

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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 Ron Boisvert and Mark R. Gilchrist; Assessor/Building 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 requested Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance to provide the Council with an update on the 2008 budget. Mr. Fahr explained that after the last Council meeting which the budget hearing was conducted a lot of questions were raised. Mr. Fahr explained that he researched what other municipalities do to assist the seniors and disabled in their communities with the once a year tax collection. The Albany County Legislature will present legislation authorizing installment payments for the qualified seniors with low income exemption. They will be able to make two (2) payments, the first by February 15<sup>th</sup>, the second by the end of July. Additionally, low income permanent disabled residents will be included. This is the exact same policy which the City of Albany has adopted. Mr. Fahr thanked Albany County Legislators, Bob Beston, Sean Ward and Phil Steck for sponsoring this legislation. Additionally the due date for the property tax collection will be February 15<sup>th</sup> the same for all homeowners. The late fees will be reduced from 1% to ½% per month for paying late. Councilman Diamond requested to have a definition of what low income senior is. Mark R. Gilchrist; Bldg. Dept. /Assessor explained to the Council that property owners over the age of 65, whose gross income is under \$34,400.00 is eligible for some type of exemption. Incomes under \$20,500.00 receive a 50% reduction in their City, County and School taxes. Mr. Gilchrist noted that there are 209 homeowners that are receiving the low income senior citizen exemption. These are the homeowners who will be eligible to make the two payments on their property taxes. Councilman Diamond thanked Mr. Fahr for his diligent efforts in revising the original tax structure. Mr. Fahr noted that with the ½% penalty taxpayers will still be paying less than the 7% tax increase. Based on an \$80,000.00 assessed valuation home a taxpayer with the 7% tax increase would pay \$1,202.00, if the payment is paid by July 15<sup>th</sup> they will pay \$1,185.00.

**ITEM #2** – Mark R. Gleason; General Manager updated the Council on the 2008 refuse pick-up plan. Mr. Gleason explained that he toured the Sierra Fibers Recyclable Plant. This plant concentrates on the pick-up of paper, tin and plastic products. Sierra Fibers has two (2) recycling facilities in the Capital District, one in Rotterdam, the second in the Port of Albany. Mr. Gleason toured the Albany Plant Facility, he spoke with the plant manager about the City of Watervliet handling its own recyclables pick-up. Mr. Gleason explained that currently the City contracts with Waste Management, the City pays Waste Management \$59.00 per ton to handle the co-mingles, which is the plastic and tins. If the City were to pick-up our own co-mingles and bring it to the Albany Port Facility it would cost \$20.00 per ton. If the City delivered the co-mingles to the Rotterdam Plant it would cost the City no fee at all. Mr. Gleason also discussed paper recycling, the City currently gets nothing for recycling paper. If the City picked up its own paper the City would collect \$30.00 per ton at the Albany Facility. Mr. Gleason noted that if we brought all co-mingles to the Albany Facility that the City would still realize a revenue increase, paper is a lot heavier than the other recyclables. Mr. Gleason stated that this would be a great opportunity for the City. Other Cities use their own garbage truck for pick-up. The City would not need to purchase a new truck to do the recyclables. This is an opportunity for the City to provide residents with better service. Mr. Gleason met with Larry Felix our refuse consultant regarding the issue of purchasing a new garbage truck. Mr. Felix has assured the City that it would only take five (5) to six (6) weeks period to obtain a new truck. Mr. Gleason will meet with Mr. Felix on December 30, 2007 to discuss how many employees will be needed to collect the refuse, what the garbage tonnage is in the City. Mr. Gleason will be requesting Mr. Felix to attend a Council Meeting in January 2008 to report on the rough draft report. This will allow the Council to have a clear direction on which way they wish to go with refuse collection. Mayor Carlson asked what the salary would be for the employees being hired. Mr. Gleason stated that the salary would be \$25,000.00 plus benefits. Mayor Carlson noted that other communities pay their reuse collection employees more to keep them.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1816** – An Ordinance authorizing the execution of a deed to certain premises to the Board of Education of the City School District of Watervliet, New York. Upon motion of Councilman Manning, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Ordinance was approved and adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1817** – An Ordinance adopting the Estimate and fixing the rate to be employed in computing the amount to be collected for the City taxes for the year beginning January 1, 2008. Councilman Manning asked if this was the passing of the budget. Mr. Fahr stated yes, this is the 2.9% tax increase budget. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilman Manning, this Ordinance was approved and adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1818** – An Ordinance adopting the amount to be assessed upon the City for State and County Tax for the year 2008. Upon motion of Councilman Manning, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Ordinance was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8180** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the Mayor of the City of Watervliet to execute all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid or Marchiselli Aid with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project. Mr. Gleason explained that this agreement will cover Phases five (5) and six (6) of the final design of the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Project. Councilman Manning asked if this project is slated to start on time. Mr. Gleason met with Clough Harbour Associates today, during the meeting Clough Harbour noted that construction will begin in the spring of 2008, weather permitting. Councilman Manning asked if this project has already been bid. Mr. Gleason stated that there is a right of way issue which the Council will need to address at the January 3, 2008 Council Meeting. Once the right of way issue is cleared up then DOT will be able to bid the project. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilman Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8181** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the Mayor or a designee to submit an application for financial assistance from the New York State Office for Small Cities. Upon motion of Councilman Manning, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

## **APPROPRIATIONS AND AUDITING**

**RESOLUTION NO. 8174** – The Council hereby authorizes the transfer of funds in the amount of \$4,600.00 from the Police Holiday Pay Account to the Police Overtime Account. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilman Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8175** – The Council hereby authorizes the transfer of funds in the amount \$5,400.00 from the Fire Holiday Pay Account to the Fire Overtime Account. Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance explained that what was left in the Holiday Pay will be transferred into the Overtime Account with Council approval. That does not cover the overtime account, additionally, the City is waiting for \$65,000.00 from the Office of Court Administration. A reimbursement request has been sent in since April 2007. Upon motion of Councilman Manning, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8176** – The Council hereby authorizes the transfer of funds in the amount \$30,000.00 from the Police Payroll Account to the Police Special Wages Account. . Robert A. Fahr explained that this transfer was for Special Wages paid for the Workers Compensation for September, October and November 2007. Upon motion of Councilman Manning, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8177** – The Council hereby authorizes the transfer of funds in the amount \$10,000.00 from the Contingency Account to the Corporation Counsel Miscellaneous Account. Councilman Manning asked how much time does this cover for outside Counsel. Mr. Fahr explained that this is a combination of hiring outside legal Counsel for union contract negotiations and the issue of the school district. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilman Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8178** – The Council hereby authorizes the transfer of funds in the amount \$7,000.00 from the Water Contingency Account to the French's Mills Utility Account. Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance explained that when the Hydro Electric Facility is not running we need to pay the full utility bill. The hydro has been running all month and the City should be up to budget by the end of the year. Upon motion of Councilman Manning, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8179** – The Council hereby authorizes the transfer of funds in the amount \$8,000.00 from the Water Contingency Account to the Water Filtration Overtime Account. Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance explained that after the last two Resolutions there is a zero balance in the Water Contingency Account. This means that if other transfers are needed the Council would need to find the funding from other accounts. Mr. Gleason noted that he does not anticipate the need for overtime in the Water Department as the City received permission from the NYS Department of Health to go to a straight eight hour unmanned shift. This will be a means of cutting the overtime drastically. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilman Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- 1.) William F. Anderson – 5 Ball Place – Watervliet, NY – Mr. Anderson stated to Mayor Elect Manning that he wished him and his new Council the best for 2008. Mr. Anderson also stated to Mayor Robert Carlson that personally he has first hand knowledge of the great things he has done for our community of Watervliet. The many years he worked for him, Mayor Carlson was very dedicated to the citizens of the City of Watervliet. Mr. Anderson noted that without any doubt many citizens of Watervliet will miss him. Mr. Anderson wished Mayor Robert Carlson the best for his future.
- 2.) Chet Gongoleski – 606 24<sup>th</sup> Street – Watervliet, NY – Mr. Gongaleski expressed his displeasure with paying his tax bill all at one time. He feels that the Council is sticking it to the public. Mayor Carlson explained to Mr. Gongoleski that the City does not control the School District bills. Mr. Gongoleski noted that the City did not do a good job regarding the snow removal this past storm. Mayor Carlson explained that the City rescinded the tax collection proposal for eligible seniors. Robert A. Fahr then explained that senior's will be allowed to collect in two installments.

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