

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010 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 and Councilwoman Ellen R. Fogarty were present.

Also present from City Administration were: Yorden C. Huban; Corporation Counsel, Rosemary Nichols; Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning, Bruce A. Hidley; City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, Fire Chief Don Clickner and Police Chief Ron Boisvert.

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

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ITEM #1 – Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council requested Police Chief Ron Boisvert to address the Council with a couple of Public Safety issues. Police Chief Boisvert explained to the Council that the Council has in front of them a memo with some Public Safety recommendations for their consideration. Police Chief Boisvert discussed the proposal regarding City Code Ordinance Section 260.30 (c) which designates locations for handicap parking signs in the City. Chief Boisvert noted through his analysis it was discovered that there are four listed in the Code, three of which are no longer valid. Chief Boisvert is requesting that the Council consider removing those items from the Code. Chief Boisvert noted that 2506 4th Avenue is still a valid location for handicap parking. The following needs the Council approval for removal from the Code, 631 2nd Avenue, 1622 7th Avenue and 1881 9th Avenue. Chief Boisvert received correspondence from the property owners of 1401 – 1403 Broadway requesting consideration for designated temporary parking in front of Gianna's Pizza Shop located at 14th Street and Broadway. They have requested temporary parking the interest of parking in front of their business. Chief Boisvert's general assessment is that this request would not be feasible. First, there is a CDTA Bus Stop that can not be removed. Chief Boisvert did note that a possible solution would be for temporary parking on the south side of 14th Street which would give the business a few more parking spaces. Chief Boisvert also received correspondence regarding the traffic flow on Grotto Court. Chief Boisvert explained that Grotto Court is a pretty tight parcel in the community that is a two way street. Chief Boisvert noted that it is difficult to enter and exit Grotto Court from 19th Street. This often times requires the motorist to stop in traffic to make the turn. Chief Boisvert's recommendation is to post the Southeast corner as No Parking from here to corner for approximately 20 feet. This would allow more turning radius not only for vehicular traffic but for public safety apparatus. Additionally, is to designate Grotto Court One Way Northbound to Ball Place. Chief Boisvert noted that this proposal would create a traffic flow which all residents could live with. It would impact just a few residents on the north end of Grotto Court. Chief Boisvert presents these proposals for the Council to consider for future legislation.

ITEM #2 – Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council requested Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning to discuss an issue with the Council regarding the proposed Resolution No. 8562 which is on tonight's legislative agenda. Ms. Nichols noted that Resolution No. 8562 has to do with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the NYS Main Street applications. Ms. Nichols explained that this is a necessary first step as the City puts together applications for additional improvements in the City thru the CDBG Program. Ms. Nichols further explained that the City was successful in obtaining funding for these programs two years ago for the activity just being finished up in Port Schuyler. The City intends to seek the same type of funding for projects throughout the City. In order to apply for this type of funding the City must is to have a general discussion with the community about what the City should be doing with these applications.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1858 – FIRST READING – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York amending Chapter 72, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Watervliet in relation to residency requirements of City employees. Mayor Manning explained that under the collective bargaining agreement with the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) the City will allow Police Officers to live outside the City after a period of three years.

ORDINANCE NO. 1859 – FIRST READING – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York amending Chapter 260, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Watervliet in relation to Vehicle and Traffic. Mayor Manning explained that this Ordinance gives the City permission to tow and store vehicles during a snow emergency.

RESOLUTION NO. 8559 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby elects to provide additional benefits of Section 384-e of the Retirement and Social Security Law. Before voting Mayor Manning explained that this is part of the recently agreed upon Memorandum of Agreement with the Police Benevolent Association for retirement purposes. Upon motion of Mayor Manning, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8560 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby elects to provide the additional benefits of Section 384-e (b) of the Retirement and Social Security Law. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Mayor Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8561 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute all necessary Agreements, Certifications or Reimbursements for Federal Aid and/or Marchiselli Aid on behalf of the City with the New York State Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of the 19th Street Reconstruction Project. Upon motion of Mayor Manning, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8562 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk to advertise once in the official newspaper that a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. and on Friday, April 9, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. at the J. Leo O'Brien Facility Senior Citizens Center for the purpose of hearing such persons who wish to be heard in reference to the City submitting an application to the Office of Community Renewal 2010 Community Development Block Grant Program in April 2010 and an application to the Office of Community Renewal for the 2010 New York Main Street Program. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Mayor Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8563 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves and authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute on behalf of the City of Watervliet, the New York Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for Water/Wastewater Providers with the New York Water and Waste Water Response Network. Mayor Manning explained that at the February 18th City Council Meeting a presentation was conducted from WARN. This is a mutual aid system for infrastructure side. This will allow the City if a situation arises to get assistance from other municipal Public Works Departments. Upon motion of Mayor Manning, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance discussed with the Council regarding the Aid and Incentive for Municipalities (AIM) payment for the City of Watervliet. Mr. Fahr noted that the AIM payment was to be a reduction between two to five percent based on the calculation of State Aid over the General Fund budget. The City of Watervliet will be losing 5% of its State Aid because the State is combining all of the budgets, (General, Water and Sewer Funds). This will cost the taxpayers of the City approximately \$65,000.00 shortfall in the next State Aid payment.

Mayor Manning explained that the City was notified that the City can apply for nearly \$100,000.00 in multi-model funding to the extension of the 19th Street Reconstruction Project. The City will be doing the water and sewer on Grotto Court and Wiswall Avenue. This project was not originally covered by the Stimulus Funding now the City will save the \$100,000.00.

Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk explained that the City Council Meeting scheduled for March 18, 2010 has been cancelled. Mr. Hidley noted that the meeting has been re-scheduled for March 25, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Manning explained that Councilman Charles J. Diamond had to resign due to a conflict with a new job. Mayor Manning noted that his office will be soliciting interest in the position and interviewing potential candidates. Mayor Manning further explained that he and Councilwoman Fogarty would then have to appoint someone to the position on the Council to fill the unexpired term then run in the next general election cycle. Mayor Manning is accepting cover letters and resumes in his office. The City will try to move along very quickly on this issue so that it does not interfere with the next political cycle.

Mayor Manning announced that there will be a formal groundbreaking at VanRensselaer Village Apartments. This is a stimulus funded project to down size and totally renovate the existing buildings. The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Friday, March 5, 2010 at 11:00 A.M.

Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk explained that the Census 2010 questionnaire will be sent to all residents beginning March 15, 2010. Mr. Hidley also explained that the Census Bureau will be setting up Questionnaire Assistance Center at the J. Leo O'Brien Facility Library starting March 19, 2010 from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Mayor Manning emphasized the importance of sending in the response to the Census Bureau as the City could have the potential of losing approximately \$125,000.00 in sales tax revenue. Mayor Manning noted that the questionnaire is not that hard to fill out.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Donna DeFlorio – 2110 3rd Avenue – Watervliet, New York – Ms. DeFlorio asked the Council about the doors not working at the Dollar Store in the Price Chopper Plaza. This particular code violation involves the doors having to be pulled in when leaving creating a safety hazard. Ms. DeFlorio questioned how the Dollar Store gets the Certificate of Occupancy with the doors in that condition. Fire Chief Don Clickner explained that the Dollar Store is on a three year inspection cycle which is up this year. The Fire Chief will look into this issue immediately.

Councilwoman Fogarty requested that before closing the meeting that the Council say Thank you to Councilman Diamond for his 16 years of service on the City Council. Councilwoman Fogarty explained that Councilman Diamond was always very enthusiastic along with how much he loved working for the residents of the City of Watervliet. Mayor Manning suggested that the Council could do something at the next meeting to recognize the tremendous amount of work that Councilman Diamond did for the City of Watervliet.

There being no 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, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council