

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015 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 Councilman Foglia were present.
Councilwoman Fogarty was excused.

Also present from City Administration were: Mark Gleason General Manager, Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban, Fire Chief Robert Conlen and Jeremy Smith City Clerk/Clerk to the Council.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the City Council minutes as written for December 10, 2015.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

ITEM #1 – General Manager Mark Gleason stated in October the City of Watervliet in partnership with Albany County started hosting recreation events at the dome and the Civic Center. The Dome has been the site for Lacrosse and Flag Football, the Civic Center is hosting Karate. The programs are for grade school students. The programs have an educational component to them, participants must have passing grades in school and the first 30 minutes of each program is devoted to school related subjects. This is a win/win for everyone involved; the County funds the instructors with the city hosting the sites. Watervliet children are exposed to recreational activities that normally would not be available to them. As an extra bonus Brian McCoy (running the program for the county) is working on a plan to bring heat to the dome at no expense to the City.

ITEM #2 – General Manager Mark Gleason stated NYSERDA has authorized the organic waste grant worth \$100,000. Planning is under way for the Kick Off meeting to be held in January. The Grant has funding for engineering costs and some equipment for our anaerobic digester (DASNY grant will pick up the remaining cost). The grant will develop a plan to involve other governmental entities in the removal of organic waste from our landfills. The City has identified the WSD as a partner. The city currently picks up the WSD garbage. Mr. Gleason stated that he feels that the tonnage of garbage the WSD throws out could be drastically reduced with the introduction of an organic waste program. The grant will fund the purchase of organic waste bins and educational material. Design work has begun on the foundation for the digester. Mr. Gleason stated that he anticipates starting footing for the foundation within the next few weeks with the actual pouring of the foundation (weather permitting) soon after. As part of the grant the City hopes to host a daylong conference on organic waste diversion on Earth Day, April 22, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1953 – An Ordinance 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, 2016. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Mayor Manning, this Ordinance was unanimously approved and adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 1954 – 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. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Mayor Manning, this Ordinance was unanimously approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 9216 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and directs Jeremy A. Smith, City Clerk/Clerk to the Council to advertise in the official newspaper that a public hearing will be held on January 7, 2016 at the City Council meeting that will be held at 7:00 PM at the J. Leo O'Brien Facility Senior Citizen Center, 1501 Broadway, Watervliet, New York, for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding the progress and effectiveness of NYS OCR Housing Rehabilitation Grant. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Mayor Manning, this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 9217 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby adopts the City of Watervliet Procurement Policy for the year 2015 pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 104. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Mayor Manning, this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Christine Kresloff – 1624 7th Avenue – Ms. Kresloff thanked the administration for taking down the sneakers on the power lines. General manager Mark Gleason asked Ms. Kresloff to please contact him immediately if she sees any others.

Ms. Kresloff asked that the City open up the police department and bring the dispatchers back to the department. Ms. Kresloff further stated that she feels this is necessary to make the City a better place to live.

Ms. Kresloff then asked if the City has ever been audited and stated that she had heard that the City's finances were under investigation.

General Manager Mark Gleason explained that the City has an independent audit completed each year and that the State of New York audited the City approximately five years ago and that any changes that were suggested were made immediately.

Jeff Foster – 1201 8th Avenue – Mr. Foster asked if there was going to be a sewer rate increase and if so why.

General Manager Mark Gleason stated that it is estimated that there will be a 3% increase in the sewer rate. Mr. Gleason further stated that this is to cover the costs pending work needed to be done through a DEC Consent Order on Combined Sewer Overflows.

Kathleen Judd – 1620 8th Avenue – Ms. Judd asked a budget question in regards to the cost of the Fire Department acting as the City's Ambulance Service.

General Manager Mark Gleason explained that there are costs associated with running the ambulance service but that the revenue exceeds the expenses.

Ms. Judd further commented that she agrees with the comments previously in regards to the dispatchers. Ms. Judd asked if there could be some information provided on response times since the dispatcher became 911.

Mayor Manning stated that he would try to get that information.

With there being no further comment or business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Next Meeting: January 7, 2015 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy A. Smith

City Clerk and Clerk to the Council