

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 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, Director of Finance Mike McNeff, 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

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Jeremy Smith announced the summer events schedule. He stated that there would be six concerts held on Tuesdays at Hudson Shores Park on June 12th, June 26th, July 10th, July 28th, August 7th, and August 21st. All concerts will start at six pm.

Also, the City pool will open on June 25th and will be open from noon to six pm Monday thru Friday. Saturday hours are noon to four pm. Swimming lessons will be offered at the pool from 9am to 11am on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as Water Aerobics in the evenings.

Mr. Smith also announced that the Arsenal City Run will be held on September 23rd.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 9497 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute commencing on March 1, 2018 and ending on February 28, 2019, to allow Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to

occupy the boathouse located at Hudson Shores Park and to have access to and use the non-motorized dock that accompanies the boathouse for purposes of gaining access to the Hudson River for rowing activities conducted by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

General Manager Jeremy Smith stated that this is an annual agreement and that RPI have been great partners for the City of Watervliet.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9498 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves the City of Watervliet's participation in the New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (NYCLASS) and hereby authorizes and directs Director of Finance Michael McNeff to provide and execute any and all documents necessary for the City of Watervliet's participation in NYCLASS.

Director of Finance Mike McNeff explained that this is a "short term, highly liquid investment fund." Also, participation falls in line with the City's investment policy. Councilman McGrouty then asked how much the City planned on investing. Mr. McNeff informed him that the City could invest all the money they have on hand which is currently around three million dollars. Also, there are no fees attached and the money would accrue interest daily and the funds can be obtained daily as well.

Upon a motion from Councilman Patricelli which was seconded by Councilman McGrouty, the Resolution passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 9499 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the participation in a Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and adopts the Town of Colonie Planning Unit Solid Waste Management Plan.

General Manager Jeremy Smith pointed out that the Department of Environmental Conservation requires municipalities to participate in this type of program. He also noted that the other participating municipalities in this program are Colonie, Cohoes, and Menands.

Councilman McGrouty asked if being a part of this program helps the City obtain grant funding. Mr. Smith stated that the City would not be able to apply for this type grant funding without being a part of this type of program.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the City has received any waste management grant funding in the past. General Manager Smith did not believe the City had.

Councilman McGrouty then made a motion to move on the Resolution. After the motion was seconded by Councilman Patricelli, the Resolution passed with a 3-0 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 9500 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Novara GeoSolutions, LLC, to host and maintain the City of Watervliet's Geographic Information System (GIS) Interactive Mapping application.

General Manager Smith explained that Novara is an extension of CHA, who houses the City's GIS on the City's website. If approved, the City could enhance its GIS system. Councilman Patricelli asked what the cost would be. General Manager Smith stated it would cost Twenty-Five Hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per year.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9501 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby accepts the bid and awards the contract for Roadway Resurfacing through the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program to New Castle paving, LLC., in the amount of Two Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Five and 15/100 Dollars (\$277,505.15), the lowest responsible bidder in conformance with the specifications.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that the New Castle bid was Fifty Thousand dollars cheaper than the next lowest bid. Also, once work has begun it could be completed within a week.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9502 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby accepts the proposal of The Chazen Companies to provide professional consulting services for the Watervliet Housing Needs Assessment Study.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that the City received two proposals and that the other proposal did not properly answer the RFP.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9503 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby accepts and approves the proposal from Gomez and Sullivan Engineers, D.P.C., for engineering services regarding interconnection upgrades at the Normanskill Hydroelectric facility and the Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the expenditure of \$21,000.00 for said engineering services related to this project.

General Manager Smith explained that National Grid recently increased electrical standards and that these upgrades are necessary to use the Hydroelectric facility at full capacity, which at present can only run at about Forty percent. Councilman Patricelli then asked when the transformer at the Hydro plant blew and Mr. Smith noted that it was in the middle of last year.

Councilman McGrouty asked if the City had any solar panels in that area and Mr. Smith stated there was none but that the City was looking into building a solar farm in the future.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9504 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby accepts the conclusions and determinations made by Matthew J. Clyne, Democratic Commissioner of the Albany County Board of Elections, in his April 30, 2018 letter to Jeremy A. Smith, General Manager of the City of Watervliet.

Councilman Patricelli made a motion to table the Resolution but there was no second. Councilman McGrouty then made a motion to move on the Resolution, which Mayor Manning seconded.

Councilman Patricelli asked what the reasoning for this Resolution was. Corporation Counsel stated that it was requested that he draft the legislation and he did so. Councilman Patricelli then asked Clerk to the Council Scott O'Reilly to read the Resolution in its entirety, which he did. Councilman Patricelli then asked for clarification on the term, "vacancy" in the Resolution. Corporation Counsel Huban, citing Public Officers Law, stated that a "hold over" is still able to discharge the duties of the position even though the seat is technically deemed "vacant."

Councilman McGrouty then asked if there was any more clarification from Matthew Clyne regarding this situation. General Manager Smith stated that the letter Mr. Clyne wrote was the clarification. Councilman Patricelli then asked if this Resolution stated that there is a vacancy on the City Council. Corporation Counsel Huban explained that the Board of Elections stated there is a vacancy but that Section V of the Public Officers Law says a "hold over" is able to "discharge his duties until a successor is found whether by election or appointment." Mr. Huban went on to say that in his opinion, Councilman Patricelli should remain in his seat until the upcoming election is held.

A vote was then held and the Resolution passed with Councilman McGrouty and Mayor Manning being in favor, while Councilman Patricelli was opposed.

RESOLUTION NO. 9505 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby accepts the proposal from Overton, Russell, Doerr and Donovan, LLP to provide collection services for the City of Watervliet.

Director of Finance Mike McNeff explained that the City is looking to collect on unpaid ambulance bills and unpaid parking tickets. He noted that the City received three quotes and that this was the lowest percentage of the quotes at twenty percent. Councilman McGrouty asked for an estimate of how much money is out there to be collected. Mr. McNeff stated that there is several hundred thousand dollars. Councilman Patricelli then asked how far back the City

planned on going back to collect unpaid debts. Mr. McNeff stated that legally the City can only go back six years. Councilman Patricelli also asked if most of the uncollected money was from ambulance billing and Mr. McNeff stated that was correct.

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

Prior to opening the Public Comment portion of the meeting General Manager Smith gave a preview of some upcoming legislation that will appear before the City Council in the near future. They included a Master Agreement with the Department of Transportation for Third Avenue, Contract with Upstate Kayak, bid specifications for electrical work at the Hydroelectric Plant, Approval to submit grant applications through the CFA, an agreement with the Town of Guilderland to extend a walking trail through the City of Watervliet's property at the reservoir, and an agreement with a Wi-Fi company to have relay stations located in the City and in turn the City would receive free Wi-Fi for City buildings.

Councilman Patricelli then asked for an update on the Fire Truck the City purchased to take the place of one that was damaged at a fire in Cohoes. Fire Chief Conlen stated that the truck is being housed in Cohoes because the City's truck that was damaged is now back in service. He noted that he and General Manager Smith have had meetings with the municipalities included in the mutual aid agreement to determine how the truck will be shared moving forward.

Next, Councilman Patricelli asked Fire Chief Conlen how many fire hydrants were currently out of service throughout the City. Chief Conlen stated that three were out of order. He stated that a hydrant on 14th Street they were working on fixing currently, the hydrant at Van Rensselaer Village is being replaced by the Housing Authority, and the hydrant on Third Street and Eighth Avenue would take a large project, including water shutdowns in the area, but that it is not an emergency due to another hydrant being located in the immediate area.

Councilman Patricelli also asked when the last time the City's catch basins had been cleaned. General Manager Smith stated that they had been cleared last fall and then asked Councilman Patricelli to forward any complaints, he might receive from the public, to the General Managers Office.

Councilman Patricelli then asked Director of Finance Mike McNeff to explain some financial reports he had recently provided to the Council. Mr. McNeff explained that the report

was a comparison of 2018 first quarter revenues and expenditures and that of 2017 and that the report showed that both revenues and expenditures have increased from 2017 to 2018. Councilman Patricelli then asked if the City was on track to meet its budgeted numbers for 2018. Mayor Manning then asked if Mr. McNeff could generate a report showcasing 2018 year to date versus budgeted numbers. Director McNeff stated he would generate such a report.

Councilman Patricelli then announced that the handicapped swings that will be placed in City parks have been purchased. He thanked that Parks Committee, Chris McCabe, Steve Haita, and Drew Rentz for providing the funds to purchase the swings.

Councilman McGrouty then addressed the issue of unkempt grass at vacant properties, especially at the old Poppas Restaurant. At Poppas, the grass is so high you cannot see the fire hydrant. General Manager Jeremy Smith stated that the City looked into utilizing a shared service with the County but that it had fallen through. He noted that the City will now contract Bill Sheehy Landscaping to take care of the vacant properties.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Paul Huban – 1500 12th Avenue – Mr. Huban asked who represents the City during projects that are contracted out. General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that it depends on the contract but that the current water and paving projects are being run by David Dressel, Head of the Water Department, and Mark Cady, Head of the Highway Department, respectively. Mr. Huban then stated that the City should have someone at these projects at all times to make sure they are being done correctly.

Mr. Huban then stated that “National Grid gets away with murder.”

Referring to the current project, Mr. Huban suggested not milling every street first and then waiting to pave them. Councilman McGrouty noted that milling everything first saved money.

Mark Gilchrist – 409 5th Avenue - Mr. Gilchrist, who has been an employee of the City of Watervliet for over Thirty years, stated he was resigning effective immediately due to “retaliation” by General Manager Jeremy Smith.

Ellen Muir-Clickner – 1800 9th Avenue – Ms. Muir-Clickner asked a question about Code Enforcement pertaining to one of her neighbors. She stated the property recently had a inspection but that the house is in need of repair and upkeep and asked what can be done about it.

General Manager Smith explained that a CO inspection will be done every three years, unless a new tenant moves in. However, if a complaint is made to the Building and Code department, a new inspection could be triggered.

Peg Germano – 1124 7th Avenue – Ms. Germano thanked General Manager Smith for the work that has been done at the City Reservoir.

Ms. Germano also commented on the vacant property at the former “Poppas” restaurant saying something needed to be done with the over grown grass and weeds.

Lastly, Ms. Germano stated she did not understand Resolution No. 9504. She hoped that the Council was not trying to appoint someone else to Councilman Patricelli’s seat and noted that if they did they would upset a few thousand city residents.

Jeff Foster – 1201 8th Avenue – Mr. Foster stated that Councilman Patricelli must agree with Resolution No. 9504 because he is running in the upcoming City Council election. He then asked why the Council doesn’t appoint Mr. Patricelli to the “vacant” seat.

Mr. Foster made a comment about a large pot hole located in front of his place of business on Fifth Avenue.

He then asked how the City can go about adding more members to the City Council. Councilman McGrouty responded that the City Charter would need to be changed.

Kathy Crudo – 1863 9th Avenue – Ms. Crudo commented that the grass in City parks needed to be tended to. She stated that the grass at Clinton Park had not been cut since before Memorial Day and that tall grass can lead to more mosquitos in the area. She also pointed out that there was a portion of the fence at Clinton Park that was broken and needed to be fixed.

Amanda Austin – 4 Grotto Court – Ms. Austin announced that the “Relay for Life” would take place Saturday June 9, 2018 at the Watervliet High School, starting at noon and ending at midnight.

Walter Clickner – 1800 9th Avenue – Mr. Clickner made a comment about the noise from “Mr. Ding-a-Ling,” saying it must be louder than the City’s noise ordinance allows.

Mr. Clickner also pointed out so significant pot holes in the area of Eighth Avenue and Avenue A.

He also brought up a safety issue he feels needs to be addressed in the same area citing no sidewalks or cross walks for pedestrians.

Don Whitehead– 1921 8th Avenue – Mr. Whitehead thanked General Manager Smith for various things such as illuminating the City’s American Flags, replacing the finial on top of the flag pole at Veterans Park, and fixing the malfunctioning street lights on Nineteenth Street.

Mr. Whitehead then asked if there was going to be designated hours for senior citizens to swim at the Watervliet Pool. General Manager Smith stated that Water Aerobics is scheduled but the City is still working out a time for “Senior Swim.”

Mr. Whitehead then commented on the fact that the Albany landfill will be closing in the future, and asked if the City was planning on instituting a garbage fee like many other municipalities recently have. General Manager Smith stated that the City no longer uses the Albany landfill but that the City is looking at various things for the future.

Paula Cumose – 319 19th Street – Mr. Cumose made a comment about the amount of his businesses water/sewer bill and asked if there was anything the City could do because he does not use a lot of water. General Manager Smith stated that the flat rate he is charged is the lowest rate the City charges.

Councilman Patricelli, referring to Mr. Whiteheads statement about a separate garbage fee, stated that he would be “hard pressed” to vote in favor of such a fee.

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

General Manager Jeremy Smith then requested adjourning into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters. He requested the City Council, Corporation Counsel Huban,

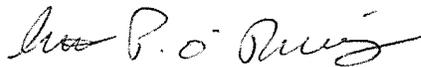
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City Council Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2018

City Clerk Scott O'Reilly and Police Chief Mark Spain be present for the executive session. A motion was made by Councilman Patricelli to adjourn the into Executive Session, which was seconded by Councilman McGrouty. The Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:38PM.

At 9:40 Executive Session was adjourned and a motion was made by Councilman Patricelli to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilman McGrouty. The Council adjourned the meeting at 9:40pm.

***Next Meeting: July 12, 2018 7:00pm**

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018**

The meeting of the Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 8:42pm.

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

Also present from City Administration were: Jeremy Smith, General Manager, Scott O'Reilly, City Clerk & Clerk to the Council, and Yorden Huban, Corporation Counsel.

The Council and administration discussed a personnel matter as well as a pending legal matter. There was no legislation voted on during the executive session.

A motion was made to adjourn the executive session at 9:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council