

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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, 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 a presentation on the proposed budget for 2019. During the presentation General Manager Smith broke down much of what went into creating the 2019 budget, including the challenges currently facing the City. Some of those challenges being rising health insurance costs and workers compensation premiums, Federal and State mandates, stagnant State Aid, and the fact that the City of Watervliet is Ninety-eight percent developed. Mr. Smith went on to explain that despite the challenges, this proposed budget accomplished a lot. This budget continues to follow the State Comptrollers Office's "best practices", provides for optimal staffing levels while not adding positions or laying any current employees off and proposes no reductions in services.

General Manager Smith then announced that the proposed budget increase for 2019 is 5.9%, which based on the average value of residential property in the City of Watervliet of \$125,000.00, would equal roughly eight dollars a month or ninety-six dollars for the year.

Mr. Smith then pointed out measures the City is taking to prevent future tax increases which included: creating balanced budgets, not relying on reserves or transfers, adding fiscal controls, participating in the County Shared Services Plan, converting City owned lights to LED, applying for grants, working with the New York State Fiscal Restructuring Board and expanding services with other municipalities.

Lastly, General Manager Smith expressed his gratitude to Mayor Manning, Councilman Patricelli, Councilman McGrouty, and those in the City administration as well as the public, who helped develop the proposed budget.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1990 – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet providing that the Code of the City of Watervliet be amended by revising Section 260-56 Schedule XX: Time Limit Parking or Standing.

Police Chief Mark Spain explained that this was for a reserved parking space outside of a Day Care Center located at 428 5th Avenue. The space requested to allow for safer pick up and drop off between the hours of 6am-6pm.

Councilman Patricelli asked if other Day Care's in the City are having similar issues. Chief Spain stated that none have been brought to his attention.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9546 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and directs Scott O'Reilly, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, to advertise in the official newspaper of the City that a Public Hearing will be held in the J. Leo O'Brien Senior Citizen Center, Watervliet, New York on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding proposed Local Law No.6-I for the Year 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 Jeremy Smith explained that this will be the second public hearing regarding Sewer Rents for this time period. He noted that changes had been recommended by the members of the City Council as well as the public, which have been made, and with these changes there is no proposed rate increase for Sewer Rents.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9547 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and directs Scott P. O'Reilly, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council, to advertise in the official newspaper of the City that a Public Hearing will be held in the J. Leo O'Brien Senior Citizen Center, Watervliet, New York 12189 on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding proposed Ordinance No. 1991, an Ordinance of the City of Watervliet, New York amending Chapter 266. Water of the Code of the City of Watervliet regarding establishing and imposing Water Rates for the period of November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019.

General Manager Smith noted that this will be the second public hearing regarding water rents as well. Some of the changes to the proposed Water Rates include charging half of the

normal fee to vacant buildings and units and raising the rate for out of town services. Mr. Smith also pointed out that with the changes the rates will remain flat for all properties in the City limits.

Councilman Patricelli then asked for a justification for charging the full Sewer Rate for vacant properties. General Manager Smith explained that those rates are not tied to usage. Also, he pointed out that homes that do not use water still contribute to the amount of sewer water that is sent to the County to be processed, due to things such as gutters.

Mayor Manning then stated that the proposed rates for Water and Sewer are just a “starting point” for the proposed Public Hearings.

Councilman McGrouty then made a motion to move on the Resolution, which Councilman Patricelli seconded, and the Resolution passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 9548 – 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 that a Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 7:00pm at the J. Leo O’Brien Senior Citizen Center, 1501 Broadway, Watervliet, New York, for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding the Estimate of Revenue and Expenditures for the fiscal year 2019.

General Manager explained that this Public Hearing will be for the proposed 2019 budget which he presented earlier in the meeting.

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

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

NONE

Prior to the opening of the Public Comment Period Councilman Patricelli welcomed Anthony Turcotte, who is currently up for Eagle Scout.

Councilman Patricelli then thanked the public for their support in his recent re-election to the City Council.

Councilman Patricelli then asked for an update on the unfinished road work on Sixth and Eighth Avenues. General Manager Smith stated that when he had previously announced the work would be completed he had been given bad information from the contractors on the project. He

went on to explain that the contractors were delayed during their “clean up” prior to paving the roads due to work that National Grid was doing in those areas. Mr. Smith also noted that he had been given an updated schedule from the contractor that stated the roads would be paved by November 28th.

David Boyer, of Weston and Sampson, the City’s project manager for the ongoing projects, including paving the remaining streets that had been under construction, was in attendance and answered numerous questions from the City Council as well as the public.

Councilman Patricelli then asked what the plan on those streets would be during the upcoming snow storm. General Manager Smith stated that precautions were in place because unpaved streets cannot be plowed. The unpaved streets will be continuously salted prior to, and during the storm. Also, should the snow build up on those streets the City will use a broom sweeper to remove it.

Councilman Patricelli then asked about any claims for people’s vehicles that the City may have received as a result of the rough roads during construction. General Manager Smith explained that it is difficult to report claims to the City’s insurance company if there is no proof provided by the individual that City roads or road construction caused the issue. Councilman Patricelli then stated that in the event someone does present proof, the City should be fair in how they deal with the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Rebecca Williams – 1525 5th Avenue – Ms. Williams asked what a property owner had to do in order to change a two-family home into a one family home.

General Manager Smith explained that many times, removing the kitchen from the apartment, would turn it into a one family home but that he would provide Ms. Williams with the section of the City Code that deals with this issue.

Paul Huban – 1500 12th Avenue – Mr. Huban stated that various street lights on Nineteenth Street were not working properly. He then suggested contacting National Grid to see if it would be cheaper for the City to have them take ownership of those lights because they are currently City owned.

General Manager Smith explained that many municipalities are actually looking into buying their street lights from National Grid because it is cheaper to own them. He also stated that when the lights on Nineteenth Street are found to be, or reported to be, malfunctioning an electrician is called in to fix them. Many times, a sensor that sits atop the light needs to be replaced. General Manager Smith also pointed out that with grant funding the City will be converting all City owned lights to LED’s and that the sensors on the Nineteenth Street lights will be replaced when the lights are converted. Councilman McGrouty then asked if this grant

would cover maintenance to these LED lights. General Manager Smith informed him that maintenance would not be covered under the grant, but that LED's require less maintenance.

Mr. Huban also asked if laying black top on black top on a side walk was allowed. General Manager Smith stated that black toping sidewalks is not allowed but that he was not aware of the location Mr. Huban was referring to.

John McAvoy – 1240 6th Avenue – Mr. McAvoy expressed his displeasure with new City Ordinance that doesn't allow for trailers to be parked on City streets. Police Chief Spain explained that the City of Watervliet is so densely populated that we are running out of room for resident parking spaces. He also pointed out that prior to this Ordinance being adopted it was against the City Code to park an attached or unattached trailer on City streets. Mr. McAvoy stated this was unfair to residents like him who use trailers or large vehicles for their occupation.

Don Whitehead – 1921 8th Avenue – Mr. Whitehead read aloud a section of the Zoning Code for the City of Watervliet that had been adopted in 2013. He then stated that much of the Zoning Code is not being enforced, such as, sign regulations, particularly "off premises" signs including billboards. He also noted that it is against Code for gas stations to have hold down clips on their fuel pumps but that the gas station on Nineteenth Street has them.

Kathy Crudo – 1863 9th Avenue – Ms. Crudo stated that there is a vehicle parked on her street that has not moved recently, has a flat tire, and is leaking oil. With a snow storm coming, she asked if there was anything that could be done to have this vehicle moved to make room for the snow plows. Police Chief Spain explained that his department will go around and "tag" vehicles that don't appear to have moved recently to inform them of upcoming plow operations because the City must give Twenty-Four-hour notice before they can remove the vehicle.

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 8:11 PM.

Page Six
City Council Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2018

***Next Meeting: November 29, 2018 7:00pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. P. O'Reilly", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council