

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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, 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, Police Chief Ron Boisvert, Fire Chief Scott Skinner and Mark Gilchrist, Assessor/Bldg. Inspector.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the City Council Minutes as written for November 20, 2012 and December 4, 2012.

Before moving into Reports of Officers and Committees Mayor Manning noted that tonight we have a citation for two Police Officers. The citations for tonight are for Patrolman Anthony Harbour and Patrolman Joshua Spratt. Both of these Officers were honored by Albany County STOP DWI. Mayor Manning noted that the City Council also wanted to also honor Patrolman Harbour and Patrolman Spratt. Mayor Manning then read the proclamations: We the Mayor and City Council hereby express our appreciation and admiration for your commitment to the City of Watervliet's Traffic Enforcement Unit. You willingly worked STOP DWI, Buckle Up New York and the Albany County Blanket Patrol detail as much as your normal work schedule permits. Your arrest percentages for Alcohol, Drug Impairment and Uniformed Traffic Tickets are commendable. We recognize you for your dedication to Traffic Enforcement, Police Service a whole for each and every resident of the City of Watervliet. Thank you very much. Patrolman Anthony Harbour thanked the City Council. Mayor Manning noted that Police Chief Ron Boisvert will be sure to give Patrolman Spratt his citation.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ITEM #1 – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that on December 4, 2012, Chris Daus, Sanitation Supervisor and Mark Gleason, General Manager attended a meeting concerning Spectrum Bio Energy Program regarding an anaerobic digester in the Albany County Sewer District. In attendance for this meeting were the City of Albany, Empire Zero, NYSDEC, Albany County Sewer District, Waste Management, Clough Harbour and NYSERDA. The goal of the project that Spectrum Bio Energy put out there was and still is to develop and locate a community digester in the Albany area. The hope is that it will take food and organic waste and turn it into energy. For this program the City of Watervliet actually supplied organic food waste from our WOW Program to the pilot program. This will create renewable energy. It will promote food waste diversion. We need to get our food organic waste out of the landfills. It was also create source separation. The City already has approximately 70 residents participating in this program. They are taking their organic waste and not placing it in the garbage. The City wants to promote this program even more. They placed a bio-feeder at the Sewer Plant.

Mr. Gleason showed a picture of the inside and outside of the anaerobic digester at the Sewer Plant. This can accept ½ ton of organic waste daily and turn it into energy. Empire Zero commissioned the study. They found that within 60 miles of the Capital District, there is a minimum of 95 tons of organic waste generated every day. What Spectrum hopes to do is place a bigger digester at the Sewer District, The plan is to mix the sludge with organic waste. Mr. Gleason then showed pictures of the test of the organic waste and sludge which produced energy. If this project would be another avenue to re-use the organic waste. The project is in the early stage of development. They feel that they are at least one year to two years away from placing an anaerobic digester down at the south plant. Mr. Gleason will keep the Council informed of any new developments with this program.

ITEM #2 – Mark Gleason, General Manager discussed the City’s compost pile which is located in Hudson Shores Park. Mr. Gleason noted that he expected a smell problem especially with the Rusty Anchor barge being there, but that didn’t happen. This compost looks like fresh soil. Mr. Gleason was showing a power point presentation of exactly what the compost looks like. A video from Chris Daus, Sanitation Supervisor showed and detailed exactly what happens. Mr. Daus explained that there are two piles and someday there will be three piles. Back in August the City started picking up the compost residents have and wood chips. There white pipes that act as an aeration. The compost bags are special bags that are dumped in the pile. The heat is what breaks down the bags and food. What the City did is add to the pile twice. One thing with cutting down the smell is adding fresh compost on the top of the pile. This helps cut down the smell and no rodents to date. The City lets the compost sit for a couple of months then turns it. The City actually takes the temperature inside the compost. The temperature outside could be for example 37 degrees, the compost inside will be over 100 degrees. The hottest the compost pile has been is around 104 degrees. We want to stay over 100 degrees with the best option being 130 degrees. Mr. Daus stated that this is very possible during the spring and summer months. The second pile is a smaller pile that the City just started. The process is three phases where bay three will become the final product from the compost. Every once in a while there is debris that shouldn’t be there. The City is keeping records so that we have a complete idea of where we are with composting.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1891 – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York 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, 2013. Mayor Manning noted that the City conducted a Public Hearing at the December 13, 2012 City Council Meeting. Mayor Manning noted that the Council received only one comment regarding the budget for 2013. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Ordinance was approved and adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 1892 – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York adopting the rate to be employed in computing the amount to be collected for State and County Tax pursuant to Section 116 of Chapter 462 of the Laws of 1918. Mayor Manning noted that this Ordinance allows the City to collect the Albany County Tax based at the rate they passed in their 2013 budget. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Ordinance was approved and adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 1893 – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York, providing that the Code of the City of Watervliet, New York, Chapter 260, “Vehicles and Traffic”, Article IV, “Handicapped Parking”, Section 260-30 (C) “Sign locations be amended”. Before voting Police Chief Ron Boisvert explained that this Ordinance allows the City to remove handicap parking signs at a location they are no longer needed. The family who requested this has moved to another location. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Ordinance was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8885 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Watervliet and the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the City of Watervliet unit of the Albany County Local #801. Before voting Mark Gleason, General Manager explained that the CSEA contract is a four year agreement with a 3% raise each year. In exchange of the 3% raise each year they agreed to freeze the Health Insurance Buy-Out for the entire contract at the 2012 level. The clothing allowance would also freeze at the 2012 amount. They agreed to the elimination of an annual food allowance payment and they also agreed that all new employees would pay 25% of their health insurance benefit. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained that the City does not have any budgetary transfers. That will take place in February after the City closes out the books for 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Lori Sylvester – 1904 8th Avenue – Watervliet, New York – Ms. Sylvester wanted to say she appreciated the consideration the City Council gave to the re-zoning of the St. Patrick's property. She never had any sense that there was any kind of for gone conclusion. I always felt there was a lot of effort to take in all the comments. This was done in order to take in all the fiscally responsible decisions the City had to make. There have been a lot of emotional attachments to this property, people have lived here a lot longer than I have. I still think you took everything into account and I appreciate your efforts. Thank you.

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

Before closing Mayor Manning extended a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all in attendance.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council