

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, MAY 30, 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 Scott O'Reilly, Police Chief Mark Spain, Director of Finance Mike McNeff 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 took this time to make several announcements. First, he announced that Sergeant Brian Strock has been promoted to Lieutenant in the Police Department.

Next, he explained that Police Officers Austin McGuire and Nehil Danbury have been given the titles of Animal Control Officer and would respond to any calls the Police Department receives regarding dogs. Councilman McGrouty asked how many hours they would work in this capacity. Mr. Smith informed him that Officers McGuire and Danbury would handle any calls received while they are on shift and then would respond as needed when neither are on shift. General Manager Smith also stated that the overtime created by these calls would be paid for with the Animal Control Officer salary that was included in the 2019 budget.

Mr. Smith then announced that there would be a mandatory meeting for anyone interested in participating in the City's Community Garden Project on June 6, 2019 at 5:00PM at the Watervliet Housing Authority Administration Office. He also explained that the Community Garden would be a joint venture between the City of Watervliet and Watervliet Housing Authority and that it would be located on the grounds of the Hanratta Senior Housing Apartments.

Lastly, General Manager Smith announced that the City's Summer Concert Series would begin on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and run every Tuesday for the months of July and August at Hudson Shores Park. If there is inclement weather the Concerts will be moved to the Dome.

## OLD BUSINESS

**PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1** – A Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding possible submission of Community Development Block Grant applications for 2019.

Mayor Manning opened the Public Hearing.

David Wheatley, Grant Administrator and Head of Planning and Community Revitalization, discussed the Community Development Block Grant process as well as the various types of grants the City is able to apply for. Those grants include Microenterprise, Public Facilities, Infrastructure, Planning, and New York Main Street Grants. Mr. Wheatley explained that these grants are highly competitive and applied for throughout the entire State. He then explained that applications are due in late July and are awarded in December.

Councilman Patricelli asked if the City had any ideas for grants it may be applying for. Mr. Wheatley noted a few, including a Main Street Grant for Nineteenth Street, Microenterprise Grant, and a grant for Combined Sewer Overflow separation, which the City has applied for in the past but has not received yet. General Manager Smith also stated the City is looking to fit part of the project that will take place at the Water Filtration Plant into an Infrastructure Grant. Lastly, Mr. Wheatley stated the City had recently begun looking into installing an elevator at City Hall and could possibly apply for a Public Facilities grant for that project.

There were no comments made by the public during the Public Hearing.

Mayor Manning closed the Public Hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2** – A Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding the activities and effectiveness of active Community Development Block Grant programs.

Mayor Manning opened the Public Hearing.

David Wheatley discussed some of the grants the City is currently administering or had recently closed out. Those grants included the Community Center Renovation, Library/Senior Center roof replacement and vestibule renovation, Housing Needs Study and Housing Rehabilitation grants. Mr. Wheatley pointed out that the Library/Senior Center Project is completed, as well as the Housing Needs Study, and Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

There were no comments made by the public during the Public Hearing.

Mayor Manning closed the Public Hearing.

David Wheatley then gave a report on the Planning and Community Revitalization Department. He explained that the department has two employees, himself and Leslie Foster. Their duties include developing and applying for various grants. Once a grant is awarded to the City, David and Leslie manage and oversee the Grant program. They also are in charge of cultivating the City's community revitalization strategy, administering the City's "Complete

Streets Policy,” and developing the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. Lastly, Dave explained that he handles most of the City’s information technology issues.

## NEW BUSINESS

**ORDINANCE NO. 2002** – 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.

Police Chief Mark Spain explained that the owner of 202 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue had withdrawn their request for a Handicapped Parking Sign in front of their property. He then recommended placing a Handicapped Parking Sign in front of 1516 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9618** – 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 hearing will be held on June 20, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the J. Leo O’Brien Facility Senior Citizen Center, for the purpose of hearing public comments on the City of Watervliet’s community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2019 program year for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefiting low/moderate income persons.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this would be the second Public Hearing on 2019 Community Development Block Grant applications. With the first being at this meeting, the public will have time to “digest” the information and come back with any comments they might have.

After a motion to move on the Resolution by Councilman McGrouty which was seconded by Councilman Patricelli the Resolution passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9619** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves a Memorandum of Understanding between Capital Roots and the City of Watervliet.

General Manager Smith explained that Capital Roots applied for and received a grant on behalf of the City for the planting of trees. Councilman McGrouty asked if these trees would be residents or the City itself. Mr. Smith explained that some of the trees will be planted on resident’s property located in the public right of way but that the majority of the trees will be planted in City parks.

Councilman Patricelli then 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. 9620** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby accepts the proposal from and awards the contract to The Chazen Companies, with an office located at 547 River Street, Troy, New York 12180, in the amount Thirty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$30,000.00) for professional planning consulting services to provide the City of Watervliet with an update to the Watervliet Comprehensive Plan.

General Manager Jeremy Smith noted that the City received two proposals and had them scored by a committee. After tabulating the results, The Chazen Companies scored the best and he 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.

## APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

**RESOLUTION NO. 9621** – Mayor Michael Manning made this Resolution from the floor. He proposed allocating funds, not to exceed five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars for legal consulting services pertaining to potential changes being made to the City Charter. Mayor Manning explained that this would help facilitate the process of changing the City Charter.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if this was something the City should develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) to see what it may cost and what the scope of work would be. He also stated that he would like to hold a workshop, open to the public, prior to allocating funds, to discuss the proposed changes to the City Charter. Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban explained that a draft copy of the new Charter has been created with the help of outside Counsel. He also noted that prior to any changes there would have to be Public Hearing and the document would need to be voted upon. Mayor Manning then noted that the individual who helped with the draft is no longer available, so he is proposing seeking someone else to see the process through.

Councilman McGrouty asked if there was a time constraint on making changes to the City Charter. Mayor Manning informed him that there is not.

General Manager Jeremy Smith then asked if this proposed allocation of funds would be used to hire someone to prepare the draft document for a Public Hearing. Mayor Manning confirmed this.

There was then a question from the gallery about what these potential changes to the charter entailed. Mayor Manning explained that most of the changes are an attempt to modernize the charter which was written over 100 years ago. He went on to explain that the legal consultant would provide guidance in completing the process and make it able to present to the public.

Councilman Patricelli once again stated that he would be in favor of having a workshop, run by Corporation Council Huban, prior to allocating funds.

Mayor Manning made a motion to move on the Resolution which was seconded by

Councilman McGrouty. A vote was then taken with Councilman McGrouty and Mayor Manning being in favor, while Councilman Patricelli was opposed. The Resolution passed with a 2-1 vote.

Prior to the opening of the Public Comment Councilman Patricelli addressed several topics. He announced that he would be painting the outside of the Dome on Saturday June 1, 2019 with the help of volunteers. He also stated that they would be painting the Bocce Ball courts as well. On Sunday June 2, 2019 Councilman Patricelli with the help of volunteers would be at Red's Field to remove weeds from the fence line.

Mr. Patricelli then thanked the members of the Parks Committee that helped with decorating the gazebos. He also announced that he had a potential donor for a Handicapped Swing, which would accommodate a wheel chair, to be placed in 15<sup>th</sup> Street Park.

Councilman Patricelli then expressed concern with the clean up at the various vacant properties in the City. He also stated that he would like to have hourly attendance tracked at the City Pool in order to have some data to justify City Pool operations.

He then announced that he was developing a website for the "Hero Banners" that are displayed throughout the City. He stated the website would allow people to see where each banner is located and will have information about the individuals military service and video interviews with friends or family of the individual. Councilman Patricelli also suggested leaving the metal brackets that hold the banners on the poles when the banners are taken down for the winter. He stated it would make the process of putting the banners back up faster.

Councilman Patricelli then suggested having a survey done on the house being built on 21<sup>st</sup> Street to determine if the structure exceeds the height limit in the City Code. General Manager Jeremy Smith then stated that a potential problem with that could be if you have a survey done on one structure would the City have to have them done on all buildings. He then stated he would look into any potential liability associated with having a survey completed.

Next, Mr. Patricelli stated that the deck located at Arsenal City Tavern may be located on City property. He also stated that the original information provided by the property owner for the deck addition may have been incorrect. General Manager Smith informed him that the project to build the deck on the property was approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Councilman Patricelli then stated the City could potentially be open to liability if someone were to get hurt on the deck in the event it is built on City property.

Lastly, Councilman Patricelli asked if there was a sewer cleaning schedule for this year. General Manager Smith explained that the Water/Sewer Department was currently flushing the City's fire hydrants and that sewer cleaning would take place once flushing was finished. Councilman Patricelli then asked when the last time the sewers were cleaned out and Mr. Smith informed him that it took place two years ago.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Karla Carusone – 1615 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Carusone explained that she was a member of the “Dog Park Committee” and she read a statement outlining where the committee proposes a dog park should be placed, in the north or south ends of Clinton Park, and how it would run.

Councilman McGrouty asked if Ms. Carusone had looked into acquiring grant funding. Ms. Carusone stated that there are grants available that range from five thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars. Mr. McGrouty then asked why they chose Clinton Park as the location. Ms. Carusone stated that Clinton Park has plenty of room for the relatively small space a dog park would occupy. Also, if the dog park didn’t work out it wouldn’t disrupt the park very much to remove. She also stated that they looked into other locations, such as, Red’s Field, Pershing Green, and the Civic Center field, but that they believed Clinton Park would be the best choice.

Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban then pointed out that although the “Dog Park Committee” is not a recognized committee but the City of Watervliet, he could help them draft legislation for this issue. General Manager Smith then stated that there would need to be a change in the City Code because as of right now, only Hudson Shores Park allows dogs.

**Gail Wood – 806 19<sup>th</sup> Street**- Ms. Wood stated that the proposed dog park would be adjacent to her property. She shared some concerns, such as drainage and whether or the new dog section would block her access to Clinton Park. She made a point to say she isn’t opposed to a dog park she just has concerns with one being so close to her home. Ms. Wood then asked how big it would be. She was informed that if placed at the north end it would be roughly seven thousand square feet.

Ms. Wood also stated that there are two signs at Clinton Park that have conflicting closing times for the park each night.

**Paul Hughes – 108 15<sup>th</sup> Street** – Mr. Hughes asked if vacant properties are charged for not maintain their lawns. General Manager Smith informed him that they are charged when the City has to maintain them. Mr. Hughes then asked if the City should hire a contractor to take care of these properties in an attempt to free up City forces to work on other things. General Manager Smith stated that the City has tried it both ways in the past and that City staff has worked better.

Mr. Hughes then stated that people drive too fast on the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Park road when they turn off Route 32. He suggested closing off that street on the north end near Arsenal City Tavern. General Manager Smith explained that the City is looking at different options, including placing barricades or installing speed bumps.

Lastly, Mr. Hughes asked who should be contacted if a sewer is overflowing. Mr. Smith stated that the General Manager’s office should be notified.

**Paul Huban – 1500 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Huban asked if the new Animal Control Officers would handle animals other than dogs. General Manager Jeremy Smith informed him that the new ACO’s would only respond to dog issues.

Mr. Huban then complimented Empire Paving on their work throughout the City. He then stated he was disappointed that manholes weren't raised. Mr. Huban asked who prepares the contracts for projects like this. General Manager Smith stated that the contract for the paving project was done "in house." Mr. Huban then suggested adding raising manholes into future paving contracts.

Mr. Huban also pointed out that the boulevards on 16<sup>th</sup> Street have not been seeded since the recent work was done in them.

**Amanda Cavanaugh – 720 24<sup>th</sup> Street** – Ms. Cavanaugh suggested placing safety lights near the Watervliet Elementary School. She cited constant safety issues with traffic in the area as a reason.

**Walter Clickner – 1800 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Clickner asked for an update on the Bike Path project the City has planned. General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that recently the engineer for the project proposed some changes, but that construction is still planned for the Fall of 2019.

**Jeff Foster – 1201 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Referring to the Dog Park that was discussed earlier, Mr. Foster stated the City would need to get all the adjacent residents "on board" with the park because they did not purchase their home next to a Dog Park.

He then asked how he could find out about various committees, such as the Dog Park Committee, located in the City. He was informed by a resident that the "Dog Park Committee" is a small group of Parks Committee members who were focusing on the idea of a Dog Park.

**Kathy Dean – 1868 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Dean expressed concerns with problems she has witnessed in City parks. She stated that teenage kids "monopolize" the equipment and often damage it. She also explained that when asked to allow younger children access to the equipment these teenagers become disrespectful. Ms. Dean then asked why the Police Department can't do anything about this type of problem. Ms. Dean also suggested adding something into the revised City Charter that was discussed to address this issue.

Police Chief Spain stated that when these types of issues arise the Police should be called so they can respond and witness it happening. He also explained that persons under the age of seventeen cannot be charged with Violations but if called the Police can make these individuals disperse.

**Holly Collette – 1812 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Collette also expressed concerns with the Parks. She stated she has lived on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue for fifty years and this has been the worst start to a park season she can remember. Ms. Collette also said that these teenagers break the equipment and suggested not replacing anything they destroy.

Ms. Collette also pledged her support for a Dog Park at Clinton Park.

**Peg Germano – 1124 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Germano asked for an update on the clean up taking place at the Reservoir.

General Manager Smith explained that the four mixers installed in the reservoir that will help with the water chestnut issue. He also noted that one mixer has also been installed at the service reservoir. Then, Mr. Smith pointed out that the City had applied for two grants for the reservoir. The first was for eradicating invasive species, which the City did not receive. The second grant is for drinking water source protection which the City has not heard back on yet. General Manager Smith also stated that the City will be applying for grants for upgrades at the Filter Plant.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the City has done anything to remove the water chestnuts. General Manager Smith stated that the work was on hold because of a property assessment issue the City currently has with the Town of Guilderland.

**Michael Riccitelli – 1035 23<sup>rd</sup> Street** – Mr. Riccitelli had a question about the water taxes. He asked why the rate was raised and stated that the bill for his two-family home went up one hundred thirty-nine dollars in six months.

Director of Finance Mike McNeff explained that two family homes that have one unit vacant are charged half of the full rate for water. Mr. Riccitelli then asked if the City notified residents of this change and he was informed by Mayor Manning that multiple Public Hearings were held on the subject before it was approved. Councilman Patricelli then informed Mr. Riccitelli that the budget process for water and sewer bills will begin again in the Fall for the following years rates.

With there being no further comments Mayor Manning closed the Public Comment Period.

The City Council then thanked Police Chief Mark Spain for his years of service to the City of Watervliet and wished him luck in his upcoming retirement.

Mayor Manning then made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Councilman Patricelli seconded the motion and after a 3-0 vote the Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:42PM.

**\*Next Meeting: June 20, 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, MAY 30, 2019**

The meeting of the Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 8:47pm.

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, Director of Finance Mike McNeff and City Clerk & Clerk to the Council Scott O'Reilly.

The Council and administration discussed personnel issues.

During this time the Councilman Patricelli and Mayor Manning voted in favor of a Memorandum of Agreement relating to a personnel matter. Councilman McGrouty was not present at this time.

A motion was made by Councilman Patricelli to adjourn the executive session which Mayor Manning seconded and after a 2-0 vote Executive Session was adjourned at 9:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council