

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Manning at 7:02 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, Fire Chief Tom Garrett, Acting Police Chief Brian Strock, 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.

**CITIZEN OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION**

Longtime resident Lauraine Fitzgerald was awarded the June 2019 Citizen of the Month Award.

Lauraine has worked in the Watervliet High School and Elementary School cafeterias for over 40 years, serving lunches to students, faculty and staff, always doing so with a smile. She also prepared the Watervliet High School football team dinner for ten years and continues to help with Hall of Fame Events and seasonal banquets. In addition, Lauraine has donated homemade desserts to the Church food pantry for more than 20 years.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

**Item #1** – General Manager Jeremy Smith gave an update on the work being done at the former Dutch Reformed Church. He explained that the City was working on a grant funded project to renovate the building and during an inspection of the bell tower several issues were discovered. He explained that the engineer on the project found the bell tower to be in “dynamic failure” and in danger of collapsing.

As a result, an Emergency Declaration was given for the bell tower. Mr. Smith stated that Ditunno & Sons were the contractors who inspected the tower and because of the emergency declaration were also contracted to reinforce and demolish the tower. This work is ongoing. General Manager Smith explained that the first step was removing the roof, which was done and now the tower is being dismantled brick by brick to avoid a collapse. Once the tower has been lowered to a safe height the bell will then be removed and a new roof will be constructed.

Mr. Smith then stated that during this process further structural damage was discovered that needed to be addressed. He then explained that in conjunction with the State of New York,

the City was allowed to change this grant funded project from renovation to demolition and remediation to cover the costs. Once this grant project is closed out, the City would then be eligible to apply for the grant to renovate the building as was originally planned.

Councilman Patricelli asked if they City had acted sooner could the tower have been saved. General Manager Smith stated that there was a study done on the interior of the building some years ago but that nothing was found to be in immediate danger. Also, during the initial work that was done to secure the grant funding to renovate the building, this type of damage was not discovered but has deteriorated significantly in the last few years.

He also asked what was going to be done with the bell. General Manager Smith explained that Streck's has agreed to house the bell on a flat bed until the City decides what is to be done with it. Mr. Smith noted that the Watervliet Historical Society has expressed interest in adding it to their museum.

**Item #2** – General Manager Smith announced that starting on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> the Watervliet Arsenal will be changing its gate operations. The South Gate located on Third Avenue will be closed for entry while the gate is renovated. As a result, the gate located near 10<sup>th</sup> Street will be the new entrance.

**Item #3** – General Manager Smith announced that the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation and the Governors Traffic Safety Committee will work in conjunction to perform a Traffic Safety Audit in the area of Twenty-Third Street and 787. This audit will attempt to come up with ideas to make Hudson Shores Park more accessible to pedestrians.

Councilman Patricelli asked for an update on the Bike Path connection project. General Manager Smith explained that there will be a Bond Resolution on the agenda for the next City Council meeting to cover the upfront costs for the project, which are reimbursed after the project is completed. He also explained that the engineers on the project are in the final design phase with the goal of starting the work this Fall.

## 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.

Mayor Manning explained that this was the second Public Hearing on this topic and encouraged anyone to share their comments or suggestions with the City Council. Mayor

Manning also announced that the City has identified multiple grants that were on the Agenda for this meeting that the City would be applying for. Those grants are for Local Waterfront Revitalization, Water Quality Improvement and Micro enterprising.

**Don Whitehead – 1921 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Whitehead stated that the City should apply for every possible grant it can to save the tax payers money.

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

## NEW BUSINESS

**ORDINANCE NO. 2003** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet providing that the Code of the City of Watervliet Chapter 260 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article VIII “Schedules” Section 260-46 “Schedule X: Stop Intersections” be amended.

General Manager Smith explained that a stop sign would be placed on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Sixth Street in the southbound lane and that it was originally recommended by Acting Police Chief Brian Strock.

After a motion was made by Councilman Patricelli, which Councilman McGrouty seconded, the Ordinance passed unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2004** – 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.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this Handicapped Parking sign would be placed at 202 Eighth Avenue and was recommended by Acting Police Chief Brian Strock.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2005** – An Ordinance of the City of Watervliet providing that Chapter 260. Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Watervliet be amended.

General Manager Smith explained that this Ordinance would increase the fees for parking tickets in the City. He stated that Acting Chief Strock had researched neighboring communities parking ticket fees and this change would put the City of Watervliet in line with those.

Councilman Patricelli asked when the last time these fines were increased. General Manager Smith explained that they have not been raised since at least 2014.

Councilman Patricelli then made a motion to move on the Ordinance which was seconded by Councilman McGrouty and the Ordinance passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9622** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to file applications under the New York State Consolidated Funding Application Program and the New York State Department of State – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and further authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to accept and receive a grant for updating the current Watervliet LWRP Plan and Program.

General Manager Smith explained that much of what was included in the original LWRP Plan has been accomplished so it needs to be updated. This grant would allow the City to update the existing plan.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9623** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to file applications under the New York State Consolidated Funding Application Program and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – Water Quality Improvement Project Program and further authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to accept and receive a grant for Water Quality Improvement purposes.

General Manager stated that this will be the third consecutive year the City of Watervliet has applied for this grant to separate the City's remaining Combined Sewer Overflows, with the first two being unsuccessful.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9624** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to apply for Microenterprise Funding as a part of the 2019 Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Program and further authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to accept and receive a grant for Economic Development Activities.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this grant could enhance current businesses in the City and encourage new businesses to come into the City.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9625** - 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 accepted until 10AM on July 12, 2019 for the Upgrade of the Electrical Interconnection of the Normanskill Hydroelectric Plant.

General Manager Smith explained that due to new regulations put in place by National Grid, the City's Hydroelectric Facility is only running at fifty percent. Once the upgrades are made the facility can run at full capacity. He also noted that Gomez and Sullivan are the engineers on the project.

Councilman Patricelli then asked what the budget for this project was. Mr. Smith explained that the construction is roughly \$350,000.00 and the budget for engineering is \$80,000.00. Councilman McGrouty then asked if this work would affect the property assessment.

General Manager Smith informed him it would not.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9626** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves and adopts the Green Procurement Policy which shall be included as an addendum to the City of Watervliet Procurement Policy.

General Manager Smith explained adopting this policy is part of the City's Climate Action Plan and helps the City maintain its "Climate Smart Community" status.

Councilman Patricelli asked for some of the specifics in this new policy. General Manager Smith cited purchasing products that include recycled content, purchasing products that conserve energy and instituting practices that reduce waste by increasing efficiency.

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

## APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

There was no legislation proposed in this portion of the meeting, however, General Manager Smith announced that at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting Director of Finance Mike McNeff would propose several budget transfers which will be budget neutral.

Prior to the opening of the Public Comment Period Councilman Patricelli asked for an update on the Filter Plant. He noted that one of the walls on the west side of the building seems to be in need of repair. General Manager Smith explained that the City has been in contact with Weston & Sampson to have them determine what may be causing that part of the wall to "bubble out." Once the cause is established the City will have a better idea as to how to remedy it. He also noted that nothing is budgeted for this project in 2019 so a budget transfer or Bond Resolution would be necessary. As for a time table, General Manager Smith stated he would most likely have the recommendation from Weston & Sampson before the next City Council Meeting.

Councilman Patricelli also asked if any progress has been made with repairs to the garage roof at the Filter Plant. General Manager Smith explained that an assessment of the roof was performed, and a quote was given to the City for the price of the repairs. With the quote being rather high, the City is currently working with the company to ensure the specifications for the project are correct. If so, the City will solicit additional quotes for the work.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the Downtown Revitalization Committee had been finalized. General Manager Smith informed him that it had. Councilman Patricelli then asked what qualifications those chosen had. Mr. Smith stated that the consultant on the Downtown Revitalization Study suggested creating a committee that would represent a cross section of the City therefore it includes residents, business owners and City employees as well as representatives from CDTA and Pioneer Bank. Councilman Patricelli stated he and Councilman McGrouty would have liked to have input on choosing the committee members. Mayor Manning stated that the committee will be fluid and if members of the City Council have any names they would like to be considered, to please provide them.

Lastly, Councilman Patricelli thanked employees from News Channel 10 (WTEN) for volunteering to paint the Watervliet Dome.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Paul Huban – 1500 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Huban asked if anything had been done in the Sixteenth Street boulevards since the last City Council Meeting. General Manager Smith informed him that the boulevards have been hydroseeded once, and that the City has asked National Grid to have the company come back and do it again. Councilman Patricelli then asked if the City could put down weed and feed in the boulevards. Mr. Smith stated that the City could and are prepared to fix the issue if National Grid doesn't do the job the second time around.

Mr. Huban then stated he was disappointed that the manholes were not raised when Twelfth Avenue was paved between Twenty-Fourth and Twenty-Fifth streets.

Mr. Huban also asked if the contractor who did the handicapped side walk work at Eighteenth Street and Second Avenue will be coming back to plant grass in the areas that were dug up. Mr. Smith informed him that the City has been in touch with the contractor to do just that.

Mr. Huban then asked if anything had been done to determine if the new home being built on Twenty-First Street is under the maximum height allowed by the City Code. General Manager Smith explained that the property owner paid to have the building surveyed by a company the City has worked with in the past. The survey determined that the height of the house does fall under the maximum height allowable.

Councilman McGrouty then asked if the City was going to repair any park lights that are currently not working. General Manager Smith informed him that if given the information on which lights need to be repaired they will be.

**Chris Kresloff – 1624 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Kresloff suggested designation the Civic Center field as a park strictly for older children. She stated that older children do not have a lot of options for places to gather in the City and if they did perhaps they wouldn't be so disruptive in the City's other parks.

General Manager Smith stated he was hopeful that the upcoming DRI study will have suggestions for recreational and social activities for kids of that age.

**Nancy Sheridan – 604 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Sheridan expressed "quality of life concerns" with living next door to Patrick's Pub. She stated that the noise from the bar is a problem, especially when they hold events. She also stated that the area behind the building is not properly taken care of, noting over growth of grass and weeds as well as broken bottles on the ground. Ms. Sheridan then asked who she should contact for these issues.

General Manager Smith informed her that most of these issues are code enforcement related so she should contact that office. If she is unable to get ahold of code enforcement, Mr. Smith told her to contact the General Managers office. He also stated that his office had received complaints for noise at the establishment. He noted that he has been in contact with the business owner and informed him that they must apply for Live Entertainment Permits when having an event outside that will feature a DJ or live band for example.

Ms. Sheridan also stated that there is a large planter located near her back gate that she believes belongs to the City and asked if it could be removed. Mayor Manning informed her that it was not the City's, rather it belonged to a former business in that area but that the City could remove it.

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

General Manager Jeremy Smith requesting to adjourn into executive session. Councilman Patricelli then made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Councilman McGrouty seconded the motion and after a 3-0 vote the Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:57PM.

**\*Next Meeting: July 18, 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, JUNE 20, 2019**

The meeting of the Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 8:05pm.

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, Fire Chief Tom Garrett and City Clerk & Clerk to the Council Scott O'Reilly.

The Council and administration discussed personnel issues.

A motion was made by Councilman Patricelli to adjourn the executive session which Councilman McGrouty seconded and after a 3-0 vote, Executive Session was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council