

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016 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 Fogarty and Councilman Foglia were present.

Also present from City Administration were: Mark Gleason General Manager, Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban, Police Lieutenant Spain, Fire Chief 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 January 21, 2016.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

**ITEM #1** – General Manager Mark Gleason stated he met with Tom Sullivan and Michele Stottler from the Engineering firm of Gomez and Sullivan. The meeting centered on the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) relicensing process for our Hydroelectric Plant located on our reservoir. The licensing process will start at the end of this year. The process takes up to 5 years (the license is up in 2022). In 1982 the City of Watervliet received a 40 year license to operate a hydroelectric plant. The plant is located east of the dam under the Normanskill Creek. The plant has a rated capacity of 850 kW (enough power for 800 households). The generated electricity is used to power the pumps that drive the water 12 miles to our Water Plant. The excess power is sold back to National Grid. Last year the City received \$67,000 in revenue (down from \$212,000 in 2014); two reasons for the large dip in revenue are; 2015 was drier than 2014 and the price of energy decreased dramatically in 2015. Cost to relicense the hydroelectric plant could range from a low of \$180,000 to \$5 million. Studies that FERC will demand are fish and water quality studies and a shoreline stabilization study. Other demands FERC could make are; fence in the entire reservoir find a remedy to the Stitt Road situation. FERC could also force the City to change the intake valves for the hydro (make them smaller) and construct a fish ladder for eels that are in the Normanskill. If FERC were to demand all these items be completed the City could be looking at a 5 million dollar project. During the license process FERC will ask for input concerning the relicense. DEC, EPA and other state and federal agencies as well as public interest groups will try to influence FERC into making changes to the license (making the City build a fish ladder etc. etc.). The more demands made by FERC the more the process will cost. Mr. Gleason further stated that the City will put a RFP together for the relicensing; the RFP should go out sometime in April.

**ITEM #2** – General Manager Mark Gleason announced that the interior work on the library expansion is complete. The 1300 square foot expansion cost \$400,000 the cost is being paid for by grants and donations. The library reopened on January 18. A formal Ribbon Cutting is being planned for next month. The exterior work will be completed in the spring.

Mr. Gleason further stated that Ben Wheatley is working on a landscape plan with Recreation working supervisor Bob Loya. Ben is working on the landscaping project as part of his Eagle Scout merit badge.

**ITEM #3** – General Manager Mark Gleason stated that 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. County Executive Dan McCoy delivered on his promise of providing heat to the dome. There are currently 3 LP gas heaters located at the dome. The lacrosse program has been very successful (exposing Watervliet Children to a sport they might not get the chance to try). Bringing heat to the Dome will also help out other activities held there (Little League Baseball-Soccer).

Mr. Gleason thanked County Executive Dan McCoy, Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple and Program Coordinator Brian McCoy for warming up the Dome.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1955** – An Ordinance providing that the code of the City of Watervliet Chapter 260 “Vehicle and traffic” Article IV “Handicapped Parking” Section 260-30 C “Sign Locations” Be Amended to add a sign on the southwest side of the residence located at 2319 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Ordinance was Unanimously approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9245** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves a Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Watervliet and the Department of the Army to secure for each the benefits of mutual aid in fire prevention and the protection of life and property from fire or other emergencies by the City of Watervliet Fire Department and the Watervliet Arsenal Fire Department. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9246** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and directs Jeremy A. Smith, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, to advertise once in the official newspaper of the City that sealed bids will be received in the City Clerk’s Office of the City of Watervliet, City Hall, Watervliet, New York 12189 until 10:00 AM on March 9, 2016 for the Route 32 Green Infrastructure Project. Plans and specifications for the proposed work will be on file and publicly exhibited as of February 25, 2016 at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Watervliet, New York 12189 and at the office of Weston & Sampson, 22 High Street, Rensselaer, New York 12144. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9247** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and directs Jeremy A. Smith, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, to advertise once in the official newspaper of the City that the City of Watervliet will issue Requests For Proposals (RFPs) for engineering services for the Watervliet Civic Center Capital Improvement Project and that Proposals must be received in the City Clerk’s Office of the City of Watervliet, City Hall, Watervliet, New York 12189 no later than 10:00 AM on March 8, 2016. Requests For Proposals (RFPs) will be on file and publicly exhibited as of February 16, 2016 at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Watervliet, New York 12189. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

## **APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING**

NONE

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**Amanda Austin – 4 Grotto Court** – Ms. Austin began by asking if the City was awarded the grant to remove trolley tracks and other infrastructure work on Route 32.

City Clerk/Clerk to the Council Jeremy Smith stated that the City was not successful on any other grants to date.

Ms. Austin asked about how the City will determine which options to pursue in regards to the FERC Relicensing.

General Manager Mark Gleason explained that FERC can dictate some certain criteria in gaining a license but that the City Council will make final determination on what options to choose.

Ms. Austin asked what the procedure is for posting minutes and agenda’s for Council Meetings.

City Clerk/Clerk to the Council Jeremy Smith stated that draft minutes are posted at City Hall within five days from the meeting and that minutes are posted on the City website after their final approval by the Council at the next meeting. Mr. Smith further stated that draft minutes are always available to the public by request. Mr. Smith stated that advanced Agenda is mailed out to those who request it.

Ms. Austin stated that the “Relay for Life” will take place in Watervliet on the High School Track on June 4 from noon until midnight.

Ms. Austin asked if there was a size limit for parking vehicles on a street. Lieutenant Spain stated that there is a limit for trailers on the back of trucks, but a truck cab is allowed to park on the street. Lt. Spain further stated that if a vehicle is blocking emergency vehicles that citizens should contact the police.

**Christine Kresloff – 1624 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Kresloff asked if there was a way to have the “No Turn on Red” sign at the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Second Avenue intersection could have a color change due to it being unnoticeable when the sun hits it.

Police Lieutenant Spain stated that NYSDOT states that the sign color is the most noticeable but that he would contact them to see if there are other options.

**Linda Van Wert – 106 1<sup>st</sup> St.** – Ms. Van Wert wanted to know what the process is for acquiring a handicapped sign in front of a property because her mother applied and was turned down.

Mayor Manning explained the criteria and asked Lt. Spain to speak directly with Ms. Van Wert after the meeting to explain the process in further detail.

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

Next Meeting: February 18, 2016 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy A. Smith

City Clerk and Clerk to the Council