

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, MARCH 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, Director of Finance Mike McNeff, Police Chief Mark Spain 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**

**Citizen of the Month Presentation**

General Manager Jeremy Smith presented the March 2019 "Citizen of the Month" to Willard Towne Sr. Mr. Towne has been a resident of the City of Watervliet for more than Fifty years and is a Korean War Veteran. General Manager Smith explained that Mr. Towne keeps his property in immaculate shape and lends a helping hand to his neighbors, so they can keep their property in great shape as well. Mr. Towne also takes it upon himself to check on his neighbors well being when they are sick and is known overall as a "great neighbor." Mr. Towne also takes great pride in keeping the parking lot of Ted Fish Fry clear after snow storms.

**Tree Committee Report**

Lois Gundrum, Chairperson of the Watervliet Tree Committee, explained that the committee is relatively new, having started in November of 2018 and she thanked the City for establishing the committee. Ms. Gundrum announced that Arbor Day is April 26 and that in conjunction with the City, the Tree Committee will be planting six memorial trees on the boulevards of Sixteenth Street. She explained that if anyone would like to purchase a memorial tree the cost is One Hundred Twenty dollars. Ms. Gundrum also stated that the committee is working closely with the Watervliet Elementary School's Environmental Club and has acquired seedlings to be planted with the club at the school.

Ms. Gundrum then recognized the members of the Tree Committee, which include herself, Paul and Bill Fahr, Jeremy Smith and Paul LaBoissiere and noted that they meet the first Monday of every month.

Councilman McGrouty then asked how large the memorial trees on Sixteenth Street

would grow to be. Paul Fahr informed him they would be Twenty-Five feet high and Fifteen feet wide.

### **State of the County Report – County Executive Dan McCoy**

Albany County Executive Dan McCoy started by thanking Mayor Manning for allowing him to speak and for their great partnership over the years.

Mr. McCoy announced that the County stayed under the tax cap for the seventh year in a row and had a zero percent tax increase for the sixth consecutive year. He also explained that taxes were lowered by one and a half percent in 2018 though he noted that many unfunded mandates by the State of New York make it difficult to keep those numbers down. He urged residents to reach out to their elected state representatives to voice their opinions.

County Executive McCoy announced an Eighty-Million-dollar addition to the County Nursing home which will help service Albany County's Sixty thousand residents over the age of Sixty. He also explained that Albany County has been designated as an "Age Friendly Community."

Mr. McCoy pointed out a partnership with the City of Watervliet for use of the Watervliet Dome has been very successful. He explained that the County runs AAU basketball leagues at the Dome, including a girl's AAU basketball league that has thirty teams participating, traveling from as far as Massachusetts. He also noted a partnership with the Albany County Sheriff's Department that provides free recreational and educational programs to children in Albany County free of charge at Lawson's Lake in the Bethlehem area.

There was then a question from the gallery regarding suggested talking points residents should use when writing to their elected state representatives. Executive McCoy suggested contacting his office and his staff can help point people in the right direction.

Another question from the gallery had to do with the County's Solar Energy Consortium and Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan. The resident asked if generators at Emergency Shelters are run by diesel fuel. Executive McCoy explained that most back up generators do run on diesel fuel. The resident then suggested using solar energy to electrify batteries that could be used instead of diesel fuel. Mr. McCoy thanked him for his suggestion. He also explained that all County buildings are "Energy Star" rated and that electric cars are being added to the fleet, with the goal of a 100% electric fleet.

Lastly, Executive McCoy mentioned the ongoing opioid epidemic. He noted that in 2018 Albany County lost roughly Thirty thousand people or opioid overdoses. He then stated that the County offers free training to citizens as well as free Narcan kits to anyone who takes the training.

### **2018 Water Department Operations Report**

Water and Sewer Department Supervisor Dave Dressel explained that his department has four full time employees and one part time employee. Those employees, including himself, are responsible for the City's 640-acre reservoir, pump station and hydroelectric facility located in Guilderland. They are also in charge of the transmission main that runs from Guilderland to Latham, as well as the service reservoir and filter plant located in Latham. Mr. Dressel noted that the Water Department maintains roughly twenty-five miles of water distribution piping for a system that provides around 2.2 Million gallons of water per day.

Supervisor Dressel announced that in 2018 Phase Two of the grant funded Water Systems Improvement Project was completed. Within Phase Two, 6,500 ft of water mains were replaced, and he explained that Phase Three would take place in 2019. In 2018 there was also a Water System Needs Assessment study performed, which focused on the 100-year-old Filter Plant in Latham.

Mr. Dressel also pointed out that two studies were done on the City's sewer system. One was the "Dry River Study" and the other a study that allowed the City to camera nearly 14,000 feet of sanitary lines within the City.

Councilman McGrouty asked what Phase Three of the Water Project would entail. Mr. Dressel explained that initially the City was going to paint the water storage tank that is located behind Highland Club Apartments but found that it would be more cost effective to by pass the tank altogether and instead install a new pump station on Wiswall Avenue. This pump station will improve the water quality for that section of the City. He further explained that Phase Three also includes maintenance on the transmission main as well as installing aeration systems at the Servicer Reservoir and Reservoir. These actions will also help to improve the water quality in the City.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the copper sulfating at the Reservoir was effective in 2018. Mr. Dressel informed him that it was effective but noted installing the new aeration system would greatly reduce the need to add chemicals, such as copper sulfate, to the City's water.

Councilman Patricelli then asked for an update on the water chestnut problem at the Reservoir. Supervisor Dressel explained that the City had a study done to determine the best way to eliminate the water chestnuts and that once determined, the City can move forward.

Councilman Patricelli asked if removing the storage tank and installing the new pump station would eliminate the THM problem that arose in that section of the City. Mr. Dressel pointed out that the THM issue is caused by stagnate water and by installing the new pump station the water will be constantly moving, thus lowering the chances of having the same issue again.

Lastly, Councilman Patricelli noted many complaints from residents about their water having a bad odor. Mr. Dressel informed him that most of the time the odor is caused by the hot water tank of the home and that if the tank is flushed the odor goes away.

## OLD BUSINESS

NONE

Prior to moving on to New Business, General Manager Smith announced that “Bulk Week” in the City would take place from May 6<sup>th</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## NEW BUSINESS

**ORDINANCE NO. 1997** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet providing that the Code of the City of Watervliet be amended by repealing Chapter 98. Advertising Materials.

Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban announced that this Ordinance is being removed from the Agenda for further review and discussion.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1998** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet providing that Chapter 127. Building Construction and Fire Prevention of the Code of the City of Watervliet be amended.

Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban announced that this Ordinance is being removed from the Agenda for further review and discussion.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 9595** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves, ratifies and confirms the reappointment of Lois Gundrum to serve as a member of the City of Watervliet Tree Committee to March 19, 2022.

General Manager Smith applauded Ms. Gundrum for her work with the Tree Committee thus far and recommended this reappointment to the members of the City Council,

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9596** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby accepts the bid from and awards the contract to American Evergreen, Inc., 3 Agway Drive, Rensselaer, New York 12144 in the amount of Nine Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$958,800.00) for the Water Distribution System Improvement (Phase 3, 2019; Contract No. 78D3; DWSRF Project No. 18231), the lowest responsible bidder in conformance with the specifications.

General Manager Smith explained this was the final phase of the DWSRF project and would include replacing the water storage tank with a pump station as well as the installation of the aeration systems at the Services Reservoir and Reservoir and finally maintenance to the transmission main. Mr. Smith recommended accepting of this bid, including all alternates, to the members of the City Council.

Councilman McGrouty asked what portion of this phase the City would be financially responsible for. General Manager Smith explained that all of Phase Three would be paid for by the City with bonded money because the grant funding for the project only covered Phases one and two.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9597** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves and adopts the City of Watervliet Normanskill Relicensing – Water Chestnut Control Study, and further approves and adopts the City of Watervliet Water Chestnut Control Management Plan.

General Manager Smith explained that the Water Chestnut Control study had previously been approved and has been completed. By adopting the Control Management Plan the City will create a five-year management plan. Mr. Smith stated that three different actions have been recommended to solve the water chestnut issue and they are hand pulling, mechanical harvesting and chemical treatment. General Manager Smith recommended this action be approved by the members of the City Council.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9598** - 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 the City of Watervliet will issue Request for Proposals (RFPs) for professional planning consulting services for the City of Watervliet. Downtown Revitalization Initiative Study and that proposals must be received in the City Clerk's Office of the City of Watervliet no later than 2:00 PM on April 12, 2019.

General Manager Smith explained that this is an economic development and community revitalization study. He explained that not only will this study be used to identify economic development and community revitalization opportunities, but it can be used in the future to the State of New York Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant Program, which is a ten-million-dollar award.

After a motion from Councilman McGrouty, which was seconded by Councilman

Patricelli, the Resolution passed with a 3-0 vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9599** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby appoints Robert Heffernan, residing at 1353 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Watervliet, New York 12189 as a member of the City of Watervliet Board of Ethics for the unexpired term to April 30, 2021.

General Manager Smith explained that there was a resignation from the Board of Ethics and that Mr. Heffernan was previously appointed as an alternate to the Board.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9600** - 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, April 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding proposed Local Law No. 3 for the Year 2019, a local law to amend Chapter 108 of the Code of the City of Watervliet.

Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban explained that this Local Law will increase the fee for a dog that is brought to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society to seventy dollars, to match the increase that the Humane Society now charges to house the animals.

After a motion from Councilman McGrouty and a second from Councilman Patricelli this Resolution passed unanimously.

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## APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

NONE

Prior to the opening of the Public Comment Mayor Manning announced that per a recommendation from the City, the developers of Price Chopper on Nineteenth Street were to report back to the City after five years on developing the open sites at the front of the Price Chopper property. He noted that the developers did report to the City and that they were close at placing an auto parts store at the site but weren't able to complete the process. Mayor Manning also stated that although there were rumors about the development company facing repercussions should they not develop the site, that in fact is not the case.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

NONE

General Manager Smith requested adjourning into Executive Session to discuss a pending litigation matter.

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 8:04 PM.

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**\*Next Meeting: April 4, 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, MARCH 21, 2019**

The meeting of the Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 8:11pm.

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, and Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban.

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 8:35PM.

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Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council