

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, April 5, 2018 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 Patricelli, and Councilman McGrouty were present.

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

Councilman Patricelli made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes from the previous meeting, which Councilman McGrouty seconded. A vote was then taken to dispense with the minutes that passed unanimously.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**Water & Sewer Department Report**

Working Supervisor of the Water Department, David Dressel, gave an overview of the duties and responsibilities of his department as well as the process our water goes through before it reaches homes or businesses. Mr. Dressel explained that the Water Department oversaw the Watervliet Reservoir, Dam, Hydroelectric Facility, Service Reservoir, and Filter Plant.

The Watervliet Reservoir is five hundred acres located in Guilderland, NY that holds 1.5 Billion gallons of water. Mr. Dressel explained that it is the duty of his department to maintain water quality at the Reservoir. Also located in Guilderland, NY is the Dam and Hydroelectric Facility, which are maintained by the Water Department. Mr. Dressel noted that the Hydroelectric Facility was built in 1981 and had a forty-year license to operate. Currently the City is in the process of renewing that license for another forty years. Mr. Dressel also stated that the Dam located in the Watervliet Reservoir was built in 1917.

Once water leaves the Watervliet Reservoir, Mr. Dressel explained, the water then travels from Guilderland to the City's Service Reservoir located in Latham, NY. After leaving the Service Reservoir, the Water flows to the Watervliet Filtration Plant, also located in Latham, NY. Mr. Dressel stated that the Filter Plant was built 1918 and processes 2.1 Million gallons of water per day. During the final stage of the process, the City's water is processed at the Filter Plant and sent to the distribution system throughout the City which contains roughly thirty-one miles of piping. Mr. Dressel then announced that in 2017, nearly two thousand feet of the City's water mains were replaced and the same amount are scheduled to be replaced in 2018.

David Dressel then spoke about the Sewer system that his department also maintains. The City of Watervliet currently has three types of Sewers. Storm Sewers which carry storm water to the Hudson River, Sanitary Sewers which carry human waste to a treatment plant located in

Albany, NY, and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's) which carry both storm water and human waste and attempts to separate the contents to send to the appropriate destination.

General Manager Jeremy Smith then gave a brief history of the amount of man power the City's Water and Sewer Department has had over the years. In 1975 there were nineteen members of the department which fell to sixteen in 1981, twelve in 1991, ten in 1999, eight in 2006 and five budgeted for in 2018. Mr. Smith explained that the City can function with less people in the Water and Sewer Department because of shared services with other members of the City's workforce as well as advancements in technology over the years. For example, the Filter Plant and Hydroelectric Facility, which used to be manned twenty-four hours a day, can be monitored remotely by computer.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the reduction in staff of the department had resulted in a lack of preventative maintenance at the Reservoir and Filter Plant, specifically with the water chestnuts and the clear wells respectively.

David Dressel stated there are a lot of water chestnuts at the reservoir and that he and General Manager Smith have had discussions on the best way to resolve the issue. As for the clear wells at the Filter Plant, Mr. Dressel stated that they were scheduled to be cleaned in 2018. Mr. Patricelli then asked when they were last cleaned and Mr. Dressel stated it had been more than ten years. He went on to state that clear wells should be cleaned approximately every ten years but that they were presently working correctly.

Councilman Patricelli then asked about the recent concerns the Town of Guilderland had regarding the quality of the water they were purchasing from the City of Watervliet. Mr. Dressel stated that he has had discussions with the Town of Guilderland about them continuing to purchase water from the City. Per those discussions, the City will be using more copper sulfate in the Reservoir to improve the quality and will also be considering an aeration system that will increase the water quality as well.

Councilman Patricelli also inquired about the THM levels in the City's drinking water that was discovered to be high in recent years. Mr. Dressel stated that recent testing has shown acceptable levels but that the City is also in the process of attempting to eliminate the tank where the affected water was being held. In its place the City would build a pump station for that areas water, which would keep the water from being stagnate and thus eradicating the THM issue.

General Manager Smith then announced that the City will have a study done, as soon as weather permits, to determine the best way to eliminate the water chestnuts. Once the study is complete, in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Conservation, the findings will be presented to the City Council to determine the City's next step.

## OLD BUSINESS

NONE

## NEW BUSINESS

**RESOLUTION NO. 9483** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves the License Agreement between the Town of Colonie and the City of Watervliet for the right, privilege and permission to install and maintain an underground electric service from Utility Pole 7-1 to an existing easement granted by the Town of Colonie to the City of Watervliet as part of a Watervliet/Menands Water Interconnection, across property known as Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this was an upgrade to a current interconnect with the Town of Colonie. This will be an emergency two-way interconnect that will allow the City of Watervliet to receive water from Menands and vice versa if the need presents itself.

After a motion was made by Councilman Patricelli and seconded by Councilman McGrouty the Resolution passed with a 3-0 vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9484** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby ratifies and confirms the Memorandum of Agreement executed by the City of Watervliet and the Watervliet Police Benevolent Association and that Mayor Michael P. Manning is hereby authorized and empowered to execute an Agreement between the City of Watervliet and the Watervliet Police Benevolent Association governing salaries and other economic benefits, terms and conditions of employment for a period of five (5) years, beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2022.

General Manager Smith stated that reaching this agreement was a long process that began in the Fall of 2017. He explained that with this agreement the Police Department will receive zero percent raises in 2018, half of a percent in 2019, one percent in 2020, one and a half percent in 2021 and two percent in 2022. Also, the amount of money a member of the Police Department receives for the Health Insurance buyback has been reduced while the percentage new hires pay for Health Insurance has increased. Mr. Smith thanked the Union, Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban, and Director of Finance Mike McNeff for their roles in the negotiation. General Manager Smith stated he believed this was an "excellent contract" and recommended it to the City Council.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if there were any long term financial savings for the City included in this agreement. General Manager Smith pointed out that the zero percent raise for 2018 is a savings because it does not compound yearly. Also, the reduction in the health insurance buyback will save the City nearly Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) in 2018. Other areas that will see savings for the City include doubling the health insurance contribution amount from ten percent to twenty percent as well as having language in the agreement that would allow the City to look for cheaper health insurance options that would offer the same coverage, which potentially could be a significant savings for the City.

Upon a motion made by Councilman McGrouty, seconded by Councilman Patricelli, the Resolution passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9485** - 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 a public notice entitled Early Notice and Public Review of Proposed Activity located on a 100 Year Floodplain in accordance with the rules and procedures of Executive Order 11988 and a format designed by NYS Office of Community Renewal.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained this advertisement was part of a CDBG grant the City received to rehab the Dutch Reformed Church located on Fifteenth Street so that it may be used as a Community Center. He also noted that the site may not actually be located within the floodplain but that a study will be conducted to determine if it is.

Councilman Patricelli made a motion to move on the Resolution, which Councilman McGrouty seconded and the Resolution passed with a 3-0 vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9486** - 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 April 5, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2018.

General Manager Smith explained that this was the City's annual agreement with its Bond Counsel. He also noted that Barclay Damon has worked with the City for years and have provided excellent service. Also, he stated that the City has received quotes from other firms in the past and Barclay Damon charges a much lower rate.

After a motion by Councilman McGrouty, which was seconded by Councilman Patricelli the Resolution passed with a 3-0 vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9487** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and directs Scott P. O'Reilly, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, to advertise once in the official newspaper of the City that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk's Office of the City of Watervliet until 2:00 PM on Friday, April 27, 2018 for the Roof Replacement Project at the City of Watervliet J. Leo O'Brien Senior Center and Library Building located at 1501 Broadway, Watervliet, New York 12189. Bid documents will be on file and publicly exhibited as of April 9, 2018 at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Watervliet, New York 12189. The Council of the City of Watervliet reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all Bids submitted.

General Manager Smith explained this was one piece to the final phase of the Senior Center/Library rehabilitation. Included in the project is the removal of the solar panels, replacement of the roof and reinstallation of the solar panels. Mr. Smith also stressed the necessity of replacing the roof because of leaks that have been reported in the past few weeks.

Upon a motion by Councilman Patricelli seconded by Councilman McGrouty the Resolution passed unanimously.

## APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

There was no proposed legislation in Appropriations and Accounting, however, General Manager Jeremy Smith announced a few items that will be on the agenda at the next meeting. Mr. Smith stated that the City's proposed "Corrective Action Plan," as well as a Bond Resolution for the purchase of City vehicles will be included in the April 19<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the City already had a plan as to the number of vehicles that were to be purchased and whom they would go to. General Manager Smith stated that he had emailed the members of the City Council multiple scenarios for the purchasing of vehicles and that he had received no response about these purchases. He went on to state that he did receive a response from Councilman Patricelli regarding the vehicle maintenance portion of that email. Councilman Patricelli then stated he had not seen the vehicle maintenance reports yet.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the Fire Department still planned on purchasing two new ambulances. Fire Chief Conlen explained that the Fire Department was looking to purchase one new ambulance. Currently, the department has three ambulances, however, two of them are beyond their useful life expectancies. Chief Conlen suggested replacing the two older ambulances with one new ambulance. Councilman Patricelli then asked Chief Conlen if he had requested a vehicle for himself as well. General Manager Smith stated that he would present which vehicles he believes the City should purchase to the Council at the next meeting along with the Bond Resolution. Based on quotes received by the City, Mr. Smith stated, the Bond Resolution will be to "not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00)" for the purchase of six vehicles. Two vehicles will be for the Police Department, one will be for Fire Chief Conlen to replace his aging vehicle. That vehicle would then be transferred to the Code Enforcement Department. One pick-up truck for the Highway and Water Departments would also be included. The last of the six would be a pick-up truck for the General Manager's use. Mr. Smith explained that because of the way the bids broke down, purchasing three pick-up trucks, as opposed to two, was more cost effective and that the third one could also be a shared use vehicle with the Department of Public Works.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if Mayor Manning planned on keeping his City vehicle.

Mayor Manning responded that he was keeping his and that the vehicle was already paid for.

General Manager Smith then stated that the City has not used tax payer funds to purchase vehicles in over twelve years. Most of the City's fleet has come from drug seizure money obtained by the Police Department. Mr. Smith went on to explain that the City must change its reliance on this type of revenue because it not a guaranteed source of funding. Also, by inserting newer vehicles into the fleet the City will reduce its cost for vehicle maintenance.

Prior to the opening of the Public Comment Period, General Manager made several announcements. First, he announced that the City would be holding an Informational Meeting for the Public regarding Phase II of the upcoming Water Infrastructure Project on April 10, 2018 at 6:00PM in the Watervliet Senior Center.

General Manager Smith also announced recent grants the City was awarded. One grant was the "Clean Energy Communities" grant which is for Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) that can be used for a variety of clean energy projects such as solar panels, electric vehicles, and installation of LED lighting in City buildings. The other grant, although a non-monetary grant, is from the State and will provide the City with a consultant and free workshop to aid the City in its implementation of the Complete Streets Program.

General Manager Smith then gave a list of events that will take place in the City during the month of April. They are as follows:

- April 11 – Dock installation at Hudson Shores Park.
- April 14 – Community Build of new playground apparatus at Brotherhood Park.  
    "Wing Wars" fundraiser for the Civic Center at the Watervliet AOH.
- April 20 – Track and Field Invitational at Watervliet High School.
- April 21 – "Keep 'Vliet Neat" day.
- April 22 – Earth Day celebration in conjunction with the opening of the City's new Organic Digester.
- April 27 – Arbor Day (details to be determined).  
    Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at the Watervliet Senior Center.
- April 28 – Little League Parade.
- April 30 thru May 4 – Bulk Week

Councilman Patricelli then asked for an update on the recent vandalism and graffiti that was found at 7<sup>th</sup> Street Park and if the Police Department had looked into a potential perpetrator. Chief Spain explained that no police report had been filed and the details pertaining to the vandalism were limited.

Councilman Patricelli also asked for an update on the missing finial for the Veterans Park flag pole. General Manager Smith announced that the finial would be replaced the following week and that the flag pole would be repainted.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Paul Huban – 1500 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Referring to the upcoming water project, Mr. Huban, asked the City to make sure the milled streets are graded to the man hole covers.

**Kathy Crudo - 1863 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue-** Ms. Crudo commented that many of the City's streets and sidewalks were "filthy" and asked if there was anything the City could do to remedy the situation.

Responding to the cleanliness of the streets, General Manager Smith reported that the City's street sweeper would be back on the road the following week. Mr. Smith also stated that although Code Enforcement can cite home owners for their sidewalks being unkempt, the City tends to be more lenient this time of year due to the recent snow removal and melting of snow.

**Don Whitehead – 1921 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Whitehead thanked the City for obtaining the finial for the flag pole at Veterans Park.

Mr. Whitehead then asked if the City could potentially save money by turning off the twelve street lights on 19<sup>th</sup> Street that are on twenty-four hours a day.

Mr. Whitehead also asked if there were lights illuminating all American Flags on City property that are flown twenty-four hours a day.

**Tatianna Moragne – 2318 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue** - Ms. Moragne asked if the City Council meeting minutes could be posted prior to the next City Council meeting.

General Manager Smith explained that minutes cannot be posted until they are approved by the City Council at the following meeting. However, a draft version of the minutes for Council Meetings are available for inspection in the City Clerk's office on the Friday following the meeting.

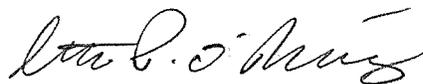
With there being no further comments Mayor Manning closed the Public Comment period.

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City Council Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Patricelli to adjourn the City Council meeting, which was seconded by Councilman McGrouty. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM.

**\*Next Meeting: April 19, 2018 7:00pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott P. O'Reilly".

Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council