

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 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 informed the Council that the week of April 18 thru 21 was Bulk Item Disposal Week. The Sanitation Department has reported that they removed 223 tons of Bulk Item Debris from City streets. This is compared to 193 tons during Bulk Item Week in the Spring of 2010. This pickup ended costing taxpayers an additional \$1500.00. Mr. Gleason noted that unfortunately the administration is not seeing the debris tonnage going down. There has been a 29% increase in the garbage bulk item pickup since the inception of the program in 2009. Mr. Gleason fears that absentee landlords are getting rid of their bulk items in the City. Mr. Gleason actually stopped someone who was unloading bulk item debris. The response was I own the property here and I can drop this off. On a positive note the recyclables were up more than 4 ton over the last period. Mr. Gleason thanked Christopher Daus, Sanitation Supervisor and the entire Sanitation Department for their hard work during Bulk Item week. This is a very tough job and is a very long week for the Sanitation Department. Mr. Gleason then thanked County Waste who loaned the City a third garbage truck at no cost to the taxpayers.

ITEM #2 – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that the City is accepting applications for its part-time summer/seasonal work program. The applications are available in the Watervliet City Clerk's Office. All youth that are under the age of 18 years old must supply the City with Working Papers at the time of the hire. The program runs for approximately 8 weeks beginning June 27, 2011.

ITEM #3 – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that on March 24, 2011 the highly successful Tom Brown Aviation Program held a recruitment assembly at the Watervliet Elementary School. Mr. Gleason noted that Mayor Michael P. Manning opened the assembly by commenting on how great this program is. Mr. Gleason explained that this is a first of its kind program in the United States. Groups all around the country have been inquiring as to how they can start a program such as this one. The program teaches fifth and sixth graders the basics of flight by using motorized model planes. Classes meet every Saturday in the DOME. The program starts on Saturday April 23rd and will run approximately 6 weeks.

There were approximately 50 applications for twenty slots. Students must write a small composition as to why they should be in the aviation program. At the end of the session there is a field trip to the Albany International Airport. The students then get to watch actual Air Traffic Controllers land the planes. Mr. Gleason thanked Bill Wormer and his entire group for a great job.

ITEM #4 – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that residents may have noticed that at the 7th Street Park some re-construction has begun in conjunction with the Recreation Department. The project is being called the Erie Canal Renovation Project. The project is concentrating on the northern end of the park. The aim is to expose the Erie Canal that is located in that section of the park. The project is being funded through a New York State Street grant. This was obtained thru the New York State of Community Renewal. Mr. Gleason noted that residents will notice trees coming down, bulldozer and earth moving. Mr. Gleason explained that trees will be placed by a nice area where residents can sit and learn all about the Erie Canal. Mr. Gleason is confident once this project is concluded that it will add to the rich history of our beautiful City.

ITEM #5 – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that National Grid has begun a tree trimming and tree removal program in the City. The program is basically being run by Lewis Inc. who is the sub-contractor hired for this project. The project is being monitored by the NYS Public Service Commission. The NYS Public Service Commission sets the guidelines as to how trees are to be trimmed or the removal of trees around power lines. Any tree within 10 feet must be either trimmed or removed. Mr. Gleason explained that taking down power lines from trees is the #1 reason for power outages. Mr. Gleason noted that Highway Department Supervisor David Dressel has been working with National Grid on this project. National Grid anticipates being in the City for approximately one week. Mr. Gleason noted that a letter was sent out nearly a month ago explaining that National Grid crews would be coming into our neighborhoods to do the tree trimming. If they are doing anything drastic National Grid will knock on the doors of homeowners the day before to let them know they will have to take the tree down. The trees have grown right back into the lines by trimming them again it will kill them.

OLD BUSINESS

ITEM #1 – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that Green Island Contracting has been ordered to tarp all trucks while removing the fill from the 19th Street Reconstruction Project. Mr. Gleason also mapped out a route so that the trucks are not carting the debris thru the City. Green Island Construction has agreed to all the requests which have been made.

ITEM #2 – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that the home at 2419 3rd Avenue has been looked at by Mark Gilchrist, Assessor/Building Inspector. Mr. Gilchrist is in the process of contacting the owner who does not live in the City. The building do not have any violations as of yet. Mr. Gilchrist will do a full review of the property for possible code violations.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 8712 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby awards the Ambulance Collection Services to MED-REV Recoveries Inc., 100 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 100, Liverpool, New York 13088 and Michael P. Manning is authorized to execute said contract. Before voting Mark Gleason, General Manager explained that this is treated the same way the City treats its traffic ticket violators who don't pay. MED-REV will be sent all the information regarding unpaid fees for them to collect. MED-REV Recoveries is paid based on a percentage of what they collect on the fees. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8713 – 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 be accepting sealed bids on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 for Contract No. 70-2011, Hillside Drive and 23rd Street Improvement Project at the City Clerk's Office, Watervliet, New York 12189. Plans and specifications for the proposed work will be available on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the Watervliet City Clerk's Office. Before voting Mark Gleason, General Manager explained that the City is going to resurface Hillside Drive and reconstruct 23rd Street with new water mains, mill and fill top surface. This project will be paid for with Multi-Model finds which State Senator Neil Breslin was able to secure for the City. Mayor Manning noted that the City School District will be assisting with the Hillside Drive project. The 23rd Street Project runs from Broadway to 23rd Street. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8714 – 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 Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. for those persons who wish to be heard regarding the Water/Sewer Rent Roll for the period May 1, 2011 thru October 31, 2011. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance informed the Council that the City received its 1st quarter Sales Tax check in the amount of \$744,000.00. This is down from \$757,000.00 from the 1st quarter of 2010. This is based on the new census population. Mr. Fahr noted that in the 2011 budget the City reduced the sales tax revenue by \$100,000.00 to 2.915 million. With the 3% decline based on the 2010 Sales Tax received to Watervliet he is projecting a \$72,000.00 increase in Sales Tax Revenues based on 2010 collections.

Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained to the Council that at the staff meeting this morning the City held its first financial meeting with all the department heads. Mr. Fahr noted that there will be a few budgetary transfers for the May 5th City Council Meeting. The Police and Fire wages account was overspent by \$34,000 each thru the next payroll period. The road salt account has also been overspent by \$6,400.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

NONE

Before closing Mayor Manning noted that there would be a Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 23rd at 9:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M.

Mayor Manning then wished all the residents of the City a very Happy Easter

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council