

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 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, City Clerk/Clerk to the Council Jeremy Smith, Fire Chief Conlen, and Acting Police Chief Lt. Spain.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the City Council minutes as written for August 4, 2016.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

**ITEM #1** – General Manager Mark Gleason stated he has received numerous complaints from residents all over the city as to rodents; most of the complaints are concerning skunks. Skunks have become part of the urban landscape. There have been suggestions as to how to deal with them. In the past the City had employees who could legally trap and remove skunks, those employees have since retired. Our current City Animal Control officer does not have a permit or license for the removal of rodents. It has been suggested that the city contract out for the removal of rodents, but there has been some legal concerns. Mr. Gleason stated that he would like to review some things residents can do to discourage skunks from taking up residence in the yards and start a dialogue as to what can be done.

**ITEM #2** – General Manager Mark Gleason introduced City Clerk Jeremy Smith to discuss the awarding of an EFC Drinking water grant.

Mr. Smith stated that just over a year ago the City authorized the submission of an application to the EFC and NYS DOH for a drinking water grant. The City was recently awarded the grant. Mr. Smith stated that the grant, which is for \$2,262,384.00, is part of a five year Drinking Infrastructure plan that costs approximately \$3,770,640.00. Mr. Smith further explained that this project would replace old and undersized water mains throughout the City, inspect and fix any issues with the transmission main from Guilderland, finalize and upgrade an interconnect with the Village of Menands, and empty and upgrade the standpipe (water tank) on the Northwest end of the City.

**ITEM #3** – General Manager Mark Gleason introduced Eric Lerner, President of Schuyler Companies. Mr. Lerner presented several concepts of changing the landscaping in front of the Schuyler Properties owned building on the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway. Mr. Lerner asked for the City to consider these changes as they would help to fill the void at the building once vacated by First Niagara Bank. Mr. Lerner is in the process of selling/leasing the building and changing the landscaping would make the building more visible from I-787.

## OLD BUSINESS

NONE

## NEW BUSINESS

**ORDINANCE NO. 1968** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet Amending Chapter 260 “VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC” Article IV “HANDICAPPED PARKING” to add signs in front of the properties at 305 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 1875 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Ordinance was unanimously approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9285** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves and authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute the Stormwater Coalition of Albany County Statement of Intent (2017 Annual Membership and Fees) that the City of Watervliet intends to renew its Coalition membership for 2017 and The Council further approves and authorizes the expenditure to the Coalition for the portion of membership dues in the amount of \$12,021.00. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9286** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby rejects all bids submitted for the Civic Center Public Facility Rehabilitation Project and further determines in good faith that a second round of bidding will generate lower bids, thus benefiting the tax payers of the City of Watervliet, and further authorizes and directs Jeremy A. Smith City Clerk/Clerk to the Council to re-advertise by separate resolution. Prior to voting, City Clerk Jeremy Smith stated that the bids for the project came in much higher than budgeted. Mr. Smith further stated that the lead time for the project and the time of year were in part reasons for the high bids. It is expected that another round of bidding at the start of 2017 will allow for more competitive bidding. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9287** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves a Municipal Advisor Services Agreement with Munistat Services, Inc., 12 Roosevelt Avenue, Port Jefferson Station, New York 11776, to provide financial advisory services to the City of Watervliet and further authorizes and directs Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute the same. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

## APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

NONE

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Maryann Checetto – 121 3<sup>rd</sup> Street** – Ms. Checetto stated that she was looking for some resolution to an issue that happened after a fire in the City. After the fire the family needed to relocate and had children. Because it was unexpected the family did not have child seats for the Children and drove away without child seats. Ms. Checetto asked that the City look into some sort of program to ensure that this does not happen again.

**Amanda Austin – 14 Grotto Court** – Mrs. Austin asked what could be done about the intersection of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue where there is a 3-way stop. Mrs. Austin stated that it seems as though people are confused and they have been several “near misses” in the area.

General Manager Mark Gleason stated that multiple study and conversation have been done for this intersection. Mr. Gleason stated that signs explaining that oncoming traffic does not stop will be added to the stop signs east bound on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

**Paul Hughes – 108 15<sup>th</sup> Street** – Mr. Hughes asked that the City look into having an engineering study done on the Church at 15<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Mr. Hughes stated that the Steeple looks like it is leaning and ready to fall and that the gutters look like there are trees growing in it because it is not maintained.

General Manager Mark Gleason asked that the meeting be adjourned into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty the Meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 7:44pm.

Mayor Manning called the meeting back to order at 8:12pm.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9288** – The Council of the City of Watervliet approves authorizes and consents to the Settlement of Jane Doe #2 and Hereby authorizes the payment of \$25,000.00 to HCC Public Risk Claims Service who administers insurance claims on behalf of U.S. Specialty Insurance Company, the City’s insurance carrier, for the deductible due to the insurance company paying the settlement. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Foglia, This Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

A Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:13pm.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2016 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy A. Smith

City Clerk and Clerk to the Council