

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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, 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 February 4, 2016.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

ITEM #1 – General Manager Mark Gleason stated that if the date is acceptable to the Council the City of Watervliet the City will hold Spring Bulk Week the week of April 4-7. Items go out at the same time as your garbage. Residents must follow the guidelines set in the Sanitation/Recycling policy. Materials must fit into a 4ft. X 4ft. x 8ft. area. NO Refrigerators/Electronics/Hazardous Materials.

Mr. Gleason further stated that the City will hold an Electronic Recycling day on Friday April 8. The event will be held at the DPW (Behind the Firehouse) from 7am to 2pm, Watervliet Residents Only. With the cost of energy decreasing within the last year, we could see a time when we do not receive revenue for our recyclables. With oil around \$30 per barrel, it is almost cheaper to produce oil based products (plastic) then it is to make them out of recycled material. Mr. Gleason stated that thanks to the relationship formed by Chris Daus our recycling coordinator with County Waste the City has a contract for weekly garbage/recycling until December 2017 (\$52.00 per ton in tipping fees and we receive \$10 per ton for recyclables). The City does not however have a contract for televisions, other electronics as well for tires, propane tanks, air conditioners and refrigerators; therefore there will be a small charge for them on the electronic recycling day.

ITEM #2 – General Manager Mark Gleason announced that he was involved in a teleconference with FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) and Albany Engineering (City Sub Contractor who has been working with FERC on our behalf). The call involved an April 2015 flood /dam breach study prepared by Albany Engineering for FERC. FERC had accepted and approved the study in April; but they have now reversed their decision and have asked for additional information and mapping. The City administration believes the change is due to the embankment slide that occurred at the Normanskill Golf Course in April of last year (after the study was accepted). The Normanskill Creek is the main source of water in our reservoir; it flows into the reservoir from the west, exiting to the east at our dam. FERC is requesting that a remodeling of the Normanskill creek flows during the Sunny day, 100 year and

500 year flood be made. FERC has had a large turnover of personnel; our new representative (Jodi Dutta) will not support/accept the April 2015 study without additional research/data.

Councilman Foglia suggested that the City reach out to State and Federal elected officials to help find ways to defray costs for the study.

ITEM #3 – General Manager mark Gleason stated that the transition of requiring residents to make tax payments at Pioneer Savings Bank instead of making them at City Hall got off to a slow start, but now that the “rush” is over we want to review the process. Our residents have 4 options available to them when it comes to paying taxes:

- Pay by mail
- Pay by cash or check in person at Pioneer Savings Bank
- Thru their escrow accounts
- E Check using xpress pay

The City estimates that 22% (600) of all tax payments were made at Pioneer (the remaining taxes were paid by mail-38% or from escrow accounts-39% E-check-1%). About 1% (35 residents) of our residents came to City Hall to make payments (they were directed to Pioneer Savings Bank). The positives of having tax payments made at Pioneer Savings Bank are:

- More Secure, there is now a very small amount of cash in the Finance office (past \$30,000 in cash in office)
- Manpower, a P/T retired employee was not replaced
- Easier access and longer service hours to pay taxes (Pioneer is open for longer hours and is open on Saturday's)
- Fewer distractions, finance office employees concentrate on accounting not accepting tax payments

Mr. Gleason further stated that there have been only minor issues on Pioneer Bank's side (payments cannot be made at Drive up window-only one computer terminal can accept payments), we are working with Pioneer on these issues. Requesting that our residents make their in person payments at Pioneer Savings Bank has proved to be a wise move, it has helped cut expenses and made it more convenient for residents.

Councilwoman Fogarty stated that she is working diligently to correct the minor issues that there have been on Pioneers end.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 9248 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Joanna P. Gleason, Esq. commencing on February 12, 2016 and ending on January 6, 2017. Prior to voting Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban stated that this appointment is to replace the former attorney who handled traffic court for the City of Watervliet. General manager Mark Gleason stated that he wanted to fully disclose that Mrs. Gleason is his relative by marriage. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 9249 – The Council of the City of Watervliet, in accordance with Local Law No. 1 for the Year 2012, §28-20, hereby reappoints Kathy Deguire, to the Board of Ethics retroactive to May 2, 2015 and expiring on May 1, 2018. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 9250 – 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 of Watervliet a public notice entitled *Early Notice and Public Review of Proposed Activity Located on a 100 Years Floodplain*. Prior to voting City Clerk Jeremy Smith stated that this was part of the Environmental review process for the grant awarded for the Civic Center project. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Fogarty seconded by Councilman Foglia this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

RESOLUTION NO. 9251 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of funds from certain under spent accounts to other over spent accounts in the annual estimate which have become necessary due to unforeseen circumstances. Prior to voting City Clerk Jeremy Smith stated that this is the annual year end budget neutral transfers that are over \$2,000.00 and require Council approval. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, Seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

NONE

With there being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2016 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy A. Smith

City Clerk and Clerk to the Council