

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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, Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning, Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, Mark R. Gilchrist, Building Inspector/Assessor, 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 last week the City saw its first measurable snowfall of the season. Mr. Gleason then reviewed the City's Snow Emergency policy.

A snow emergency will be declared in accordance with Ordinance No. 1836. Once a continuous snowfall episode of 4 to 6 inches or more as measured by the Albany Airport Authority occurs a snow emergency may be declared. Mr. Gleason noted that the decision to declare a snow emergency is made collectively by Mayor Manning, General Manager Gleason, Police Chief Boisvert and Department of Public Works Supervisor Cady. The declaration of a snow emergency activates the emergency snow removal policy.

During a significant snow storm, main streets are plowed, salted and kept open during the storm. These areas include NYS Rt. 32, Rt. 2 and Rt. 155. Once a snow emergency is declared all vehicles on City streets must move to allow access of plows and snow removal equipment. The City will notify residents that a snow emergency has been declared by way of one of the following.

- First call software contacts residents. A resident must register to be included on the list.
- The City's website
- Vliet local access TV channel 17
- Local newspapers (City does not guarantee newspapers will publish)
- Local TV and radio stations (City does not guarantee TV or radio will announce)
- Localized announcements by way of mobile public address systems

The snow removal process begins with a systematic grid approach. In the north section of the City removal starts at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and works the Avenues west to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The same systematic grid approach is followed in the Southern section of the City. Beginning at 9<sup>th</sup> Street working snow removal to the City line. Special locations, dead end streets, some alleys and other right of ways are done last. Once a snow emergency is declared, all vehicle owners must move or be prepared to move for the time period it takes to remove the snow from an area.

If a vehicle is not removed in accordance with Ordinance No. 1836 the vehicle will be ticketed and towed to Hudson Shores Park. Towed vehicles will be held at the park until both the ticket fine and tow charge are settled with the Finance Department. The ticket fine will be \$100 and the towing charge will be \$150, (there will be a slight increase from last year as this fee is set by the towing company). The City Finance Department will accept payment of the ticket and towing fees on Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. An owner of a towed vehicle will have 14 calendar days to retrieve the vehicle. After the 14 calendar period the City will charge a \$30 per day impound charge to the vehicle owner.

Mr. Gleason noted that Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish has granted permission for residents in the northern section of the City to park in St. Patrick's parking area on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue only during a snow emergency only. The City is currently attempting to secure a spot for residents in the southern section of the City. The old Elks parking lot is being explored as a potential site. Mr. Gleason further explained that new to the procedure this year is that the City rented a small front end loader called a mustang. This new equipment will allow the City to dedicate an employee to clear the bump outs on 19<sup>th</sup> Street and other sections of the City. Mr. Gleason concluded by stating that removing snow is a relentless job and he asks all City residents to have patience and to please cooperate with the Department of Public Works during **SNOW EMERGENCIES**. Mr. Gleason also requested that residents shovel out hydrants when necessary.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**ITEM #1** - Mark Gleason, General Manager explained to the Council that the organic waste bins have been delivered to the Department of Public Works Sanitation Department. There will be one small bin for the kitchen and one larger bin for the outside. The City is now waiting for the recyclable bags that go inside the smaller bins. Mr. Gleason noted that once the recyclable bags come in residents involved in the program will meet to review the rules and receive the bins.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 8776** – 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 seeking proposals from firms qualified in performing minor exterior lead abatement as part of a Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program at 10:00 A.M. on January 6, 2012 at the City Clerk's Office.

Rosemary Nichols, Deputy General Manager of Economic Development and Planning explained that this is a new program that the City must abate any open ground by putting two inches of top soil and seed in the yards of the senior citizens the City is assisting from the 2010 grant program. This is a minor service provided in the yards of each of the properties that has been identified as having lead in their yard. This is a very minor lead infestation. Ms. Nichols also informed the Council that the City received \$400,000 from a CDBG grant which will provide low and moderate income housing rehabilitation for up to 16 properties in the City. This grant program is not limited to seniors or a specific neighborhood. As soon as the City receives the contract the City will do a general solicitation. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

### **APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1881** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet adopting the annual estimate and fixing the rate to be employed in computing the amount to be collected for the City taxes for the year beginning January 1, 2012. Before voting Mayor Manning noted that there were no comments made at the Public Hearing regarding the amount of taxes to be fixed for 2012. This is a 1.6% tax increase that will yield the City \$3,899,104 in tax revenue. Mayor Manning explained that the only portion missing is the County Levy. Mayor Manning announced that the Council will hold a Special City Council Meeting for the County Levy on Thursday, December 22, 2011 at 11:45 A.M. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Ordinance was approved and adopted.

**ITEM #1** – Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained to the Council that the City received it's State Aid of 1.1 million. Mr. Fahr also stated that the City is still awaiting its reimbursement on the CHIP's payment which should be a little over \$300,000. Mayor Manning asked Mr. Fahr what was left for the fiscal year financially. Mr. Fahr responded by saying that the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Sales Tax is still due. Mr. Fahr explained that this payment is for sales thru November 30<sup>th</sup>. The City will receive its payment by January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**NONE**

Before adjourning the meeting Mayor Manning wished all in attendance and to all the residents of the City a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

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 7:25 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, DECEMBER 15, 2011.**

The Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 7:35 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 and Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance.

**ITEM #1** – Mayor Manning discussed with the Council a legal contractual issue for them to consider action on for the next City Council Meeting. A detailed discussion followed on this item.

There being no further business to come before the Executive Session, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Executive Session. The Executive Session was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley  
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council