

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2009 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, Bruce A. Hidley; City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance, Fire Chief Don Clickner, Police Chief Ron Boisvert and Mark R. Gilchrist; Assessor/Bldg. Inspector.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with and approve the minutes from the previous Council Meeting.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ITEM #1 – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that he received a call from Kevin Shufelt owner of the Rusty Anchor regarding the goose problem in Hudson Shores Park. Mr. Gleason noted that Mr. Shufelt was chased by the geese in the park. Mr. Gleason went to the park to review this problem he was able to count at least 20 adult geese and 34 baby geese. A typical goose will produce an average of 3 pounds of waste per day. With that statistic this comes out to over 60 pounds of waste per day. Mr. Gleason noted that this is becoming a very serious problem in the park area. The City has tried solutions to get rid of the geese such as placing fake dogs and allowing dogs in the park. None of these solutions have eliminated the goose problem. One of the main problems is the patrons in the park feeding the geese. This practice must be stopped. Mr. Gleason would like the Council to consider a policy whereby signs can be posted stating **NO FEEDING THE GEESE AT HUDSON SHORES PARK**. This would be the first step to try and alleviate this growing problem.

ITEM #2 – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that on Friday, June 5, 2009 the Sanitation Department will implement a new system for sweeping the streets. The City will continue to sweep the streets as they have every day. Signs were posted on 3rd Avenue from 26th Street to 15th Street on the west side. There will be no parking, this will allow the sweeper to make one long clean sweep of this part of the street. On Tuesday, June 9, 2009, signs will be posted on the east side for the 3rd Avenue from 26th Street to 15th Street for the sweeper to do the same thing. Mr. Gleason stated that this is a test run which the Sanitation Department will try. Mr. Gleason feels that by doing this new system of sweeping every City street will be cleaned at least once in addition to the daily sweeping which is done.

ITEM #3 – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that nearly 70 summer employment applications were submitted for consideration. Mr. Gleason explained that the summer applications were distributed beginning in April and were closed for distribution on May 29. The bulk of the summer help will work 10 hours per week reporting to the Recreation and Sanitation Department. The City will have Counselors in each park who will oversee games and arts and crafts programs. Mr. Gleason noted that our summer help will begin on Monday, June 29, 2009. The summer employment program will run for eight weeks ending August 21, 2009.

ITEM #4 – Mark Gleason; General Manager discussed with the Council an issue with the Hydroelectric Facility in Guilderland, New York. Mr. Gleason stated that over the weekend the hydro experienced a broken oil pump. Mr. Bessa of Albany Engineering recommended that the City shut down the hydro for the planned overall maintenance. Mr. Gleason explained that the biggest maintenance item would be the replacement of a bearing. This work will take approximately eight weeks to repair. With the low prices of electricity and the dry spring being experienced this would be a perfect time for the maintenance work.

ITEM #5 – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that the July 2, 2009 City Council Meeting will be cancelled due to the July 4th holiday.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 8438 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the participation of Watervliet, Belgium in the City of Watervliet Quadricentennial Celebration. Before voting Mark Gleason; General Manager explained that the City has diplomats from Belgium who will be attending this very special celebration. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8439 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes General Manager Mark Gleason to execute a rental agreement with DeCrescente Distributing Co. Inc. for a refrigerated trailer. Before voting Bruce A. Hidley explained that DeCrescente Distributing is now requiring a rental agreement. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8440 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute an amended agreement between the City of Watervliet and the Town of Guilderland for the sale of and purchase of untreated water. Before voting Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance explained that with the different ongoing negotiations with the Town of Guilderland the City will be increasing the revenue to the taxpayers from \$464,000.00 per year to \$730,000.00 for the next three years. Mr. Fahr noted that with this additional money the City will be able to pay for some Capital Improvements without borrowing any money. Mayor Manning explained that there was an existing contract in place that is in mid cycle for raw water. Some of this negotiation has to do with building a joint Filtration Plant in the Town of Guilderland. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8441 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes in accordance with New York State General Municipal Law, Section 92 and New York State Military Law, Section 242, the partial paid leave of absence to Patrolman Joshua Spratt for his engagement in the performance of ordered active duty for training in the Army National Guard. Before voting Mark Gleason; General Manager explained that Patrolman Spratt has been re-activated in the Army National Guard. This Resolution will allow partial payments to Patrolman Spratt while he is serving in the Army National Guard. The City will be making up the salary difference while he is serving our country. Mr. Gleason noted that this practice has been done by the City for other employees called to active service. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

Mayor Manning asked Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance when the Council could expect the mid year report. Mr. Fahr stated that the report will be available in July that he was just waiting for the second payment sales tax report. Mayor Manning asked Mr. Fahr when he intended to begin 2010 budget workshops. Mr. Fahr responded by saying that he will begin sitting with a particular Department Head scheduled for June 18, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

Mayor Manning distributed a proposal from the Watervliet Little League to expand their territory in the park. The proposal included putting in a Pee Wee field. Mayor Manning explained that Brotherhood Park would lose their basketball courts in front of the swings. Mayor Manning noted that this proposal is for consideration only.

Mayor Manning provided all in attendance with an update on the new ambulance service. Mayor Manning explained that there have been 373 transports through May 2009. The City has billed approximately \$276,000.00. Mayor Manning noted that the percentage uninsured is running below what the City budgeted. Additionally, the last factors on how well the City does the collection efficiency which won't be know until the end of the year. Mayor Manning noted that there have been no major issues to report on as of this date.

Mayor Manning provided all in attendance with an update on the Delta Dam Hydroelectric Facility. Mayor Manning explained that all is proceeding along with the design of the plant and discussion with canals to rent the land. It was also noted that the City has met with our bond attorney's and municipal bond agency to apply for zero percent interest bonds for part of the financing. Mayor Manning stated that the application for the project is due in August. The City also plans to conduct a SEQR which will require a Public Hearing in that area. Mayor Manning indicated that there has been a lot of questions being raised from groups in that area who want to know what are going on wit this project. There is also a possibility to enter this project into the newly released NYS Empire State Development Corporation. You actually have to apply in that area due to the fact that the City is not from there.

Mayor Manning explained that the Arsenal Partnership as part of the first phase of the EUL plans to build a combined heat and power plant to replace the steam generation system. This is a \$25 million dollar project and they have requested a letter of support. Mayor Manning has sent the letter of support as requested by the Partnership.

Mayor Manning explained that the Comprehensive Plan Committee has kicked off. A Citizen Advisory Committee has been formed which is being led by Paul Gentile as Chairman. There are a dozen other residents working on the committee with a good cross section of people. Mayor Manning noted that the meetings will be public participation meetings which will be posted on the website and Vliet Channel 17.

Mayor Manning discussed the Quadricentennial Celebration which will be held in Hudson Shores Park on Sunday, June 14, 2009. Mayor Manning explained that the City is trying to have the non-motorized water sport docks in place. These docks will allow the City to dock a historic Dutch Sailing Barge. Those in attendance will be able to take tours of the boat. If the docks are not available then the City will speak to Kevin Shufelt of the Rusty Anchor Restaurant to see if the City could use his docks. General Manager Mark Gleason explained that Dave Dressel along with the Department of Public Works staff have been working very hard to complete the installation of the docks. Mr. Gleason thanked the Department of Public Works for all their hard work on this project. Mr. Gleason also noted that Kevin Shufelt has given the City permission to utilize his docks if necessary. Mayor Manning further explained that as people are seeing the construction of the docks that offers are being made to participate.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

John McAvoy – 913 19th Street – Watervliet, NY – Mr. McAvoy discussed the Community Development Home Improvement Program which the City is undertaking. Mr. McAvoy stated that the work orders are given to the homeowner. The homeowner then contacts contractors and controls the estimates. Mr. McAvoy feels that this is a bad idea that the work orders should be taken out of the homeowners hands. The estimate should be in a sealed bid opened by a representative of the City who is in charge of the program. Mr. McAvoy stated that he is working on the same Community Development work in other communities. Mr. McAvoy also feels that all work should be done by NYS Building Code. The bid should be on the exact same material for all contractors. Councilman Diamond asked if the communities you named if the material and bidding specifications are different from what the City of Watervliet does. Mr. McAvoy answered yes, that he has brought the information with him. Mr. McAvoy explained that he has spoken with Rosemary Nichols; Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning and that he also wanted to address the Council with his concerns. Mark Gleason; General Manager requested Mr. McAvoy to stop by his office on Friday. Mayor Manning stated that this would make the process better, not a violation of what the City currently does. Mayor Manning further stated that the City will review his comments.

Robert Moquin – 605 16th Street – Watervliet, NY 12189 – Mr. Moquin stated that he was here to discuss a tenant situation whereby someone can call the City regarding potential tenant candidates. Mayor Manning noted from what Mr. Moquin discussed that he was looking for some type of screening process. Mayor Manning asked Mark Gilchrist Assessor/Building Inspector if the City kept any kind of file such as this. Mr. Gilchrist responded by saying no. Mayor Manning noted that Mr. Moquin may be able to send a Freedom of Information Request to the Watervliet City Court regarding tenant evictions. Mr. Gilchrist explained that the Albany County District Attorney's Office has a landlord program which Mr. Moquin may want to look into. Mr. Moquin explained that once you rent to someone it takes over 4 months to have a tenant evicted. Mayor Manning explained that the City has launched a program where the homeowner does not have to manage the tenants (Apartment Management Program). There are funds to assist the homeowner to fix up the apartment then the Housing Authority would handle the landlord end such as screening and collecting the rent. The City can't compile data related to evictions throughout the City.

There 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 to adjourn into Executive Session the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council