

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call showed that Mayor Michael P. Manning, Councilman Charles J. Diamond and Councilwoman Ellen R. Fogarty were present.

Also present from City Administration were: Mark E. Gleason; General Manager, Rosemary Nichols; Deputy General Manager, Yorden C. Huban; Corporation Counsel, Bruce A. Hidley City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, Fire Chief Don Clickner, and Mark R. Gilchrist; Assessor/Bldg. Inspector.

A motion was made and seconded to table the minutes from the previous Council Meeting.

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

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ITEM #1 – Mark Gleason; General Manager requested Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance to present a report to the Council. Mr. Fahr explained that the City just received the six month Operational and Maintenance debt charges from the Albany County Sewer District. The charges came in at \$261,000.00 which proves to be a 9% increase from the previous year. Mr. Fahr noted that with the second half of the year the City will likely be \$30,000.00 short in the budget. Mr. Fahr also discussed a health insurance report which was issued by the New York State Conference of Mayors. Mr. Fahr explained that the report noted that the City of Watervliet pays 1.3 million towards its cost for health insurance of that amount \$727,000.00 or 55% is for the cost of retirees from the City. Mayor Manning asked how does this figure compare to other communities. Mr. Fahr used the City of Cohoes as an example for this scenario. The City of Cohoes has a budget of 2.1 million dollars of which \$145,000.00 or 6.9% of that cost is for retired employees. Mr. Fahr explained that the City of Watervliet pays the second highest amount in the state for the cost of retiree health insurance. This is based on the amount of municipalities who participated in the survey. Mr. Fahr informed the Council that he sent out the Watervliet Arsenal water bill today. Mr. Fahr noted that this bill was down from previous May bill by approximately 5 million gallons. This has resulted in nearly a \$16,000.00 shortfall. The City did reduce the revenue in the water budget this year which puts the City at 47% of the budgeted revenue. A detailed discussion followed on the reason for the water reduction in the Arsenal.

ITEM #2 – Mark Gleason; General Manager requested Rosemary Nichols; Deputy General Manager to discuss a couple issues with the Council. Ms. Nichols explained to the Council that the Planning and Economic Development Department had requested permission from the City Council to make an application to the Preserve New York Program. The Preserve New York Program is jointly administered by the Preservation League of New York State and the New York State Council of the Arts. Ms. Nichols noted that the grant application is to begin preparation of a comprehensive cultural resources inventory for the City to supplement the work already done on the 19th Street Corridor and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The second issue Ms. Nichols has for the Council deals with the Hudson Valley Greenway Communities Grant Program. Ms. Nichols explained that the Planning and economic Development Department requested permission from the City Council to make an application to the Hudson Valley Greenway Communities Grant Program. Ms. Nichols further explained that the grant is for funding to support the drafting of the Zoning Ordinance to support the comprehensive plan research presently approved and funded.

ITEM #3 – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that effective May 1, 2008 (today) the City of Watervliet started picking up its own garbage for the first time in over forty years. Mr. Gleason noted that the newly formed Sanitation Department performed flawlessly and deserves a pat on the back for their work. Mr. Gleason explained that a small amount of residents were confused as to when to put their garbage out. The City was able to effectively pick up this garbage without any problems. It is a great start to this very important program.

ITEM #4 – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that he would like to acknowledge the donation made by Albany Amusement and Schuyler Auto Body. Mr. Gleason noted that each of these businesses in the City will be donating a bike to the Watervliet Police Department for the Bike Patrol Program. Mr. Gleason further stated that the Police Department plans on using the donations to add the existing successful Bike Patrol. There will be a formal Thank you to all the participating businesses and fraternal organizations who donated money for this program.

OLD BUSINESS

ITEM #1 – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that E-Lot Electronics has set Saturday, May 17, 2008 as the electronic recycling day for the City. Mr. Gleason noted that the electronic recycling program will take place in the Hudson Shores Park from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Mr. Gleason explained that City residents will need proof of residency in order to participate in the electronic recycling program. Mr. Gleason stated that there is a list of item that qualify on the E-Lots web site, the City has set up a link to their web site on the City's web site. As a added bonus E-Lot will also take refrigerators and air conditioners. Mr. Gleason concluded by stating that there will be no charge for the disposal of any items.

ITEM #2 – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) formally inspected the Service Reservoir on Rt. 155. Mr. Gleason explained that DEC has formally communicated with the City and has classified the Service Reservoir as a Class B Dam. Mr. Gleason noted that the Class B designation does not have the same restriction as the Class C Upper/Lower Dams have. Mr. Gleason stated that the inspection went well, DEC did point out some additional trees which will need to be removed and an old pump house will need to be removed. Mr. Gleason further stated that DEC informed the City that since this was a low hazard dam that the City's priority will be the upper/lower dams, then the service reservoir. DEC does not expect the City to correct all of the dams at one time.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 8240 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid on behalf of the City regarding the 19th Street Reconstruction Project. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8241 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to appoint Diane Conroy-Lacivita to the part-time position of Director of Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted. Mayor Michael P. Manning then welcomed Mrs. Lacivita to the City of Watervliet staff. Mayor Manning explained what the job duties would be for the Director of Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

RESOLUTION NO. 8242 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to file an application under the 2008 Preserve New York Grant Program and authorizing the Mayor to accept and receive a grant for technical assistance and Cultural Resources Survey purposes. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8244 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to file an application under the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Program and authorizing Mayor Michael P. Manning to accept and receive a grant for planning assistance purposes. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

RESOLUTION NO. 8243 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of funds in the amount of \$14,320.00 from the Police Payroll Account to the Police Operational Account. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- 1.) Erin Franco – 1915 8th Avenue – Mrs. Franco informed the Council that the first Neighborhood Watch meeting was held on April 30, 2008. There was approximately 21 people in attendance. Other in attendance were Chris D'Alessandro of the Albany County District Attorney's Office, Mayor Michael P. Manning, Police Chief Ron Boisvert and Joe Primeau of the Cohoes Neighborhood Watch. Mrs. Franco noted that a power point presentation was shown then a general question and answer period. Mrs. Franco explained that neighbors were asked to identify three areas of concern which was forwarded to Police Chief Boisvert and the District Attorney's Office. Mrs. Franco informed the Council that the next meeting of the Neighborhood Watch Committee would be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. Mark Gleason; General Manager asked if Mrs. Franco was advertising the meetings on Wvliet Channel 17, Mrs. Franco stated that she wanted to keep the group small for now then build on a stronger foundation at a later date.
- 2.) Rosemary Nichols – 1241 19th Street – Ms. Nichols explained that she is Treasurer of the Watervliet Historical Society. The Watervliet Historical Society will be hosting a reception for Civic, Business and Government Leaders of the City. The reception will take place on Friday, May 9, 2008 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Ms. Nichols stated that the purpose of the evening would be to introduce the Historical Society. Its purpose, goals and accomplishments. There will also be several exhibits on display that evening. Ms. Nichols invited all of the City Administration to attend this informal reception.

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council