

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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, Mark Gilchrist, Assessor/Building Inspector, Police Chief Ron Boisvert and Fire Chief Don Clickner.

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

Before beginning the Reports of Officers and Committees Mayor Michael P. Manning requested that Jim VerHagen and his entire Haunted House Committee stand to be recognized. At this time Mayor Manning read a proclamation on behalf of the City Council and all the residents of the City of Watervliet to the Haunted House Committee honoring them for their hard work and dedication on making the Haunted House a very successful event Halloween night.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ITEM #1 – Mark Gleason, General Manager presented the City Council with a power point presentation on the 2010 City of Watervliet budget. Mr. Gleason explained that the City Administration has delivered a lean, vigilant 2010 budget. A budget that helps the residents of the City of Watervliet deal with rough economic times. Mr. Gleason noted that the City can't expect any help from Federal, State or County Governments. The 2010 budget does not expect help, does not use gimmicks and does not raid our fund balance. The 2010 budget does not cut services, does not involve lay-offs and will continue to plan for the future. The 2010 budget stands on its own thanks to the hard work and careful decisions made by the City Council and the Administrative employees of the City of Watervliet. The 2010 budget expenses breakdown are as follows:

Police	-	\$2,546,505.00	
Fire	-	\$2,150,750.00	
Highway	-	\$ 453,842.00	
Recreation	-	\$ 244,518.00	
Debt	-	\$ 557,040.00	
Administration	-	\$1,521,491.00	
Insurances	-	\$1,061,730.00	
General Govt. items	-	\$ 636,184.00	
Refuse/Recycling	-	\$ 485,236.00	
The total 2010 expense costs are			\$10,206,296.00

This proves to be a budget increase of \$353,483.00 or 3% from 2009 to 2010. Mr. Gleason further explained that the 2010 retirement costs have increased by a total of 22%.

The 2010 budget revenues breakdown as follows:

Sales Tax	-	\$3,015,000.00 (4% decrease)
Non-Property tax	-	\$ 600,000.00 (Flat)
Per Capita Assistance	-	\$1,300,313.00 (Flat)
Recoveries/Grants	-	\$ 264,500.00 (38% Increase)
Property Taxes	-	\$3,840,983.00
Permits/Fees/Fines	-	\$ 239,500.00 (Flat)
Misc/Other	-	\$ 361,000.00 (51% Increase)
Transfers	-	\$ 585,000.00
The total 2010 Revenues are		\$10,206,296.00

The City of Watervliet is proposing a 2.9% tax increase for the 2010 budget. The 2.9% tax increase will cost the average homeowner in Watervliet an extra \$34.00 in 2010 or \$2.83 per month. This figure is based on a home assessed at \$79,000.00. There will be no layoffs, amortizing pension payments, cuts to the snow plowing account, cuts to the contingency account, false/inflated revenues and raiding our fund balance. Mr. Gleason then read a letter from Noah Nadelson, CIPFA, Vice President of Munistat Services, Inc. The letter congratulated the City of Watervliet on its recent upgrade from Standard and Poors from a BBB- to an A-. The letter noted that this is a truly great turn-around story and the upgrade from Standard and Poors speaks volumes about the confidence that they have in the City's management, and the ability to maintain a improved financial position. Mr. Gleason stated that the City does face some challenges which include.

2010 census loss of a potential 400 residents equaling \$100,000.00, Sales Tax revenues loss which would equal a 3.5% tax increase, shrinking aid and limited land growth (98% of land has been developed). Mr. Gleason further stated that the City has formed a Census Count Committee. The committee has been very active and will review the census count for errors. Mr. Gleason further explained that the City has a healthy Reserve Fund of \$830,000.00. Strong reserve accounts for future projects. Mr. Gleason discussed the City's two year old Planning and Revitalization Department which has been working with the Arsenal Partnership along with other groups wanting to settle in Watervliet. The City is also working very hard to continue its work on a plan to receive P.I.L.O.T. payments for businesses in the Arsenal.

The 2010 Water Fund Budget is a 2.9 million dollar budget. There will be no increase in Water Rates for 2010. The highlight of the Water Fund was the 8th Avenue Water Main Replacement Project. This project was completed by using budgeted funds only, absolutely no borrowing.

The 2010 Sewer Fund is a 1 million dollar budget.. There will be no increase in the Sewer Rates for 2010. The sewer budget includes a \$500,000.00 payment to the Albany County Sewer District. The highlight of the sewer funds is the completion of the Upper Dam and Spillway.

The next steps for the 2010 budget process will be a Public Hearing on December 3, 2009 at 7:00 PM. Then the City Council will vote on the budget December 17, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

The 2010 City of Watervliet budget will be available on the City's web site and in hard copy form on Monday, November 23, 2009. The hard copies may be obtained from the City Clerk's office.

Mr. Gleason then thanked the following:
Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance
Pam DiNuzzo, Deputy Director of Finance
Phyllis Carroll, Administrative Assistant

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1853 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes an amendment to the Code of Ordinances, City of Watervliet, Chapter 260, “Vehicle and Traffic”, Article IV, “Handicapped Parking”, Section 260-30 (A) (C), “Sign Locations”. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Ordinance was approved 2 Ayes and 1 Nay.

RESOLUTION NO. 8501 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves the service agreement with the City of Watervliet and EMS Charts, Inc., in the amount of \$2,450.00 and further authorizes and directs Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute the same. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8502 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Hacker & Murphy to do all things necessary to effectuate the terms and conditions of the settlement with D.P. Partners, L.P. for the assessment of 1601 Broadway, Watervliet, New York for the years 2008 and 2009. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8507 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and directs Police Chief Ron Boisvert and or his designee to remove the Handicap Access Point sign in front of 408 3rd Avenue, Watervliet, New York. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8508 – 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 will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 7:00 PM for those persons who wish to be heard regarding the Estimate of revenue and Expenditures for the fiscal year 2010 commencing January 1, 2010. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

RESOLUTION NO. 8503 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of funds from the Fire Promotional Account to the Fire Overtime Account in the amount of \$10,000.00. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8504 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of funds from the Fire Payroll Account to the Fire Special Wages Account in the amount of \$11,700.00. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8505 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of funds from the Health Insurance Premium Account to the Co-Payment Reimbursement Account in the amount of \$10,500.00. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8506 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of funds from the Sewer Contingency Account to the Sewer Maintenance Account in the amount of \$12,500.00. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

Before opening the Public Comment Period Mayor Manning had a couple of announcements.

Mayor Manning explained that on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 4:00 PM will host its annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Mayor Manning further explained that the Tree Lighting will include the best dressed Elf contest, a chili cook off, horse drawn rides and Donnie Elvis for entertainment.

Mayor Manning explained that the Hydroelectric Facility will be back on line at the end of December. A detailed discussion followed on the work involved with the repairs to the hydroelectric facility. Mayor Manning also noted that the City shut down the hydro during the best time of the year for revenue purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Michael Calacone – 401 2nd Avenue – Watervliet, New York noted to the City Council that the Watervliet Police Department is very much under appreciated. Mr. Calacone explained that the Police work in a extremely professional manner and maintain the excellent quality of life in the City.

Mr. Calacone discussed Pershing Green Park. Mr. Calacone is extremely grateful for all the work which has been completed to date. Mr. Calacone noted that this is the only park dedicated to a national hero. Mr. Calacone looks forward to working with the City in the spring on future improvements to the park.

There being no further comments, 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, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council