

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Manning at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call showed that Mayor Manning, Councilman Foglia and Councilman Patricelli were present.

Also present from City Administration were: Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban, Acting General Manager/Clerk to the Council Jeremy Smith, Director of Finance Michael McNeff, Fire Chief Conlen and Police Chief Spain.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the City Council minutes as written for January 5, 2017.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mayor Manning announced that the first recipient of the Citizen of the Month is Bill Fahr. Mayor Manning stated that Mr. Fahr and his brother Paul are major contributors to the beautification of the City including working at Brotherhood Park and in front of the Library and Sr. Center as well as their continued work with the Church and in the City's youth sports.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

ITEM #1 – Acting General Manager Jeremy Smith stated that under the recommendation of Councilman Patricelli that he has instituted a Work Order Policy for the city of Watervliet. Mr. Smith stated the Work Order System itself is a database that tracks work to be completed by departments within the City. This is the first true tracking system that the City of Watervliet has had.

Mr. Smith gave the following example as to how it would work at this point. If any department sees an issue or is notified by a resident of an issue, an email will be sent to the General Manager's office. This issue will then be placed into the work order system which will generate an email to the applicable department head. On a daily weekly and monthly basis each and every one of these issues will be monitored by the general manager's office to ensure that these matters are taken care of in a timely manner. Upon completion a report will be done stating when and how and by whom the matter was handled by, and the accompanied expenses to remedy the issue.

Mr. Smith further stated that there is a link on the website for citizens to also report any issues.

ITEM #2 – Acting General Manager Jeremy Smith stated that On Tuesday he received a letter from the American Public Works Association notifying him that the City will be the recipient of the APWA Capital branch Award for 2016 for the Route 32 Green Infrastructure Project. The City will be recognized at a Luncheon on February 3, 2017.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 9313 –The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement for legal services with Goldberger & Kremer, 39 North Pearl Street, Suite 201, Albany, New York 12207 for a period of one (1) year commencing on January 19, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2017 and further authorizes and directs Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute same. Upon a motion from Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilman Patricelli, this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 9314 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Joanna P. Gleason, Esq. commencing on January 19, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2017 and further authorizes and directs Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute same. Prior to voting Councilman Patricelli stated that he did not like the process of hiring this attorney and feels that there should be an RFP process for professional services. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilman Patricelli, this Resolution was approved by a 2-1 vote. Councilman Patricelli voted Nay.

RESOLUTION NO. 9315 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement with Tabner, Ryan and Keniry, LLP, 18 Corporate Woods Boulevard, Suite 8, Albany, New York 1221, for a period of one (1) year commencing on January 19, 2017 and terminating on December 31, 2017 and further authorizes and directs Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute same. Upon a motion from Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilman Patricelli, this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 9316 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Capital Region IT, Inc., for a period of one (1) year commencing on January 19, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2017. Prior to voting Councilman Patricelli stated that he felt this service should go through an RFP process to find the best firm for this service. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilman Patricelli, this Resolution was approved by a 2-1 vote. Councilman Patricelli voted Nay.

RESOLUTION NO. 9317 – That the Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Capital Region IT, Inc., for a period of one (1) year commencing on January 19, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2017 for IT at the WPD. Upon a motion by Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilman Patricelli, this Resolution was approved by a 2-1 vote. Councilman Patricelli voted Nay.

RESOLUTION NO. 9318 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Barclay Damon, LLP, M. Cornelia Cahill, Esq., 80 State Street, Albany, New York 12207 commencing on January 19, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2017. Upon a motion from Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilman Patricelli, this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 9319 – the Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Gomez & Sullivan Engineers, D.P.C., 288 Genesee St. Utica, NY 13502. Upon a motion from Councilman Foglia, seconded by Councilman Patricelli, this Resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

NONE

Before the public comment period several items were discussed.

Item #1 – Acting General manager Jeremy Smith stated that the City would be working to have advanced agenda available to the public. Mr. Smith stated that department heads have been notified that proposed legislation needs to be turned in to the Corporation Counsel for review by the Friday before the meeting. This would allow for an advanced agenda to be distributed and placed on the website on the Monday of the meeting week.

Item #2 – Acting general Manager Jeremy Smith stated that he was working with City Administration to compile the list of missing data that has caused the City of Watervliet to score such a low grade on the website. Mr. Smith further stated that once all of the data is compiled it will be placed on the website.

Item #3 – police Chief Mark Spain announced that the Watervliet PD has received a grant for safety equipment. This grant is in conjunction with Albany County and will provide new helmets and vests for the department.

Item #4 – Fire Chief Conlen reported that he has been looking in to the Internship program. Chief Conlen stated that he had been made aware of the deficiencies in the program and is looking to rectify those issues and move the program forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Paul Huban – 1500 12th Avenue – Mr. Huban apologized and stated that he had re-read the documents in regards to the sale of 20th street and now understands that there is a 180 day clause. Mr. Huban asked when the 180 days began and when it would expire. Mr. Huban also asked what the consequences would be if the criteria is not met.

Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban stated that the consequence is a re-conveyance. Mr. Huban went on to explain that at the discretion of the Council, if the new owners of the property do not meet the criteria stated in the sale, the Council may formally take back ownership of the property.

Amanda Austin – 4 Grotto Court – Ms. Austin stated that this is her first announcement of the Relay 4 Life event that will be held at Watervliet high School on Saturday June 3. Ms. Austin stated that there would be a kickoff event on March 20th and that the Relay 4 Life benefits the American Cancer Society.

Nancy Forgett – 1230 5th Avenue – Ms. Forgett asked if there was anything that is being done about the corner store that is vacant on 13th street. Ms. Forgett stated that this has been brought up before and nothing is being done. She further stated that it has become a danger in the neighborhood.

Ms. Forgett asked about what is being done about poor curbing near her home.

Ms. Forgett asked about the increase in workers comp premiums and wanted to know mainly about the reasons for the increase in budgeted costs.

Ms. Forgett asked if anyone had come to look at the piping in front of her home that she mentioned at the last meeting.

Ms. Forgett stated that she had contacted Acting General Manager Jeremy Smith in regards to a list of job titles and job descriptions in the City of Watervliet but has heard no reply.

Ms. Forgett stated that she felt removing employees from the budget in one year and placing the job back in the budget in the next year was “shady” and is not right.

Acting General Manager Jeremy Smith stated that all property in the public right of way from the curb to the home is the responsibility of the property owner.

Mr. Smith commented that there are several factors to increasing costs in Workers Compensation. First there is the amount of claims that are filed not only by the City but by all members of the pool with the current Insurance Company. Other factors include state rates, inflation and deductible expenses. Mr. Smith also stated that the budget is driven by historical data and is an estimate of expenditure. Mr. Smith said that each of the past 4 years workers compensation costs have been over the budgeted amount. Mr. Smith went on to state that several measures are being taken to reduce the cost of workers compensation.

Mr. Smith stated that the City does not have a list of positions or a job description per say, but that Civil Service has a list of eligible positions and job titles for each.

Paul Hughes – 108 15th Street – Mr. Hughes asked if there was a way to sell or have another company run the Hydro facility and if that would save the City money.

Mayor Manning stated that all options have been looked into and some proposals were received but nothing ever came to fruition.

With there being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

Next Meeting: February 2, 2017 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy A. Smith

Clerk to the Council