

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, JULY 5, 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, Bruce A. Hidley; City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance, Christopher S. Daus; Recreation Supervisor and Mark R. Gilchrist; Assessor/ Bldg. Inspector.

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

**Report of Officers and Committees:**

**ITEM #1** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that Albany Engineering has started cutting the water chestnuts at the reservoir in Guilderland, NY. Mr. Gleason explained that there has been approximately 30 acres cut in the lower end of the reservoir. Albany Engineering will continue cutting the middle portion of the reservoir in about three weeks. Mr. Gleason noted that the middle portion of the reservoir can't be cut yet that the chestnuts are still below the water surface and haven't blossomed.

**ITEM #2** – Mark Gleason; General Manager requested Mark R. Gilchrist; Assessor/Bldg. Inspector to discuss an alley issue with the Council. Mr. Gilchrist informed the Council that there is a paper alley between 21<sup>st</sup> Street and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street east of Broadway. The paper alley is approximately 10' by 20' long. The City has been petitioned by Mr. Jon E. Romano of 24 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to purchase this paper alley. Mr. Gilchrist requested permission from the Council for the next Council Meeting to draft a Resolution authorizing to advertise the closing of the alley and that the City will auction off this paper alley. The Council authorized Mr. Gilchrist to prepare the appropriate legislation for the next meeting.

**ITEM #3** – Mark Gleason; General Manager distributed photos to the Council of the damage done throughout the City from the last rain storm. Mr. Gleason commended David Dressel; Highway Department Supervisor and his staff for a job well done replacing the fencing at Pershing Green Park along with picking up all the tree and leave debris.

**ITEM #4** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that three (3) new police recruits will be sworn in on Friday, July 6, 2007 at 9:30 AM in the Watervliet City Court Room. The new recruits are Lyman Conrad, Jr., Nicholas Pontore and Brian Murray. Mr. Gleason noted that upon completion of their training they will be patrolling the street by April 2008.

**ITEM #5** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that on June 25, 2007, all of the City parks were opened for residents of the City. Mr. Gleason noted that at the Veterans Memorial Pool located on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue the City has sponsored a learn to swim program for City residents and children. Mr. Gleason explained that all people should have the opportunity/ability to swim. Mr. Gleason concluded by saying that he is extremely proud that the City has a Learn to Swim Program. Mr. Gleason stated that you can call his office or the pool to obtain information about the Learn to Swim Program.

**ITEM #6** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that the City will be replacing our computer server. Mr. Gleason explained that the current computer server is approximately eight (8) years old. It is nearly impossible to obtain any new replacement parts for the current server. Mr. Gleason explained that there is money available from the computer equipment account to purchase a new server. In the fall Mr. Gleason will need to make a transfer of funding into this account. The replacement of the computer server will be shut down on Friday, July 13, 2007 at 4:00 PM.

Councilman Diamond thanked the Police, Fire and Department of Public Works crew for their work which was done after the rain storm.

Councilman Diamond asked what the requirement was for swimming in the Veterans Memorial Pool on Second Avenue. Mr. Gleason explained that a child must be at least 40” tall. There is a mark on the pool to assist the lifeguards on that issue. The Learn to Swim Program has been advertised on the Wvliet 17 channel.

**Old Business:**

**ITEM #1** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that the Town of Colonie has sent a communication to the City regarding the sewer line located in the upper/lower dam area. The Town of Colonie has hired Pure Waters to inspect and evaluate the sewer pipe running thru the earthen dam. The report will be available in mid August 2007.

**ITEM #2** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be reimbursing the City \$18,000.00 for the cost of the silt removal at the Witches Tower. The reimbursement money will be sent to the City within a couple of months. Additionally, FEMA informed the City that they will advance the money for the replacement of the flashboards at the hydroelectric facility dam in Guilderland, NY. The advanced payment will only be made if the City obtains the necessary bid quotes. Mr. Gleason noted that the City needs to wait until the water level goes down before the flashboard replacement can be done. All repairs are traditionally done in August when the water level is at its lowest.

**ITEM #3**– Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that at a Council Meeting in August 2006, then Police Chief Jerry Beston requested that the Council place Stop Signs at two different intersections of the City. The locations of the Stop Signs were at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. At that time there was no legislative action taken. Mr. Gleason requested that the Council reconsider this request. The Council authorized Mr. Gleason to have the applicable legislation for the July 19, 2007 Council Meeting.

**New Business:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 8131**- The Council hereby authorizes General Manager Mark Gleason to apply for grant funding from the Albany County Department of Children, Youth and Families. Before voting general Manager Mark Gleason explained that he attended a pre-proposal seminar on this grant program. Mr. Gleason noted that there is grant money available for capital Improvements to the pool area. Mr. Gleason recommends that the grant money be used for new park benches at the pool and for arts/crafts supplies. This grant money can't be used to pay for salaries. Councilman Manning asked if there were any other parks under consideration for this grant money. Mr. Gleason stated that he was also looking into lighting at Clinton Park. Upon motion of Councilman Manning, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8132** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Robert D. Carlson as the representative authorized to act on behalf of the City of Watervliet in all matters related to State assistance under ECL, Article 56, Title for the Lower Dam Project. Before voting General Manager Mark Gleason noted that he would like to discuss both the upper and lower dam at the same time. Mr. Gleason explained that there is approximately 9 million dollars in funding left from the 1996 Clean Water Act Fund. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) stated that the City of Watervliet has a high hazard dam. This high hazard dam places the City in a high priority level for funding under the 1996 Clean Water Fund Act. Mr. Gleason will send the grant proposal application into DEC on Friday, July 6, 2007. Councilman Diamond noted that the City Council should advocate our Senate and Assembly members regarding this grant. Councilman Manning asked how much it would cost to fix the dam areas. Mr. Gleason stated that it will cost 1 million dollars per dam. This is the only funding source available for this project. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilman Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8133** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Robert D. Carlson as the representative authorized to act on behalf of the City of Watervliet in all matters related to State assistance under ECL, Article 56, Title for the Upper Dam Project. Upon motion of Councilman Manning, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**Appropriations and Auditing:**

None

**Public Comment Period:**

- 1.) Frank Souci, 1569 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Watervliet, NY, stated that he is concerned with the speed of vehicles on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. There is no flashing lights or any signs which say children at play. Mr. Souci further stated that the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is a very dangerous intersection which has a lot of accidents. Mr. Souci also expressed his concern about trailers being parked on City streets. He asked if the City had an Ordinance regarding the parking of trailers on City streets. Mr. Gleason explained that there is a trailer Ordinance regarding parking on the City streets. Councilman Diamond stated that the City of Albany has Yield to Pedestrian areas. The pedestrian walkway areas look great and work well. A discussion followed as to where this could be done on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to enhance the betterment for the park area and our senior citizens.
- 2.) Lois Ennis, 206 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Watervliet, NY, stated that last week her husband had a heart attack in their home. When the EMS and ambulance responded the vehicles had to park on the other side of the boulevard due to cars/trucks parked in the boulevard area. The apparatus were unable to make the turn due to the parked vehicles in the boulevard. Mrs. Ennis explained that if her home was on fire that the fire trucks would not be able to respond appropriately. The ambulance personnel had to carry her husband across the boulevard area. Mayor Carlson has requested Police Chief Ron Boisvert to review the Code Book to see if an Ordinance already exists regarding parking in the boulevards. Mayor Carlson stated that if an Ordinance does not exist he will have the law Department draft one for the next meeting.
- 3.) Charles Patricelli, 720 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Watervliet, NY, stated that he would like to address the City Council about the pit bull problem in the City. Mr. Patricelli noted that approximately two years ago his dog was attacked by a pit bull; his dog was attacked once again by a pit bull last week. Mr. Patricelli noted that breed specific legislation is very difficult to pass. Mr. Patricelli requested that the Council research the possibility of passing breed specific legislation regarding vicious dogs. Mr. Patricelli informed the Council that he has legislation from another community regarding this issue for them to review. Councilman Diamond asked how many pit bulls are in the City. Bruce A. Hidley; City Clerk noted that the City does not have a specific breed listing. Mr. Hidley then explained the procedure for getting a new license or renewing a dog license. Mr. Hidley will contact the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets to see if there is an individual listing for just pit bulls available. Mayor Carlson explained to Mr. Patricelli that the pit bull situation is a very serious one that the Council will not take lightly. The Council requested Mr. Gleason to review the

possibilities of putting together pit bull legislation.  
Page Five  
Council Meeting Minutes  
July 5, 2007

- 4.) Christine Chartrand, 626 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Watervliet, NY, also discussed the pit bull situation with the Council. Mrs. Chartrand explained that during the Arsenal City Run a pit bull was running in the street. Additionally, her father was attacked by the Woodburning Warehouse. Mrs. Chartrand noted that she has stopped walking along the Arsenal wall due to the pit bull dangerous dog problem there.
- 5.) Don Clickner of the Watervliet Fire Department noted that at the June 21, 2007 Council Meeting an issue was discussed regarding who the Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O.) was for the City. Mr. Clickner noted that Mr. Gleason was called the C.E.O. at that meeting. Mr. Clickner stated that it seems that the Administration picks and chooses who the C.E.O. is for the City. General Manager Mark Gleason explained that in accordance with the City Charter the Mayor is the C.E.O. of the City. Mr. Clickner stated once again that at the last Council Meeting, General Manager Gleason was called the C.E.O.

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley  
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council