

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2007 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert D. Carlson at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call showed that Mayor Robert D. Carlson, Councilman Charles J. Diamond and Councilman Michael P. Manning were present.

Also present from City Administration were: Mark Gleason; General Manager, Yorden C. Huban; Corporation Counsel, Bruce A. Hidley; City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance, David Wheatley; Deputy City Clerk; Police Chief Ronald Boisvert, Jim Bulmer; Water Department Supervisor, Mark R. Gilchrist; Assessor/Bldg. Inspector and Nicholas J. Ostapkovich. Fire Chief Brian Carroll and Christopher S. Daus; Recreation Supervisor were excused.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the minutes from the previous meeting.

The following agenda was presented to the Council by Bruce A. Hidley; City Clerk and Clerk to the Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 8088 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes for the purchase of a new communications console in the Department of Public Safety Police Department to Write-Line, 9 Prospect Avenue, Hudson, New York 12534, in the amount of \$10,492.98. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilman Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8089 – The Council hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley; City Clerk to advertise once in the official newspaper that two Public Hearings will be held, one on February 7, 2007 at 2:00 PM in the Court Room of Watervliet City Hall and the second on February 21, 2007 at 2:00 PM in the Court Room of Watervliet City Hall in order to provide fact and information regarding the guidelines and opportunities associated with the New York State Governor's Office for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. Upon motion of Councilman Manning, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8090 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby adopts a Procurement Policy for all goods and services which are not by law to be publicly bid in accordance with General Municipal Law Section 104-b. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilman Manning this Resolution was approved and adopted.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the group adjourned to the floor to discuss City business.

ITEM #1 – Mark E. Gleason; General Manager requested Nicholas J. Ostapkovich discuss with the Council regarding the status of the Combined Sewer Overflow Project (CSO). Mr. Ostapkovich explained that the City has a SPDES Permit for CSO'S which requires an Annual Report to completed by the end of January each year. Mr. Ostapkovich provided the Council with three documents.

- 1.) The Annual Report
- 2.) The Checklist
- 3.) Overview of the CSO Project

Mr. Ostapkovich explained that there is 15 criteria's that need to be evaluated for every community who participate in the CSO Program, some of the criteria is not applicable to the City of Watervliet. Mr. Ostapkovich stated that during 2006 there were 3 dry river overflows. There were two overflows on the 16th Street location and one on the 18th Street location. The 18th Street location was cleaned out, debris removed and the trunk lines cleared by City and Albany County workers. Mr. Ostapkovich noted that the 16th Street site the trunk line will be videoed and the trunk lines cleaned when the weather permits in 2007. Mr. Ostapkovich explained that in 2006 nearly 7000 linear feet of sewer mains were cleaned. Mr. Ostapkovich stated that the Annual Report is submitted to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Albany County Treatment Plant.

Councilman Diamond requested Mr. Ostapkovich to clarify what was meant by the overflows was covered by grease. Mr. Ostapkovich responded by stating that there is probably a business who is dispensing grease in the sewer system improperly.

Councilman Diamond asked where the data is kept relating to the cleaning of the catch basins. Mr. Ostapkovich explained that the catch basin cleaning reports are kept at the Filter Plant.

Councilman Diamond asked how the cont from the Arsenal Chrome Plating Process affect the City's sewer system. Mr. Ostapkovich explained that the Arsenal has there own SPEDES Permit and a pretreatment plant for industrial use which does not affect the City's sewer system.

Councilman Diamond suggested that the City put in some kind of drainage/flooding control while the 19th Street reconstruction project is underway. Mr. Ostapkovich explained that every bit of water that does not go into the system and infiltrates the ground will help the City.

Councilman Manning requested Mr. Ostapkovich to explain what the video/camera system will show. Mr. Ostapkovich responded by stating that the video will show the problem and what needs to be done to correct the problem. Examples were tree roots, lateral extends to far, industrial user putting debris in the system, cracked pipes or a depression in the pipes.

Mr. Ostapkovich then discussed with the Council Phase II which deals with the CSO Overview. Phase II deals with long term control plan study that the City and the other 5 communities are involved with along the Hudson River. The purpose of Phase II is to develop a long term control plan. This long term control plan needs to be in place by September 2009. Part II in the study phase deals with the river being monitored, modeled and ultimately recommendations will be made. Mr. Ostapkovich cautioned that Council that upon completion of the recommendation phase that there could a considerable cost to the taxpayers of the City as well as the other 5 communities involved with the CSO Project. Governor Pataki wanted to upgrade the river and their shouldn't be any change of direction under Governor Spitzer.

Councilman Manning asked if their was any way of determining the future cost factor for this project. Mr. Ostapkovich stated that as of this point in the phase process there is no way to determine the amount and stated several reasons why.

Mr. Gleason stated some of the mandates which Mr. Ostapkovich spoke about could warrant the purchase of equipment, specifically a vacuum truck for the sewers. Currently the City borrows their equipment from Albany County or other local municipalities. Mr. Gleason explained that it will become very difficult to borrow this type of equipment in the future. Mr. Gleason stated that it would be a good idea for the City to start thinking about consolidating with other communities for this type of equipment or to write a grant to obtain what is needed.

ITEM #2 – Mark E. Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that the administration is considering moving an employee to help in the City Clerk's Office. Mr. Gleason stated that this office has had help in the past. This is one of the most important offices in City Hall and in order to achieve better customer service it is important to add a part time employee. Mr. Gleason also stated that the City would not have to hire any additional staff just shift around employee resources. Mr. Gleason noted that at the next City Council meeting he will request that the Council approve a transfer into the City Clerk's account for the additional part time employee.

ITEM #3 – Mark E. Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that effective February 5, 2007, that the Watervliet Veterans Memorial Facility (DOME) will be open after school to children and adults. The DOME will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday and Friday from 3:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Mr. Gleason explained that the Recreation Department personnel will adjust their schedules so that overtime and the need to hire additional employees will not be needed. Mr. Gleason also explained that the Recreation Department will be issuing identification cards Monday thru Friday from 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM for 2007. The identification cards worked well at the pool last year and will be extended to uses in the entire Recreation Department.

ITEM #4- Mark E. Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that specifications for the garbage bid have been sent to several vendors. There have been some questions fielded by the vendors regarding the specifications for the garbage contract. Mr. Gleason explained to the Council that himself and David Dressel; Highway Department Supervisor is currently working on an analysis regarding the cost and manpower for the City to provide garbage pickup. The completed bids for the garbage contract will be open on Thursday, March 22, 2007. The current contract with Waste Management will expire on April 30, 2007.

ITEM #5- Mark E. Gleason; General Manager provided the Council with a rough draft of the contract agreement between the City of Watervliet and Albany Engineering Corporation for the airboat and weed cutting services. Mr. Gleason stated that Yorden Huban; Corporation Counsel and the Council have requested that some changes be made to the contract agreement to better protect the City. Mr. Gleason will provide the Council with a copy of the new agreement when completed.

Councilman Diamond asked if the sale of the airboat need to be put out to bid. Mr. Gleason explained that this agreement will fall way below the statutory amount for bidding. Mr. Gleason contacted Yankee Airboat to obtain a quote on the value of the airboat. Yankee Airboat quoted Mr. Gleason that the airboat was worth approximately between \$4,000.00 and \$6,000.00. The airboat needs approximately \$4,000.00 worth of work which is how Mr. Gleason came up with the \$2,000.00 value of the airboat.

Councilman Diamond stated that he wanted to be sure that this transaction was done legally. Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban gave the Council a detailed explanation on General Municipal Law related to contracts and competitive bidding.

Jim Bulmer; Water Department Supervisor explained to the Council that the proposal from Jim Besha of Albany Engineering gives the Council a two year window to come up with a solution for the weed cutting services needed at the reservoir. The options after the two years include purchasing a new airboat or contracting the services to an independent contractor. Mr. Bulmer has recommended that the Council consider purchasing a new airboat as the cost to hire a contractor could run approximately \$40,000.00 per year. Mr. Bulmer also addressed the manpower issue related to running an airboat.

ITEM #6- Mark E. Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that Governor Eliot Spitzer has announced his budget for 2007. Mr. Gleason requested that Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance provide the Council with an update on the State Aid proposed in the 2007 budget. Mr. Fahr explained that the proposed State Aid increase would be \$104,000.00. The proposed increase in State Aid would make the City's share at 1.2 million dollars, and then add the extra \$100,000.00 from Assemblyman Canestrari and the City's total for 2007 will be 1.3 million dollars.

ITEM #7- Councilman Michael P. Manning presented the Council with a draft copy of proposed Council Rules for legislation and Council Meetings. Councilman Manning explained that this draft for Council Rules is more extensive than the Council Proceedings passed at the first meeting in January. Councilman Manning has requested that any consideration/comments of this draft proposal be given to Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban. Councilman Manning would like this proposal placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

ITEM #8- Councilman Michael P. Manning asked Mayor Carlson to provide the Council with an updated report on his meetings with the Arsenal Partnership. Mayor Carlson stated that there hasn't been a meeting since the last discussion. Mayor Carlson did note that a site meeting is planned for later this month.

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made and seconded for adjournment, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council