

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013 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 January 17, 2013.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ITEM #1 – Mark Gleason, General Manager informed the Council that on January 7, 2013 he attended a meeting with the Albany County legislature to discuss the 2013 – 2014 budget. Chairing the meeting was Majority Leader of the Albany County Legislature Frank Comisso, District 11, Legislature Chairman, Shawn Morse, District 17, Chairman of the Personnel and Public Safety, Sean E. Ward, District 16. Mr. Gleason noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss future Albany County budgets and discover areas that may be covered by shared services with the different municipalities. Unfortunately, we were told from the onset that we were not going to discuss the two most important budget topics.

- 1.) Sales Tax – the annual threat of decreasing the share to municipalities
- 2.) Community College Chargebacks – charging municipalities for their residents that attend Community Colleges

The meeting centered on what services the county and municipalities could share.

- Countywide emergency services dispatching: (Watervliet, Cohoes & Green Island)
- Purchasing Health Insurance
- Plowing
- Purchasing large items together (fire trucks, backhoes & garbage trucks)

The consensus was there is no room for consolidation, it was pointed out that the County has 36 different departments from aging to zoning. It was pointed that each municipality has at least one or two departments that duplicate what the County does or could do. The City of Watervliet has an Economic Development and a Department of Civil Service as examples of duplicated departments. Although all in attendance were informed by Mr. Comisso that we would not discuss Sales Tax or Community College Chargebacks both subjects were discussed in great length.

SALES TAX – All in attendance were reminded by one County Legislator that the County could keep 100% of the Sales Tax and not share anything at all. The legislator also pointed out that some counties do not share Sales Tax Revenue or share a much smaller portion of it. As a group it was pointed that the County Legislature cannot come to the municipalities each year with the same threat of cutting Sales Tax (particularly after budgets are finished). Mr. Gleason further noted that to his credit Cohoes Legislator Gil Ethier agreed that the threat was unfair and vowed to work against the tactic.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE GIVE BACKS – Mr. Gleason explained that in 2012 Albany County paid Hudson Valley Community College 8.7 million dollars for Albany County residents to attend the college. The City of Watervliet's share would have been \$525,000. Albany County Executive Dan McCoy is working very hard to cut what the County pays. County Executive McCoy pointed out that Albany County pays \$2,180 per student attending HVCC. Rensselaer County pays \$1,190 per student a \$990 difference. There are only 6 other New York County Community Colleges where this happens. The host County is paying less per student. Rensselaer County and HVCC are #1 on the list. Mr. Gleason provided another statistic that demonstrates unfair treatment. Rensselaer County pays \$3,238,900 to HVCC or 3.4% of the college operating budget. New York State Counties on average pay \$11,092,484 or 17% of their County Community College operating budget.

ITEM #2 – Mark Gleason, General Manager discussed the Hands Only CPR with the Council. Mr. Gleason noted that on January 25, 2013, Albany County Executive Dan McCoy and Mayor Michael P. Manning held a joint press conference about the life saving technique of hands only CPR. The press conference was held in the J. Leo O'Brien Senior Citizen Facility. The event kicked off a countywide effort to teach the lifesaving technique of hands only CPR. The technique is to push hard and fast in the center of the chest (try to keep to the beat of the Bee Gees song "Staying Alive"). Fire Chief Scott Skinner and his department taught the technique to 540 of our High School students over a two day period. Fire Chief Skinner's staff also taught the technique to Watervliet Housing employees and residents today. Mr. Gleason concluded by noting that residents may check the City of Watervliet's and the Albany County website for additional training sites and days.

ITEM #2 – Mark Gleason, General Manager requested that Fire Chief Scott Skinner present his Annual Report for the Fire Department for 2012. Chief Skinner noted that the mission of the City of Watervliet Fire Department is to minimize the hazards of fire thru fire prevention education. It is also the mission to deliver professional response to the citizens needs for fire suppression, all emergency medical needs and hazardous material spill mitigation. Fire Chief Skinner then showed the Council the structure of the Fire Department from the Chief to the EMS Coordinator to the four platoon shifts. Fire Chief Skinner noted that 2012 was the busiest year for the Watervliet Fire Department, the department responded to 2018 calls, 1448 EMS calls, transported 1126 patients. The department spent hundreds of hours of training throughout the year. Lt. Ed Rolfe attended the FLiPs training which is mandatory for all officers. The department trained on BAILOUT, MAYDAY and EMS. Battalion Chief Robert Remillard retired in August 2012 and Chief Skinner stated no current employees are retirement eligible. Projects which were completed included hydrant color coding by the size of the hydrant main. Chief Skinner noted that the Albany County Department of Corrections Inmates assisted in painting all of the City's fire hydrants. The department also implemented a fire extinguisher training program. Chief Skinner noted that this summer new Firefighter Vincent Ellis graduated from the Utica Fire Academy and is now working full time. Chief Skinner discussed the 2012 budget. The Fire Department was budgeted \$216,000, the actual amount of money spent was \$321,904, over budget by \$105,904. Chief Skinner explained that the budget overage was due to injuries on and off duty along with sick time usage. Three Firefighters were injured in the line of duty causing 2211 hours of Workers Compensation 207-A. there were also 1898.5 hours of sick leave usage. Chief Skinner then showed a graph of the Ambulance Revenue from 2009 until 2012. Projects underway includes replacing the overhead doors to the Firehouse, further securing the building thru access control and procuring equipment thru the \$241,000 grant received on 12/28/12 and crafting Green Island's permanent CON. Captain Thomas Eagan has written 10 AFG Grants for the City of Watervliet. Capt. Eagan has been successful in obtaining six out of the ten applied for. To date captain Eagan has netted \$1.4 million in grants for the City's Fire Department. The outlook is status quo, keep the paramedic/ambulance program on current pace, maintain our building, apparatus and equipment and work at reducing work related injuries as much as possible. Fire Chief Skinner thanked the City Council for allowing him to make this presentation this evening. Attached is a copy of the power point presentation.

ITEM #3 – Mark Gleason, General Manager requested Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council to make an announcement. Mr. Hidley explained to the City Council and residents in attendance that the Thursday, February 21, 2013 City Council Meeting has been cancelled. The City Council Meeting has been re-scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the J. Leo O'Brien Senior Citizen Facility.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 8910 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to file an application under the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Grant Program and further authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to accept and receive a grant for Planning Assistance purposes. Before voting Mayor Michael P. Manning explained that this grant would assist with funding related to the Watervliet Bicycle Master Plan. The City of Waterliet is responsible to pay \$15,000 towards the Watervliet Bicycle Master plan. The grant if awarded would offset that \$15,000 portion the City is responsible to pay. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8911 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby supports New York State regarding proposed laws concerning contract information for vacant structures. Before voting Yorden Huban, Corporation Counsel explained that this legislation supports two Assembly Bills A.88 and A.824. The request for the support of these two bills came from Assemblyman Michael P. Kearns of the 142nd Assembly District. The bills if passed would make it mandatory for banks to provide municipalities with contact information of property managers or other parties responsible for upkeep and maintenance of foreclosed or abandoned properties. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8912 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Watervliet and the Uniformed Firefighters Association and further authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute the same. Before voting Mark Gleason, General Manager explained that this Resolution is an extension to the current UFFA contract regarding ambulance service for Green Island. Until the contract is resolved all provisions of the old agreement will remain in effect. Upon motion of Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

RESOLUTION NO. 8913 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of \$33,000.00 from the Police Payroll Account to the Police Special Wages Account. Before voting Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained that this is a budget neutral transfer due to Firefighters who are out of work on Workers Compensation 207-A. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

ITEM #1 - Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance explained that at the next scheduled City Council Meeting on Thursday, February 14, 2013 he will have the end of the year budget transfers for 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Charlene Akullian – 813 24th Street – Watervliet, New York – Ms. Akullian questioned the City Council as to what is happening with School 9 located on 24th Street and 9th Avenue. Ms. Akullian noted how deplorable the building is especially on the backside by her house. The brick from the building is falling all over. Ms. Akullian thought someone had purchased the building to make apartments out of it. Mark Gilchrist, Building Inspector explained the person who was going to purchase the school backed out of the transaction and no one is doing any further work. Mr. Gilchrist will make another inspection of the property.

Mary Collett – Boght Rd. - Watervliet, New York – Ms Collett explained to the City Council that she is against the re-zoning/demolition of the property located at 919 19th Street, St.Patrick's Church. Ms. Collett had several questions related to the demolition of the building if it happens. Ms. Collett stated that there are a lot of environmental concerns that the City did not address during this process. Who will be monitoring the subject property site? Who do us as residents call when there are problems with contractors or removal of debris? Will we have a direct point of contact, either the City or a Project Manager when we have questions or concerns? Has a permit been issued by the City. There has been trucks on the site what work are they doing. Mark Gleason, General Manager explained that a lot of the concerns noted tonight by Ms. Collett were the same as Mr. Falaro. Mr. Gleason provided Ms. Collett with a copy of the responses provided to Mr. Falaro.

Stanley Such – 1856 12th Avenue – Watervliet, New York – Mr. Such explained to the City Council that he was very upset with the procedure of placing a notice on the property he owns on 1010 19th Street. Mr. Such noted that he never had a notice placed on his property before it was always sent to his home. Mr. Such was even that much more upset because his wife's name is on the notice also. The notice was posted on Facebook which makes this even worse. Mark Gilchrist, Building Inspector went thru a detailed explanation on the process the City does when it comes to Notice of Violation complaints. Mr. Such feels that this procedure is wrong and that he should have been notified at his 1856 12th Avenue residence,

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

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session for discussion of Labor Negotiations. The meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 7:50 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, FEBRUARY 7, 2013**

The meeting of the Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 8:00 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, Bruce A. Hidley, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, Yorden Huban, Corporation Counsel and Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance.

ITEM #1 - Mark Gleason, General Manager and Robert A. Fahr, Director of Finance updated the Council on the ongoing negotiations with the Uniformed Firefighters Association. Mr. Gleason and Mr. Fahr provided the Council with a full update on the contractual items which needed to be addressed. A detailed discussion followed with the Council providing direction for the negotiations.

There was no legislative action taken by the City Council during the Executive Session.

There being no further business to come before the City Council during Executive Session, a motion made and seconded to adjourn from the Executive Session at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council