

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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 and Director of Finance Mike McNeff.

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 REPORT

General Manager Jeremy Smith announced that phase two of the Water Infrastructure Improvement Project was mostly completed. All that is left to complete is the emergency interconnect with Menands which should be completed in the coming weeks.

General Manager Smith then introduced Laurie Poltynski and Bob Shevy, representatives from National Grid. Ms. Poltynski explained that their company recently completed a project that included major repairs to cast iron pipes. She stated she understood much of the criticism voiced by City officials and residents due to the length and inconvenience of the project. Ms. Poltynski apologized for the project taking longer than expected.

Councilman Patricelli then stated the biggest issue with residents was the temporary restoration of the roads. He informed Ms. Poltynski that many of the road patches either sunk or were washed away but rain. In his opinion, National Grid did a poor job of "following through" on their work. Ms. Poltynski noted that they would be meeting with their construction crews over the winter where these complaints would be communicated and would attempt to fix these issues moving forward.

Councilman Patricelli then informed Ms. Poltynski that the City incurred additional costs for the Water Infrastructure Improvement due to the length of the National Grid project and stated that those costs should be National Grid's responsibility. General Manager Smith stated that he had discussed this with Ms. Poltynski and was working on getting her the amount of money the City was charged due to the length of the National Grid project. Ms. Poltynski then stated there is a claims process that must be followed once the numbers are provided to them.

Councilman McGrouty then asked what areas of the City National Grid planned on working on next year. Mr. Shevy informed him that the plan was to work on Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets in 2019. General Manager Smith then stated that Mr. Shevy had previously

informed him that the north and south ends of the City were completed first and now they are making their way to the middle portion of the City.

Watervliet resident Paul Huban then made a comment to Ms. Poltynski about the National Grid crews not having staging areas for their projects and suggested having one for all future projects. Ms. Poltynski stated that she would look into having staging areas in the future.

Watervliet resident Don Whitehead asked Ms. Poltynski who is responsible for cleaning the houses that are covered in dirt and dust because of the work that was done by National Grid. She informed him that National Grid has a Restoration Team and if given the address she can have it looked into.

Councilman Patricelli thanked Ms. Poltynski and Mr. Shevy for coming and then reiterated his feeling that National Grid needs to follow through more on their projects.

OLD BUSINESS

General Manager Jeremy Smith took this time to respond to some of the comments made during the previous meeting's Public Comment Period.

Responding to Paul Huban's comment about malfunctioning street lights on Nineteenth Street, Mr. Smith stated that a contractor has been sent multiple times to fix the street lights that were reported to be malfunctioning. He also asked that his office be informed of any street light issues in the future.

In response to Paul Huban's comment about pot holes on Twelfth Avenue, General Manager Smith stated that pot holes had been filled but need to be addressed again. He informed Mr. Huban that they will be cold patched in the Winter and then fully restored in the Spring.

In response to Mr. Huban's comment about the seam on the section of Sixth Avenue that was recently paved, Mr. Smith agreed that it needs to be addressed. He stated that he has been in touch with the paving company that performed the work and they assured him that they would come back in the Spring to remedy the issue if the seam doesn't fix itself by then.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1992 – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet adopting the annual estimate and fixing the rate to be employed in computing the amount to be collected for the City taxes for the year beginning January 1, 2019.

This was the first reading of the Ordinance.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this Ordinance will set the Tax Levy and Rate for 2019. He also announced that the proposed increase, which was at 5.9%, was able to be lowered to 4.4%. Mr. Smith stated that the factors in lowering the increase were negotiating the

Workers' Compensation Insurance and Liability Insurance premiums down which saved the City Forty-Nine thousand dollars. The third factor was an additional revenue the City is able to predict because the City now invests its money and can forecast roughly Twenty thousand dollars in interest for 2019.

General Manager Smith recommended this Ordinance to the City Council.

Councilman Patricelli asked about the "Building Maintenance" line in the proposed budget. General Manager Smith explained that building maintenance used to be done by a City employee but that the position has been removed from the budget. He went on to explain that in proposed budget there is twenty thousand dollars set aside for various building maintenance to be contracted out.

Councilman Patricelli then thanks General Manager Smith for "going the extra mile" in negotiating the insurance premiums down.

After a motion from Councilman Patricelli which was seconded by Councilman McGrouty, the Ordinance passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 9554 – 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 is implementing a residential home rehabilitation grant program and that the City of Watervliet is developing a Contractor List of those home rehabilitation contractors interested in participating in the program.

General Manager Smith explained that this advertisement is for another round of Housing Rehabilitation Grants.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9555 – 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, January 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding proposed Local Law No. 1-I for the Year 2019, a local law to amend Chapter 230. Sewers of the Code of the City of Watervliet regarding establishing and imposing Sewer Rents for the sewer billing periods of November 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019 and May 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019.

General Manager Smith explained that this is a continuation of the process to set the Sewer Rates for the City. He stated that the proposed Sewer Rates are comparable to the Water Rates. Vacant buildings and units will be charged half of the flat rate. He also stated that the proposed rate increase is 2.5%.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9556 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby accepts and approves the proposal from Russ Reeves, CEng., P.E., with an address of P.O. Box 1433, Troy, New York for engineering services regarding a repair and rehabilitation project at the Watervliet Community Center Building, located at 1501 1st Avenue, Watervliet, New York and further authorizes and directs Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Russ Reeves, CEng., P.E. and authorizes the expenditure of \$18,000.00 for said engineering services.

General Manager Smith explained that this is for the grant funded project at the former Dutch Reformed Church. He explained that Russ Reeves has a long history of running grant funded projects for municipalities. Mr. Smith stated this was a “great proposal” that would allow the City to utilize its own forces for much of the work to cut down on costs.

Councilman McGrouty then asked about any work that City forces can’t complete. General Manager Smith informed him that any work that isn’t completed by City forces will be included in the bid specifications for the project in the Spring. Upon a motion from Councilman McGrouty, which was seconded by Councilman Patricelli, the Resolution passed with a 3-0 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 9557 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby determines that the Watervliet Downtown Revitalization Initiative Study is a Type II action and that no further action or review relative to this project is required.

General Manager Smith explained this is a grant funded study for Economic Development which will have zero environmental impact.

Councilman McGrouty asked what the study would entail. Mr. Smith informed him the study would determine ways to improve the business districts in the City, particularly the Nineteenth Street corridor. He also noted that the study could help the City attain further grant funding in the future.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9558 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the appropriation of CDBG Program Income for the Watervliet Housing Rehabilitation Program and the implementation of the Watervliet Housing Improvement Program.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained this action allows the Housing Rehabilitation Program to move forward. Councilman

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9559 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby affirms the commitment to pay for program administration and program delivery costs connected to the Watervliet Housing Rehabilitation Program.

General Manager Smith stated that this action allows the City to accept funds for the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

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. 9560 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby determines that the Watervliet Housing Rehabilitation Program is a Type II action and that no further action or review relative to this project is required.

General Manager Smith explained that the Housing Rehabilitation Program would have zero environmental impact.

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

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

NONE

Prior to the opening of the Public Comment Period Councilman Patricelli broached the topic of offering free public Wi-Fi at the Watervliet Dome. He asked if members of the City Council had issues with installing it. Mayor Manning responded that the topic was brought up the previous day and that he would like time to review the information. General Manager Smith explained that the potential issues he believes there as the cost and the liability. He stated if those concerns were answered he would be in favor of installing Wi-Fi at the Dome. In reference to the question of liability, Councilman Patricelli mentioned that he and Corporation Counsel Huban had discussed having a “Splash Page” that would include the “terms and conditions” for use. Counsel Huban stated that the splash page would be included but that it does not eliminate liability. He also stated that the question of costs has been resolved. Councilman McGrouty asked if this would cause additional IT costs. Corporation Counsel Huban explained that the IT will be provided by Capital Region IT which the City already has an agreement with. Mayor Manning then noted that the Council will review the information and legislation could be ready by the next City Council Meeting.

Councilman Patricelli then asked for an explanation on an article that appeared in the “Altamont Enterprise” that referenced the Watervliet Reservoir. General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that there was formerly a landscaping company located in the area around the Reservoir and that it was found to have pesticides in the building. Once the Department of Environmental Conservation was notified they cleaned the area and tested for possible contamination in the water supply. Mr. Smith noted that the City constantly does its own water testing as well. Based on DEC and City testing there is no reason to believe the City’s water

supply was contaminated.

Councilman Patricelli then asked for an update on the potential changes to the City's Tree Law. General Manager Smith explained that there is disagreement within the Tree Committee as to what changes should be made, if any. The Tree Committee has discussed two topics to consider amending. One would be charging a flat fee of Fifty dollars for removing multiple trees from the public right of way, as opposed to fifty dollars for each tree. The other is having the City take responsibility for trees that were planted during City projects as opposed to the home owner. Mr. Smith stated that each topic has led to disagreement among the committee and that the Tree Committee wanted the City Councils input on the issues. Councilman Patricelli then asked that the changes to the Tree Law be on the agenda for the next City Council meeting. Mayor Manning explained that because the Tree Law is a Local Law it would require a public hearing before changes can be made.

Lastly, Councilman Patricelli announced his swearing in ceremony would take place at the Watervliet Historical Society on January 30, 2018 at 4:00PM with refreshments to follow at the Watervliet Senior Citizens Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Paul Huban – 1500 12th Avenue – Mr. Huban wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jim Chartrand – 707 5th Avenue – Mr. Chartrand expressed concerns about the quality of work being done by the contractors for the Housing Rehabilitation Grant. He explained that many of these contractors are general contractors, not “specialists” such as electricians or plumbers, and that he has seen many issues with their work. Mr. Chartrand suggested having the home owner “sign off” on the work that was done before the Contractor is paid.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if these contractors have their work inspected by the underwriter. Mr. Chartrand explained that much of the “small stuff” does not have to be inspected but can lead to issues. General Manager Smith then stated he would look into the requirements for these contractors.

Councilman Patricelli also stated that he doesn't agree with homeowners having to sign off on work because they are relying on the contractor to do the work properly.

Tatianna Moragne – 1325 5th Avenue – Ms. Moragne asked when the Community Center project would be completed. General Manager Smith informed her that the project must be completed by the end of 2019 per that grant that the City received for it, but the plan is to have it completed by the end of summer 2019.

Ms. Moragne also asked if there had been any movement on a Community Garden in the

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City. Mr. Smith stated that the City is still working with Capital Roots for the project and the plan is to build it one the ground thaws in the Spring. She then inquired about the potential locations for the Community Garden. General Manager Smith stated that was being discussed with Capital Roots as well and that Clinton Park and the Fourth Street Tunnel area are possible locations.

Ms. Moragne also stated she was in favor of Wi-Fi in the City.

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

General Manager Jeremy Smith then requested adjourning into Executive Session to discuss legal, personnel and union matters. He further requested members of the City Council, Corporation Counsel Huban and City Clerk Scott O'Reilly be in attendance.

Councilman Patricelli made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session which was seconded by Councilman McGrouty. After a 3-0 vote the Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:06 PM.

***Next Meeting: January 3, 2019 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, DECEMBER 13, 2018**

The meeting of the Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 8:28pm.

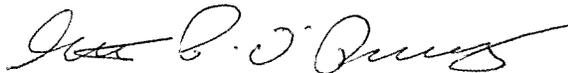
Roll call showed that Mayor Michael P. Manning, Councilman Charles Patricelli and Councilman Frank McGrouty were present.

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

The Council and administration discussed pending personnel, legal and union matters. There was no legislation voted on during the executive session.

A motion was made to adjourn the executive session at 8:28PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council