

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Manning at 7:03 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, Deputy Director of Finance Amanda Austin, Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban and Police Chief Mark Spain

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 Jeremy Smith gave an update on the infrastructure projects currently in progress. He stated that Anjo Construction and National Grid were finished with their water and gas main projects on Sixth Avenue from Sixteenth Street to Nineteenth Street. That section of Sixth Avenue will be paved starting next Monday. He went on to explain that once Sixth Avenue is paved, Seventh and Eighth Avenues would be next. Finally, he stated that National Grid had not yet finished their gas work on the 1500 block of Sixth Avenue, but he would have an update on their progress the following day.

Councilman Patricelli then asked about Sixteenth Street. Mr. Smith explained that National Grid has restored where they needed to dig but that they would most likely not do anything to the Sixteenth Street Boulevards until the spring. He then noted that the intersection of Sixteenth Street and Sixth Avenue will be paved once all gas and water work is completed on the 1500 block of Sixth.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**LOCAL LAW NO. 6-2018** – A local law to amend Chapter 230. Sewers of the Code of the City of Watervliet regarding establishing and imposing Sewer Rents for the period of November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019.

General Manager Smith explained that this Local Law calls for charging vacant properties, with their water shut off, the full sewer rate and that the metered and flat rates would increase four percent from the previous year. Councilman Patricelli then asked what vacant units will be charged. Mr. Smith informed him that this Local Law does not address vacant units.

There were several unrecognized comments from the gallery pertaining to the difference between “vacant properties” and “vacant units.” General Manager Smith explained that a “vacant property” is a building that is not occupied at all and has the water to the property shut off at the curb box. “Vacant units” are basically apartments inside a multiple family home, which have the water on but do not use it because the unit is unoccupied.

Councilman Patricelli stated that he wanted to wait until a second public hearing was had before moving on this Local Law. General Manager informed him that before a second public hearing can be had, a new Local Law would have to be prepared that includes any changes the City Council deems appropriate. Mayor Manning stated that he felt vacant properties and vacant units should be charged the full sewer rate.

Due to another round of unrecognized comments, Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban attempted to clarify what the members of the City Council were trying to accomplish at this point. He stated that there are currently a Local Law and Ordinance, both of which the City Council held a Public Hearing for, proposed and able to be moved upon. The next step for the Council would be to approve, deny, or withdraw those pieces of legislation. He went on to state that should the Council request new legislation be drawn up to replace the legislation being discussed, the process would start over again, meaning there would need to be a publication in the newspaper for a Public Hearing, and a Public Hearing itself.

After discussing the issue with the other members of the City Council, Mayor Manning proposed amending the Local Law to include charging the full sewer rate for vacant properties and vacant units. As for the Ordinance regarding water rents, which was next on the agenda, Mayor Manning asked that it be amended to include charging half the rate for vacant properties and vacant units. Mayor Manning pointed out that these changes provide the City Council a “starting point” for new Public Hearings on these matters.

Mayor Manning, after a recommendation from Corporation Council Huban officially withdrew Local Law No. 6-2018 and Ordinance No. 1988 from consideration.

## NEW BUSINESS

**ORDINANCE NO. 1988** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York providing that the Code of the City of Watervliet be amended by revising Section 260-56 Schedule XX: Time Limit Parking or Standing.

This Ordinance was number 1989 on the agenda but was changed due to original Ordinance 1988 being withdrawn.

This was the first reading of this Ordinance.

Police Chief Spain explained that there was a sign in front of Frankoo's barber shop in Port Schuyler for customer parking. That business no longer exists, and the building is fully residential, therefore the sign can be removed.

After a motion to move on the Ordinance was made by Councilman McGrouty and seconded by Councilman Patricelli, the Ordinance was passed unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1989** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York providing that the Code of the City of Watervliet be amended by revising Section 260-38 Schedule II: Speed Limits.

This Ordinance number was changed from how it appeared on the agenda due to original Ordinance 1988 being withdrawn.

This was the first reading of this Ordinance.

Police Chief Spain explained that there are "school zone" signs in the area of the former St. Brigid's School. With the school no longer being there, the signs can be taken down.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9544** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves the Albany County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and hereby adopts the Albany County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan as the City of Watervliet's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

General Manager Smith explained that this plan, which includes all municipalities located in Albany County, is in place to maintain the stability of Albany County. The goals of the plan are to minimize injury, loss of life, losses to structures protect natural resources (open space, drinking water, recreation areas) as well as cultural resources and provide continuity between the various municipalities. Mr. Smith then stated that he recommends this Resolution to the members of the Council.

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

The City Council then removed Resolutions 9545 and 9546, which appeared on the agenda, from consideration.

## APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

**RESOLUTION NO. 9545** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the increase of funds of certain expenditure accounts and certain revenue accounts in the annual estimate that has become necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

This Resolution number was changed after Resolutions 9545 and 9546 were removed from New Business.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that these budget transfers are “budget neutral.”

Director of Finance Mike McNeff listed the budget lines that would be increased which included road salt, and workers compensation which will be offset by federal aid money and money from insurance recovery respectively. In the water fund an increase in the chemicals line which will be covered by the expected increase in revenue from the metered water accounts.

After a motion was made by Councilman Patricelli and seconded by Councilman McGrouty, the Resolution passed unanimously.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Paul Huban – 1500 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Huban first thanked Police Chief Spain for addressing the issues with the sound system.

Next, Mr. Huban brought numerous issues to the attention of General Manager Smith. They included, malfunctioning street lights on Nineteenth Street, manholes on Third Avenue in Port Schuyler, placing back top on top of black top on a public sidewalk and a large pile of gravel that contractors claim they put on private property on Sixteenth Street but in his opinion, is on the street.

General Manager Smith stated that as the City notices street light issues they have them addressed and noted that on overcast days the street lights can remain on throughout the day. Mr. Smith also pointed out that the manhole issue was inspected by the Department of Transportation and that no changes need to be made. General Manager Smith then stated he was unsure of the black top issue, but he could look into it if he was given more specifics.

**Kathy Crudo – 1863 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Crudo applauded the Police Department for their work on Halloween Night. She stated she was happy to see Police Officers walking the streets, interacting with kids and even passing out candy.

Ms. Crudo also thanked the City’s Sanitation department for their work during Bulk Garbage Week.

Lastly, Ms. Crudo thanked the members of the Council for considering the changes to the

Water and Sewer Budgets.

General Manager Smith recognized Chris Daus, head of the Sanitation Department, and his crew for their hard work during Bulk Week.

**Holly Collett – 1812 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Collett also thanked Chief Spain and the Police Department for a “smooth Halloween” and the Sanitation Department for their efforts during Bulk Week.

**Ralph Fera – 705 16<sup>th</sup> Street** – Mr. Fera encouraged the City Council to pass the Sewer Rents that were initially presented because sewers are everyone’s responsibility.

Mr. Fera stated he would like to see speed limits in the City to be lowered from Thirty Miles per hour to Twenty.

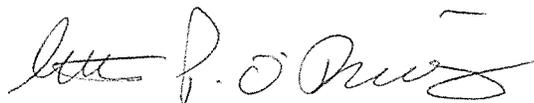
Councilman McGrouty then asked Chief Spain if he knew of any municipalities that have Twenty mile an hour speed limits. Chief Spain stated he was unsure but that he would research it.

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

Councilman Patricelli then made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Councilman McGrouty. After a 3-0 vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

**\*Next Meeting: November 15, 2018 7:00pm**

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council