

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011 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, Councilwoman Ellen R. Fogarty and Councilman Nicholas W. Foglia 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, Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning, Mark Gilchrist, Assessor/Building Inspector 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** – Mark Gleason, General Manager requested Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning to address the Council. Ms. Nichols explained that she wanted to address the Council on issues her department was working on this year. The major activity that her department is engaged in at this time of year is the role out of grant money which was received. This is to make sure that what the City made out the application for is in fact on track to be finished in the appropriate timeframe. The City has four major grants in house currently being worked on. The Senior Rehabilitation Grant which is intended to assist low income seniors with major renovations to their property with a maximum of \$25,000.00 per residence. The Public Facilities Grant the Dry River and Upper/Lower Dam Projects. This was a simple process it is a single contract dealing with a professional handling the project. It was noted that Fraser Engineering Associates is the professional contracted company. The City is working on a Planning Grant with a primarily Economic Development component. Part of this is the Request for Proposal which is being asked for in tonight's legislation. It basically has two primary elements. The first is the business overlay zone helping the City to draft that which was part of the Comprehensive Plan. The second is the Economic Gardening. That is beginning to grow more businesses in the City of Watervliet and using the planning money to figure out how to do that. The Division of Homes and Community Renewal have a different pot of money from the NYS Main Street which is business support in the Port Schuyler section of the City together with the rehabilitation of the Erie Canal Park. There will be a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 3:00 PM at the park. This is the report on grants already received. Ms. Nichols noted that April and May are the busiest months due to the CDBG and the other BHCR grants are due. The City sets out in February to decide which ones to apply for. This is the time to gather the data together and shaping the grants so that by the end of April and May the City will have finished a packet of grants to ask for which the City into the next year would. This grant cycle the City is not looking for any infrastructure grants. The City may ask for a small planning grant later in June. The City is seeking new grants on the other side of the agency. If something were to happen to CDBG or BHCR the City would be out of business. There are other monies available from BHCR starting in a modest way to reach out for that funding.

In January the City made a strategic plan as to how the City would pursue economic development funding for the year. Ms. Nichols department will be coming to the Council at the next meeting to have a package of the applications that will be ready to send to the agency. There will be a dialogue between the City and BHCR about how the applications get shaped. The City gets an approval to go forward at which time the City has 60 days to finish the applications. The forth element is the Comprehensive Plan implementation. The City has an enormous inconsistency between our comprehensive plan and the existing zoning laws. Part of the application which is before the Council tonight would allow the City to ask for an RFP to ask for advice. The other portion is to take a limited number of the list of things that the City has listed as short term goals and see if the City can do some of them. This will not be a priority until at least June. The City has an application before NYSERDA which would allow the City to energy retrofit and to provide energy retrofit assistance for the businesses and public in the City. Ms. Nichols explained that this application was submitted at the end of February. The City has not yet been interviewed at this point. Ms. Nichols concluded by stating that this is an overview of the activities ongoing from her department.

**ITEM #2** – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that the City Spring Flushing Program will begin on April 15, 2011. The Flushing Program will run until approximately May 27, 2011. Resident may notice a discoloration of water during the flushing. Mr. Gleason noted that if this discoloration occurs just let your water run a few minutes. If the discoloration continues to exist please contact the Water Department.

**ITEM #3** – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that the week of April 11 thru April 15, 2011 will be the City's Bulk Item Week. During this week City of Watervliet residents will be able to dispose of bulk items for free. Mr. Gleason noted that residents must follow the guidelines for the recycling/refuse policy. It is the mythical 4' by 4' by 8' area that you can put bulk items in. No electronics, refrigerators or hazardous materials. Mr. Gleason encourages residents refer to the City of Watervliet website for additional information. The bulk items must be put out the same day as the regular garbage pickup day. During this same week the City of Watervliet will host an Electronic Recycling Day. The recycling event will be held at the Watervliet City DPW Garage from 6:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The reason why the City did this was to try to and coordinate both events on the same week. This allows residents to throw out household items in the same week. There is a small charge for this program.

**ITEM #4** – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that he wanted to update the Council on the Public Works issues. Mr. Gleason explained that on 19<sup>th</sup> Street the NYS Department of Transportation Engineer Greg Weischer has been contacted regarding the work on 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Weischer comes highly recommended from Mr. David Boyer of Fraser Engineering Associates. Mr. Gleason personally spoke with Mr. Weischer will examine 19<sup>th</sup> Street on his own this week. In May he will examine the 19<sup>th</sup> Street corridor with City personnel.

**ITEM #5** – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that there was a 40' to 50' long displacement of rip rap located in the center of the upper dam. This displacement was discovered by Highway Department Supervisor David Dressel while placing blocks on the access roads. People have been driving their vehicles into the area and across the dam. Mr. Gleason noted that Jeff Budrow of Fraser Engineering Associates was contacted immediately regarding this issue. The area in question was checked on Mr. Burdrow concluded that there was no permanent damage or any immediate concern. Mr. Budrow did contact Mr. Fred Dente who is the City's Geo Technical Consultant. Mr. Denter also has no initial concern and will be preparing a report for the City. The plans are to repair this area when work is done at the dam this summer.

**ITEM #6** – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that work has begun on the CDBG Upper/Lower Dam Project. This project was funded from money obtained from CDBG which Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning Department was successful in getting for the City. The City will put in new roads, fencing, security camera and a complete cleanup of the witches tower. More details of this project will be available as the construction gets closer.

**ITEM #7** – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that the planning has begun for the reconstruction of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street from Broadway to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Mr. Gleason noted that this area is like the gateway into Watervliet. The reconstruction will include new water mains, better safer reconfiguration of the intersections of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. This project will be paid from a combination of Multi Model highway funds and the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program fund (CHIPS). These funds were obtained thru the hard work of NYS Senator Neil Breslin. Mr. Gleason then thanked Senator Breslin for his hard work in obtaining this funding. Between the two programs should be a very minimal cost to the City's budget.

Mayor Manning requested an update on the solar boathouse. Mr. Gleason stated that the fence has been constructed around the boathouse. R.P.I. will be moving in on April 8, 2011 to begin their program. The docks will be placed in the Hudson River on Friday April 8, 2011. The docks are for skulls, kayaks and canoes not for power boats. There will be times when fishing will be restricted off the docks due to the other activity which is what the docks were designed for. Mr. Gleason stated that Mayor Manning is working hard on doing other things such as placing an emergency phone system in and a portable boat launch.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## NEW BUSINESS

**RESOLUTION NO. 8707** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council to advertise once in the official newspaper that the City of Watervliet will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 6:00 PM at the J. Leo O'Brien Senior Citizens Center for those persons who wish to be heard and comment on applications to the Office of Community Renewal for the 2011 Community Development Block Grant Program and other NYS Department of Homes and Community Renewal Programs. Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning stated that this was the item she discussed earlier whereby the City needs to have a public meeting in order for persons to comment on a propose grant seeking plans. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8708** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council to advertise once in the official newspaper that the City of Watervliet is soliciting proposals of qualification from consultants to assist the City of Watervliet in complying with a CDBG planning Grant to support Economic Development efforts to implement the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. Proposals should be received no later than 11:00 AM on Friday, April 29, 2011 at the City Clerk's Office, Watervliet City Hall, #2-15<sup>th</sup> Street, Watervliet, New York 12189. Before voting Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning explained that this is the implementation for the Planning Grant. The City needs some expertise due to part of it being training and assisting the overlays of the economic districts. This is a \$24,000.00 grant which the City is committed to \$12,000.00 in matching funds. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8709** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council to advertise once in the official newspaper that the City of Watervliet is soliciting Proposals of Qualification from consultants to assist the City of Watervliet in crafting changes to the City's Zoning Ordinance to implement the recently adopted City Comprehensive Plan. Proposals should be received no later than 11:00 AM on Friday, April 29, 2011 at the City Clerk's Office, Watervliet City Hall, #2-15<sup>th</sup> Street, Watervliet, New York. Before voting Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning explained that this is the rezoning request. Ms. Nichols noted that this is hard money out of the City budget. There is no outside money at this time to assist with this proposal.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8710** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council to advertise once in the official newspaper that the City of Watervliet will receive Request for Proposals regarding an Ambulance Collections Service for a period of one year beginning May 1, 2011 and ending on April 30, 2012 in the City Clerk's Office, #2-15<sup>th</sup> Street, Watervliet, New York 12189 on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 2:00 PM. Before voting Mark Gleason, General Manager explained that this is to assist with the ambulance collections similar to what the City currently does with its Police tickets. The City will go after people who have not paid us for their service. Acting Chief Skinner noted that by going back some 6 months the City will collect nearly \$50,000.00. Mayor Manning noted that the agency will get paid off of what they collect. It is an incentive for the agency and additional revenue to the City. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8711** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the New York State Office of Real Property Services for the City of Watervliet Reassessment Project. Mark Gilchrist, Assessor/Building Inspector explained that this is an agreement between the City of Watervliet and the State of New York Office of Real Property Services. This is a contract between our two agencies to oversee the entire reassessment process. Mayor Manning noted that the City has already selected the contractor to oversee the reassessment. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

## **APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING**

### **NONE**

Before opening the Public Comment Period Mayor Manning announced that the City of Watervliet launched an interactive tool on the internet. This is a product of the Geographic Information System (GIS) we started internally. This was paid for thru a combination of grants offered by the State. This will help staff efficiency wise internally. The City was able to put most of the GIS out there for the public to use from the internet. It is a combination of graphics using already popular tools that Google and Bing maps as well as incorporating with data from the property system. This will show building lots within the City, the footprints of the buildings and also a lot of point and click information such as current assessment, voting, zoning issues or complaints from the PNL system. Mayor Manning noted that he is accepting feedback o make this more user friendly for our residents. Mayor Manning stated that this new tool has exceeded our expectations. You may get there from the City's website.

Mayor Manning explained that coming up on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, there will be a meeting with various agencies regarding the Delta Dam Project in Rome, New York. This meeting will focus on any concerns a Hydro Plant would have on the community. After that meeting the City will schedule a Public Hearing. Mayor Manning noted that the City of Rome is graciously letting the City of Watervliet use the Council Chambers for the Public Hearing. These two items will finish up the administrative work that needs to be done before filing the final license application with FERC this summer. Mayor Manning will have further information at a later date.

Mayor Manning announced that the annual Keep Vliet Neat Day will be on Saturday, April 9, 2011. The event will start at 9:00 AM all who wish to participate are requested to meet at the DOME. After the event is over there will be refreshments served at the DOME.

Mayor Manning announced that the Census population count has been posted by the US Census Bureau. The City of Watervliet increased its population by 47 people for a total of 10,254. The 2000 Census count figure for the City was 10,207. CDRPC is looking a census track line problem which will be taken care of soon. Mayor Manning also explained that this is good news as this controls the City's share of the County Sales tax which is a major revenue source.

Mayor Manning announced that at the next City Council Meeting the City plans to have a ceremony to honor and thank the Comprehensive Plan Committee for the City.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Marlene Johnston – 2513 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue – Watervliet, New York – Ms. Johnston asked the City Council for some help with the home down the street from her. The address is 2419 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Ms. Johnston stated that the home is deplorable and that no one has lived in it for over three years. Ms. Johnston was under the impression that the home would be ripped down. The sidewalk is never shoveled, summer time they have a fruit tree that is all over the sidewalk. People are throwing garbage in the yard. Cats are using it as a litter box additionally, mice and other rodents are a problem. Ms. Johnston would like someone to look at this situation from the City a bit closer. The address of 2419 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue is in very poor condition. Mark Gleason, General Manager requested Mark Gilchrist, Assessor/Building Inspector to look into this situation for Ms. Johnston.

Page Seven  
Council Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2011

Stanley Such – 1856 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Watervliet, New York – Mr. Such has a couple questions regarding the reconstruction of 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Such questioned about what happened to the engineers on the project Clough Harbour and Associates. Mr. Such questioned about the debris behind the building which houses J&M Auto. The attendees at the meeting prior to construction were told that this debris was a part of going green. Mr. Such noted that last Saturday he was raking leaves and the dust was terrible like a sandstorm. Mark Gleason, General Manager responded by saying that the debris pile will be removed beginning on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Gleason stated that the City did utilize some of the debris for green purposes such as fill. The debris will be sent to a site in Delmar. Mr. Gleason noted that he will be sure that the removal company has their trucks covered and place water down on the ground to control the dust. Mr. Such stated that he would appreciate all the City could do regarding his concerns.

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 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley  
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council