



Watertown Town Council

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President

Michael F. Dattoli,
Councilor At Large

Aaron P. Dushku,
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 AT 7:15 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the Town Council at 7:15 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors Michael F. Dattoli, Aaron P. Dushku, Susan G. Falkoff, Lisa J. Feltner, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, and Mark Reich, Town Attorney.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing and Vote on a petition for a grant of location for Comcast Cable, Inc. to install two 4-inch PVC in the roadway from existing pole #17 southerly continuing for 80 feet crossing Arsenal Street onto private [Property Located at 485 Arsenal Street](#).

Councilor Piccirilli moved to take up Item 6 out of order; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

A representative from Comcast Cable provided the rationale for the change requested. President Sideris opened the hearing to the public. Elodia Thomas commented on the change. There being no other speakers, the meeting was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the grant of location for Comcast Cable; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Robert Shea – 139 Russell Avenue – Spoke in favor of the appointment process for the CPA Committee.

John Airasian – Spoke against changing the appointment process for the CPA Committee, as it would alter the separation of powers set out in the Charter.

Curtis Whitney – 43 Grandview Avenue – Spoke against changing the appointment process for the CPA Committee

Bruce Coltin – 67 Marion Road – Spoke in opposition to the use of artificial turf on playing fields for health reasons.

Dan Eisenberg – Arsenal Court – Requested that contractors begin work at 9:00 a.m. and not at 7:00 a.m. to prevent ambient noise.

Deborah Peterson – 9 Westland Road – Spoke in favor of the appointment process listed in the draft CPA

John Labadini – Concerned Watertown Homeowners Association – Spoke in opposition to the CPA Committee appointment process

Kate Coyne – 120 Worcester Street – Stated her concern with the process of the CPA Committee: Transparency; community input; costs; bonding.

Michelle Cokonauger – 37 Paul Street – Spoke in favor of the Council appointing the CPA members as the Charter does not designate a procedure that must be used for appointing members.

Rena Baskin – 15 Franklin Street – Spoke in favor of the Council appointing the members of the CPA Committee

Elodia Thomas – Spoke against the Council appointing the CPA Committee members. She is more concerned with an open community process for people to be involved and engaged.

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

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
[Minutes of the August 8, 2017](#) Town Council Meeting

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

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Sideris had no items to present.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing and Vote on a petition for a grant of location for Comcast Cable, Inc. to install two 4-inch PVC in the roadway from existing pole #17 southerly

continuing for 80 feet crossing Arsenal Street onto private [Property Located at 485 Arsenal Street](#).

Please see notes in previous section.

7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Informational Presentation on [Community Choice Aggregation](#) (CCA).

Mr. Driscoll introduced Ed Lewis, the Town's Energy Manager, who provided details on the program.

Mr. Lewis stated this proposal is being made by the Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee along with the Energy Office. The program would allow Watertown to facilitate the bulk purchase of electricity from an electrical supplier for residential, small business, and basic service non-profits, which often results in lower costs. More than 110 Massachusetts communities have adopted the program.

The Town would work with a consultant (at no cost) and determine the factors to be included in a preliminary plan: such as amount of renewable energy, duration of the program, approximate pricing. Once determined, there is a period of public review and comment. The Town Council would need to authorize the initiation of the process, which includes approval first from the Department of Energy Resources and then the Department of Public Utilities.

Once approved, the Town can request bids and enter into a contract if it meets the plan criteria. There is a 30-day public notice and education period. Anyone who does not wish to participate in the program may opt out. This process usually takes about 14-18 months to complete.

The program would provide a default green rate, the percentage of energy from renewable sources. Watertown would be seeking a 17% rate, an increase of 5% over the statutorily required 12% provided by Eversource. This 5% increase in renewable energy represents a 1% reduction in greenhouse emissions – 1,700 tons of greenhouse emissions per year. Residents may select the basic 12% rate or may opt in for a green plus rate. It has been found that the 17% rate can be provided at a lower cost than the Eversource 12% rate. Communities adopting this program usually have 90% who remain in the program with the remainder either opting out or selecting the basic or green plus rate.

Billing services and service needs continue to be provided by Eversource. The only difference is that the energy supplier is the company with whom the Town contracts with that rate remaining stable for the duration of the contract, a 1-3 year period.

After the presentation was completed, the Council had several questions. Among the matters discussed were the following:

- * Watertown has sufficient demand so that it does not need to combine with other communities for this program to be beneficial to the community.
- * This service would apply to only those customers who have Eversource as their supplier. If a homeowner has an alternative supplier, the owner would need to opt out of the current source and opt in to the new supplier.
- * Eversource under state law is required to increase its renewable energy percentage annually. Under the Aggregate contract, the contracted renewable energy would increase on the baseline so that the contracted supply would continue to be 5% above the state mandated amount.
- * The purchaser can set the contract duration from 1 to 3 years, with the longer contracts usually receiving better pricing.
- * With the CCA, there will be no change to the Transmission and Delivery charges, which is set by Eversource and the DPU; however, the supply charge will remain stable for the period of the contact
- * Elderly residents who receive energy discounts will continue to receive these discounts
- * Local renewable energy means that it comes from regional resources from MA, NY, NH, and CT.

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution approving the Acceptance of [Gift of Tangible Personal Property](#) of used exercise equipment for use at the Fire Department from Michelle and Richard Lebreux.

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the item. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the gift of tangible personal property; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

- b. An [Order](#) approving an amendment to the Easement Agreement providing access to Arsenal Park across property of BP Watertown Retail LLC, being 485 Arsenal Street, Watertown, and authorizing the Town Manager to execute the amendment to Easement Agreement.

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the Easement Agreement and requested the Council's favorable consideration approving the Order. Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the Order changing the Easement Agreement for BP Watertown Retail LLC; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- c. [First Reading](#) on a Proposed Loan Order authorizing the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Town Manager to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$975,000, under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, for the

purpose of paying costs of street, sidewalk and underground duct and/or conduit improvements; including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; and further ordered that in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Mr. Driscoll provided some background on this matter and stated that it would be taken up at Public Hearing at the next Town Council meeting.

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- a. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report Regarding a [Draft Community Preservation Committee Ordinance](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair

ACTION ITEM: That the Town Council approves a provision in section 36.02 section 2 of the draft ordinance that would designate the appointing authority as the Town Council

Councilor Woodland read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Woodland moved that the Town Council should designate the appointing authority as the Town Council; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion.

There was an extended discussion as to whether or not the Town Council should be the appointing body for the CPC Committee.

With the lack of consensus, Councilor Falkoff made a motion to send the item back to Committee for more guidance on what the procedure would be. After further discussion on the process, President Sideris asked Councilor Woodland to withdraw his motion. Councilor Woodland felt that this would not be helpful to the Committee. After further discussion, Councilor Woodland withdrew his motion. Councilor Palomba agreed to withdraw his seconding on the motion.

Councilor Dushku moved to ask the Town Council to approve the provision of Chapter 36.02 §2 of the draft ordinance as the designated appointing authority for all four appointed members. President Sideris suggested that the motion be broader in wording.

After further discussion, Councilor Palomba moved that the Town Manager appoint one of the four at-large members and the Town Council appoint

three of the four at-large members, subject to an approval process developed by the Rules and Ordinances Committee for these three members; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 6-3. Councilors Dattoli, Dushku, Falkoff, Feltner, Palomba, and Piccirilli voted in the affirmative; Councilors Kounelis, Woodland, and President Sideris voted in the negative.

- b. Ad Hoc Committee on [Transportation Report](#) on the Transportation Management Association (TMA) Formation and Shuttle Bus Service Planning, to discuss the Watertown Yard tour, and to discuss autonomous vehicles for transit.

Councilor Dushku read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Piccirilli moved to bring up a late agenda item relating to the Faire in the Square; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Driscoll requested the favorable consideration of the Council to accept gifts of funds to offset the costs of the Faire in the Square: \$300 from Three Sons Auto Body and \$5,000 from Watertown Savings Bank.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept and expend the gifts of funds; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Woodland made a motion to refer the issue of a Youth Snow Removal Program to the Committee on Human Services; Councilor Dattoli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Councilor Dattoli made a motion to have a joint referral to the Committees on Public Works and Public Safety to gather information and discuss current street way designs and roadway conditions to ensure adequate passage for emergency vehicles and to consider the impact on their response times; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by all except for Councilor Dushku who voted in the negative.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

[Noise Regulations](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the need to consider this matter and requested that the Council refer this to Committee. Councilor Dattoli made a motion to refer the issue to the Committees on Human Services and Rules and

Ordinances; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Councilor Falkoff requested a progress report on the status of the double poles based on the list she previously received from Mr. Magoon.

She also requested that the owner of 10 Winter Street improve the maintenance of the property.

Councilor Palomba asked for an update on the hiring of a Transportation Planner.

Councilor Dattoli requested an update on the lighting upgrades on the Town fields.

Councilor Dushku asked for an update from the Administration as it relates to remote participation of a Councilor at meetings.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Kounelis announced that she and Councilor Dattoli attended the MA Fallen Firefighters Memorial on Friday, September 8, 2017 where Firefighter Toscano's name was added to the Ring of Honor.

She also announced that Senator Markey would be holding a Town Hall Forum on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at Newton North High School from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public and that the contact person was Vanessa who could be reached at 617-565-8519.

Councilor Feltner announced that the Kayaking on the Charles, which had been postponed due to the weather, was being rescheduled to Saturday, September 16, 2017. Those interested could contact the Recreation Department or register online.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

There being no speakers, the Forum was closed.

15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Palomba made a motion to adjourn; Councilor Dushku seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The Council adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

ADDENDUM

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, 0 present on September 26, 2017

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 AT 7:15 P.M.
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the August 8, 2017 Special Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Memo re: Comcast Grant of Location 485 Arsenal Street and Related Content from Gerald S. Mee, Jr. to Steve Magoon Planning Director – June 16, 2017 – Item 6
3. Agenda Item – Informational Presentation on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager to Town Council – September 7, 2017 – Item 7
4. Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property (Precor EFX 5.21i Elliptical Trainer) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – August 9, 2017 – Item 8a
5. Agenda Item – An Order Approving an Amendment to the Easement Agreement Providing Access to Arsenal Park Across Property of BP Watertown Retail LLC, being 485 Arsenal Street, Watertown, and Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute the Amendment to Easement Agreement – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 7, 2017 – Item 8b
6. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 7, 2017 – Item 8c
 - A. Letter from Locke Lord re: Street and Sidewalk Bonds – August 8, 2017
 - B. Committee on Public Works Report – April 20, 2017
 - C. Common Street Project Update – Presentation by WorldTech Engineering
 - D. Committee on Public Works Report – January 23, 2017
 - E. Committee on Public Works Report – July 12, 2017
 - F. Letter from Ethan Z. Davis, Chair, Watertown Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee to Michael Driscoll, Town Manager – May 8, 2017
 - G. Page 8 – Chart of FY 2017 – FY 2021 CIP General Fund
7. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report for March 20, 2017 and April 24, 2017 Meetings – Item 9a
 - A. Attachment A – Meeting Attendees
 - B. Attachment B – Second Draft of the Community Preservation Committee Ordinance with Pending Committee Revisions
 - C. Attachment C – Documentation Provided by Councilor Feltner
 - D. Attachment D – Letter from Patrick Fairbairn
8. Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation Report for August 2, 2017 Meeting – Item 9b
 - A. City Council Committee on Transportation Presentation – Watertown Transportation Management Association – August 2, 2017

- B. Bylaws of Watertown Transportation Management Association, Inc.
 - C. Operating Budget of WTMA
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- 9. Late Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditures (Gifts to Offset Costs of Faire on the Square) – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 7, 2017 – Item 10

 - 10. Noise Regulations – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – September 7, 2017 – Item 11