

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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 Gleason; General Manager, Yorden C. Huban; Corporation Counsel, Rosemary Nichols; Deputy General Manager of Economic Development, 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, Fire Chief Don Clickner and Mark Gilchrist; Assessor/Bldg.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with and approve 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.

Mayor Manning explained that before moving on to the next item which is Officers and Committees he would like to honor and say Thank You to residents of the City who have served active duty in the armed forces.

Mayor Manning requested Sgt. Antonio Pontare and his family to come forward for a presentation. Mayor Manning stated that on behalf of the City of Watervliet he presented Sgt. Pontare with a Certificate of Appreciation for serving in the armed forces and protecting the citizens of the United States.

Mayor Manning stated that the City would like to recognize Capt. John Giroux. Capt. Giroux is off on assignment at Ft. Drum for de-briefing. Mayor Manning explained that his parents are here tonight to accept the Certificate of Appreciation for serving in the armed forces and protecting the citizens of the United States.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**ITEM #1** – Mark Gleason; General Manager requested Rosemary Nichols; Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning make a report to the Council. Ms. Nichols informed the Council that the City is now into the roll out process of the grants that the City has been receiving. Ms. Nichols noted that the housing portion of the CDBG in the Port Schuyler area, the City has been soliciting applications for the \$365,000 to improve the houses in that area. Ms. Nichols explained that the City is also collecting applications for the entire City for housing rehabilitation that will go through Albany County. The City will be the organizing entity which will send the applications down completed. Ms. Nichols further explained that there will be \$750,000 of funding available through this program.

Ms. Nichols stated that the Albany County Action Partnership has a \$400,000 grant process which the City is working with for senior's with single family units. Additionally, the City is working on our own program to put tenants in empty second floor units, primarily for people who are senior citizens. The publicity for the people who assisted the City with these grants has already gone out. The City is announcing for people to come out to encourage people to come to let the City know about these activities. As far as the Comprehensive Plan the Mayor has directed Ms. Nichols to seek applications for an individual to participate as an Alternate Member of the Planning Board and to also become a member of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. The details of the solicitations will be on the web site.

**ITEM #2** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that the Water Department with the assistance of the City of Cohoes Department of Public Works the City was able to clean over 200 catch basins. The catch basin work was done over a two week period, this past two weeks. Mr. Gleason noted that the goal was to do 130 catch basins which would have met the requirement of the MS4 Best Practices Report. Mr. Gleason estimates that the City saved over \$7,500 by working with the City of Cohoes rather than hiring a private contractor. Jim Bulmer; Water Department Supervisor is preparing a report with the locations of the catch basins completed. Nicholas J. Ostapovich will be adding that information to his MS4 Best Practices Report.

**ITEM #3** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that last week the City completed its first Bulk Item Cleanup. Mr. Gleason explained that over 1,000 residents put items out, of that amount only two residents placed too much out for the City to pickup. Mr. Gleason stated that the advertisement for this program was a very important component for making this successful. The Bulk Item Pickup added 100 tons to the City's weekly average. The estimates of the costs for this program including the overtime, tipping fees and rental of a garbage truck come to approximately \$9,249. Mr. Gleason thanked Chris Daus; Sanitation Supervisor and his staff along with the help he got from the Recreation Department and the Highway Garage. Mr. Gleason thanked the City of Cohoes for the rental of a garbage truck. The City of Cohoes saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars by allowing us to utilize their equipment. Mr. Gleason further stated that the City of Cohoes has proven to be a great neighbor, they have really helped the City the past couple of months.

**ITEM #4** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that Jim Verhagen's Haunted House at the DOME was a huge success. Mr. Gleason noted that during a four hour period he had over 1,700 people visit the DOME. Mr. Gleason stated that there were no reports of trouble at either the DOME or in the Port Schuyler of the City. Mr. Gleason thanked Jim Verhagen and his entire crew for all their efforts for the children. It takes overall approximately one month to set up and take down the decorations.

**ITEM #5** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that the second edition of the recycling newsletter will be going out this week with the water bills. Mr. Gleason noted that the City received help stuffing the water bills from Girl Scout Troop #1092. The Girls Scout Troop has requested to work on any other recycling events the City may be involved with. Mr. Gleason noted that this is the same scout troop that was involved with Councilman Diamond's Keep Vliet Neat Program.

Mayor Manning requested that Police Chief Ron Boisvert report on the Halloween Night activity on the City. Police Chief explained to the Council that in accordance with the report of General Manager Gleason that he credits the young adults themselves for behaving in a respectable manner that night. Chief Boisvert stated that it was a pleasure to work that night. Councilman Diamond stated that the residents credit the Police Department for their attention to the Halloween Night matters.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC HEARING** – A Public Hearing regarding those persons who wish to be heard in favor of or in opposition to said Water/Sewer Rent Roll for the period November 1, 2008 thru October 31, 2009.

Before opening the Public Hearing Mayor Manning requested that Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance comment on the Water/Sewer Rent Roll. Mr. Fahr explained that this is establishing the rates for November 1, 2008 thru October 31, 2009. Mr. Fahr noted that there will be no increases in the Water/Sewer Rent Roll for this twelve month period. Mayor Manning opened the Public Hearing for comment.

Joshua Spain – 640 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue – Watervliet asked what the current rates are. Mr. Fahr responded by stating that the current flat rate is \$263.53 per unit. Mr. Spain wanted to know where the water came from. Mr. Gleason noted that the City owns a reservoir in the Town of Guilderland. Mr. Spain feels the prices for water are very expensive and whether the City would consider a metered system. Mayor Manning noted that the City is considering meters, that the initial stumbling block is the cost of the meters. Mr. Gleason explained that there are a lot of ancillary charges in neighboring communities which charge \$40 for water. If you break our average down it is based on an average of 10,000 gallons per month. The City is a very reasonable rate compared to other communities. Mayor Manning stated that on the website we have the survey of water costs from other communities. Towns and Villages are much different as to whether there is a water district and a lot of the infrastructure costs are in you tax bill. Whereas our other costs are all in the water billing. That is just the difference between Cities, Towns and Villages. Mayor Manning noted that your metering point issue is very well taken.

There being no further comment, Mayor Manning closed the Public Hearing.

## NEW BUSINESS

**LOCAL LAW NO. 2-2008** – A Local Law of the City of Watervliet establishing and imposing a scale of charges for the use of the Watervliet Sewer System. Mayor Manning explained that this Local Law fixes the rate for the next two billing cycles. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Local Law was approved and adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1837** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York providing that changes be made to Section 266-2, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Watervliet, wherein rates are set for the use of water supplied by the City. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Ordinance was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8318** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the City to participate in the Explore NY 400 Community Program and that Diane Conroy-LaCivita shall serve as the Chairperson of the Explore NY 400 Community Program Planning Committee for the City. Before voting Mark Gleason; General Manager explained that the Explore NY 400 Program is a year long celebration of Henry Hudson and Samuel Champlain's voyage up the Hudson River. Mr. Gleason noted that by becoming a part of this program it will give the City access to numerous education programs being put on next year. It will also allow the City to participate in celebration activity throughout the year. Mr. Gleason noted that other communities already participating include Cohoes, Troy, Rensselaer and Clifton Park. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8319** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the cancellation of the November 20, 2008, meeting of the City Council. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8320** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and approves the Snow Removal Emergency Policy. Before voting Mark Gleason; General Manager explained that this Policy adds the language recommended by Councilman Diamond. The policy includes cars that are towed to Hudson Shores Park have 14 days to pick up the vehicle, they pay the fine and tow charge. If the vehicle is not picked up within 14 days an impound charge of \$30.00 per day will be charged. There will be additional informational meetings at the Elks and Watervliet Elementary School regarding the Snow Emergency Policy. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8321** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and approves the Flex Time Work Schedule for City Hall Administration Staff employees. Before voting Councilman Diamond explained that the Resolution speaks to administrative and personnel issues. Councilman Diamond feels it is the duty of the City Manager to either approve or disapprove the authorization of flex time work schedules. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond this Resolution was tabled.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8322** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley; City Clerk to advertise once in the official newspaper that the City will receive bids on Friday, November 21, 2008 at 11:00 A.M. for a medium size dump/salter combo truck and chassis with snow plow. Before voting Mark Gleason; General Manager explained that the truck will be purchased through CHIP'S funding and will be used for plowing and salting in December. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8323** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to file an application under the New York State Main Street Grant Program and authorizing Mayor Michael P. Manning to accept and receive a grant for Community Development purposes. Before voting Rosemary Nichols; Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning informed the Council that the NYS Main Street Program is unintended to supplement the CDBG monies the City has for the Port Schuyler section of the City. The City will be working on this with businesses thru February 2009. This will be done to support a three block section of businesses of Port Schuyler. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8324** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute an agreement for utility work between the City and National Grid for the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project. Before voting Mark Gleason; General Manager explained that this will allow the City to put ten catch basins offset and not to move the gasoline recently installed by national Grid. This agreement will save thousands of dollars on the 19<sup>th</sup> Street reconstruction Project. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8325** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute an agreement for a three year period commencing on January 1, 2009 and ending on December 31, 2011 for the Capital Region Solid Waste Management Partnership Planning Unit Recycling Coordinator Intermunicipal Agreement. Before voting Mark Gleason; General Manager explained that the City participates in the Answers partnership in order to use the Albany Rapp Road Landfill. The Albany Landfill needs to expand, DEC has required that Albany revise its policy. The City will need to join the newly formed Answers Capital Region Waste Management Partnership in order to use the landfill. In this agreement the Partnership will need to hire a Recycling Coordinator. The cost to the City will be \$4,500.00 per year. This coordinator will be a resource for the City Recycling Coordinator Chris Daus. By accepting this agreement the City can piggy back on work done by the partnership. As a member of the partnership the City can adopt a plan that they have already adopted and approved by DEC. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8326** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves the appointment of General Manager Mark Gleason to the Capital Region Solid Waste Management Partnership Committee for a three year period commencing on January 1, 2009 and ending on December 31, 2011. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8327** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to file an application in cooperation with the Town of Colonie and the Village of Menands under the Capital District Transportation Committee Linkage Planning Program for the year 2009 – 2010. Additionally, if the application is successful, authorizing the City to expend \$2,750.00 as a partial match for a grant totaling \$50,000.00. Before voting Rosemary Nichols; Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning is an additional grant application through the Capital District Transportation Committee Linkage Planning which is intended to identify transportation issues associated with the increased use of the Watervliet Arsenal. The coordinated effort will allow the City to accommodate the traffic so that it does not deteriorate the quality of life in Port Schuyler. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8328** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute an agreement between The Arsenal Partnership and Technology Partnership LTD and the City for a license and use agreement. Before voting Mayor Manning explained that with all the work ongoing in the Watervliet Arsenal regarding the Extended Use Lease (EUL), Economic Development Grant and another pending Economic Development Grant. The City has decided to get some space in the Arsenal so that staff members have a place to meet and work. Mayor Manning noted that the City has worked out a very low rate to lease some space with the Partnership. The EUL is part of the plan to develop 57 acres inside the Arsenal. Bids will be submitted shortly for the EUL and will be opened in December for the plans development portion of this project. This will be the headquarters for all of the Economic Development and the EUL work the City is involved with. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8329** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes a Harassment and Discrimination Policy for all City employees. Before voting Mayor Manning explained that this is an effort to update and make sure that all of the City procedures are in place. This policy was not in place and should have been. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

#### **APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING**

**RESOLUTION NO. 8330** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of funds from the Fire Training/Education Account to the Fire Medical Supplies Account in the amount of \$5,000.00. Before voting Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance explained that both Resolutions tonight have to do with the new ambulance. Mr. Fahr noted that both of these transfers are budget neutral. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8331** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of funds from the Fire Promotional Account to the Fire Operation Supplies Account in the amount of \$9,000.00. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance informed the Council that on Thursday, December 4, 2008, the General Manager will have a budget presentation for the Council that evening. On December 11, 2008 will be the Public Hearing and on December 18<sup>th</sup> will be the vote on the 2009 budget along with the County levy.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

1.) Scott Skinner – 616 7<sup>th</sup> Street – Watervliet, New York – Mr. Skinner made a suggestion that the City Council conduct the budget meeting somewhere that senior citizens can attend without climbing three flights of stairs. Mayor Manning noted that this is a good suggestion and will be moved to another location.

There being no further comment Mayor Manning closed the Public Comment Period.

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