

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 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, City Clerk & Clerk to the Council 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**

General Manager Jeremy Smith announced that Paul LaBoissiere, supervisor of the Building and Code Department, was unable to give his 2018 Operations Report due to illness. Mr. Smith stated that this report would be rescheduled for May and that at the next City Council Meeting the 2018 year-end Financial Report would be presented.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC HEARING** – A Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing those persons that wish to be heard regarding proposed Local Law No. 3 of the Year 2019. A Local Law to amend Chapter 108 of the Code of the City of Watervliet.

Mayor Manning opened the Public Hearing.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this Local Law changes the fee that the City charges for a dog impounded at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society from sixty-seven dollars per day to seventy dollars per day. He also noted that the increase matches what the Humane Society charges the City for housing the animals.

Councilman McGrouty asked why the City doesn't charge more since the Police Department is tasked with bringing the animal to the Humane Society. Corporation Counsel Huban explained that some municipalities charge a flat fee each time an animal is picked up and brought to the Humane Society but that if the animal is at the Humane Society for multiple days the City is charged for each day.

Councilman Patricelli suggested changing the language in the Local Law to say the fee the City charges will be the same as what the Humane Society charges, rather than having a set amount. By doing this the City wouldn't have to update the Local Law every time the fee is changed. Corporation Counsel Huban stated that the City could look into that for the future.

There was one unrecognized comment from the gallery asking how the City transports these animals to the Humane Society. Mayor Manning explained that City Police Officers transport the animals in their Police vehicles.

With there being no further comments, Mayor Manning closed the Public Hearing.

## NEW BUSINESS

**LOCAL LAW NO. 3-2019** – A Local Law to amend Chapter 108 of the Code of the City of Watervliet.

Mayor Manning noted that there was minimal comment from the public regarding this Local Law.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 1997** – 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 Huban explained that this Ordinance would change certain Building Permit fees from fifty dollars to one percent of the total project or a minimum of fifty dollars.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 1998** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet providing that Chapter 244. Streets and Sidewalks of the Code of the City of Watervliet be amended.

General Manager Smith explained this Ordinance would change the fees for digging in streets or sidewalks in the public right of way. A "Dig Permit" would now be one hundred fifty dollars as well as three dollars per square foot for the dig. He noted that these fees are in line with other local municipalities. Mr. Smith stated one reason for the three dollar per square foot charge is to encourage smaller digs, therefore disrupting the public right of way as little as possible. Mayor Manning then interjected stating this wasn't only aimed at home owners and contractors, but at utility companies, such as National Grid, as well.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 1999** – 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 Huban explained that this Chapter of the City Code has contradictions with the City’s Zoning regulations with regards to signs because it was added before the Zoning regulations were enacted.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9601** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes and directs Scott P. O’Reilly, City Clerk, to advertise once in the official newspaper of the City that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk’s Office of the City of Watervliet, City Hall, Watervliet, New York 12189 until 10:00 AM on Monday, April 22, 2019 for Roadway Resurfacing through the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS).

General Manager Smith explained this is for the City’s annual street paving program. He also stated that the project will begin earlier than normal to have it completed before Memorial Day.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9602** - 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 by the City Clerk’s Office of the City of Watervliet, City Hall, Watervliet, New York 12189 until 2:00 PM on Thursday April 25, 2019 for Watervliet Energy Reduction Program – LED Lighting Project for various sites and location in the City of Watervliet.

General Manager Smith explained that this project will be funded by an eighty thousand dollar grant the City received from NYSERDA for being a “Clean Energy Community.” The project will convert all City owned buildings and City owned street lights to LED lights.

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. 9603** – The Council of the City of Watervliet determines that the proposed Watervliet Comprehensive Plan project is a Type II action and that no further action or review relative to this project is required by SEQR.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained this was the next step in the process of updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan. He noted that, being a study, there is not further required action with regards to SEQR.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9604** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves and adopts the City of Watervliet Street Excavation Policy.

General Manager Smith explained that this would update the City's current policy to include a change in the fees and outlines who to contact and the remediation process for digging.

Councilman Patricelli asked is there is a time frame people need to adhere to for filling the holes once they are dug. General Manager Smith stated that the dig and the remediation of the dig would have to be inspected by the City's Highway Department supervisor.

After 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 General Manager Smith announced that lawn and leaf pick up would begin on April 5, 2019. He then announced that "Keep Vliet Neat" Day will be held on April 13, 2019 starting at 9am and that refreshments would be provided to any volunteers who attend.

Councilman Patricelli announced that roughly thirty residents attended a recent community forum he held. He noted that he was currently compiling the information gathered and would share the findings with the City Council at a future meeting.

Councilman Patricelli then noted he liked General Manager Jeremy Smith's idea to coordinate with the Bike Path engineers on the proposed sign board on Broadway. He then asked if there has been any movement on this. General Manager Smith stated that if directed by the City Council he would speak with the engineers.

Councilman Patricelli asked if the Highway Department has started repairing the various pot holes in the City. He also asked how residents are supposed to report pot holes. General Manager Smith explained that the Highway Department has begun repairing pot holes with cold patch asphalt, because many of the black top plants are not open yet. He then stated that resident can contact the General Manager's office or the City Clerk's office to report pot

holes that need to be addressed.

Councilman Patricelli asked about the issue of billboards in the City. General Manager explained that according to the City Code billboards are supposed to be removed after 5 years. He also noted that the billboards currently in the City are beyond that five-year mark so “Notice of Violation” have been sent for each one. Councilman Patricelli then asked what the reason for this stipulation in the Code was and if it is something that can be revisited. General Manager stated that he was unsure of the reasoning behind it and that the City Council would have to decide to remove it from the Code.

Lastly, Councilman Patricelli noted that he has heard complaints about the curbs on Nineteenth Street causing punctured vehicle tires while people are parking. He asked if the City could look into it this and potentially remedy the situation. General Manager Smith stated he would check on it.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Christine Kresloff – 1624 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Kresloff noted that Clinton Park currently looks great and thanked the City for cleaning it so quickly after the winter months. General Manager Smith explained that the Public Works Department was able to get out early to work on the parks this year and that they are currently working on Hudson Shores Park.

Ms. Kresloff then asked if there were any security cameras located in the park. She then stated that many older children frequent the park after school and can be very destructive, citing the new playground apparatus being broken, as an example. General Manager Smith stated he did not believe the park has any security cameras.

In lieu of cameras, Ms. Kresloff suggested having the Police Department patrol the area more frequently. Councilman Patricelli then asked a resident that lives adjacent to Clinton Park if she has noticed these individuals being disruptive in the park as well. She stated that she has and that they are high school students who typically frequent the park right after school is dismissed.

Mayor Manning 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 7:36 PM.

**\*Next Meeting: April 18, 2019 7:00pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

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

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, APRIL 4, 2019**

The meeting of the Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 7:43pm.

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, Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban, and City Clerk & Clerk to the Council Scott O'Reilly.

The Council and administration discussed a potential legal matter. There was no legislation voted on during the executive session.

A motion was made to by Councilman Patricelli to adjourn the executive session, which Councilman McGrouty seconded and after a 3-0 vote Executive Session was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council