

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 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, 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 informed the Council that over the past month he has been working on the City Organic Waste program. Mr. Gleason has attended Composting Forums at RPI, Digester seminars in the Pine Bush and finally the City hosted an Organic Solid Waste Meeting in the Cultural Center. Mr. Gleason noted that in July of this past year he discussed about the City obtaining a grant to eliminate organic solid waste from the City's waste stream. At that time Mr. Gleason requested that City residents participate in a Pilot Program involving removing Organic Solid Waste. Mr. Gleason noted that only 15 residents have offered to participate. It was his hope that at least 50 residents would be willing to participate. The program entails residents placing their organic Waste in specialty containers which would be supplied by the City. Mr. Gleason stated that the City is obtaining quotes for the containers to be used for this program. The price quoted to date is \$11.00 per container. The City received a grant so therefore it would not cost taxpayers any money for the containers. The City will pick up the Organic Solid Waste weekly. The City's plan is to first compost the organic solid waste. The long term plan will be to feed the organic solid waste into a digester which would create natural gas. The natural gas could be used as an energy source for City purposes. Mr. Gleason wanted to discuss this project again in the hopes of getting more interest from City residents. Mr. Gleason informed the Council that the City would kick off the program this month with the residents who have currently volunteered to participate. Mr. Gleason asked residents that if they want to be a part of this innovative program and help leave a smaller carbon footprint of if a resident wants to have a direct impact on lowering your taxes, please contact the General Manager's office with your contact information. Mr. Gleason's e-mail address is mgleason@watervliet.com or call 270-3800 x100.

ITEM #2 – Mark Gleason, General Manager explained to the Council he wanted to take this opportunity to Thank Jim Verhagen and all the volunteers that make the “Haunted Dome” such a great success. The event had over 1500 people visit the Haunted Dome. Visitors were not only treated to a good scare but thanks to the Watervliet Housing Authority residents, people attending also received cookies and apple cider at the end of the tour. Mr. Gleason once again thanked Mr. Verhagen and Charles Patricelli of the Watervliet Housing Authority staff and all of the volunteers for the scare they gave our residents.

ITEM #3 – Mark Gleason, General Manager explained to the Council that he held the last of the Budget Workshops for fiscal year 2012. Bob Fahr, Director of Finance has been working hard to deliver a lean, cost effective budget that will maintain the services our residents have come to expect, yet provide a budget that our residents can afford. Mr. Gleason noted that he will present the budget at the November 17, 2011 City Council Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – A Public Hearing regarding the Water/Sewer Rent Roll for the period November 1, 2011 thru October 31, 2012. (See Resolution No. 8759 authorizing the advertisement).

Mayor Manning opened the Public Hearing for comment.

Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained that there would be no increase in the Water/Sewer rates.

There being no comment Mayor Manning closed the Public Comment Period.

ITEM #1 – Mark Gleason, General Manager explained to the Council that the trees on 19th Street have been replaced. Additionally, the trees with damaged branches have been pruned or trimmed. Mr. Gleason also stated that the tree planting requested by residents to replace the trees removed by National Grid last spring on 23rd Street have been planted.

ITEM #2 – Police Chief Ron Boisvert explained that the Charter for truck traffic on 8th Avenue states 5 tons, the signage on 8th Avenue says 2 tons. Chief Boisvert would like the Council to consider making this area a 2 ton area and pass the applicable legislation to do this. Chief Boisvert feels that 2 tons would be sufficient for this area of 8th Avenue and would not create an adverse effect.

ITEM #3 – Police Chief Ron Boisvert explained to the Council that the two handicapped issues need to be addressed. Police Chief Boisvert stated that his opinion was to deny the requests. Mayor Manning suggested that the City close this issue with a Resolution for the next meeting. Yorden Huban, Corporation Counsel suggested that he draft the Ordinance to allow the Council to vote on the Handicap Parking issue.

NEW BUSINESS

LOCAL LAW No. 2-2011 – A Local Law amending Local Law No. 1-2011 in relation to establishing and imposing a scale of annual charges for the use of the Watervliet Sewer System, said charges to be known as “Sewer Rents” pursuant to Article 14-F Sewer Rent Law of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York. Before voting Councilman Foglia questioned why the Council needs to pass this every year. Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained that a lot of the commercial properties need to see the Local Law and Ordinance which shows the rates for a specific time period. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Local Law was approved and adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 1877 – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Watervliet, Chapter 260, “Vehicles and Traffic”, Article VIII, “Schedules”, Section 260-46, “Schedule X”, Stop Sign Intersections be amended. Before voting Mayor Manning explained that Police Chief Ron Boisvert did a presentation on this issue at the last City Council meeting. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Ordinance was approved and adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 1878 – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York providing that changes to be made to Section 266-2 of the Code of Ordinance wherein rates are set for the use of water supplied by the City. Before voting Mayor Manning explained that there were no comments in the Public Hearing. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Ordinance was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8767 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby awards the bids to be received on the surplus vehicles and equipment and further authorizes Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk to execute the necessary documents to complete said sale. Before voting mark Gleason, General Manager explained that the City will receive nearly \$12,000.00 from this sale of surplus vehicles and equipment. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

RESOLUTION NO. 8768 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of \$21,000.00 from the Fire Payroll Account to the Fire Special Wages Account for 207-A wages paid for the months of August thru October 2011. Before voting Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained that this is a periodic transfer the City makes from the salary account to special wages. Resolution No. 8768 and Resolution No. 8769 are budget neutral transfers. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8769 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of \$47,000.00 from the Police Payroll Account to the Police Special Wages Account for the 207-C wages paid for the months of August thru October 2011. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

ITEM #1 – Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained to the Council that the 3rd quarter Sales Tax came in at \$791,000.00. The same period one year ago the Sales Tax was \$771,000.00. Mr. Fahr further explained that this was with the new calculation due to the census numbers. The City's first two payments for 2011 came in 98% of the 1st half of 2010. With taking 98% of the 4th quarter for 2010 Mr. Fahr figures to be a surplus over budget of approximately \$140,000.00 for 2011 Sales Tax. This will go towards the \$250,000.00 the City appropriated in fund balance for the 2011 budget.

ITEM #2 – Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance informed the Council that the Resolution passed tonight for the sale of the surplus vehicles and equipment for over \$12,000.00 will help offset the new boiler which was recently installed. The cost for the new boiler was \$27,000.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

NONE

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made and seconded to adjourn into Executive Session. The meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011.**

The Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 7:40 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 and Police Chief Ron Boisvert.

ITEM #1 – Mayor Manning discussed a contractual issue with the Council related to the Police Department Administration. A detailed discussion followed related to this topic.

ITEM #2 – Mayor Manning discussed a personnel issue related to an employee from the City of Watervliet Department of Public Works. A detailed discussion followed related to this topic.

There being no further business to come before the Executive Session, a motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council