

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019 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, Fire Chief Tom Garrett 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**

**2018 Fire Department Operations Report**

General Manager Jeremy Smith provided a break down of Fire Department operations from 2018. The Fire Department responded to 2,509 calls in 2018 which was an increase of 7.5% from 2017 and was the most calls the department responded to in one year. Of those calls the majority were EMS related. Mr. Smith also stated that all types of calls increased from the previous year with the exception of "false alarm" calls which he attributed to the False Alarm legislation the City Council passed.

General Manager Smith also pointed out special trainings the department completed. Those included arson investigator training for the departments three investigators and "Active Shooter" training for the entire department.

Councilman Patricelli then stated that although the Fire Department came in under budget for overtime in 2018, the amount of overtime is high and asked if there was anything that could be done to lower it. General Manager Smith explained that overtime is driven by call volume and injuries on duty.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NONE**

## NEW BUSINESS

**ORDINANCE NO. 1994** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet providing that the code of the City of Watervliet Chapter 260 “Vehicle and Traffic” Article IV “Handicapped Parking” Section 260-30(B)(1) “Access Points” be amended.

This was the first reading of this Ordinance. Chief of Police Mark Spain explained that this was for a home on the 2300 block of Eighth Avenue and that the requester does not need full parking space but rather an access point to get to the sidewalk in front of their home.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 1995** - An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet providing that the code of the City of Watervliet Chapter 260 “Vehicle and Traffic” Article IV “Handicapped Parking” Section 260-30 (C) “Sign Locations” be amended.

This was the first reading of this Ordinance. Police Chief Spain explained that this Ordinance would provide two locations, 1813 Broadway and 1522 Sixth Avenue, with Handicapped Parking spaces.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 1996** - An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet providing that the code of the City of Watervliet Chapter 175. Housing Standards of the Code of the City of Watervliet be amended.

This was the first reading of this Ordinance. Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban explained that this change came at the recommendation of Paul Laboissiere, Head of the Building and Code Department. The Ordinance states that “junked or unregistered motor vehicles, equipment and materials shall not be stored in open areas of premises.”

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9583** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute an application on behalf of the City of Watervliet with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the NYS Drinking Water Source Protection Program.

General Manager Smith explained this was part of the Reservoir Maintenance grants the City has received. He also stated that there is no monetary match for this portion of the grant and that it includes many local municipalities. Also, this legislation will help with enforcement of rules and regulations at the City Reservoir.

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. 9584** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute an application on behalf of the City of Watervliet with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and to accept and receive grants for the implementation of project related to the invasive species control and eradication program.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this is another grant, funded by the Department of Environmental Conservation, for reservoir maintenance and that it is worth One Hundred Thousand Dollars. Mr. Smith recommended this Resolution to the City Council.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9585** - 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 on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding proposed Local Law No. 2-I for the Year 2019, a local law to amend Chapter 245. Trees of the Code of the City of Watervliet.

General Manager Smith explained that this would update the City's Tree Law by charging fifty dollars per tree removal permit rather than fifty dollars per tree being removed.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9586** - 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 a Public Information Meeting will be held on Monday, February 25, 2019, 6:00 P.M. at the Watervliet Senior Citizen Center, 1501 Broadway, Watervliet, New York 12189, for the purpose of gaining public input, ideas and comments on the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail connection project.

General Manager announced that the City had previously been awarded Five Hundred Thousand dollars for this project but that it just received an additional Eight Hundred Twenty thousand dollars as well. The additional funds will help make the Bike Hike Trail connection safer.

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

## APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

**RESOLUTION NO. 9587** - 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.

General Manager Smith explained that these are the annual year end transfers and that they are budget neutral.

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Saqib Choudry – 1856 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Choudry explained that he frequently buys vacant homes, upgrades them and then sells them. He stated a few issues he has run into that make it difficult to sell these properties and they are the Vacant Property fee as well as the outstanding Water/Sewer bills being the responsibility of the buyer. Mayor Manning explained that the purpose of the Vacant Building Law was to get property owners moving and not to make it harder for the property to be sold.

**Walter Clickner – 1800 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Clickner asked if the City had a plan for their 2019 street paving program and wondered if his section of Ninth Avenue would be included. General Manager Smith informed him that City does not have a plan finalized as of yet but because the 1800 block of Ninth Avenue does not have sidewalks it would not fall under ADA compliance and therefore could not be paved with CHIPS funding.

**Jeff Foster – 1201 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Foster suggested altering building permits for rehabilitation or demolition to include dumpster or dumping trailer permission. General Manager Smith stated it was an interesting idea and that the City will look into it.

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 a confidential staff matters. He further requested members of the City Council, Corporation Counsel Huban, City Clerk Scott O'Reilly, Police Chief Mark Spain, and Fire Chief Tom Garrett be present.

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 7:42 PM.

**\*Next Meeting: February 21, 2019 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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

The meeting of the Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at  
7:51pm.

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, Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban, Police Chief Mark  
Spain, and Fire Chief Tom Garrett.

The Council and administration discussed two confidential staff matters. There was no  
legislation voted on during the executive session.

A motion was made to adjourn the executive session at 8:16PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott P. O'Reilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council