

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Manning at 7:22 P.M.

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

Also present from City Administration were: General Manager Jeremy Smith, City Clerk & Clerk to the Council Scott O'Reilly, Director of Finance Michael McNeff, Corporation Counsel Yorden Hubann Police Chief Spain and Fire Chief Rob Conlen.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting and accept the City Council minutes as written for August 17, 2017.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

ITEM # 1 –General Manager Jeremy Smith presented the “Citizen of the Month” award to Paul Kraznopolski.

ITEM # 2 – General Manager Jeremy Smith explained the schedule of events for the upcoming “Arsenal City Weekend.” General Manager Smith pointed out that the festivities would begin with the homecoming football game at the Watervliet High School, Friday September 22nd, followed by a “Family Fun Day,” at the Dome on Saturday September 23rd, and concluding with the 36th Annual Arsenal City Run on Sunday September 24th.

PARKS COMMITTEE REPORT

ITEM #1 – Councilman Patricelli announced that the Parks Committee, with the help of many volunteers, was able to decorate the Gazebo for the Fall season. Councilman Patricelli pointed out that many of the decorations were donated, including mums and corn stalks.

ITEM #2 – Councilman Patricelli stated that the Parks Committee was now starting to work on the Halloween Parade in conjunction with “Kid’s Count” and the City. Councilman Patricelli noted that there had been some recent issues with the parade that needed to be discussed but that the Parks Committee was “willing and able” to help in any way they could as they have in years past.

ITEM #3 – Councilman Patricelli made it known that the subject of the City Ice Rink was also brought up at the latest Parks Committee meeting and that they would be talking more about it as the Winter season drew closer.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING #1 – A public hearing for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding the City of Watervliet’s community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2017-18 program year for housing activities, with the principal purpose of benefitting low/moderate income persons. The public hearing will also include a progress report and update on the current and active CDBG grant programs.

Due to some information not yet being available, with regards to current and upcoming grant projects, this Public Hearing was postponed to a date not yet determined.

RESOLUTION NO. 9406 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby adopts a Complete Streets Policy. This Resolution had been tabled at the previous meeting.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this policy would update the city’s standard for roadway safety and multi-modal transportation. The policy would give the City of Watervliet access to Department of Transportation recommendations for how roads should be reconstructed when they are under construction. Those recommendations would include ways to keep all types of transportation (i.e. pedestrian and bicycle) safe.

Councilman Patricelli noted that his main concern with this issue was that a request for a sign survey had been submitted recently, to identify old or damaged signs that needed to be replaced, and whether or not that survey had been completed as of yet. Police Chief Mark Spain explained that multiple signs had been identified as needing to be replaced but that a survey for the entire city had not yet been completed. General Manager Smith also pointed out that every sign that had been identified on the initial list by Chief Spain, had in fact been replaced. Councilman Patricelli then asked if the Police Department could continue with the survey and Chief Spain informed him that they would.

General Manager Smith then introduced two gentlemen from the crowd who were already involved in various “Complete Streets” projects in the area. These two individuals worked for “Capital Routes” and were in attendance to offer a little more insight into the program and answer any questions anyone might have. They explained that by adopting this Resolution the City of Watervliet would be in a “great position” to receive transportation funding that could help bring in tourism dollars to the City of Watervliet. General Manager Smith then pointed out that by simply adopting this policy the City will receive funding as well as additional funding after the implementation of the policy is complete.

After a motion to move on the Resolution by Councilman Patricelli, and seconded by Mayor Manning, the Resolution passed with a 2-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1978 - 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 in front of the residence located at 2102 4th Avenue. Police Chief Spain gave his recommendation to place a sign at this location due to the competition for parking on that section of 4th avenue. With this having been the first reading of the Ordinance, no action was taken.

RESOLUTION NO. 9413 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and directs Scott O'Reilly, 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 Senior Citizens and Library Capital Improvement Grant 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 October 12, 2017. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will be on file and publicly exhibited at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Watervliet, New York 12189.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Patricelli and seconded by Mayor Manning this Resolution passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 9414 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves and authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute the Statement of Intent to renew its Albany County Stormwater Coalition Membership for 2018 and The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves and authorizes the expenditure for dues in the amount of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$9,350.00).

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this was an annual membership and also that the City Council had previously approved remaining in the Albany County Stormwater Coalition. After a motion made by Councilman Patricelli, seconded by Mayor Manning, the Resolution passed with a 2-0 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 9415 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and directs Scott O'Reilly, 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 a financial and administrative data processing system to serve the current and projected needs of the City of Watervliet 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 October 12, 2017.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that the City had been in the market for an "all encompassing" software system for City Hall, citing that presently, new financial software is the highest priority. General Manager Smith pointed out that the City has researched several systems

used by other municipalities and that the City is now ready to put the RFP out to the public. Any company that responds to the RFP will be asked to include any other modules they may have that would be helpful to the City's Building and Code Department, Licensing Department, Accounts Receivable Department, and Human Resources.

Director of Finance Mike McNeff added that the City's utility billing needed to be upgraded as well due to the fact that the City's current software provider no longer supports the utility billing program. Director McNeff also stated the need for different department's software to be able to "talk" to one another electronically.

Councilman Patricelli inquired about an estimated cost for these services and Director McNeff stated that it varied depending on the level of service and the vendor the City chose to go with but that it could be anywhere from \$30,000 to \$300,000.

Corporation Council Yorden Huban suggested the City reach out to its current software vendor to give them proper notice of our intent to switch vendors at the conclusion of our current contract, which expires at the end of the year.

Councilman Patricelli pointed out that \$30,000 to \$300,000 is a wide range for this new system and asked if the City had an idea of whom they wanted to go with. Director McNeff stated that he had been in contact with multiple vendors and municipalities regarding new software systems but reiterated that depending on the quality of the software and the vendor providing it, the price does vary.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Patrcelli, seconded by Mayor Manning, the Resolution passed with a 2-0 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 9417 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby appoints Frank McGrouty to the vacant seat on the City Council until December 31, 2017.

This Resolution was introduced from the floor by Mayor Manning. With Mayor Manning having made the motion to move on the Resolution, Councilman Patricelli seconded it in order to put it to a vote.

Prior to voting Councilman Patricelli, congratulated Frank McGrouty on his recent victory in the Democratic Primary for the vacant City Council seat and wished him luck in the upcoming general election. Councilman Patricelli then stated he would have to vote against this appointment because it would give Mr. McGrouty an "unfair advantage" over Republican candidate Andrew Williams and Independent candidate Jeff Foster, in the general election. Councilman Patricelli expressed his disappointment that the City Council had not yet been able to agree on an appointee for the vacant City Council seat but that it this point the Council should leave the decision in the hands of the voters in the upcoming election.

The Resolution was then officially put to a vote, with Councilman Patricelli being opposed and Mayor Manning being in favor therefore the Resolution did not pass.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

RESOLUTION NO. 9416 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the issuance of not to exceed \$2,500,000.00 Revenue Anticipation Notes, in anticipation of the receipt of certain revenue.

Prior to moving on the Resolution, Councilman Patricelli asked if this issue was time sensitive. Director of Finance Mike McNeff stated that due to recent CHIPS money coming in to the City the Resolution could be pushed off until mid-October if need be. Director Mcneff then asked if it was possible to meet in an emergency meeting prior to the next City Council Meeting on October 5, 2017, if it was deemed absolutely necessary to pass this legislation. He was informed that was an option but Councilman Patricelli noted he would not be available for such a meeting until October 2nd.

A question was then posed from the audience as to why an action such as this was necessary. Director McNeff explained that historically this time of year “funds are tight” due to state aid not coming until the end of the year and being in between the City’s tax billing cycles. Director McNeff went on to point out that this money would help the city take advantage of some discounts on certain large bills, due in the near future, by paying them early. Also, by utilizing these discounts the City would offset any expenses incurred through the financing this Revenue Anticipation Note.

Mayor Manning stated that in the past, when the City had a different tax billing schedule, this type of action would be utilized sometimes twice a year.

Councilman Patricelli noted that last year the City only borrowed around one million dollars and asked why the number was so much higher this year. Director McNeff stated that last year the City did not have the funds available to pay off these large bills early and therefore could not take advantage of the discounts that accompanied them. Councilman Patricelli then stated that although he understood the reasoning behind acquiring this money, he would like to come up with a plan to build up the City’s fund balance so that this type of action is no longer needed moving forward.

Councilman Patricelli then requested he be made aware of this type of legislation in a timelier manner so that he could discuss it thoroughly before deciding on it. Director McNeff apologized for not giving more advanced notice but pointed out that he was working with the bond agent to get locked in at a favorable interest rate which is why the notice was given when it was. He also stated that by waiting to pass this Resolution the interest rate could potentially increase.

Councilman Patricelli then made a motion to table the Resolution, which was seconded by Mayor Manning,

Prior to opening the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Councilman Patricelli wished to address a few issues.

Councilman Patricelli asked for an update on the progress made with the new playground equipment at Clinton Park. General Manager Jeremy Smith stated that the equipment had been installed but that during installation one of the slides was discovered to be broken so it was removed and the area was blocked off. General Manager Smith explained that because of the issue with that slide, the second slide that is a part of the apparatus was also being closely monitored to ensure its safety.

Councilman Patricelli then expressed his concern that the City's generator, located at the City Garage, had not been operational for some time. Councilman Patricelli noted that in an emergency situation having a functional generator is extremely important. General Manager Smith explained that the generator was now operational.

After attending the Armenian Independence celebration in Watervliet on behalf of the city, Councilman Patricelli congratulated them for the twenty sixth anniversary of their independence.

Councilman Patricelli then stated, as had been previously discussed, that he would not be available for the scheduled October 19th City Council Meeting but could be available on October 12th or 26th.

Councilman Patricelli brought up some concerns he had regarding a report given by the Fire Department with regards to their two percent Fire Insurance Premiums. In those reports, some of the numbers did not add up correctly. Fire Chief Rob Conlen stated he believed it could have been a clerical error but that he would look into it. General Manager Smith agreed with Councilman Patricelli's observation and stated he had been in contact with the Fire Department and State Comptroller's office to get the issue rectified.

Councilman Patricelli pointed out that he had requested a desk or office located at City Hall and that once logistics were figured out he would announce when it would be ready.

Councilman Patricelli asked General Manager Smith to talk about the prices the city pays for Gas and Electric and any update he had on the Solar Energy the city uses. General Manager Smith stated he was looking into the gas and electric question and that he had a memo from Soloman Energy that he would distribute to the council.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chris Kresloff – 1624 7th Avenue – Ms. Kresloff expressed concerns about Clinton Park. She stated that she frequents Clinton Park on a daily basis and that she routinely sees debris, mainly used cigarette butts, all over the grounds. Recently, she had found what appeared to be vials with some type of drug in them, which she brought with her and handed over to Police Chief Mark Spain. Ms. Kresloff asked why the park needed to be open until 9:30 PM, especially in the Fall and Winter months. She believed the parks should be closed at 7:00 PM and asked that more frequent patrols be done by the Police Department.

Paul Huban – 1500 12th Avenue – Mr. Huban voiced concerns about City Assessor and Zoning Officer, Mark Gilchrist. He noted that he had been cited and brought to court by Mr. Gilchrist for having a political sign on one of his properties and asked if any similar action had been taken against those who still had campaign signs on their properties with the primary being over. Mr. Huban also noted that there are “tanks in the ground” where certain business used to operate and that after a period of time those tanks are supposed to be removed and wondered if Mr. Gilchrist was aware of this or had taken any action to remedy the situation. Mr. Huban formally asked the City Council to look into these issues. General Manager Jeremy Smith stated that Mr. Gilchrist had sent a violation, for a political sign still being out, earlier in the week. Mayor Manning then asked where the underground tanks were located and Mr. Huban stated at the old Selby’s Garage on the corner of 2nd Avenue and 23rd Street.

Jeff Foster – 1201 8th Avenue – Mr. Foster expressed concerns about City Assessor and Zoning Officer Mark Gilchrist and his role in approving a Mosque to be opened in the City. Mr. Foster also mentioned that Mr. Gilchrist made more money than he should for the amount of hours he works per week.

Mr. Foster also stated that Gallo Construction was “making a mess of the city” with their work on the water mains in the area of 3rd Avenue. He suggested the city require them to have one staging area for their work instead of having them spread out throughout the city. Mr. Foster also asked who was in charge of oversight on this project for the City of Watervliet because the project was not going smoothly.

Mr. Foster asked Fire Chief Conlen when the fire at Van Rensselaer Village occurred. Chief Conlen responded that the fire occurred on June 12th of this year. Mr. Foster then asked why the building was still standing.

General Manager Smith explained that he would look into the issue with Gallo Construction. Councilman Patricelli then asked who was supervising the project on behalf of the city. General Manager Smith stated that David Dressel, acting head of the Water Department, was overseeing the project and that Weston & Sampson were the consulting engineers on the project.

Councilman Patricelli then asked that if anyone saw any issues, like the ones being created by Gallo Construction, that they let the City Council know so that they may inform the General Manager to have it addressed.

Peg Germano – 1124 7th Avenue – Mrs. Germano wanted to know what the City’s policy on block parties is. She explained that she had requested to have a block party but was denied. Mrs. Germano stated that the Arsenal City Tavern had recently been approved to have a block party and she wanted to know why they were allowed to but she was not. General Manager Smith explained that the denial letter that was sent outlined the reasons for the request being denied. He then explained that the Arsenal City Tavern had applied for one but they had not yet been approved.

Mrs. Germano also asked for an update on the cleaning of the City Reservoir. General Manager Smith explained that work was being done to clean up the Reservoir by city staff but that a complete cleaning would require a capital project and additional funding.

Paul Hughes – 108 15th Street – Mr. Hughes congratulated the City on their summer concert series and expressed his delight at having all the concerts in the same park, at Hudson Shores.

Mr. Hughes asked about the dock that had been removed by the Rusty Anchor and left at Hudson Shores Park. He believed it to be a safety hazard if it wasn't removed. Mr. Hughes also inquired about the city vehicles that are parked at Hudson Shores Park and have been there for some time. General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that the vehicles had been taken off the City's insurance and that they were being stored down at the park until they could be auctioned off.

Mr. Hughes also asked for an update on the Hazardous Materials found in the ground at the old dry cleaners on 19th Street and who in fact was responsible for the removal of them.

Pat Palero – 1921 6th Avenue – Mr. Palero thanked Councilman Patricelli for his help with having a one way sign replaced on Sixth Avenue near Price Chopper.

Mr. Palero also expressed his concerns about the Hazardous Materials found at the old dry cleaners on 19th Street. He explained that he had been in contact with the Department of Environmental Conservation and was waiting on some information from them.

Mr. Palero also pointed out the traffic issues that may come about as a result of the new Mosque coming into the City. He cited the Mosque on Troy-Schenectady Road in Latham and the traffic issues caused in that area. He also stated that Colonie Police have to station an officer to direct traffic before and after services held at the Mosque and pointed out that our Police Department may need to do the same.

Ellen Hughes – 1876 9th Avenue - Ms. Hughes wanted to discuss the problem with the Halloween Parade. As far as Ms. Hughes knew, the reason for not having a Halloween Parade this year was insurance related. She asked if the parade could be put on if the location of it were changed.

Mayor Manning responded that in the past, the issue of insurance for the parade never came up but once it had, it had to be looked into more closely.

Ms. Hughes then asked if the family fun day being held at Dome had insurance and General Manager Smith stated that being a city sponsored event and being held in a city owned building, the event does indeed fall under the City's insurance.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the City took over in running the Halloween Parade, instead of "Kid's Count" could it fall under the City's insurance. Mayor Manning informed him that it could.

General Manager Smith then stated that the issue becomes whether or not the City wants to take on the liability that "Kid's Count" is not willing to take on. Councilman Patricelli then

compared the Halloween Parade to the upcoming “Arsenal City Weekend” events and stated it would not be much different to have the City take responsibility for the parade as well. Mayor Manning stated that the City would get in touch with “Kid’s Count” to figure out how to proceed so that the Parade can be held.

Don Whitehead – 1921 8th Avenue – Mr. Whitehead asked that City Council Meetings be posted to the City website in a timelier manner because the most recent minutes posted are from May of this year.

With there being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

*Next Meeting: October 5, 2017 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott P. O’Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council

