

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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

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 requested Mark R. Gilchrist; Bldg. Inspector/Assessor to address the Council regarding an issue related to the property located at the School District. Mr. Gilchrist explained that in August 2006 two homes were built on Hillside Drive. At that time a survey was submitted to the City by the builder indicating that the road the homes were built on was Hillside Drive. The tax map showed that the land belonged to the City School District. The City hired Kevin O’Hare, Esq. to straighten out this property situation for the City. Mr. O’Hare made a determination that the area in front of the homes was actually Hillside Drive. Mr. Gilchrist noted that as a result of the above problem the City attempted to find a deed to this location. The only deed found was from Ebenezer Wiswall who sold the property to the City in 1937. Mr. Gilchrist explained that at the time the City and School District were one entity. During the 1950’s the City and School District split and became two entities. The City did not transfer the property to the School District. If you look at the deed today the City still owns the property the School District is located at. Before the title to the property can be transferred, the City School District and the City jointly had a survey done of the location. It is very important to figure out what the City actually owns. Mr. Gilchrist further explained that the City will not transfer the entire property. The area along side the parking lot was used as a road access to Hillside Drive. That area will remain as City property to be known as Hillside Drive. Mr. Gilchrist stated that the Council will need to pass legislation to transfer the property to the School District. Mayor Carlson asked about the roadway where the two new homes were built in August 2006. Mr. Gilchrist noted that it is City property but was never designated as a road. The public has always used this area as a roadway, in accordance with New York State Law, this is a roadway.

**ITEM #2** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that at the next couple of Council Meetings Deputy City Clerk Dave Wheatley will tape the Council Meetings. The tapings for the next couple of weeks will be done as a test to work out any problems with taping. Mr. Gleason explained that taping the Council Meeting is being done to better inform the residents of the events ongoing with the City. Mr. Gleason noted that once all has been worked out the taping of Council Meetings will be placed on the City's website and on Vliet 17 the Watervliet Cable Channel.

**ITEM #3** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that he is requesting the Council to schedule a Special City Council Meeting. Mr. Gleason noted that the Special City Council Meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, November 29, 2007 at 7:00 PM. The purpose of scheduling a Special City Council Meeting will be to present the 2008 City Budget to the Council.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**ITEM #1** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that Micheli Contracting expects to complete the Transmission Main Surge Tower work sometime next week.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 8170** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley; City Clerk to advertise once in the official newspaper that the City of Watervliet is seeking proposals from engineering/consulting firms to write and administer Community Development Block Grants and provide professional planning services for Technical Assistance Grants over the next three years. Proposals should be received no later than 10:00 AM on Wednesday, November 28, 2007. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilman Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

#### **APPROPRIATIONS AND AUDITING**

#### **NONE**

Mayor Carlson requested that the Council revert back to New Business. Mayor Carlson stated that he will need to check his schedule to be sure he is available on the evening General Manager requested for the Special City Council Meeting. Mayor Carlson will inform General Manager Gleason tomorrow as to whether he can attend.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Frank Charles – 403 25<sup>th</sup> Street – Watervliet, New York – Mr. Charles discussed traffic problems on 25<sup>th</sup> Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Charles concerns included parking on the curbs, parking on sidewalks, parking the wrong way, blocking entrances to the alleyways and cutting off access to the cut a way for a person who may be wheelchair bound. Mr. Charles has expressed his concern to the Mayor and to other previous administration heads. Mr. Charles feels that this is a quality of life issue. Mr. Charles feels it is unfair that the Police Department is not citing these people when they see this problem.

Frank Charles – 403 25<sup>th</sup> Street – Watervliet, New York – Mr. Charles discussed the truck traffic restriction issue with the Council. Mr. Charles explained that in 1998 the Council passed an Ordinance which stated that there would be no truck traffic between the hours of 8:00 PM until 6:00 AM. Mr. Charles stated that he is aware that the City is being challenged on the legality of this Ordinance. Mr. Charles asked in the interim if the Police Department may be able to enforce other Vehicle and Traffic Law infractions from these truck drivers.

Mr. Gleason stated to Mr. Charles that would willing to meet with Mr. Charles anytime to address his concerns related to both of the above issues.

Joshua Spratt – 1245 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Watervliet, New York – Mr. Spratt asked the Council if there would be a water rate increase in 2008. Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance stated that at the last Council Meeting an Ordinance was passed with no increases in the 2008 water rates.

Gene Thayer – 1215 19<sup>th</sup> Street – Watervliet, New York – Mr. Thayer noted that he received his water bill with a notification that the property taxes will be collected in one installment for 2008. Mr. Thayer doesn't feel that this is fair to the senior citizen community. Mr. Thayer stated that the seniors must come up with the money immediately and if they don't a penalty is imposed. Mr. Thayer recommended that the City consider waiving the interest charge or allow a senior to pay on a monthly budget plan.

Steve Anderson – 1225 19<sup>th</sup> Street – Watervliet, New York – Mr. Anderson discussed the 19<sup>th</sup> Street corridor of Watervliet. Mr. Anderson noted that there were a lot of improvements done to businesses on 19<sup>th</sup> Street east of the railroad tracks. Mr. Anderson questioned whether there would any money available for properties west of the railroad tracks for road work, businesses or homes. Mr. Anderson also requested that the Council consider placing No Parking signs on both corners of 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Grotto Court. Mr. Anderson noted that NYSDOT plows his area of 19<sup>th</sup> Street, the problem is that DOT plows the snow into the sidewalk area causing a hazard. Mr. Anderson questioned whether or not DOT could use the same machine which is used in the Town of Colonie to remove the snow from the sidewalks. Mayor Carlson requested Mark Gleason; General Manager to contact DOT to check on this issue. Mr. Anderson discussed an issue regarding cars speeding down the hill on 19<sup>th</sup> Street between 7:00 until 9:00 AM and 4:00 until 6:00 PM. Mr. Anderson asked if there could be better Police presence using the radar during those hours. Mr. Anderson discussed Code Enforcement issues for 1219 19<sup>th</sup> Street, 3 Grotto Ct. and 4 Grotto Ct. Mr. Anderson concluded by requesting that the City consider placing a No Turn On Red sign at the Northwest corner of 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Grotto Court. Mr. Anderson provide Mark Gleason; General Manager with a copy of his concerns presented tonight.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley  
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council