

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2012 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 and Councilwoman Ellen R. Fogarty were present. Councilman Nicholas W. Foglia was excused.

Also present from City Administration were: Mark Gleason; General Manager, Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance and Fire Chief Scott Skinner.

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 Department of Recreation is in the process of converting the spray pool on 15th Street and 2nd Avenue in to a small skate park. The City already installed a grinding bar which is something skateboarders jump up on and grind the boards then come off of it. A small fence will be installed that will separate the skate park from the bocce courts. The City is hoping that the skateboarders will use the park instead of private property or businesses throughout the City. Once the skate park is complete the City intends to build a spray pool in the southwest corner of the big pool. Mr. Gleason would like to see that project completed by the end of the summer. Mr. Gleason had a lot of parents who have small children and they suggested that a small spray pool be built within the big pool. At the same time the City does want to assist the skate boarders.

ITEM #2 – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that on Friday, July 13, 2012, Chris Daus, Sanitation Supervisor and Mr. Gleason met with Mayor Richard Donovan of Minoa and his staff to discuss about our municipalities working together to build an anaerobic digester. Anaerobic digestion is a series of processes in which micro-organisms breakdown biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen, it is used for industrial or domestic purposes to manage waste and/or to release energy. The City of Watervliet would use this process in conjunction with the WOW Program. The City is currently composting the organic waste we collect from City residents. The City wants to build a digester to turn the organic waste into natural gas. Mayor Donovan explained that they would like to develop and perfect the digester system in Minoa (located in central New York) and then move the digester to Watervliet. Mayor Donovan is proposing to first perform a feasibility study in conjunction with a grant they received involving anaerobic digestion. The study would cover all what type of digester we would need and the size needed. The study would cover all aspects of our digester needs. The July 13th meeting lead to a visit by Minoa officials to the City's Department of Public Work's yard area. At the meeting Minoa officials supplied a draft intermunicipal agreement for our review. At this point the Minoa officials advised us as to where a digester could be placed at the Department of Public Works property. Mr. Gleason noted that other subjects discussed at the meeting included the following:

- The collection bags were discussed (the question was raised as to whether the bags could be taken out of the process), it was made very clear that collection bags must be a part of the process.
- The most efficient way to collect and prepare organic waste would be to mount machinery on a truck that would squeeze the organic waste out of the bag. The organic waste would then be ground into a tank on the truck (the truck would back up to the digester and start the uploading process). The City has an old fire truck that could serve as the platform for the mechanism.
- The City would need to change the pickup dates from bi-weekly to weekly.
- The equipment could be located in the southern section of the Department of Public Works building. The City would need to pour concrete slabs for the equipment to rest on, the advantage to this location is that it is inside.

After the visit to the DPW yard the group toured our current compost pile, the officials from Minoa have a great deal of experience in composting. They were impressed with the site and gave it their approval. The City of Watervliet staff gave the Minoa officials a WOW kit with extra bags. They are currently conducting experiments on the material now. They have already contacted the City with ideas as to how to separate the bags from the organic waste. The City of Watervliet should expect a final inter-municipal agreement shortly. The actual building of the digester should take place this fall/winter. The digester would work with our WOW (Watervliet Organic Waste) program. WOW is an innovative program that will help the City of Watervliet leave a smaller carbon footprint and cut expenses. The City is currently expanding the program citywide, any resident interested in participating in the program should contact the General Manager's Office.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Manning addressed regarding regulating speed in the alley's throughout the City from the last Public Comment period. Yorden Huban, Corporation Counsel explained that he has done some research on this issue. Mr. Huban started with the Vehicle & Traffic Law of New York State. This law indicates that an alley is considered a public highway. The issue becomes as to whether it would be feasible or practicable to place signs up. The City of Glens Falls placed speed bumps in the alleys. The question becomes what is the best approach to satisfy the concerns of the members of this community related to speed in the alleys. Mr. Huban will be consulting with the Police Chief to work on a possible result to the concerns. Mayor Manning stated that once the Police Chief and Mr. Huban meet he will report back to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1885 – FIRST READING - An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York, providing that the Code of Ordinances of the City of Watervliet, Article II of Chapter 209, Section 209-4(A) (7) of the Code of the City of Watervliet be amended to read as follows, T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro Veterans Memorial Park, Sixteenth Street and Second Avenue and further amends Article III, Section 209-6(G) is amended to read as follows, T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro Veterans Memorial Park, Sixteenth Street and Second Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 8856 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the renaming of Veterans Memorial Park to the T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro Veterans Memorial Park and further authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute any documents to consummate the renaming of such park. A motion was made by Mayor Manning to table this Resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was tabled.

RESOLUTION NO. 8857 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to file an application under the Community Development Block Grant Program and the NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation Office of Community Renewal and further authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to accept and receive a grant for housing improvement purposes. Before voting Mayor Manning explained that this will allow the City to apply for the next round of funding. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Mayor Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8858 – 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 on Thursday, August 23, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. at the J. Leo O'Brien facility Senior Citizen Center, 1501 Broadway, Watervliet, New York 12189, that a Public Hearing will be held for the purpose of hearing persons who may wish to be heard in reference to the City of Watervliet acting as Lead Agency in the Environmental Review of the Comprehensive Capital Grant program for the Watervliet Housing Authority. Before voting Mayor Manning explained that this will assist the Housing Authority with their grant program applications. Upon motion of Mayor Manning, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8859 – 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 on Thursday, August 23, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. at the J. Leo O'Brien facility Senior Citizen Center, 1501 Broadway, Watervliet, New York 12189, that a Public Hearing will be held for the purpose of hearing persons who may wish to be heard in reference to the Supplemental Project report and response to the City Council issues dated August 2012 and the pending rezoning classification of the properties located on City block bounded by 19th Street, 5th Avenue, 23rd Street and 6th Avenue in the City of Watervliet from R-3 Residential to B-1 Business District. Mayor Manning explained that this will be a second hearing regarding the revised proposal which was received by the City of Friday. Mayor Manning stated that the City is having problems with the website but Clough Harbour Associates has provided a spot on their website. Additionally, the Times Union will be publishing the revised report on Friday, August 3rd. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Mayor Manning, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

Mayor Manning announced that the City Council Meeting for Thursday, August 16, 2012 has been cancelled and rescheduled for Thursday, August 23, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

RESOLUTION NO. 8860 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council to advertise once a week for three consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the City of Watervliet that the City of Watervliet will conduct a Public Electronic Auction via EBAY (www.ebay.com) that on Monday, August 27, 2012 to Friday, September 9, 2012 for the following items, three (3) Panasonic Toughbook's CF-18 Laptops and the Council of the City of Watervliet establishes a minimum bid for each laptop to be \$150.00. Before voting Chief Scott Skinner explained that this is surplus items of no longer use for City purposes. Upon motion of Mayor Manning, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

ITEM #1 - Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained to the City Council that at the next City Council Meeting he will have some budgetary transfers for Council consideration.

ITEM #2 - Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained to the City Council that the budgetary workshops will begin in September for the 2013 budget cycle. The budget workshops will take place at 6:00 P.M. before each scheduled City Council Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Angela Mastan – 1816 3rd Avenue – Watervliet, New York – Ms. Mastan stated for the record that she is against the demolition of St. Patrick’s Church. Ms. Mastan is speaking for Ms. Sandra Rizzo who lives at 20 Gloria Drive, Latham, New York. When you are at the Watervliet Reservoir on Rt. 155 there has been some work done and Ms. Rizzo has communicated with William Ashline the Water Department Supervisor the past few months. There is a wire that was cut or broken which has affected her use of electricity on the grounds. There is a huge pile of dirt that has yet to be removed. All the trees and bushes are growing out of this pile of dirt. Mr. Ashline’s response was he is too busy to finish completing the work at the reservoir. Mayor Manning, Ms. Rizzo has before and after pictures that she will be e-mailing to you or will bring to you at the next meeting. Her property has been destroyed from the work at the reservoir. If you could look into this over the next few days, Ms. Rizzo would be grateful.

Eileen Anderson – 5 Ball Place – Watervliet, New York – We appreciate the changes that Nigro Company has made, but for Citizens’s for St. Patrick’s are still not satisfied as to the preservation of St. Patrick’s and the negative impact this project will **still** have on the neighborhood. We don’t know of any City or Town in the immediate area that has **allowed** a large supermarket that is surrounded so closely by residential housing. We have asked for examples but have not received any. If there is such a place, we would be **very** interested to hear from those neighbors. We would like our request for an independent assessment of St. Patrick’s to be honored. Especially since Nigro, Golub and the Diocese have said they would be willing to step down if we could come up with a viable alternative. I’m sure they feel comfortable saying that, when they realize that it is not possible without an independent assessment. By preserving St. Patrick’s we hope to be able to restore our City’s beauty and glory as it was in the past. To keep our City clean and attractive and a great place to live and visit, and promote a sense of **PRIDE** and **OWNERSHIP** of our valuable historic properties.

Donald Rykeme, a nationally known consultant on historic preservation economics stated, “He typically visits 100 downtowns a year, of every size, in every part of our country and he cannot identify a single example of a sustained success story in downtown revitalization, where historic preservation wasn’t a key component of that strategy. Not a single one! Successful revitalization and no historic preservation? It ain’t happening!!!, he says. We still feel that the best place for a new or improved Price Chopper would be in its present location, especially with the new CDTA major bus route that is coming right in front of their front door, in the very near future. That would certainly be to their advantage and improve their business tremendously. And when they say it can’t be done, we say, **where there is a will there’s a way.**

Marion Fotache – 1554 3rd Avenue – Watervliet, New York – Ms. Fotache stated that at the time of the Katrina flooding Arch Bishop Hannon saw military at the Cathedral. He asked why are you there. The Officer stated that when there is a disaster we secure our landmark. It gives people hope to see there landmark still standing. Now I ask you, if the Taliban came to Watervliet out town and desecrated and demolished our landmark the Church of St. Patrick’s. How would our community react? Are we so flawed of any sense of our history? So lacking any appreciation for art/architecture. So bereft of any religious responsibility. Is this what we call the enemy within?

Christine Bulmer – 609 25th Street – Watervliet, New York – Under SEQRA all alternatives to demolition should be explored. Mayor Manning you can order this as the City Council has deemed itself Lead Agency in this process. By allowing other Architects and qualified professionals to evaluate the state of the building and proposed alternatives. You will assure that all of the options have been explored. Current structural assessments have been done by the diocese. In this the Nigro proposal calls for demolition. We ask that you facilitate and support access to St. Patrick’s Church by a qualified and impartial professional. According to the Times Union editorial on July 23rd, St. Patrick’s deserves a second opinion. We won’t have a better sense of things unless the diocese let’s Mr. Waite into the church. Even then the City would have multiple opinions to weigh.

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

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council