

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 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 Huban, Corporation Counsel, Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance, Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning, Fire Chief Scott Skinner 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 explained to the Council that the City of Watervliet has been contacted by the City of Albany’s Department of General Services concerning the City’s intentions to remain a member of the Capital Region Waste Management Partnership. The Partnership continues to work on a solution to the closing of the Rapp Road Landfill in approximately 5 years. The Partnership has tied the use of the Landfill, Solid Waste Management Plan and funding a Recycling Coordinator together. The City does not use the Rapp Road Landfill in Albany and has not for at least two (2) years. The City has spearheaded the way to recycle in the Capital District. The City went to single stream recycling three (3) years before any other municipality in the Capital District. Since the inception of the City’s Sanitation Department recyclables have increased by eight (8) ton per week a 70% increase since the City picked up its own garbage. The City has been an active member and was extremely involved in crafting the Solid Waste Management Plan. With the Plan now complete the City’s involvement with the Partnership is limited. The City would prefer to stay a member of the Partnership (involved with the Solid Waste Management Plan) just not a part of the Rapp Road Landfill. The City especially does not wish to pay \$4,500 for a Recycling Coordinator that the City does not use and has not used since the creation of the position. Mr. Gleason asked the Partnership to reconsider its position. If the partnership does not reconsider Mr. Gleason will recommend to the Council that the City leave this group. The City will know sometime in December 2011 of its decision.

**ITEM #2** – Mark Gleason, General Manager explained to the Council that on September 9, 2011 he attended a briefing concerning reimbursement for expenses relating to damage from Tropical Storm Irene at the Albany County Sheriff’s Association substation in Voorheesville. The briefing was hosted by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). Mr. Gleason wanted to review the briefing for the Council.

- Federal Disaster Declaration date was 8/31/11. The incident date was 8/26/11.
- Albany County was declared for both public and individual assistance, City residents may find information to apply for individual relief on our website.
- A request for public assistance must be submitted by October 1, 2011, the City's Request for Public Assistance (RPA) was filed at the briefing. The City is now waiting for State/FEMA personnel to contact the City to set up a kick off meeting. At the kick off meeting the City will need to supply the following.
  1. List of damages/costs associated with the storm (OT costs)
  2. Procurement Policy
  3. Labor Contracts
  4. List of staff/materials/supplies used/maps and photos

Funding for reimbursement will be categorized as

Small projects less than \$63,900

Large projects more than \$63,900

Small projects will be paid on an estimate and will be paid quicker. The projects that the City will be seeking reimbursement for are repairs to the pumps at the Pumping Station in Guilderland along with retaining boards on the dam. Each of these items will fall under the small project threshold.

Funding breakdown:

75% of the reimbursement will come from the Federal Government thru FEMA

The State of New York may cover 12.5%; there has been no word on this yet.

The City may end up paying 12.5% or 25% depending on what the State decides to pay.

At this point Mr. Gleason noted that Department Heads are collecting information for reimbursement which the City will present at the kickoff meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**NONE**

## NEW BUSINESS

**RESOLUTION NO. 8751** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby supports the “STAND UP FOR CHARACTER – DOWN TO BULLYING” campaign of the Academy for the Christian Character Education at The Sage Colleges. Before voting Mayor Manning explained that October 2011 is Anti-Bullying Awareness month. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8752** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves the Renewal Agreement between the City of Watervliet and the New York State Unified Court System commencing on April 1, 2011 and terminating on March 31, 2012 for Court Cleaning and minor repairs and further authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute the same. Before voting Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained that this is the annual reimbursement the City applies for. The City gets roughly \$28,000 to \$32,000 each year. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8753** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves the Municipal Cooperation Agreement between the Village of Green Island and the City of Watervliet and further authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute the same. Before voting Fire Chief Scott Skinner explained that this is the City of Watervliet’s ability to provide ambulance service to the Village of Green Island. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8754** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby awards Contract No. 72-2011, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Paving and Pedestrian Signal Improvement Project to Peter Luizzi and Brothers Contracting Inc. in the amount of \$131,245.75. Before voting Mark Gleason, General Manager explained that this project will remove and replace three inches of pavement from Broadway to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. This project will also update the street crossing on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. There will be new control boxes and NYSDOT will be updating the Broadway section. The intersection of Broadway is being done under NYSDOT’s Maintenance Program. Mr. Gleason also noted that the funding is multi-model funds that NYS Senator Neil Breslin secured for the City. The project will take approximately three weeks to complete. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8755** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of remaining funds from the Industrial Development Agency to the Local Development Corporation. Before voting Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning explained that there is a small pot of money that was left over from the IDA. Mr. Fahr brought this financial item to Ms. Nichols attention. The LDC is the closest line item that the City has to an IDA. The amount left in the account was \$15,600. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8756** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the ratification and confirmation for Mayor Michael P. Manning's execution of a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Order of Consent regarding DEC Case R4-2011-0722-94. Before voting Mark Gleason, General Manager explained that on July 14, 2011 there was a dry weather overflow. This is when a flow of water gets into the storm water during dry weather. The cause of the overflow was found to be a blockage in the sanitary line. This line normally goes to the Albany County Sewer District. The line backed up causing the water to flow into the dry river. This was a line that was there for many years which the City did not even know existed. The solution is that the City will cut the line and cap it. The capped line will no longer be able to flow into the Dry River. Mr. Gleason noted that there is a small fine associated with this spill into the Dry River. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

### **APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING**

Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained to the Council that another Budget Workshop meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2011. This budget workshop meeting will focus on the Department of Recreation and the Assessor/Building Departments. Mr. Fahr noted that the public is welcome to attend this Budget Workshop meeting.

Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained to the Council that the City received the estimate from the NYS Retirement System for the City's contribution for 2012. The amount billed in 2011 was \$1,000,096, projected in 2012 is \$1,363,000 an increase of \$367,000. Mr. Fahr noted that with the 2% property tax cap the City can only bring in an additional \$70,000 in revenue. The City will need to look at reducing expenditures or finding new revenues for the 2012 budget. It is possible for the City to amortize roughly \$350,000 of that bill. Mr. Fahr recommends that the City don't do this as it only delays the payment. The reason the City has a 1.1 million dollar surplus is by making the right financial decisions and not delaying costs to the future. With each department making reductions in their expenditures and increasing revenues the City will stay within the 2% property tax cap and not amortize the NYS Retirement System contribution amount.

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Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance informed the Council that the Workers Compensation premiums will be going up 30% next year. Additionally, the City has been informed to figure at least that much of an increase for the next couple of years.

Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance informed the Council that Health Insurance premiums will be going up approximately 10% in 2012. The family coverage for the Empire Plan will be nearly \$20,000 in 2012.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**NONE**

Before adjourning the meeting mayor Manning announced that the Arsenal City Run is tomorrow beginning at 5:00 PM. After the race is over there will be a get together at the DOME. The Arsenal City Run is a rain or shine event.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley  
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council