

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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, and Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban.

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 General Services Report**

**Sanitation Department:** With Supervisor Chris Daus unable to attend, General Manager Jeremy Smith gave a breakdown of the department's operations for 2018. He explained that the department includes seven employees and three garbage trucks. In 2018 the department collected 3,435 tons of refuse, 492 tons of recyclables, 800 yards of yard waste, and roughly 400 Christmas Trees. The department also held two "bulk weeks," one in April and one in October in which they collected 233 tons and 194 tons of refuse respectively. An electronics recycling day was also held that yielded 218 tons of electronics, mainly televisions and computer towers. Mr. Smith then explained that in 2019 the department has started collecting the refuse and recycling in the Maplewood section of the Town of Colonie and that the City will attempt to expand its Organic Waste program, which currently has roughly ninety participants.

**Highway Department:** Supervisor Mark Cady explained that his department consists of five employees. The Highway Department is in charge of maintaining City streets, including plowing, salting, and paving. In 2018 the department used 750 tons of salt and paved five lane miles of City streets. Mr. Cady explained that his department also assists other department in various ways, including cutting grass in City parks, trimming trees, digging for water main breaks, setting up barricades for Police or Fire operations, and boarding up homes that are deemed unsafe.

Councilman Patricelli asked Mr. Cady if he had a "wish list" of equipment that could make his job easier and used GPS on City Plows that residents could track as an example. Mr. Cady explained that plow operations run the same route each time so that residents can have an idea about when to expect the plows to be on their street. As for a wish list, Mr. Cady stated that a snow blower attachment for the departments front loader would be very helpful.

**Recreation Department:** Supervisor Bob Loya explained that his department consists of himself and a part time employee for the majority of the year and more seasonal workers during the summer months. He also explained that his department oversees maintaining the City Pool, Dome, Hudson Shores Pavilion and park, as well as all other City parks. Mr. Loya stated that the Recreation Department held numerous events during 2018 which included the Easter Bunny Breakfast, “Keep Vliet Neat” Day, Arsenal City Run, Halloween Parade, Christmas Tree Lighting and the Concert Series held at Hudson Shores Park. Mr. Loya then announced that City Pool attendance doubled from 2017 to 2018 and stated that a reason for this was the City of Troy not opening any of their City Pools. He also explained that the Dome is open seven days a week and hosts various sports and recreational activities. He also stated that the Recreation Department currently has 422 Hero Banners that they hang throughout the City from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

## OLD BUSINESS

**PUBLIC HEARING** – A Public Hearing 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 Jeremy Smith explained that the proposed change in the law would make the permit for removing trees a flat fifty dollars as opposed to fifty dollars per tree being removed. He also noted that a permit for removing a tree is only necessary for trees that are in the public right of way.

Mayor Manning opened the Public Hearing.

There were no comments made during this time.

Mayor Manning closed the public hearing.

## NEW BUSINESS

**LOCAL LAW NO. 2-2019** - A local law to amend Chapter 245. Trees of the Code of the City of Watervliet.

Mayor Manning pointed out that there were no comments during the Public Hearing that was held for this Local Law.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9588** - 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 sealed bids will be received until 10AM on March 15, 2019, for Phase 3 of the Water Distribution System Improvement Project.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this was the final phase of the City's Water Distribution System Improvement Project. He went on to state that the main part of this phase is to replace the City's water tower with a new pump station to be located on Wiswall Avenue. He also pointed out that there are several alternate options to this portion of the project which included recasting blow off valves in concrete, installing an aeration system at the City's Service Reservoir, and installing an aeration system at the City's main Reservoir.

Councilman Patricelli asked what the total cost of the project would be. Mr. Smith informed him that the cost is seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00). He also pointed out that the City has bonded the portion of the money that will not be covered with grant funding.

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

**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. 9589** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to use funding designated as Program Income pursuant to the Community Development Block Grant Program for CDBG projects and further authorizes Mayor Manning to utilize funds for an update to the Watervliet Comprehensive Plan.

General Manager Smith explained that this was the City's third opportunity to utilize Program Income. He also stated that the City's comprehensive plan is roughly seven years old, and with many of the tasks already completed it needs to be updated. Mayor Manning asked for an estimated cost of the project and Mr. Smith stated it is not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9590** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to file applications under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Municipal Food Scrap Reduction and Recycling Program.

General Manager Smith explained that this grant would allow the City to expand its Organic Waste program. He also noted that the application must be submitted by March 1.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9591** – A Resolution declaring the intent of the City of Watervliet to act as lead agency for State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) purposes for the proposed Watervliet Bike Path Connection Project.

General Manager Smith explained this is the first step in the environmental review process which will determine if the Bike Path Connection Project has either positive or negative effects on the environment.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9592** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to file applications to the New York State Office of Attorney General for Zombie 2.0 Property Remediation Grants.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this is the second round of grant opportunities for zombie property remediation. This grant would allow the City to have a dedicated staff member in charge of zombie property remediation.

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

## **APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING**

**NONE**

Prior to the opening of the Public Comment Period General Manager Smith announced that a Public Information Meeting would be held on February 25, 2019, at the Watervliet Senior Citizen Center, to discuss the upcoming Bike Path Connection Project.

Councilman Patricelli then asked General Manager Jeremy Smith if they could sit down and talk about some issues that had been brought to his attention regarding the process of acquiring properties from the Albany County Landbank. Mr. Smith stated they could certainly do that.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the City received any additional quotes for the recent replacement of the boiler at the Senior Center. Mr. Smith explained that multiple contractors looked at the boiler but only one was able to give a quote and start the work immediately. With the building not having heat being considered an emergency, the City was not required to wait

for additional quotes. Councilman Patricelli then stated he believed the City could have waited a few days for additional quotes in an effort to save money.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Heather Shimkus – 1875 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Shimkus spoke about a parking issue in the area of Jenna’s Salon on Nineteenth Street. She stated that the issue came about once the salon expanded and has continued ever since. She also stated that there were no parking issues before the expansion.

**Don Whitehead – 1921 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Whitehead stated that several months ago General Manager Jeremy Smith asked the member of the City Council for some direction on the issue of signs in the City. He then explained that he hasn’t seen any movement from the Council on this issue.

Mr. Whitehead then suggested having a referendum during the next election to increase the number of members on the City Council.

**Paul Hughes – 108 15<sup>th</sup> Street** – Mr. Hughes, speaking on behalf of the Senior Citizen Center, thanked the City for its timely response to the heating issue in the Center.

Mr. Hughes then asked what the byproduct of the City’s Organic Digester was, and if it was some sort of mulch that resident could use. Mayor Manning explained the byproduct is a mixture of solids, liquids, and gas. He also noted that with the potential expansion of the Organic Waste Program something like that could be possible.

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

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 7:48 PM.

**\*Next Meeting: March 7, 2019 7:00pm**

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council