the City Council. He went on to say that while this past winter was very mild in terms of snowfall, other years have experienced very heavy snow and the parking ban had worked. He concluded that when this item was placed on the agenda, it was done so to refer to public works, but now the proper channel is to let the comprehensive plan be responsible for it, as it is part of the street parking policy.

12. COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Hiring update / refer for committee review:

- Human Resources Director
- Chief Financial Officer
- Police Chief

City Manager Proakis stated that the Watertown Charter requires that he request advice from the City Council when making department head hires.

President Sideris designated each position to their respective subcommittees.

B. Personnel / HR Department Assessment

City Manager Proakis stated that the HR study has been completed. He went on to thank Emily Monea for her hard work in helping to facilitate it. He went on to say that he would like to wait to hire an HR Director to begin implementing steps and guidelines that were written in the report.

C. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Traffic Commission

City Manager Proakis read the request for the reappointment of Kelly Gallagher to the Traffic Commission.

President Sideris referred the request to the Committee on Public Safety.

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

City Manager Proakis read the request to make reappointments for the Public Arts and Culture Committee in Swati Biswas, Barbara Epstein, and Matthew Hanna.

President Sideris referred the request to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

City Manager Proakis announced a swearing in event at the Commanders Mansion that includes the promotions of several members of the Fire Department, including the swearing in of the new Fire Chief, and several public service awards. He went on announce that the state aid estimates were accurate to the sum that Watertown will receive. He stated that funds being received will help close the gap on the budget of the new Watertown High School, while also providing funds to the Special Ed, Watertown Boys and Girls Club, and Housing Authority.

He continued to say that there are new hearing listening devices that are available on hand for City Council Meetings. He concluded with announcements of the continued Farmers Market, concert series, Council on Aging BBQ, and the upcoming State of the City address.

13. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Feltner requested information about the HR progress.

President Sideris and City Manager Proakis confirmed that it had been addressed.

President Sideris requested information on what process is being used to follow up on how the conditions that are set for major developments are being met in Watertown.

14. ANOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Gardner announced the first Planning Board meeting set to discuss the Watertown Mall transformation project. She also announced the Watertown Arts Market that will be hosted at Filippello Park.

Councilor Izzo announced a community meeting for 10 to 30 Manely Way.

President Sideris announced that they will be interviewing the finalist for the Municipal Policy Analyst Position. He went on to announce the eminent domain takings for Mount Auburn Street. He concluded by announcing that they will need to have a meeting with the Planning Board.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

Dennis Holland – 29 Nyack Street – Congratulated the appointments and reappointments to each committee. He particularly made note of Dennis Duff, Christopher Heep, and Payson Whitney. He went on to say that he would like the public to know more about the appointees prior to them getting appointed.

He continued to make reference to the winter parking ban issue. He acknowledged that while we can't predict mother nature, we can understand the best practices in which to deal with the weather. He noted his 45 years of experience in snow plowing Watertown and surrounding communities and made the request to be a part of decisions in regarding potential policy changes to snow plowing.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion was adopted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of ___ for, ___ against, ___ present on September 26, 2023.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/BTM

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

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

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023, 6:00 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET**

MINUTES

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 2.6 of the Rules of the City Council, and pursuant to the Call of the Council President, the members of the City Council of the City of Watertown are hereby notified of a Special Meeting of the City Council to be held on Tuesday August 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, Administration Building. The public may also participate remotely using any of the public access methods listed below:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

A. This meeting will be held on August 22, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>

C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>

D. 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

E. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

F. Please Visit the City Council Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/350/City-Council>

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MUNICIPAL POLICY ANALYST INTERVIEW AND ACTION

A. Doug Newton

President Sideris explained that the interview for the Municipal Policy Analyst would be conducted live at the meeting, and that the Council would do deliberations after the public hearings. He went on to explain that this role was created to add to the City Council's staff. He stated that there was a screening committee which consisted of the following Councilors: Bays, Gannon, Piccirilli, and Gardner, and from the rounds of interviews Doug Newton was the remaining finalist.

President Sideris welcomed Doug Newton to speak and asked him to identify himself and provide a brief background of who he is and why he is applying for the job.

Doug Newton – Introduced himself as a 2019 graduate of the University of Maine, and a current student at Suffolk University pursuing a Masters in Public Administration. He currently works full time as a legislative aide for State Senator John Keenan. He believes his work as an aid has given him a foundation in local government which is where he would like to make his career in long term. He stated that when he saw this position was available, he considered certain policies that the city is championing, that it was a community close to where lives/is a part of, and thought that he couldn't pass it up.

Councilor Gardner asked how his colleagues and boss describe him?

Doug Newton – Stated they would describe him as someone who always brings a positive attitude. A person who is always dependable and up to the task. He stated that he is comfortable and always cognizant that when he meets with constituents, he is representing his State Senator.

Councilor Palomba asked what was the most challenging issue that he had to research for Senator Keenan.

Doug Newton – Replied that perhaps Senator Keenan's number one priority is a piece of legislation around the issue of "revenge porn" – when in efforts to shame someone, somebody releases a sexually explicit video of the other party without their consent, even if perhaps the video was taken with their consent. He went on to say that Massachusetts is one of two states that doesn't criminalize this at a state level, and that Senator Keenan is taking a lead on fixing that. He continued to say that it's a challenging issue due to how emotionally charged it is. It's an issue that can affect all walks of life. He recognized that meeting with each individual is a challenge emotionally, but one that needs to be done, and he has been proud to help those brave enough to step forward.

Councilor Bays asked how working at the State House has helped him prepare for this

role.

Doug Newton – Answered that Senator Keenan is very engaged with every community in his district, which has in turn given him experience with working with a variety of issues on the local level. He has experience working with Veterans Agents, Town Managers, Directors of Senior Services etc. He added that those were the individuals he was most impressed with throughout his work in local government. He stated that his experience has given him a strong foundation on a lot of issues in local government including Chapter 90, Chapter 70, and MWRA. He stated that Senator Keenan had previously been a Chief of Staff to the Quincy Mayor, which has influenced the importance of local government.

Councilor Izzo asked how he would transition from working for one Senator to nine Councilors in terms of balance.

Doug Newton – Answered that he had given it some thought heading into the position. He said that a variety of tasks constantly come his way in his office, and that he works with his colleagues to efficiently delegate them. He remarked on work done in the Boston Bar Association office, which was a very large staff that needed a lot of work in terms of organizing and delegating tasks on a large and quick paced level. He believed communication was always the key. If there was ever a time that there was an overload of work and a tight timeline. He could communicate with his manager to discuss how best to go forward.

Councilor Piccirilli said that one of the main responsibilities of the position is to provide assistance in terms of doing research on new laws and ordinances, and asked how he would approach supporting the committee to do that research. What steps would he take in terms of setting benchmarks and collecting data to bring to the committee.

Doug Newton – Answered that he would firstly want to get a full understanding about each issue that the committee was facing. He would want to understand what the main concerns of the residents and Council were, and what specifically would an ordinance seek to address. He continued to say that understanding what other cities and towns that have faced the same issue have done in terms of action taken, and what the results were. He addressed that he has experience presenting data and research in a number of different formats.

Councilor Gannon asked Doug to speak on his experience at the Boston Bar Association, and how it would relate to his work as the Municipal Policy Analyst.

Doug Newton – Answered that this is the type of role where he would be dealing with a variety of different people whose expertise vary in different areas, which was also the case in the Boston Bar Association. He noted that he took point with several different sections there including the bankruptcy section and legal services section. He also mentioned his experience in managing very large webinars. He concluded by saying that he learned a lot of different policy issues.

Councilor Airasian asked for a specific example of when his attention to detail has been beneficial.

Doug Newton – Recalled when the Boston Bar Association went from in person to remote (due to covid) there was a lot of concern as to how it was going to work. A lot of thought and consideration went into how aspects of the meetings like networking and revenue would continue effectively. He stated that he was put in charge to navigate the best platform for the BBA's purpose and taking point in the execution of the meetings. He finished by saying paying close attention to detail and being fully knowledgeable of the program that was implemented benefited him greatly.

Councilor Feltner stated she was interested in the legislative benefit with regards to his research and analysis. She asked Doug to speak to his legislative software experience and also asked about what his balance would look like in terms of pursuing a masters degree with a full time job.

Doug Newton – Answered that “Laws” is a software that was used in the Statehouse to track legislation. He said that he has been able to get a good understanding of the program in terms of being able to find information of the status of each bill. In terms of being a student, he claimed that he currently has a full-time job and still earns straight A's at Suffolk. He would be willing to make any arrangements to make sure that this position comes first.

President Sideris said that he would be working with the Council but also with certain City Departments and Staff. He asked if Doug would have flexibility to come to City Council and subcommittee meetings.

Doug Newton – Confirmed that he would be able to make any and all meetings. He continued to say that Suffolk offers a lot of flexibility to their grad students in this regard.

Councilor Gardner asked “what is the user manual for Doug” to ensure all parties are working as productively as possible.

Doug Newton – Answered that he is someone who appreciates direct and clear communication. He continued to say he has enjoyed a level of comfort with his superiors to where if he had a problem with a task he could reach out and ask for guidance. He also said that appreciates direct feedback.

Councilor Feltner asked what role he has drafting and presenting legislation.

Doug Newton – Answered that Senator Keenan filed a number of bills this past year, while he didn't specifically draft the legislation, he was in the room as a collaborative effort in doing so.

Councilor Feltner followed up her question asking what experience he might have with budget and fiscal oversight.

Doug Newton – Answered that during the budget process, he heard from many different municipalities with their top priorities, and that a major task of his was to relay those priorities to the Senator Keenan and to be prepared to support why their priorities are important. He remarked that the budget process on the state level moves slowly, and he is excited to get on a municipal pace.

City Manager Proakis reiterated that the state legislative budget works much slower than the municipal one, and that there are exciting new elements in the charter pertaining to this year's budget that he looks forward to working on. He remarked that out of all the municipalities in Massachusetts, only 15 of them have a City Council and a City Manager, and that he believes it to be a beneficial collaboration. He asked Doug as to how he sees himself working in an environment where the Council is his boss, but he works with everyone in the administration of Watertown. He asked what something of value that he might be able to give to Doug.

Doug Newton – Answered that while he works for one senator, he works with many different offices in concert. He continued to say that he would look forward to exploring City Manager Proakis's expertise in planning.

Councilor Feltner asked if Doug could speak more on his experience in municipal workings.

Doug Newton – Answered that he works with Quincy's Mayor as well as knowing several members of Quincy's Council. He has also worked well in regard to Quincy's transportation system and planning.

President Sideris asked if Doug Newton had any questions for the Council.

Doug Newton – Asked what the Council believes is most important for him to get up to speed on.

President Sideris answered that it being a new position, the Council may have to discuss that to get more concrete answer, but certainly research would be a priority.

Doug Newton – Asked what other members and officials he might be working with.

President Sideris answered that everyone works as a team, and that he might be working with a wide variety of personnel. He then thanked Doug Newton for attending the meeting and continuing with the process.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing and Vote on an Order Relative to the Acquisition of Permanent Easements and Temporary Construction Easements for the Mt. Auburn Street Reconstruction Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Order of Taking on Behalf of the City.

City Manager Proakis introduced the Order. He stated that the key issues were to allow to Council to allow the City to do a series of takings. He noted that although this is a scary term, the reality is that the vast majority of these takings are temporary, and the entirety of them are easements meant to improve the sidewalks and streets to be more efficient and ADA compatible to allow construction to happen for the Mt. Auburn federally funded project. All of these "takings" will be compensated. He noted that these temporary construction easements will have the time frame of the entire project (5 years), but the

reality is that the work being done on each of the easements will range from a couple of weeks to a couple of months. He concluded that the objective is to create a better Mount Auburn Street, which is currently considered one of the bumpiest and worst conditioned roads in the city.

Superintendent St. Louis stated that Mount Auburn Street rehab projects have been on the docket for a little over a decade. He went on to say that MASS DOT will fund the project, but it's incumbent upon the municipality to pay for the design, permitting, and the acquisition of any right of way needed for the construction process. He stated that the design process has been in the works for a number of years, which has included several public meetings to discuss many aspects of the project.

Superintendent St. Louis continued to say that one of the major delays for the project has been the catenary wires that have historically run above the corridor. Now that the MBTA has updated their vehicles, Watertown has an opportunity to create a more modern and safer corridor with more trees, bike lanes, pedestrian crossings, better landscaping, and amenities. He stated that the easements range from 10 square feet to a couple thousands square feet, and that the nature of most of the temporary easements are to reconstruct sidewalks, but doing so properly where if a contractor swings a hammer over the air of a lawn, federal guidelines are met. He went on to say that there will be continued outreach from DPW, MASS DOT, and contractors to make sure the residents know where they are going to be at any given point of time throughout the project. He concluded by saying that timing is very important in terms of receiving the federal funding.

There were no participants in the Public Hearing.

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to approve the Order and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Palomba asked if all the easements had to be executed before the start of construction, or if they could execute the easements as the project goes along.

Superintendent St. Louis answered that MASS DOT right of way process requires all easements be acquired before bidding.

Councilor Feltner stated she was concerned with a some permanent takings and was curious in their purpose.

Superintendent St. Louis answered with an example was improving some geometry and line of sight for current traffic standards. He also noted a concrete peninsula becoming a larger landscaped plaza. Thirdly he mentioned that foundation of light posts could potentially cross a property line underground even though the post itself is not on anyone's property.

Councilor Gannon asked about the nature of the larger takings, and if the owners have been notified.

Superintendent St Louis confirmed that all properties in the corridors have been notified. He mentioned that, in regards with the larger properties, they've been in close conversations with the owners to make sure that their areas will be restored in kind and that there will not be a hinderance.

Councilor Gannon went on to state that this stage of the process is pro tanto, that the owners have a right to appeal, and that he is curious of what will happen if someone decides to appeal – would there be a delay.

Superintendent St. Louis replied in saying that the federal guidelines say the owners have up to 3 years to appeal the appraisal of the properties. A property disputing the appraisal would not delay the project at this point but run concurrently with the bidding.

Councilor Gannon stated that there is a strong business corridor along Mt. Auburn St. and asked what efforts have been made to help mitigate any disturbance that might come to those businesses.

Superintendent St. Louis replied in saying that the DPW has continued to meet with residents and business owners alike despite it not being required. He went on to say that this is a balancing act with everyone's different opinions and wants, and that they have continued to engage and compromise with everyone in the corridor.

Councilor Gannon asked if the residents and business owners will have a number to call if they have day to day concerns.

Superintendent St. Louis stated that they will have a 24-hour emergency contact number with the appropriate contractor who will then have direct access to the DPW.

Councilor Palomba asked what the total number of easements is.

Superintendent St. Louis stated that there are least 214 temporary easements.

Councilor Palomba asked when they are planning on putting the bid out.

Superintendent St. Louis answered that this is the final local step in the process, and that the state puts out the bids and awards the bids.

Councilor Palomba asked if there were over 200 easements that need to go out, how many approvals have they received in return?

Superintendent St. Louis clarified that these are not donations but takings.

City Attorney Reich continued to clarify that it's important to remember that the regulations have changed and have become stricter. The takings must be undertaken in advance of the project moving forward to the bid. In the past, there have been opportunities to receive waivers of damages and donations of the property rights as the project went along. However, that has led to delays. He continued to say that now the process is of Chapter 79. He stated that what's before the Council is an order taking based upon a proper public purpose, and once the taking is authorized, it goes on record, and at that point of time the easements are in effect. He concluded by saying the city is in accordance with the statutes.

Councilor Feltner asked if St. Louis could confirm that the state is managing communication with ongoing transportation within the corridor, and if there is a possibility that the project will take more than 5 years.

Superintendent St. Louis stated that it's being labeled as a 5 year process to give them buffer, but that the intention is that the work will be done in 4 years. He went on to say that the projects he has seen that encounter delays have been ones that run into trouble with utilities. He continued to say there has been a lot of work done in advance of the commencement of the project regarding water lines, National Grid, and the dismantling of catenary poles in order to avoid those potential delays.

The motion to approve the Order passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

5. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading on a proposed loan order that the sum of \$261,568 is appropriated to pay costs of funding year one of a centralized managed services plan in fiscal year 2024 as part of the IT Cybersecurity Capital Plan and all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1) or §7(9), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

City Manager Proakis presented the First Reading.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Casey Park Update

City Manager Proakis shared that Recreation Dept. and Public Works had a public meeting at Casey Park regarding the proposed project there. He continued to say that the plan for the park had been mapped out years ago, and they wanted to make efforts to begin that plan. He stated that there still needs to be work done in order to come to a consensus about the implementation of the plan.

President Sideris asked for a motion to send the Casey Park updated plan to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to send the design update plan to Parks and Recreation and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimous in a Roll Call Vote.

City Manager Proakis concluded by saying that the Farmers Market and Concert Series is ongoing.

President Sideris then brought the discussion back to the matter of the Municipal Policy Analyst

***3A CONTINUED**

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion for the Council to authorize President Sideris to negotiate with Doug Newton for the position of Municipal Policy Analyst and Councilor Gannon Seconded.

Councilor Bays stated that there were many great candidates for the position, and that Doug shined amongst a talented crew. She continued to say that the entire committee thought he would be a great asset to the town.

Councilor Piccirilli agreed with Councilor Bays, and noted that he was excellent in the interviews, and made note of his manner of speaking as well as his experience. He concluded that he felt very confident in moving forward with Doug Newton.

Councilor Feltner reiterated that she believed him to be an excellent candidate but wanted to go on record with her concerns to the Municipal Policy Analyst being a full-time position. She continued to say that she sees a lot of overlap with members of staff including the City Attorney and the City Council Clerk, and that she was curious as to how it would play out.

President Sideris responded that he appreciated Councilor Feltner's concerns, but that this wasn't the proper time to discuss merits of having this position. He stated that they will have more meetings to better flush out the role. He concluded by remarking on Doug Newton's poise and experience.

Councilor Gannon stated that he was on the screening committee, and that Doug struck him as someone who is on top of their game, that public policy is his chosen career, and that Watertown will benefit with someone so determined.

The motion to authorize President Sideris to negotiate with Doug Newton passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

President Sideris made an announcement of a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new temporary Moxley School. He also made an announcement that they have finalized a date to meet with the Planning Board on the Comprehensive Plan which will be on September 21st.

7. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion was adopted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of ___ for, ___ against, ___ present on September 26, 2023.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/BTM

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

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

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, 6:30 P.M.

RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET

MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

A. This meeting will be held on September 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>

C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>

D. 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

E. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

F. Please Visit the City Council Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/350/City-Council>

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the City Council at 6:30 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors John M. Airasian, Caroline Bays, John G. Gannon, Nicole Gardner (Via Zoom), Lisa J. Feltner, Emily Izzo, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were George Proakis, City Manager, Mark Reich, City Attorney, and Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.

A. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2) to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for

negotiations with non-union personnel as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the City's negotiating position and the Chair so Declares – Municipal Policy Analyst.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to go into Executive Session and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion to go into Executive Session passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

3. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:00 P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Sam Gilardi – 17 Derby Rd – Announced the launch of “Housing For All – Watertown” a new grass roots independent group whose mission is to build a broad coalition of residents who will advocate for local policies and projects that will expand housing for all. Over 150 residents attended its launch celebration, and it looks forward to participating in the Water Square planning process and the zoning process. He welcomed individuals to reach out to the group via their website, or at their booth at the Faire on the Square Celebration.

Linda Scott – 55 Olcott St - Expressed her appreciation for increased efforts in safe school crossings as well as finishing the work to make specific areas safe for pedestrians again.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Vote to authorize moving the City Council meeting from November 28, 2023 to November 27, 2023

President Sideris remarked that the Watertown Square Consultant will be holding a series of meetings in late November, one of which was on a council meeting day. He brought forward the vote so that the Council can be present at as many meetings as possible.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to change the City Council meeting from November 28, 2023 to November 27 2023 and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

7. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS

A. Watertown Cooperative Nursery School Proclamation

President Sideris presented the Proclamation.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Proclamation and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The Proclamation was accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

B. Burnham- Manning VFW Post 1105 Proclamation

President Sideris presented the Proclamation.

Director of Veterans' Services Patrick George thanked the Council for the Proclamation. He made note of some of the charitable work that the VFW does, in particular, placing cemetery grave markers for the veterans who have passed in town, as well as their efforts in this year's Memorial Day Parade. He recognized present members of the VFW: Derek Mayerhofer, Ed Aucoin, Leo Diaz, and Jack Gately.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Proclamation and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Gannon personally thanked post 1105 as his father was a devoted member of the VFW.

President Sideris thanked the VFW as well as all Veterans for the service and contributions to the community.

The Proclamation was accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from Cambridge Network Solutions for a Grant of Location in Winter Street to install and maintain:

- Underground Grant of Location – Winter Street – Strand and install approximately 35 linear feet of underground conduit.
- Aerial Grant of Location – Winter Street and Summer Street – Install and maintain overhead wire from utility pole #5 along Winter Street to utility pole #8A at the intersection of Winter Street and Summer Street

This work is necessary to provide telecommunications service to 149 Main Street. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

Jeffrey Harrington – Cambridge Network Solutions – Presented the Grant of Location.

Marie Denzager – 118 Summer Street – Raised concern on why a private street would have to be disturbed to allow telecommunication access to City Hall. She remarked that the street is small and without sidewalks, and she was curious if there were any other

options in terms of location.

Chief Information Officer McClure stated that this standard practice for fiber optics, and that once the cable is underground, no one would notice it being there. He went on to mention that it is part of a long term strategy, that other businesses may potentially have access to it, and that it is costing the city nothing.

Jeffrey Harrington – Cambridge Network Solutions - Mentioned that during installation they will take measures to ensure safety. He also mentioned that work on Summer Street will just be in the adjoining parking lot and not the street itself.

Mary Denzager – 118 Summer Street – Expressed concern with the number of cables that are on poles up and down the street.

Jeffery Harrington – Concluded with saying that they followed correct procedure in checking all the poles with local utility and municipal representatives.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the petition for the Grant of Location and Councilor Gannon seconded.

Councilor Feltner asked if there were wires on the pole that they discovered were not in use.

Jeffery Harrington – Cambridge Network Solutions – Stated that the walk through with the local utility companies provided them with information pertinent to their project but did not provide any further information of any other cables.

The Grant of Location was approved unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- B. Public Hearing and Vote on a proposed loan order that the sum of \$261,568 is appropriated to pay costs of funding year one of a centralized managed services plan in fiscal year 2024 as part of the IT Cybersecurity Capital Plan and all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1) or §7(9), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefore.

City Manager Proakis presented the proposed loan order and noted that he supports the efforts Chris McClure has been undertaking in Cybersecurity.

Chief Information Officer Chris McClure expressed he was excited as this will help the City move into using technology as opposed to just having it. It will help in terms of training, innovation, and digital equity. Cybersecurity will be used for 24/7 surveillance and auditing, protection and early remediation. He continued to say that it will prove to be cost beneficial. It removes the a la cart type of experience to an all you can eat buffet for the same money.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the Loan Order and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner thanked Chris McClure for his efforts and mentioned that it has been a topic with her constituents.

The Loan Order was approved unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. First Reading on a proposed Ordinance creating a Human Rights Commission
- B. First Reading on a proposed Ordinance establishing a salary for the Municipal Policy Analyst
- C. Vote to Authorize In-person Early Voting for the November 7, 2023 Municipal Election, in accordance with "The VOTES Act".

City Manager Proakis presented the opt-in process for early voting before the Council. He also mentioned that vote by mail does not require an opt-in.

City Clerk Murphy reiterated that vote by mail is mandated by all municipalities, and that they would like to offer in person early voting for several days that proved to be the most trafficked times.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize early voting and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Palomba asked why there would not be early voting days on Monday and Friday.

City Clerk Murphy answered that her office ran the number from the previous election which dictated which days and times to offer the service. She continued to say that her small staff has had to cut back on other services they perform day to day during early voting, and in deciding to take advantage of the busiest times as early voting platforms, they can plan accordingly.

Councilor Feltner asked to confirm that the early voting will be at City Hall only.

City Clerk Murphy confirmed that early voting would be available only at City Hall.

The motion to authorize early voting passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- D. An Order Relative to a Grant of Easements Relative to Property at 85 Walnut Street from BP3-BOS4 250 Arsenal Place LLC to the City of Watertown and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Grant of Easements on Behalf of the City.

City Manager Proakis presented the Order.

Assistant City Manager Magoon explained that the easements were to create a pedestrian and bike walkway from Walnut to Arsenal and the other was to relocate a sewer line.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the easements and authorize the City Manager and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner expressed disappointment with the “learn as we go” type process. She asked if the City would oversee the construction and maintain of the pedestrian/bike way. She also asked if there would be a separate bike and walk lane.

Assistant City Manager Magoon said that the public access easement is through the property, but doesn’t actually go to Arsenal, and that the City would oversee maintenance.

Councilor Feltner asked if there will be any contingencies if upkeep wasn’t maintained, and was curious about accountability of the developers. She asked if there will be a permanent pedestrian/bike way opening along a current fence of the Gables property.

Assistant City Manager Magoon confirmed that there would be an opening there. He went on to say that it is more of a pedestrian facility, but it would be open to bicycles.

Councilor Gannon asked if the lanes will be clearly marked for pedestrians, bicyclists, and roadway traffic – proper signage.

Assistant City Manager Magoon confirmed that they would.

Councilor Palomba asked what the “adjacent property” was.

Assistant City Manager Magoon stated it was VHB, and that the parties had reached a mutual arrangement.

Councilor Feltner asked if the path was going to be lit.

Assistant City Manager Magoon stated that he didn't believe so, but that he would check.

The easements were accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- E. A Resolution authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$29,000 from the Fiscal Year 2024 Human Resources Full Time Salaries Account to the Fiscal Year 2024 Human Resources Contracted Services Account.

City Manager Proakis presented the request for the Transfer of Funds. He stated that a vote from the Council is necessary when dealing with a transfer between a salary account and a non-salary account. The City had been using a temp agency with regard to HR, and now they have hired an HR Director.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The Transfer of Funds was approved unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- F. Request to repurpose funds from the remaining balance of work done on the John A. Ryan Skating Arena handicap ramp to interior ADA compliant improvements at the John A. Ryan Skating Arena.

City Manager Proakis presented the request to repurpose funds. He explained that the cost of the ramp project was much lower than what was originally allotted, and so the City would like to repurpose those funds to finish the ADA stands project as well as put in an ADA lift.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to repurpose the funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner asked for a picture or description of the new bleachers and lift.

Skating Rink Director Brothers answered that a 3rd party design and installation team was used to design the bleachers and lift layout. He continued to say that addressing the lift now will prove to save the City funds. He confirmed that the steps, railings, and the lift will be safe and accessible, and that renovation will include an entire ADA row.

Councilor Feltner asked what the capacity of the arena is.

Skating Rink Director Brothers replied that it is 1,200 but that they will lose a small

number of seats (15) as part of the upgrade.

Councilor Gannon commended the efforts of the rink and the DPW. He asked if Bond Council must be consulted to repurpose the funds.

City Attorney Reich clarified that Bond Council was consulted for the original borrowing, but that any remaining funds are available without their consultation.

The motion to repurpose funds passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight regarding a report from its meeting on August 24, 2023 - Piccirilli, Chair

Councilor Piccirilli presented the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The report was accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- B. Committee on Personnel and City Organization regarding a report from its meeting on August 14, 2023 - Bays, Chair

Councilor Bays presented the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The report was accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- C. Committee on Human Services regarding a report from its meeting on August 7, 2023 - Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

Confirmation of Jill Hyde for re-appointment to the Affordable Housing Trust for a term to expire on June 30, 2025.

ACTION ITEM:

Confirmation of Leo Patterson for re-appointment to the Affordable Housing Trust for a term to expire on June 30, 2025.

Councilor Palomba presented the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Gannon seconded.

The report was accepted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to confirm Jill Hyde and Leo Patterson to the Affordable Housing Trust to terms expiring on June 30, 2025 and Councilor Gannon seconded.

The confirmations passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Referral to the Committee on Economic Development & Planning in regard to revising the requirements for community meetings for large projects.

President Sideris made the referral in response to a recent project being somewhat neglected, and he called for a tightening up of the process.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the referral and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The referral was approved unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

12. COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Request for Confirmation of appointment to the Watertown Housing Authority

City Manager Proakis made the request to appoint James Mello to the Tenant Rep position which has been ably held by Patricia Sanchez.

President Sideris said that the appointment goes to Human Services.

- B. Constituent Services Director Search

City Manager Proakis stated that this is the position that will be manning the 311 call center.

President Sideris said that the appointment goes to City Organization and Personnel.

City Manager Proakis mentioned that they are searching for the City CFO. He went on to mention that the Watertown Square Project will have the following meetings on October 17 and November 28- 30. He reminded the Council of the upcoming Fair on the Square. He concluded in saying that they have an accepted offer for the new HR Director – Coleen Doyle.

13. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Bays asked for a copy of the standard operating procedure for the testing of the turf at Victory Field and the results of the test.

Councilor Feltner asked for data and results of DPW field survey used to map the PCI.

14. ANOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Piccirilli announced there would be a Watertown High School Community Zoom Forum on Thursday the 14th.

Councilor Palomba announced two Human Services meetings on the latest information on the Rodent Plan and also the implementation of the Climate and Energy Plan.

President Sideris reminded everyone of the upcoming joint meeting in regard to the Comprehensive Plan

15. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no participants in Public Forum.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion was adopted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of ___ for, ___ against, ___ present on September 26, 2023.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/BTM

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

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

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: President Biden has proclaimed the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day in October, 2021; and

WHEREAS: Watertown is located on the lands of the Pequossette band of the Massachusetts people who were the first inhabitants and caretakers of this land; and

WHEREAS: These Indigenous Peoples have called this place home since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS: The many contributions to our communities through Indigenous Peoples knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, culture, and arts have substantially shaped the character of Watertown; and

WHEREAS: Many who live, study, and work in Watertown are settlers, immigrants, or descendants of those who originally occupied this land or were forcefully brought to this land;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Watertown hereby proclaims October 9, 2023 **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY**, and encourages all community members to join in its observance

IN WITNESS HEREOF,

I have hereunto set our hand and

Caused the Great Seal of the

City of Watertown to be affixed

On this 26th day of September 2023

Mark S. Sideris, City Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

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

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING MARY FRANCIS HALEY ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS: Mary Francis “Franny” Odiorne was born on September 24, 1923, to Cornelius and Mary (Donahue) Odiorne in Medford Massachusetts, where they lived along with her younger brother Thomas; and

WHEREAS: Mary graduated from Medford High School, Class of 1941, and joined the insurance industry with a position at John Hancock Financial; and

WHEREAS: Mary loved to “travel and go places”, including trips to Florida with friends and a memorable cross-country train trip where she changed trains in Chicago and saw the town, then continued to California to see the Rose Bowl and the big parade; and

WHEREAS: Mary married Walter X. Haley in Cambridge in 1945 after the conclusion of his service as a US Marine in the South Pacific during World War II; and

WHEREAS: Mary and Walter lived in Cambridge, then moved to Watertown in 1966 where Mary became bank teller at Freedom Federal Savings Bank in Watertown Square; and

WHEREAS: Mary has been known for hosting family holidays with wonderful food including her signature Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding at Christmas, her knitting of comfy sweaters for beloved niece and nephew Ann and Dan, and her skill as a seamstress making her own stylish clothing; and

WHEREAS: Mary and Walter continued to travel to Hawaii, Bermuda, St. Thomas and Canada until Walter’s death in 1990; and

WHEREAS: Mary was a voracious reader, and kept well informed of the world around her with subscriptions to Newsweek and Bloomberg Reports; and

WHEREAS: Above all, Mary is known for her intelligence, good spirits and love of family and friends.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown extends its congratulations to: Mary Francis Haley on her 100TH Birthday.

IN WITNESS HEREOF,

I have hereunto set our hand and

Caused the Great Seal of the

City of Watertown to be affixed

On this 26th day of September 2023

Mark Sideris, City Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

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

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



CITY OF WATERTOWN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
124 ORCHARD STREET
WATERTOWN MA 02472

Gregory M. St. Louis, PE
Superintendent of Public Works

(P) 617-972-6420
(F) 617-972-6402

TYPE: Grant of Location
DATE: September 12, 2023
APPLICANT: Eversource
WORK ORDER: WO# 11120000
LOCATION: Main Street

The City of Watertown Department of Public Works has reviewed the attached petition by Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location for the following installations:

- **Main Street – Install approximately 154 linear feet of conduit in Main Street from manhole MH10696 to the property line of #166 Main Street.**

This work is necessary to provide electric service to #166 Main Street. Upon completion of our review, we are submitting the following recommendations and conditions for consideration by the City Council should the Grant of Location be approved for this application. A photo of the location of the proposed work is presented attached to this document.

Standard Conditions

1. During construction, uninterrupted pedestrian access (or temporary pedestrian facilities) shall be provided at all times or an appropriate alternative path provided.
2. Please be aware that there may be utility infrastructure that is not shown on the plan and may be encountered in the field. If a conflict occurs between the proposed installation and existing City-Owned and/or private utility infrastructure, The City Engineer shall be contacted directly to discuss an appropriate resolution.
3. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant, and their Contractor, to ensure that and City-Owned and or private utilities, if located within the limits of work should be properly marked and protected during construction activities. **The City of Watertown is not a member of Dig Safe and must be notified separately.**
4. The proposed scope of work requires a DPW Street Opening Permit through the Watertown DPW prior to the start of construction.
5. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, walkways, and roadway surfaces shall be repaired in kind to the satisfaction of the City of Watertown DPW. If any existing sidewalk is proposed to be removed and replaced in full width, the restoration must be completed in accordance with all current ADA, MAAB and City of Watertown standards.
6. All work within the Right of Way shall require the Contractor to schedule and coordinate a police traffic detail. Traffic control and safety measures shall be implemented in adherence to all applicable OSHA requirements, Massachusetts DOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines and Part VI of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
7. All material stockpiled on roadways and/or roadway shoulders shall be protected with erosion control devices such as silt fence or straw wattles. It will be the sole responsibility of the Contractor to remove any sediment that enters the City drainage system as a result of the proposed work.
8. Equipment, staging, and stockpiles shall not be located in a manner so as to interfere with intersection sightlines and shall be kept in a neat and orderly fashion.
9. Public shade trees within and adjacent to the proposed work zone must be protected. The Contractor shall install individual tree protection on any public shade tree that may be impacted and the Contractor shall not stockpile material or equipment within the drip zone of a public shade tree.
10. Contractor shall coordinate with City Health Department on rodent control requirements.
11. An as-built survey shall be performed upon completion of the work and provided to the Department of Public Works.



View of MH1096 at intersection of Chestnut Street and Main Street where service will be pulled from.



View of MH1096 and Main Street facing southeast.



View of Main Street facing southeast.



View of Main Street from service location facing northwest.



View of Main Street facing northwest.

August 1, 2023

City Council
City Hall
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

RE: Main Street
Watertown, MA
W.O.# 11120000

Dear Members of the Council:

The enclosed petition and plan are being presented by the NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY for the purpose of obtaining a Grant of Location to install approximately 154 feet of conduit in Main Street.

The reason for this work is to provide service to #166 Main Street.

If you have any further questions, please contact Joanne Callender at 781-314-5053. Your prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Richard M. Schifone

Richard M. Schifone, Supervisor
Rights and Permits

RMS/HC
Attachments

RECEIVED
WATERTOWN D.P.W.
2023 SEP 11 AM 10:42

**PETITION OF NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR
LOCATION FOR CONDUITS
AND MANHOLES**

To the **City Council** of the City of **WATERTOWN** Massachusetts:

Respectfully represents **NSTAR ELECTRIC Company d/b/a Eversource Energy** a company incorporated for the transmission of electricity for lighting, heating or power, that it desires to construct a line for such transmission under the public way or ways hereinafter specified.

WHEREFORE, your petitioner prays that, after due notice and hearing as provided by law, the council may by Order grant to your petitioner permission to construct, and a location for, such a line of conduits and manholes with the necessary wires and cables therein, said conduits and manholes to be located, substantially as shown on the plan made by **T. Thibault, dated April 12, 2023**, and filed herewith, under the following public way or ways of said City:

**NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Main Street -

Southeasterly from manhole MH10696, at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Main Street, install approximately 154 feet of conduit.

WO# 11120000

BY *Richard M. Schifone*
Richard M. Schifone, Supervisor
Rights & Permits

Dated this 1 day of August 2023

City of **WATERTOWN** Massachusetts

Received and filed _____ 2023

ORDER FOR LOCATION FOR CONDUITS AND MANHOLES
City of WATERTOWN

WHEREAS, **NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY** has petitioned for permission to construct a line for the transmission of electricity for lighting, heating or power under the public way or ways of the City thereafter specified, and notice has been given and a hearing held on said petition as provided by law.

It is ORDERED that **NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY** be and hereby is granted permission to construct and a location for, such a line of conduits and manholes with the necessary wires and cables therein under the following public way or ways of said City:

Main Street - Southeasterly from manhole MH10696, at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Main Street, install approximately 154 feet of conduit.

WO# 11120000

All construction work under this Order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Conduits and manholes shall be located as shown on the plan made by **T. Thibault, dated April 12, 2023**, on the file with said petition.
2. Said company shall comply with the requirements of existing by-laws and such as may hereafter be adopted governing the construction and maintenance of conduits and manholes.
3. All work shall be done to the satisfaction of the city council or such officer or officers as it may appoint to supervise the work.

1	_____	
2	_____	
3	_____	
4	_____	
5	_____	

City Council
the City of
WATERTOWN

CERTIFICATE

We hereby certify that the foregoing Order was adopted after due notice and a public hearing as prescribed by Section 22 of Chapter 166 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.), and any additions thereto or amendments thereof, to wit: after written notice of the time and place of the hearing mailed at least seven days prior to the date of the hearing by the council to all owners of real estate abutting upon that part of the way or ways upon, along or across which the line is to be constructed under said Order, as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation, and a public hearing held on the _____ day of _____ 2023 at _____ in said City.

1	_____	
2	_____	
3	_____	
4	_____	
5	_____	

City Council
the City of
WATERTOWN

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies of the Order of the **City Council** of the City of **WATERTOWN**, Massachusetts, duly adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2023 and recorded with the records of location Orders of said Town, Book _____, Page _____ and of the certificate of notice of hearing thereon required by Section 22 of Chapter 166 of the General Laws (Ter.Ed.) and any additions thereto or amendments thereof, as the same appear of record.

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of **WATERTOWN**, Massachusetts

321 1 B
MAIN STREET
N/F
WATERTOWN, TOWN OF
SALTONSTALL PARK

INSTALL 2 - 4" PVC PIPES
TYPE EB IN CONCRETE
SECTION 2 FIG. 1

321 1 B
MAIN STREET
N/F
WATERTOWN, TOWN OF
SALTONSTALL PARK

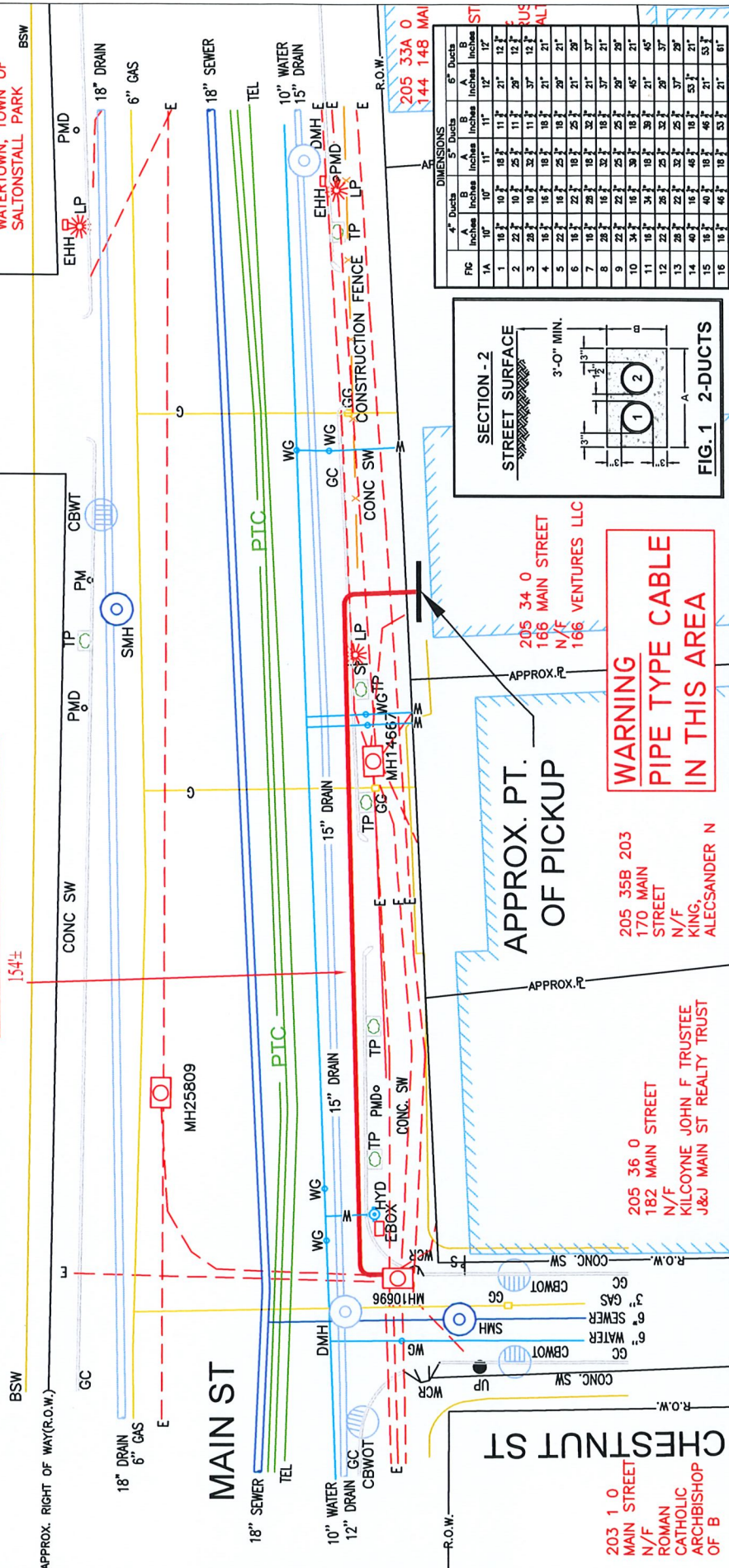


FIG	4" Ducts		5" Ducts		6" Ducts	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
1A	10"	10"	10"	10"	11"	12"
2	18"	10"	18"	11"	21"	12"
3	22"	10"	22"	11"	25"	12"
4	28"	10"	28"	11"	31"	12"
5	34"	10"	34"	11"	37"	12"
6	40"	10"	40"	11"	43"	12"
7	46"	10"	46"	11"	49"	12"
8	52"	10"	52"	11"	55"	12"
9	58"	10"	58"	11"	61"	12"
10	64"	10"	64"	11"	67"	12"
11	70"	10"	70"	11"	73"	12"
12	76"	10"	76"	11"	79"	12"
13	82"	10"	82"	11"	85"	12"
14	88"	10"	88"	11"	91"	12"
15	94"	10"	94"	11"	97"	12"
16	100"	10"	100"	11"	103"	12"

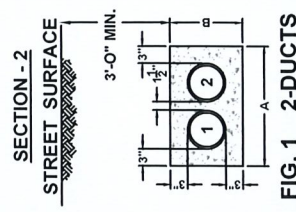


FIG. 1 2-DUCTS

WARNING
PIPE TYPE CABLE
IN THIS AREA

APPROX. PT.
OF PICKUP

205 35B 203
170 MAIN STREET
N/F
KING,
ALECSANDER N

205 36 0
182 MAIN STREET
N/F
KILCOYNE JOHN F TRUSTEE
J&J MAIN ST REALTY TRUST

BY YOUR USE OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MAP YOU AGREE THAT NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND IS EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED BY THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

MASS. LAW

REQUIRES 72 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE TO UTILITY COMPANIES
BEFORE DIGGING BY ANYONE. CALL DIG-SAFE 1-888-344-7233

C# 86-23

Ward #

Work Order # 11120000

Surveyed by: LM/JC/VT

Research by: GR

Plotted by: SJ

Proposed Structures: SJ

Approved: T THIBAUT

P#

INSTAR EVERSOURCE
ELECTRIC
d/b/a

1165 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. DORCHESTER, MASS. 02125

Plan of MAIN STREET

WATERTOWN

Showing PROPOSED CONDUIT LOCATION

Scale 1"=30'

Date APRIL 12, 2023

SHEET 1 of 1



SCALE IN FEET



Watertown City Council

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

ORDINANCE #

O-2023-

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MUNICIPAL POLICY ANALYST SALARY

WHEREAS, Section 2-7(e) of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter provides that the City Council may, by ordinance, establish salaries for appointees of the City Council appointed pursuant to Section 2-7 of the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the City Council appoints the City Auditor pursuant to Section 2-7(a) of the City Charter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the City Council hereby establishes the Municipal Policy Analyst Salary as \$72,000 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 ___ for, ___ against and ___ present on September 26, 2023.

Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

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

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

ORDINANCE #

O-2023-

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE WATERTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Section 2-11 of the Home Rule Charter for the City of Watertown, as adopted by the voters on November 2, 2021, indicates that the City of Watertown shall establish a Human Rights Commission by ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish the Human Rights Commission to affirm the City of Watertown is an inclusive community where all individuals can enjoy the free and equal exercise of their human and civil rights and privileges.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the Watertown Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter entitled Watertown Human Rights Commission, as attached hereto.

AND FURTHER, that this Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

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 ___ for, ___ against and ___ present on September 26, 2023.

Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

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

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CHAPTER __. WATERTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

§ __.01 Establishment.

In accordance with SECTION 2-11 of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, there shall be in the city a commission known as Watertown Human Rights Commission (“commission”).

§ __.02 Purpose.

The purpose of creating the commission is to affirm that the city of Watertown is an inclusive community that has as one of its core values, freedom from discrimination, disrespect, bigotry, hatred and oppression; and to reaffirm the city’s commitment to uphold and defend the rights of all individuals to enjoy the free and equal exercise of their human and civil rights and privileges.

To that end, the commission shall strive to ensure that all persons enjoy equal opportunity to participate in local affairs, including but not limited to housing, employment, education, public accommodation, access to city services, insurance, credit, banking and health care, regardless of race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, citizenship, age, religion, disability, health status, marital or familial status, military or veteran status, socioeconomic status, ex-offender status, genetic and/or “protected class” status. Human rights are universal and inalienable; indivisible; interdependent and interrelated. Whether civil, political, economic, social or cultural in nature, all such rights are inherent to the dignity of every person. Consequently, these rights all have equal status.

§ __.03 Appointment of Commissioners and Term.

(A) Appointment and Tenure of Members, Vacancies. There shall be nine commissioners appointed by the city manager, subject to confirmation by the city council.

- (i) The commissioners shall be residents of Watertown.
- (ii) The city manager shall appoint commissioners to serve three-year terms, subject to confirmation by the city council.
- (iii) The commissioners first appointed shall have staggered terms, with three (3) of the appointed commissioners initially serving a one-year term; three (3) of the appointed commissioners initially serving a two-year term; and the remaining three (3) commissioners serving a three-year

- term. Thereafter, all appointments and reappointments, shall be for a period of three (3) years. Commissioners may be reappointed for additional terms.
- (iv) Any vacancy in membership shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.
 - (v) There shall be liaisons from the Watertown Police Department, the Watertown School Department and the student body. While not commissioners, such liaisons shall participate in the work of the commission by attending monthly sessions to bring issues of concern and ideas to the commission and to help formulate constructive resolutions. Ideally, the chief of police and the superintendent of schools shall be the liaisons, but when not possible they could designate a department member to attend in their place. Student liaisons shall be chosen by the superintendent with recommendations of student services and shall serve for a term of at least one school year.
 - (vi) The commission shall always strive to reflect the socioeconomic, age, gender, racial and cultural diversity of the city, and efforts should be directed to recruiting commissioners of historically underrepresented and marginalized groups, including people of color, youth and young adults, immigrants, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ individuals.

(C) Qualifications. Commissioners appointed by the city manager shall, when possible, have relevant experience in one or more of the following areas: human rights, social justice, law, education, diversity, equity and inclusion, community engagement, municipal government, or advocacy for individuals who are targets of mistreatment or discrimination.

(D) Any commissioner who ceases to be a city resident shall promptly provide written notification of their change in residence to the commission chair and to the city clerk. The commissioner may serve until a successor is appointed.

§__-.04 Meetings and Officers of the Commission.

(A) Meetings. The commission shall meet monthly at a time and place as the chair shall determine. Notice of all meetings shall comply with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25. A quorum at any meeting shall be a majority of the total number of commissioners then serving. The commission shall keep a written record of its proceedings.

(B) Officers. At the first meeting of the commission, and annually thereafter, the commissioners shall elect three members to serve respectively as chair, vice-chair

and clerk, and may elect such other officers, adopt procedural rules and regulations, and establish such subcommittees as they deem appropriate. In the chair's absence, the vice-chair shall preside over meetings.

§__-.05 Duties of the Commission.

The commission shall promote human rights in Watertown through outreach, dialogue, and educational forums. The commission shall also have the following charges and responsibilities:

- (A) Promote positive, respectful, and collaborative relationships among all groups and individuals in Watertown.
- (B) Create an Action Plan, to be reviewed and updated as the commission deems necessary, detailing goals and associated activities aligned with the purpose of the commission.
- (C) Advocate for, support, facilitate, and disseminate information about independent equity assessments, and identify calls to action in response to equity audits throughout the city.
- (D) Serve as a resource for residents, employees, those doing business with or in the city, or visitors to make a report about concerns, complaints, or questions of discrimination or unequal treatment of individuals within the city of Watertown, to provide support and information to victims and witnesses, and to city officials who may investigate such reports, concerns, complaints or questions. The commission shall develop procedures for accepting and managing complaints, and for protecting the reputation of all parties involved as appropriate and legally required. The commission may provide resources, referrals and support to any person with a complaint of discrimination. Where all parties agree, the commission may arrange for mediation of the incidents.
- (E) Recommend resolutions, policies, or guidelines for adoption by the city manager, city council, or other departments, boards, and committees within the city.
- (F) Recommend programs, initiatives, and training to promote diversity, inclusion, awareness, and anti-discrimination in the city.
- (G) Promote understanding of the diverse cultures within the city and surrounding areas through education, organization of community events,

conferences, public speaking programs, educational panels, celebrations and other community actions.

(H) Serve as a resource to the city manager and city council with respect to issues that challenge any individual's or group's enjoyment of their basic human rights in the city.

(I) Collaborate with representatives from historically disadvantaged groups to better understand barriers to inclusion, diversity, and equity in the community; develop strategies for ending inequities and eliminating these barriers; and promote mutual understanding and respect for differences.

(J) Annually, and more often if requested or needed, provide a written report to the city manager and city council on the commission's activities and hold a public forum to review and discuss the annual report. The commission may also prepare written or oral reports on racial, religious, ethnic, gender, disability, age, or any marginalized group, and civic initiatives or relationships to cultivate and encourage an atmosphere of mutual understanding and harmonious intergroup relationships in the city, at its own initiative or upon request by city entities, businesses, or residents.

(K) Collaborate with human rights entities in other municipalities to share resources, conduct joint meetings, share best practices, and make joint statements and recommendations as appropriate on issues concerning the communities in the region.

(L) Work with the city's community engagement officer and Administration to encourage attendance at panels, meetings, conferences, celebrations or other educational or community events held by municipal or regional human rights committees, private or public corporations, organizations, schools and universities.

§__-.06 Staffing and Funding.

The Human Rights Commission will recommend staff support and financial resources as needed in its annual report and/or Action Plan in order to support the commission's administrative and programmatic activities.



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 

Date: September 20, 2023

RE: Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order

As you are aware, Conceptual Recommendation #8 in the City Council's Conceptual Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) confirms the prior recommendation to proceed with the Fiscal Year 2022 proposed loan order or transfer of funds for various school improvements in the Middle School for \$3,080,000 consisting of various items including \$820,000 in funding for the Middle School air conditioning.

Additionally, the Fiscal Year 2024-2028 CIP for the Middle School includes \$72,000 in Fiscal Year 2024 funding for the HVAC (VRF) Basement – Line 221 of the Fiscal Year 2024-2028 CIP (BR).

The Middle School's HVAC system has been incrementally updated by floor to add air conditioning. All floors have been completed except for the portions of the basement and first floor. The Public Buildings Department is respectfully requesting the necessary actions to obtain authorization from the Honorable City Council for \$315,000 in requested funding.

If approved, we intend to move forward with the design of the basement and first floor HVAC upgrade to install AC with the intention of having the design work completed by spring Fiscal Year 2024.

Once design is completed, we will be returning to City Council for a request for funding for the construction of the upgrades of the basement and first floor.

Therefore, given all of the above, I respectfully recommend and request your favorable consideration on this matter at the September 26, 2023 City Council Meeting.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Megan Langan, City Auditor
Melissa A. Morrissey, City Treasurer/Collector
Denise Moroney, Director of Public Building



28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-1775
p: 617-345-9000 f: 617-345-9020
hinckleyallen.com

Kris A. Moussette
(617) 378-4194
kmoussette@hinckleyallen.com

September 22, 2023

George J. Proakis
City Manager
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

RE: Draft Loan Order – Middle School HVAC Bonds

Dear George:

As requested, I suggest the following form of loan order to approve the borrowing of funds to pay costs of design services for the development of plans and specifications for upgrades to the HVAC system at Watertown Middle School:

ORDERED: That the sum of \$315,000 is appropriated to pay costs of design and engineering services for the development of plans and specifications for upgrades to the HVAC system to install air conditioning in portions of Watertown Middle School, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(7) or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

The order must be published at least five days prior to the holding of a public hearing with respect to the order and its final passage and requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the City Council, as in the case of any other loan order for bonds.

Please call me if there are any questions about the suggested proceedings.

Sincerely,

Kris A. Moussette



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 

Date: September 20, 2023

RE: Agenda Item – Approval of Gift and Expenditures

Enclosed please find an email from Tammy McKenna, Director of Events, Commander's Mansion regarding donations that have been received to date by the Faire on the Square Committee to offset expenditures related to the Faire.

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, any expenditure of gifts of funds needs the approval of the City Manager and City Council.

I respectfully request the attached Resolution approving this gift expenditure be placed on the September 26, 2023 City Council Agenda for your consideration.

Thank you for your consideration and action on this matter.

Cc: Watertown Faire on the Square Committee
Tammy McKenna, Director of Events, Commander's Mansion
Melissa A. Morrissey, City Treasurer/Collector
Megan Langan, City Auditor

Resolution #

R – 2023 -

Resolution approving the Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds

WHEREAS: from time to time, this community is the beneficiary of a gift donated towards improving the quality and spirit of its inhabitants lives; and

WHEREAS: the Faire on the Square 2023 Committee has received donations that were given to offset expenditures related to the Faire on the Square celebration; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the City Council of the City known as the City of Watertown, hereby accepts and appropriates, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, monetary gift in the amount of \$8,300 received by the Faire on the Square 2023 Committee.

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 vote of ____ for, ____ against and ____ present on September 26, 2023.

Brendan McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

Hand, JoAnna

From: Fernandez-McKenna, Tammy
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 3:35 PM
To: Proakis, George; Magoon, Steve; Emily Monea
Cc: Osmond, Marsha; Hand, JoAnna
Subject: Faire sponsorships

Afternoon Mr. Proakis -

We are happy to have received the following sponsorship donations for the Faire this year! They will be promoted on the Faire's website with their logo and link, as well as promoted on the Faire map and tagged in the follow-up social media post.

These funds help offset the costs of the free guest experiences throughout the Faire, from live entertainment to pony rides!

Watertown Savings Bank \$5000 - returning sponsor.
Ethos Dispensary \$1500 - new sponsor.
The Residence at Watertown Square \$1000 - new sponsor.
VHB \$800 - new sponsor.

Please let me know if you need anything more from my end. Thank you!

All the best,
Tammy McKenna, Director of Events



Commander's Mansion
440 Talcott Ave | Watertown | Massachusetts | 02472
p. 617.926.7755 | f. 617.972.6599
www.commandersmansion.com
info@commandersmansion.com

Follow us on [Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#)



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 

Date: September 21, 2023

RE: Agenda Item – Order Accepting the Provisions of G.L. C.40, §22F Allowing City Boards or Officers to Fix Reasonable Fees

I respectfully recommend and request your favorable consideration on the attached “Order Accepting the Provisions of G.L. C.40, §22F Allowing City Boards or Officers to Fix Reasonable Fees.”

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Steven Magoon, Assistant City Manager for Community Development & Planning
Mark R. Reich, Esquire, KP Law

**AN ORDER ACCEPTING THE PROVISIONS OF G.L. c.40, §22F ALLOWING CITY
BOARDS OR OFFICERS TO FIX REASONABLE FEES**

WHEREAS, the City regularly issues licenses, permits, and certificates pursuant to the General Laws and the City Code; and

WHEREAS, the City assesses fees for such actions; and

WHEREAS, such fees must be reasonable and proportional; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to establish a mechanism for the proper establishment of fees and charges; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of G.L. c.40, §22F allow “[a]ny municipal board or officer empowered to issue a license, permit, certificate, or to render a service or perform work” to set fees for such actions; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of G.L. c.40, §22F require that any such fees set by a board or officer appointed by an elected board must be reviewed and approved by such elected board; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of G.L. c.40, §22F provide that the City’s current fees “will be utilized until a new fee or charge is fixed” as provided thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of G.L. c.40, §22F are subject to local acceptance by vote of the City Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED: That the provisions of G.L. c.40, §22F are hereby accepted, providing for a process for City boards and officers to set fees as provided therein.

Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the nine member City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of ___ for and ___ against on _____, 2023.

Brendan 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 

Date: September 21, 2023

RE: Agenda Item – Order Accepting The Provisions Of G.L. C. 40, §58 Allowing For The Imposition Of A “Municipal Charges Lien” On Property Located Within The City For Any Local Charge Or Fee That Has Not Been Paid By The Due Date

I respectfully recommend and request your favorable consideration on the attached “Order Accepting the Provisions of G.L. c. 40, §58 allowing for the imposition of a “municipal charges lien” on property located within the City for any local charge or fee that has not been paid by the due date.”

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Steven Magoon, Assistant City Manager for Community Development & Planning
Mark R. Reich, Esquire, KP Law

Order #

0-2023-

**AN ORDER ACCEPTING THE PROVISIONS OF G.L. c.40, §58
ALLOWING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF MUNICIPAL CHARGES
LIENS ON PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY FOR ANY
LOCAL CHARGE OR FEE THAT HAS NOT BEEN PAID BY THE
DUE DATE**

WHEREAS, the City seeks to ensure compliance with the City Code and locally enforced statutory requirements through imposition of charges and fees, including fines for violations, as necessary to ensure such compliance; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that existing methods to enforce fines issued for violations of City rules and locally enforced statutes, such as criminal complaints and non-criminal disposition, are inadequate or too cumbersome to administer in all cases; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of G.L. c.40, §58 authorize the City, by vote of the City Council, to impose a municipal charges lien on real property located in the City for any local charge or fee that has not been paid by the due date; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of G.L. c.40, §58 authorize the recording of a municipal charges lien at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds for specified past due charges, which, if remaining unpaid, shall be committed to the tax rolls; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that collection of fines issued for violations of various provisions of the City Code and locally enforced statutes requires the implementation of this additional enforcement mechanism; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of G.L. c.40, §58 require that a separate vote of the City Council be taken for each type of charge or fee in order for the City to record such a lien with respect to each such charge or fee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED: That the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §58 are hereby accepted relative to violations of the City Code and locally enforced statutes specified as follows, with the municipal charges lien provided for each type of charge or fee undertaken pursuant to a separate vote:

- a. Placing Snow or Ice on Public Ways, c. 73, §73-728 of the City Code
- b. Animals, c. 91, §91.10 of the City Code
- c. Noise Regulations, c. 95, §95.99 of the City Code

- d. Streets and Sidewalks, c. 96, §96.99 of the City Code
- e. Stormwater Regulations c. 97, §97.99 of the City Code
- f. Single Use Plastic Bags c. 115, §115.05 of the City Code
- g. Building Regulations c. 150, §150.99 of the City Code
- h. Historic Districts Ordinance, c.152, §152.99 of the City Code
- i. Demolition of Historic Buildings Ordinance, c.153, §153.99 of the City Code
- j. Wetlands violation, c. 154, §154.99 of the City Code
- k. Zoning Code, c.155, §155.90 of the City Code
- l. State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 410.000
- m. State Dog Laws, G.L. c. 140, §§136A-174F
- n. State Building Code, 780 CMR 114.4 and G.L. c. 143, §94(a)

Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the nine member City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of ___ for and ___ against on _____, 2023.

Brendan McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

882468/WATR/0103



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

Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report of the Meeting of September 7, 2023

The Committee convened on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber. It was a hybrid meeting, with remote participation by Zoom. Present were Vincent Piccirilli, Chair; Emily Izzo, Vice Chair and Nicole Gardner, Secretary. Also present in person were City Auditor Megan Langan, Assistant City Manager Steven Magoon, Council President Mark Sideris, Councilor Lisa Feltner, and resident Will Twombly. Attended by zoom were Councilors John Airasian, Caroline Bays, and Anthony Palomba, Library Trustee Leanne Hammonds, Senior Planner Lawrence Field, Housing Authority Executive Director Michael Lara, and residents Deb Peterson, Ernesta Krackiewicz, Elodia Thomas, and Jacky van Leeuwen.

The purpose of the meeting was a discussion on process for the Committee to evaluate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Proposals. This is Step 3 of the process the Committee is using to make preliminary recommendations to the City Council on the allocation of ARPA funds, which is to "Synthesize the [ARPA proposal] input and assess it against the proposed criteria".

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm. Councilor Piccirilli welcomed all present, and explained the purpose of the meeting, noting that 32 proposals were made for ARPA funding, totaling \$24 million, more than twice the \$10.5 million in funds available. He explained that there would be no discussion of specific proposals at this meeting, and reminded the attendees that all proposals as well as other materials on ARPA can be found on the City's website. <https://watertown-ma.gov/794/American-Rescue-Plan-Act-ARPA>

Councilor Piccirilli next requested Auditor Langan to ask Clifton/Larson/Allan, the accounting firm retained by the City for ARPA, to review the proposals and provide their advice as to which, if any, were not allowable by law. The Committee will only consider those proposals which are allowable.

Councilor Piccirilli noted that one email had been received regarding the process, from resident Marcy Murningham, suggesting a 0 to 2 scale be used in assessment, and showing how that would work for evaluating a proposal's alignment with the Charter Preamble and the new Comprehensive Plan, which are included in the criteria (see attachment).

Councilor Gardner proposed using a 4 point scale, because it forces the evaluator to form an opinion, one way or the other. After discussion, the Committee agreed to use a 4 point scale with 4 being the highest score. It was also agreed that when the time came for assessment, the following process would be used:

1. Each Committee member would score the proposals independently across each criteria.
2. Each Committee member would enter their scores on a spreadsheet sent to the Council Clerk.
3. The Council Clerk would consolidate the scores into a single spreadsheet, which would be used by the Committee in their deliberations at the next meeting.

Councilor Bays expressed a concern over the amount of public input in the assessment process.

Councilor Piccirilli explained that the deliberations would be in public meeting, and the Committee would invite input from the public and Councilors.

President Sideris recommended that the Committee bring the process they will use to the City Council for approval.

Councilor Feltner expressed a concern that the public and the Committee would not have an opportunity to hear from those who submitted proposals, and ask questions. Councilor Piccirilli explained that each proposer will be invited to present their project to the Committee, and answer questions.

Council Gardner suggested that these meetings happen before the Committee members do their scoring, so that members have full information, and this was agreed.

Councilor Palomba noted that some proposals were detailed and spoke to the criteria directly, and others were more conceptual, making it hard to evaluate them.

It was agreed that the Chair would write to all who submitted proposals that are allowable by law to invite them to meet with the Committee to present their project; the note would include:

- Dates being offered for BFO Committee meetings to review proposals
- 15 minutes time slot per project
- Criteria for evaluation
- The types of questions they might expect
- That questions would be asked by both the public and the Committee
- Any other pertinent information

It was also agreed that the Chair would write to people who submitted proposals that are not allowable by law (if any) to let them know that that the City would not be able to move forward with their proposal, and encouraging them to seek alternative sources of funding.

Councilor Palomba said that ultimately he expects the Committee deliberations would come out with proposals landing in one of three categories: Fund Fully, Fund Partially, and Not Able to be Funded.

Jacky van Leeuwen said that she hoped the criteria reflect the urgency of various needs within Watertown.

Deb Peterson said that she believed the criteria don't give the guidance needed, because they do not touch on what are the highest priorities within Watertown. She suggested that high level guidance such as what percent of the funds should go to city priorities 1, 2, 3, is needed.

Councilor Gardner noted that the process and criteria being used were developed in public meetings with input from the public, the Councilors, and the City staff, much earlier this year. She also noted that if the Committee had agreed to the approach being suggested, the Council -- not the Committee -- would have been needed to develop and approve the percentages by priority. She did not support changing the process at this point, especially since the proposals were developed based on the approved

and published criteria. Finally, she noted that time is pressing for the City to allocate funds, given the restrictions in the law.

Councilor Piccirilli added that ultimately, each member of the Committee and of the Council will need to use their personal judgment, weighing the pros and cons carefully, in voting on ARPA allocations. He noted that the proposals were very different in scope, scale, focus, detail provided and so on, and the Committee has to work with the proposals submitted. It will be challenging to rank and assess, but that is what is required as our next step.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Gardner made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, that the Committee ask the City Council to approve the detailed ARPA process steps, specifically:

1. Clifton/Larson/Allen review for compliance with the law as the first step, and prior to meetings with proposers; and the BFO Committee will only consider proposals that are legally compliant.
2. The BFO Committee will hold meetings with proposers for presentations and questions, in 15 minute time slots, with the public and Council encouraged to participate. All are encouraged to send questions in to Council Clerk, who will forward them to the proposer prior to the meetings.
3. Independent initial scoring by members prior to deliberation, using 4 point scale
4. The BFO Committee will collectively score proposals using a 1-4 scale after the meetings.
5. The BFO Committee will then meet to deliberate and develop its preliminary recommendation for the City Council and public feedback.

The motion was voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm on a unanimous vote.

Report prepared by Nicole Gardner

Attachment: Marcy Murningham email

ARPA Criteria Meeting Tonight

Marcy Murningham <marcy.murningham@gmail.com>

Thu 9/7/2023 2:33 PM

To: Nicole Gardner <ngardner@watertown-ma.gov>

Cc: Piccirilli, Vincent J <vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov>; Izzo, Emily <eizzo@watertown-ma.gov>; McClure, Christopher <cmclure@watertown-ma.gov>; Equity Culture / Civic Fiduciary Action Labs <equityculture.civicfiduciary@gmail.com>; Moral Money Boston <moralmoney.boston@gmail.com>

Dear all,

I wanted to submit my comments, as I'll not be able to attend tonight's Budget + Fiscal Oversight Committee meeting on the process for reviewing ARPA funding submissions

The 32 (as of this moment) submissions display a rich and varied set of ideas for improving life in Watertown. That they come from both the community and government reinforces the shared purpose and values held by citywide members. *Bravo!* and *Brava!* to all who took the time and care to prepare them!

As you review the submissions, I hope you include whether or not they specify how they align with the Comprehensive Plan (the latest version yet to be ratified) and the Charter *Preamble*, set forth in the Strategic Criteria approved on February 28, 2023.

In my cursory review* of those submissions, I've seen some do and some don't.

Given the absence of more refined "key performance indicators" (KPIs) — which can be developed down the road, much like has occurred with other models of "[sustainability reporting standards](#)," "[values-based accounting standards](#)," and "[sustainable development goals](#)," with which I am quite familiar — you might consider scoring them on a 0 to 2 scale, with zero denoting "**no reference**" to either the Comprehensive Plan or *Preamble*, "1" denoting "**mention**", and "2" denoting "**more specific elaboration**".

You could refer to this as the "Value-Added Score," (VAS), or "Value-Added Premium" (VAP, not to be confused with VAPE 😊). The higher the score, the more aligned the proposal claims to be.

However you proceed, rest assured you're continuing to forge a pathway for articulating, measuring, and managing values in public life that's both pragmatic and prophetic. As we near the Republic's 250th birthday in 2026 — not to mention Watertown's 400th birthday in 2030 — this is a wonderful way of resetting the paradigm for democracy in America for the 21st century.

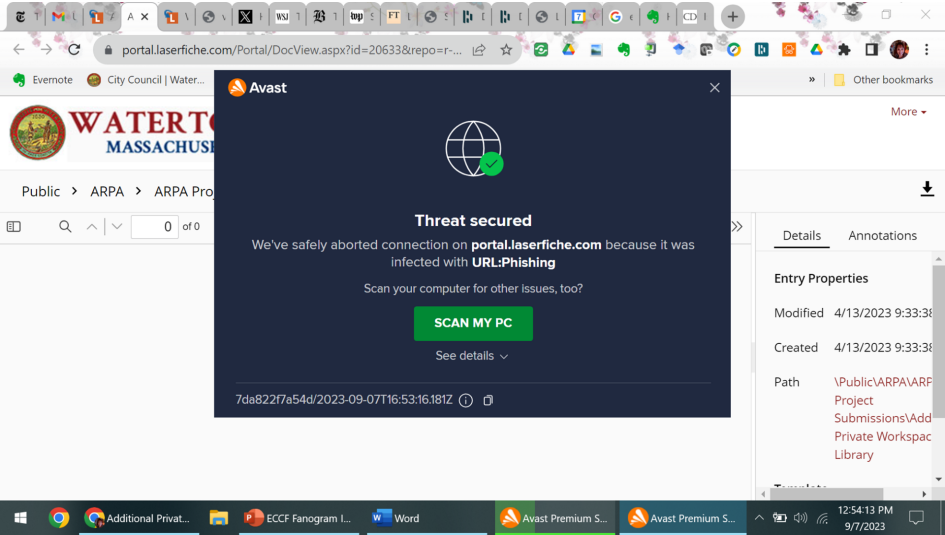
Good luck on your deliberations!

Wishing you well,

Marcy.

* I've discovered that access to the [ARPA portal and specific documents](#), from both my desktop and mobile phone, generates alarm bells regarding phishing attempts (see below for desktop screenshot). My work-around was to download the docs on my Android to read them before deleting them.

Am copying Chris McClure here, to alert him to this problem.



Marcy Murningham
Principal Architect, Equity Culture / Civic Fiduciary Action Labs
Select writings on "[Wealth, Power, and the Public Interest:](#)
[Building Equity Culture and Civic Stewardship,](#)" *New England Journal of Public Policy*, Vol. 30, no. 1 (2018)
View LinkedIn profile [here](#)

Landline: 617.926.0633 | Mobile: 617.501.9421
134 Fayette Street
Watertown, MA 02472



Virus-free.www.avast.com



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

Report of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Meeting Dates: September 13 and 18, 2023

The Committee convened on Wednesday September 13, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Office. Present were Lisa Feltner, chair; John Gannon, vice chair; and Vincent Piccirilli, secretary. The purpose of the meetings was to conduct Public Arts & Culture Committee interviews.

Matthew Hanna is a professional musician and former podcast host. He is interested in outreach to the public and communications with artists. He wants to see more regular happenings in Watertown, such as local performances, open mic events, discussion series, and meet-ups.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Gannon, to recommend that the City Council confirm Matthew Hanna for appointment to the Public Arts and Culture Committee for a term to expire November 15, 2025. Voted 3-0.

(Note: This appointment fills the unexpired term of Carole Katz who resigned from the PACC.)

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

The Committee re-convened on Monday September 18, 2023 at 6:05 pm in the City Council Office to continue the interviews. Councilors Feltner and Piccirilli were present. Councilor Gannon was absent.

Swati Biswas is a medical writer for a pharmaceutical company, and trained as a dancer and choreographer in India where she grew up. She performs creative Indian dance with her team, working closely with visual artists and weavers in designing sets and costumes. She hopes to bring a unique perspective to the PACC, and wants to take part in creating a more vibrant cultural scene in Watertown.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Feltner, to recommend that the City Council confirm Swati Biswas for appointment to the Public Arts and Culture Committee for a term to expire November 15, 2025. Voted 2-0.

(Note: This appointment fills one of the new positions added to the PACC on May 23, 2023.)

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Report prepared by Vincent Piccirilli



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

Committee on Public Safety Report of the Meeting September 11, 2023

The Committee convened on Monday September 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, as a hybrid meeting with remote participation by zoom. Present were John Airasian, Chair; Emily Izzo, Vice Chair and Vincent Piccirilli, Secretary. Also present were City Manager George Proakis, John Parow and Ken Lavalley of Parow Consulting & Associates, Council President Mark Sideris, and Councilor Caroline Bays. See attachment A for a list of other attendees. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the desired qualities for next Police Chief.

Mr. Proakis began with comments about the Public Forum he had on July 24th to get input directly from the public about hiring the next Police Chief, then spoke about the about the Civil Service hiring process, and finally introduced Mr. Parow, the Public Safety Consultant hired to run the Assessment Center for hiring the new Police Chief. Mr. Parow gave a presentation on the Assessment Center process (see attachment B).

Next, the Chair opened up public comments.

- Tiffany York asked about the diversity of the assessors. Mr. Parow said there will be four, with one female and one person of color. She then read a statement signed by a number of individuals (see attachment C).
- Merle Kummer read a statement (see attachment D).
- Will Twombly read a statement (see attachment E).
- Connie Henry read a statement (see attachment F).
- Joan Gumbleton read a statement (see attachment G).
- Dennis Holland spoke about the need to address crime in Watertown, and does not believe we need a citizen advisory board..
- Bruce Coltin read a statement (see attachment H).
- Former Councilor Angie Kounelis read a statement (see attachment I).

Councilor Piccirilli read an email from John LoDico who wanted to know why the Manager is not seeking an outside candidate (see attachment J).

Mr. Proakis explained that with Civil Service, the assessment center delivers three names to interview, and when external candidates can apply, someone who is a chief in another community will have a much better chance of being one of the three finalists than an internal candidate of lower rank. He said he has listened to the concerns of the public about the work environment in the WPD. He believes that there are many great people in the WPD, and the department is moving in a positive direction. However, while there are still a number of challenges to be addressed, he noted that there have been many retirements and new hires recently, with many positive changes. He believes that the internal pool of applicants is capable of moving the department forward in a positive direction.

The Committee then discussed the desired qualities for next Police Chief.

Councilor Izzo offered the following:

1. Internal candidate would be ideal who understands our community.
2. Transparency, holding regular community forums.
3. A monthly email with police department statistics.
4. Would like the female officers in the department to weigh in on the hiring of the new Chief.

Mr. Proakis said he did a survey of all WPD members, but the surveys were not separated by gender.

Councilor Piccirilli offered a list with three major categories:

1. A commitment to providing exceptional service to all Watertown residents, employees, and visitors by having the WPD fully embrace best policing practices, as embodied by the following:
 - a) The 2020 Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth (the Police Reform Act)
 - b) Recommendations of the President's 2014 Task Force on 21st Century Policing
 - c) Standards of the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission
2. A commitment to best management practices within the WPD:
 - Leadership skills to create a culture in the department that fully supports the best policing practices, as noted above.
 - Commitment to a safe, inclusive, diverse, and productive workplace, especially in light of the recent lawsuit.
 - Thoughtful yet firm management of staff in a collective bargaining environment.
 - Addressing employee mental and physical wellbeing, tailored specifically to the hazards faced by members of the police department.
 - Public outreach and feedback on community concerns, including working with the new Human Rights Commission.
 - Budget setting and tracking.
 - Department training, with an emphasis on preventing on-the-job injuries, emerging threats, and de-escalation techniques.
3. A commitment to keep Watertown a safe and welcoming community for all:
 - Using data collection and analysis to set departmental goals and create metrics for progress.
 - Using data, identify key causes of threats to public safety in Watertown, and develop strategies to address them.
 - Continue community policing polices in order to strengthen trust in the community, and integrate feedback from the public on how to make a well-run Watertown Police Department even better and more responsive to its residents.
 - Continue to develop innovative strategies for non-criminal calls, such as mental health and substance use disorder crises, using social workers, jail diversion, and other techniques.

Councilor Airasian offered the following:

1. Looking out for the well-being of officers.
2. Recruit and retain officers and provide an atmosphere where they can thrive.
3. Use data to identify areas of crime threats in Watertown.
4. Build strong relationships in the community.
5. Stay ahead of the police reform law.
6. Continue to maintain the Watertown Police Department's accreditation.

7. Personal qualities of integrity, honesty, strong communication skills, and be an active listener.
8. Best management practices, and have the courage to correct any issues that may arise in the Department, and the ability to be honest with the public on such issues.

The Committee adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Report prepared by Vincent Piccirilli

Attachments:

- A. List of attendees
- B. Parow Consulting presentation
- C. Tiffany York statement
- D. Merle Kummer statement
- E. Will Twombly statement
- F. Connie Henry statement
- G. Joan Gumbleton statement
- H. Bruce Colton statement
- I. Angie Kounelis statement
- J. John DiLoco email

Attachment A – List of other attendees (*attended by zoom)

Elodia Thomas
Bruce Coltin
Dennis Holland
Will Twombly
*Ted Hammett
Robert Miller
Cecilia Miller
*Louise Enoch
Merle Kummer
Joan Gumbleton
*Linda Scott
*Angie Kounelis
*Dean Martino
Sheila Krishnan
Tiffany York
Connie Henry
*Sara Keary
*Rachel Kay
*Jill Reurs
*Mike Albano
*Dan Unsworth
*Bob Leibowitz
*Lisa Capoccia
*Roma Jerome

City of Watertown Police Chief's Assessment Center Process

Assessment Centers are Based on:

- ▶ A specific and systematic analysis of the tasks associated with the targeted position;
- ▶ Needed knowledge, skills, abilities;
- ▶ Any other characteristics, as dictated, to perform the tasks of the target job

The Assessment Center will consist of:

- ▶ Multiple, job-related exercises
- ▶ Typically, four of the following exercises are specially developed and administered
 - In-Basket – Out-Basket exercise
 - Role playing
 - Problem Employee
 - Community Meeting
 - Media Exercise
 - Etc.
 - Group exercise
 - Written/Administrative problem-solving exercise
 - Oral presentation
 - Emergency Incident Simulation
 - Incident Response
 - Rapid fire questioning
 - Interview

Exercises and Development

Although the exercise titles are the same, the content is unique to the community and department

- ▶ We gather information from the City, HR, City Council and others as City Administration sees fit
 - ▶ (In addition, we surveyed all members of the Police Department)
- ▶ We then develop a working profile for the position
- ▶ Look at current and future issues/needs facing the department
- ▶ Work with the City to decide on the best exercises to fit these needs
- ▶ Then develop the appropriate content for each exercise

Assessment Center Itself

- ▶ The Assessment Center will take place over a one-day period and held at a location within City
- ▶ Candidate will be only known to the Assessors by a Candidate number
- ▶ Candidates will be scored by multiple Assessors on each exercise and against the same criteria
- ▶ Consensus scoring will be used in each exercise by the Assessors
- ▶ The Assessors all have significant municipal government experience and considered top in their field, at or above the position being tested for. All are well seasoned Assessors

After the Assessment Center

- ▶ All scores will be submitted directly to Civil Service, within 24 hours of the Assessment Center

Questions?

Statement for Public Safety Meeting on Watertown Police Chief Search
September 11, 2023

To: City Manager George Proakis; John Airasian, Vincent Piccirilli, Emily Izzo (members of the Public Safety Committee of the Watertown City Council)

We believe that improvement, even in a good police department like Watertown's, should always be an important goal. In 2020-2021, several groups of Watertown residents considered various aspects of police reform. In October 2021, some of these residents wrote to the then members of the Council's Public Safety Committee, then Town Manager, and then police chief to provide some recommendations for improving the policies and performance of the Watertown Police Department (WPD).

We believe that the new police chief, the official search for whom begins with tonight's meeting, should commit to implementing policies and programs that will improve the operations and performance of the department. Accordingly, we request that the Assessment Center and others who may interview candidates for police chief consider the following recommendations, all fully within the mainstream of police reform, during their interviews and evaluation of candidates. These represent an updated version of our October 2021 recommendations:

- Improve the data collected by WPD on arrests, traffic and pedestrian stops, citations, and other encounters to enable clear and accurate comparisons of subjects by race, ethnicity, and gender. A public-facing data dashboard would make these data and other statistics on police services easily and routinely accessible.
- Ensure that the abuses documented in the recent *Donahue* lawsuit and judgment are corrected so that a culture of equity, fairness, and justice will prevail in both the internal and external relations of the WPD.
- Make the WPD complaint process and resources more visible and user-friendly on the website.
- Implement and adhere to Massachusetts' police reform legislation. Of particular interest are reporting requirements for police misconduct and appropriate use in hiring decisions of the database of officers with prior records of misconduct.
- Consider examples of "reimagined policing" in other cities such as Cambridge, MA, Portland, OR, and Ithaca, NY, and the suitability of such models for Watertown. Of particular interest are models of increasing use of crisis intervention teams and mental health professionals to respond to calls for service not requiring armed police officers.
- Consider improvements in WPD accountability and transparency, such as establishment of a Community Advisory Board and active cooperation with the soon-to-be-established Human Rights Commission. Successful efforts in this direction have been undertaken in [Newton](#) and [Arlington](#).

We would like to thank you for considering these recommendations and we stand ready at any time to discuss them with the City Manager, Assessment Center, Public Safety Committee, and other Watertown community stakeholders.

Tiffany and Eric York
Lisa Capoccia
Mara Acel-Green
Louise Enoch
Chuck Dickenson
Alice Kidder
Arun Sannuti
Teo Evans
Felicia Sullivan
Watertown Community for Black Lives

Sheila Krishnan
Merle Kummer
Ted and Nancy Hammett
Sue Ellen Hershman-Tcherepnin
Eric and Tyler Kemp-Benedict
Karen Wood
Pat Rathbone
Teresa M. Kohlenberg
Jacky VanLeeuwen
Diane Barlow

Merle Kummer
375 Arlington Street
Watertown, MA 02472
mkummer@kummerconsulting.com

September 11, 2023

Watertown needs a Police Chief with a deep commitment to public accountability, especially around controversial issues. I recommend that the Committee ask candidates the following questions:

Example 1: Gender discrimination

As the new Police Chief, you are in a public forum. A citizen describes the recent court finding of “overwhelming evidence” of a discriminatory work environment over decades, and notes that even when individuals leave an organization, the culture persists. The citizen asks, “What are your plans for addressing the issue of gender discrimination?”

Example 2: Disproportionate arrests of Black residents

In that same meeting, a community group shows that according to WPD's own data, Black Watertown residents are 5 times more likely to be arrested than White Watertown residents. They ask, “What is your response to this data?”

We don't need a Chief who

- Believes that these are individual performance problems, or
- Who wants the Police Department to deal with such issues internally.

We need a Chief who

- Who recognizes that fear prevents many residents from reporting problems with policing, and who will ask community groups to collaborate on creating safe settings to analyze the issues.
- Who acknowledges that he himself may have blind spots, and
- Who is genuinely curious, who asks real questions and listens to the answers.

Above all, Watertown deserves a Chief who understands that the Police Chief works for the City Manager, and therefore that the Police Department works for the residents of Watertown – not the other way around.

City Council Committee on Public Safety
Meeting on Police Chief Qualifications
9-11-23

Good evening. My name is Will Twombly. I live at 75 Marion Rd. Thank you so much for creating this opportunity for public input into what will be a very important decision for years to come.

I fully realize that being a police officer, and especially being Chief, is an incredibly challenging, taxing, stressful occupation, which requires a very special kind of person. The demands of the job are huge, and sometimes the rewards may be few. So, I am extremely grateful to the women and men of the Watertown PD for the commitment they have made to serve our city, given the personal sacrifices that their jobs require.

I'm sure our new Chief will bring a wealth of varied and complex attributes to the job, but I would like to mention just a few of these that I feel are especially important to this community.

First, our Chief should bring unquestioned personal integrity. Because in many instances the Chief is the face of the department, the public may judge the entire department by the values and conduct of the Chief. The Chief's adherence to the highest standards of ethical behavior should be beyond reproach. He or she must be entirely trustworthy, both in the eyes of the public and in the eyes of fellow officers. The example set by the Chief will establish an invaluable tone for the entire department – leading by example is powerful. The Chief should be someone for whom both the community and fellow officers have great respect.

As I mentioned, I believe we have a truly excellent police department today, with a combination of dedicated veteran officers and younger, well-educated officers who are enthusiastic about their profession. However, we live in a time when traditional methods of policing are being challenged all around us, and departments everywhere are being asked, and in some cases required, to do major re-evaluations of their relationships with the communities they serve. I believe it's essential for our new Chief to bring a deep and well documented

history of community outreach – a history of working successfully with the people of Watertown to understand what is important to them, and joining together with them to address community problems, such as race relations, opioid abuse, and challenges for our youth.

Our new Chief should be totally committed to strengthening positive ties with all segments of the population, including especially immigrants, people of color, and those who have traditionally been fearful and distrusting of police because of previous bad experiences they may have had in other places. He or she must be committed to having difficult conversations about the nature of policing in Watertown with an open heart and mind, even if they involve criticism of the department. I would like to see our new Chief establish a very representative Community Advisory Group to work much like a school site council, and serve as a conduit for communication to and from diverse segments of the community.

I believe our Chief must view police as guardians rather than warriors, and work hard to develop and implement innovative, out-of-the-box training programs to give officers the skills they need to build bridges of understanding and cooperation, as well as keep safe, in a climate in which hostility to police in general is often expressed.

So in summary, I believe that a Chief who brings unquestioned personal integrity, deep experience in community outreach and a new vision for what this might look like in the future, and a proven commitment to innovative officer training will help the Watertown PD become the best department in the state.

Thank you.

Dear Members of the Watertown Public Safety Committee,

As a resident of Watertown for many years, I appreciate that there is a careful consideration to discussing and defining the qualities for our next Police Chief. We have grown as a city, especially with a new charter and upcoming Comprehensive Plan that clearly support Watertown as a vibrant, safe, and inclusive community.

Clearly the role of the Chief would include a commitment to public safety in all forms and that person's primary responsibility would be to enforce the law and keep Watertown safe from criminal activities. I strongly believe another central goal for the next Police Chief will be to create and sustain a culture of respect that protects and serves all who live, work, and visit here.

The essential qualities that I would define as most desired and central for this critical role include:

Integrity with strongly defined and upheld guiding principles, including someone who deeply values community engagement and partnership and proactively works to make a community partnership visible.

A strong communicator. This includes being an active listener, honest, forthright, and being transparent of one's intention and action.

Experience with successful community policing and partnership and demonstrated ability to be responsive, thorough, and successful.

An ability to be clear, timely and articulate in their decision-making, receiving input as needed as well as an ability to delegate and empower others. With this skill set is also supported by a reflective practice about difficult decisions and their outcomes.

This is an important opportunity for the Watertown Police Department and our community as a whole to reflect our challenges and strengthen our community partnerships as we continue to grow as a diverse community.

Thank you again.
Connie Henry
33 Buick Street
Watertown
857-869-2686

Fw: New Police Chief Attributes

Joan Gumbleton <gumbletonj@aol.com>

Tue 9/12/2023 10:21 AM

To: Piccirilli, Vincent J <vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov>

Cc: John Airasian <jairasian@watertown-ma.gov>; Izzo, Emily <eizzo@watertown-ma.gov>

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Joan Gumbleton <gumbletonj@aol.com>

To: Joan Gumbleton <gumbletonj@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 at 04:47:23 PM EDT

Subject: New Police Chief Attributes

Dear Councilor Piccirilli,

Here are the comments I made at last night's meeting for the meeting file.

My intent was to make sure that the problems that other cities are having don't come to Watertown if criminals feel that they won't be tolerated here and that the new Police Chief has high standards in that regard.

Regards,

Joan Gumbleton

There are a lot of crimes happening in Watertown, from drug dealings to robberies, shoplifting, drunk driving and more. If we read Watertown News we can see some of them.

Fentanyl is a huge problem and one that is not covered well on mainstream media. If a death happens, they don't emphasize that many of these drugs are being manufactured in Communist China, are shipped to countries south of the border, and then smuggled into our country through open borders with coyotes and poor people trying to pay off the coyotes to get their families into our country illegally.

We need a new police chief who is willing to prosecute these killers to the fullest extent of the law, including deportation after serving their sentences. We will never know how many people, especially young people, who died from taking these drugs. This person needs to work diligently with District Attorneys to be sure prosecutions occur.

No matter what race or nationality these killers are, they should suffer the consequences of their actions and the police shouldn't be criticized for doing their job.

In many cities across the country people do not want to sign up to serve their communities on the police force for fear of being negatively labeled vs. honored for putting their lives on the line each day.

Our new chief needs to be strong, transparent and willing to approach his/her job with fairness, integrity, deal with any legitimate officer issues openly, and be willing to stand up for those reporting to him/her despite any pressures from those who are quick to judge after never having been in a life or death situation.

There are some bad cops, but there are a heck of a lot of good ones that need to be shown appreciation. Otherwise we won't have the officers needed here.

With regard to repetitive drunk drivers, shoplifters and robbers, let's set a high standard so we don't follow the broken-window theory where criminals don't fear the repercussions of their actions if they are merely slapped on the hand

and released to once again
put citizens at risk.

Bruce Coltin

Comment before the Committee on Public Safety, 9/11/2023

We live in a fool's paradise. We know that there are neighborhoods in Boston where we shouldn't walk the streets, especially at night. Not everyone knows that there are neighborhoods in Cambridge and Somerville where the same thing applies because gangs own the streets. Why don't we have a similar situation in Watertown?

Can we agree that nobody in this room or on the Zoom call, with very few exceptions, knows the slightest thing about being a cop? So, when it comes to providing input on the qualities desired in the next police chief, all of our opinions, with few exceptions, should be taken with a grain of salt. Even highly educated people with advanced degrees, unless the degrees are in criminology, are as ignorant on matters of policing as those of us who are less educated.

Beginning in March of 2021 this committee which included only one of the current members was occupied with presentations, requests, and demands concerning alleged racist behavior on the part of the Watertown P.D. To characterize those meetings as emotionally charged and contentious would be an understatement.

The April 22nd meeting which was the second of the four meetings that took place, stood out from the others.

For one thing, the community showed up. There were 188 people in that Zoom meeting, a turnout very rarely seen. Also, three members of the WPD made comments. This was highly unusual. But these officers felt strongly that they had to defend their department against accusations being made. Their comments were very different but all were passionate, respectful, and compelling.

One of those comments especially resonated with me.

My reading of this speech will not do it justice but here goes.

“Hi, my name is Kerilyn Amedio, a resident of Watertown and proudly a member of the Watertown Police Department. I’ve been on the Police Department for seven years, and I’m currently assigned to the detective division. I hold a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and sociology from the University of Massachusetts and am a graduate of the Massachusetts State Police Academy.

I have extensive training given to me by the Watertown Police Department notably to include crisis intervention, assisting individuals in crisis, group crisis intervention, and critical incident stress management.

I can only speak for myself and my own experiences but many if not all of my fellow brother and sister officers would agree with my following statement. In seven years, I’ve stopped cars, made arrests when necessary, responded to calls for domestic violence, larcenies, shoplifters, sexual assaults, neighborhood complaints, barking dogs, alarm calls, medical calls, overdoses and that is just to name a few.

I’ve been punched in the face, spit on, kicked, bitten, had my hair pulled, had a knife pulled on me, had cars almost strike me, feared for my safety, and been called every name in the book. I’ve held strangers, hugged children who are not mine, saved lives through the distribution of Narcan and the performance of CPR.

I’ve promised someone that I care and would continue to care and would help them. I’ve told families that their loved ones were not coming home.

I’ve seen unimaginable despair, empathized and sympathized with people from all walks of life. And with all that, I would not change one day of this career. You are all speaking of accountability and transparency and we want that too. Not only just for the Watertown Police Department but for all facets of Watertown and we want it from these groups as well. We are willing to

have an open honest dialogue. We want you to be heard, but we won't allow it to be at the expense of our character or what you or the media believe this job is.

I welcome you to come share a day or multiple days at the Watertown Police Department. Come see it from my perspective or from the perspective of another officer. Come volunteer with us. Come do a ride-along. Come participate in all of our community policing efforts. Experience Watertown Police for what it is. Not for what you think it is or what you've heard it is.

We are more than arrests and statistics. The people we deal with are more than arrests, numbers, and statistics. We want the conversation to continue, but we refuse to be called uneducated, white supremacists, or say that we come from bad families.

I love this job and I love this town. I will continue to show up, be held accountable and I will continue to do what is right, just, and fair because that is what Chief Lawn and the Watertown Police Department have trained me to do. And that is what the community of Watertown has trusted me to do. Thank you for your time and please reach out to me to continue these conversations."

I was so bowled over by the eloquence of this speech that I spent hours listening to it over and over again so that I could transcribe it and publish it, first in an article in Watertown News and later in a blog that I write.

I don't know Detective Amedio. I've never met her. BUT I WANT the chief that she wants. Because there's a war going on out there that all of us have the luxury of not seeing. And it's a war that she and her fellow officers know all too well.

Comm. Public Safety 09/11/23**Angeline Kounelis <akounelis12@gmail.com>**

Mon 9/11/2023 7:42 PM

To: Piccirilli, Vincent J <vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov>

Cc: John Airasian <jairasian@watertown-ma.gov>; Izzo, Emily <eizzo@watertown-ma.gov>

 1 attachments (756 KB)

Policeman by Paul Harvey.pdf;

Greetings:

Attached is the essay as written by Paul Harvey. Excerpts from his piece, "*Policeman*" were read into the record of the 09/11/2023 Committee on Public Safety Meeting.

"His name was Paul Harvey, and his gentle storytelling radio program was heard every day on radio stations all over the world. His career in radio spanned more than 70 years, and his shows 'News & Comment' and 'Rest of the Story' made him a familiar voice in Americans' homes across the country. He was a delightful history teacher — with a velvety voice that turned the news into narrative and entertainment each week. His piece 'Policeman' has been called 'one of his best.' And it couldn't be more timely."

Best,

Angie

Angeline Maria B. Kounelis
Retired District A, East End, City Councilor
Landline: 617-926-2352
Mobile: 617-538-9252

Sent from my Smartphone - Apologies for brevity and/or typos

Paul Harvey's Piece 'Policeman' Has Been Called 'One of His Best.' And It Couldn't Be More Timely

A policeman is a composite of what all men are, mingling of a saint and sinner, dust and deity.

What that really means is that they are exceptional, they are unusual, they are not commonplace. Buried under the froth is the fact: and the fact is, less than one-half of one percent of policemen misfit the uniform. And that is a better average than you would find among clergymen!

What is a policeman? He, of all men, is at once the most needed and the most wanted. A strangely nameless creature who is "sir" to his face and "pig" or worse to his back.

He must be such a diplomat that he can settle differences between individuals so that each will think he won.

But...If the policeman is neat, he is conceited; If he's careless, he's a bum. If he's pleasant, he's a flirt; If he's not, he's a grouch.

He must make instant decisions which would require months for a lawyer.

But...if he hurries, he's careless; If he's deliberate, he's lazy. He must be first to an accident, infallible with a diagnosis. He must be able to start breathing, stop bleeding, tie splints and above all, be sure the victim goes home without a limp.

The police officer must know every gun, draw on the run, and hit where it doesn't hurt. He must be able to whip two men twice his size and half his age without damaging his uniform and without being "brutal." If you hit him...he's a coward. If he hits you...he's a bully.

The policeman, from a single human hair, must be able to describe the crime, the weapon, the criminal and tell you where the criminal is hiding. But...if he catches the criminal, he's lucky; if he doesn't, he is a dunce.

He runs files and writes reports until his eyes ache, to build a case against some felon who will get "dealed out" by a shameless shamus.

The policeman must be a minister, a social worker, a diplomat, a tough guy and a gentleman.

And of course, he'll have to be a genius...for he will have to feed a family on a policeman's salary.

New Police Chief

John LoDico <john.lodico@gmail.com>

Tue 9/5/2023 3:17 PM

To: Piccirilli, Vincent J <vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov>

Councilor Piccirilli:

Following the city's payment of \$5.7 million to resolve a case that found that the Watertown police department fostered a sexist work environment stretching back over two decades, and pending the results of a court case involving suspended Watertown Police Officer Kevin Rooney on sexual assault charges, I feel it is in the best interest of the city to look outside of the current department for the next police chief.

City Manager Prokis said at a July forum on the new chief, "The intent is to stay with internal candidates but if you think opening it up is a good idea tell me tonight." It's unfortunate that the pre-selection "intent" is to stay with an internal candidate.

Thanks.

John LoDico
211 Palfrey Street



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

Report of the Committee on Public Safety Meeting Date: September 7, 2023

The Committee convened on Thursday September 7, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Office. Present were John Airasian, chair; Emily Izzo, vice chair; and Vincent Piccirilli, secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an interview for the Traffic Commission.

Kelly Gallagher is seeking reappointment to the Traffic Commission, where she has served since 2013. She is a lawyer who lives and works in Watertown. She believes the Traffic Commission has been doing a thorough job of addressing issues before them, listening to citizens concerns, and coming up with alternatives even if they cannot approve the original request. She thinks the Commission is working well, with the transition to a new Fire Chief and a new Police Chief going smoothly.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, to recommend that the City Council confirm Kelly Gallagher for reappointment to the Traffic Commission for a term to expire May 15, 2025. Voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Report prepared by Vincent Piccirilli