

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Manning at 7:03 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.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

**Item #1** – General Manager Jeremy Smith gave a brief synopsis of the recently published New York State Financial Restructuring Board (FRB) report the City received. A copy of this report can be found at [www.frb.ny.gov](http://www.frb.ny.gov) or by contacting the City Clerk's Office.

Councilman Patricelli asked if the FRB had any suggestions on how the City could stop reimbursing medical co-pays and Medicare part B. General Manager Smith informed him that it could only be done through collective bargaining negotiations.

Councilman Patricelli also asked what the report said about the City's ambulance service. General Manager Smith explained that there was an internal audit of the ambulance service that the FRB worked off of. In the report they stated that there would be a cost savings if the City was to discontinue the service based on a reduction of the workforce by four members.

Councilman Patricelli then asked how much information the City has gathered with regards to purchasing its street lights from National Grid. General Manager Smith stated that the City has been working with the New York Power Authority. If the City were to buy the street lights it would then own the arms and the lights. The poles themselves would still be owned by National Grid. If the lights were retrofitted with LED bulbs, they would last roughly ten years therefore the maintenance would be minimal.

Councilman McGrouty then asked if the savings would offset the purchase of the street lights. Mr. Smith informed him that the City could save from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars per year which would cover the purchase costs over time.

**Item #2** – General Manager Smith then gave a short presentation on the Capital District Transportation Authority's (CDTA) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route that will be traveling through the City of Watervliet. He explained that this new route will be the Capital Region's version of a subway or light rail system. Currently the BRT route runs from Central Avenue in Albany to \

Schenectady but will soon run along the Hudson River from Waterford to the south end of Albany. Mr. Smith explained that this project has been in the planning stages for CDTA since 2015 and much of what they wanted to do in the City of Watervliet, such as numerous bump outs and mid-block crossings, were not agreed to by the City. He then announced that there will be three new bus stops in the City of Watervliet for the BRT route. They will be located Third Avenue and Fifth Street, then north bound and south bound at Nineteenth Street and Second Avenue. General Manager Smith also stated that there will be upgrades to some traffic lights along the BRT route in the City provided by CDTA.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the Elks Lodge was consulted about this because the new Third Avenue bus shelter will be in front of their building and General Manager Smith informed him that they were not because the shelter will not be on their property. Councilman Patricelli stated that property owners should have been made aware of this ahead of time, if it was going to affect their property.

**Item #3** – General Manager Smith announced that Electronic Recycling day would be held on Saturday, July 27 at the City Garage from 8:00AM to 1:00PM and stated that residents can drop off unwanted electronic devices free of charge.

**Item #4** – General Manager Smith informed the members of the Council that the City received a “Zombie Property 2.0” Grant from New York State. He explained that this grant would give the City \$75,000.00 over two years to hire a new employee. This employee will be a “Provisional Code Enforcement Hire” specifically for Zombie Properties in the City of Watervliet. General Manager Smith also announced long time resident and Navy Veteran Nicholas Brown would be the newly hired employee.

**Item #5** – General Manager Smith announced the hiring of Anthony Geraci as Chief of the Watervliet Police Department. Chief Geraci will be sworn in on July 25, 2019 and his first official day would be August 12, 2019. Mr. Smith thanked Lieutenant and Acting Police Chief Brian Strock for the job he did as Acting Chief.

## OLD BUSINESS

NONE

## NEW BUSINESS

**ORDINANCE NO. 2006** – 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(B)(1) “Access Points” be amended.

Acting Police Chief Brian Strock explained that this would be a removal of a handicapped access point at 601 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007** – 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.

Acting Police Chief Strock explained that this would remove a handicapped parking sign at 1876 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9627** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the implementation, and funding in the first instance 100% of the federal-aid and State “Marchiselli” Program-aid eligible costs, for the NY Route 32 Mill & Fill Project, and appropriating funds therefore.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this Resolution is required by the Department of Transportation in order to receive reimbursement for the Route 32 Mill and Fill Project.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9628** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the implementation, and funding in the first instance 100% of the federal-aid and State “Marchiselli” Program-aid eligible costs, for Watervliet Bike Path Project and appropriating funds therefore.

General Manager Smith explained that this was also a Department of Transportation required Resolution. He noted that the City has bonded the money to pay for the upfront costs and will then be reimbursed. Councilman Patricelli asked if the interest on the bond would also be reimbursed. General Manager Smith stated it would not.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9629** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the implementation, and funding in the first instance of the State Multi-Modal Program aid eligible costs, for the repaving of various streets in the City of Watervliet, an appropriating funds therefore.

General Manager Smith stated that this was another required Resolution for the Department of Transportation. He explained that the City received additional funds to pave streets rather than using CHIPS money. With this additional funding the City can rollover One Hundred Thousand dollars of CHIPS money to use in the future.

Councilman Patricelli then asked if the south end of Eighth Avenue was going to be paved. Mr. Smith informed him that the Town of Colonie was planning to pave it next year.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9630** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby adopts and approves the 2019-20 ambulance billing rates for the City of Watervliet.

General Manager Smith explained that the ambulance rates had not been updated since 2014 and this would put them in line with local municipalities who offer ambulance service. Fire Chief Tom Garrett then stated that the changes should increase revenue roughly thirty percent.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9631** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves Amendment 2 to Task Order No. 40, Task Order No. 50, Task Order No. 60 and Task Order No. 70 between the City of Watervliet and Gomez & Sullivan Engineers, for engineering services regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the Normanskill Hydroelectric Project.

General Manager Smith explained that these are continuing Task Orders for the relicensing of the Normanskill Hydroelectric Plant.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9632** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby ratifies and confirms the City's purchase of a 2015 Ford Explorer – Utility Interceptor Police Vehicle from the Village of Green Island in the amount of \$9,000.00 for use by the City of Watervliet Police Department.

General Manager Smith explained that one of the City's Police vehicles was totaled in an accident and that Green Island's Police Department had a surplus vehicle. He also explained that the purchase is budget neutral because the insurance money will cover the cost of the vehicle.

After a motion by Councilman McGrouty that was seconded by Councilman Patricelli, the Resolution passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9633** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby accepts the bid and awards the contract for the upgrade of the electrical interconnection of the Normanskill Hydroelectric facility to M. Scher & Son, Inc., with an address of 136 North Lake Avenue, Albany, New York, in the amount of One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand One Hundred Ninety Five and 00/100 Dollars (\$125,195.00), the lowest responsible bidder in conformance with the specifications.

General Manager Smith explained that these are electrical upgrades that are required by National Grid. Once completed the Hydroelectric Plant will be able to run at full capacity. He also stated that the bid came in lower than expected and that it was recommended by the Engineers on the project.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9634** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Barclay Damon, LLP 80 State Street, Albany, New York, commencing on July 18, 2019 and ending on December 31, 2019.

General Manager Smith explained that this is the annual agreement for the City's Bond Counsel.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9635** – A SEQRA Resolution determining the issuance of Serial General Obligation Bonds to finance the infrastructure improvements, including electrical upgrades to the Normanskill Hydro Project, at an estimated maximum cost of \$500,000.00, will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

Mayor Manning read the Environmental Impact Assessment Form aloud and confirmed there was no negative impact caused by this project.

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

## APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

**RESOLUTION NO. 9636** – A Bond Resolution of the City of Watervliet authorizing not to exceed \$500,000.00 aggregate principal amount of Serial General Obligation Bonds to finance the infrastructure improvements, including electrical upgrades, to the Normanskill Hydro Project.

General Manager Smith explained that this bond would cover the costs associated with the electrical upgrades at the Hydroelectric Plant.

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. 9637** – A Bond Resolution of the City of Watervliet authorizing not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 aggregate principal amount of Serial General Obligation Bonds to finance the cost of design and construction of a Bike Path.

General Manager Smith explained that this bond is for the total cost of the Bike Path project but that the majority of the funds will be reimbursed with a grant the City received from the Department of Transportation.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 9638** - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the increase of funds of certain expenditure accounts and certain revenue accounts in the annual estimate that has become necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that is a budget neutral transfer that is recommended by Director of Finance Mike McNeff.

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

Prior to the Public Comment Period, General Manager Smith provided an update on the project at the Former Dutch Reformed Church. He explained that the bell tower had been reduced to a safe height and that the next week the engineer will begin examining the south west corner to determine if it is structurally sound.

Councilman Patricelli asked if there had been any movement on making changes to the parking regulations on 19<sup>th</sup> Street. General Manager Smith stated there was no solution yet but if the City was to mark out parking spaces in front of the businesses that are having parking issues it would decrease the number of spaces there are. Councilman Patricelli then asked about the requests from business owners on 19<sup>th</sup> Street for “Fifteen Minute Parking” signs. Mr. Smith stated he had expressed his opinion on the matter in the past but that it would be at the discretion of the City Council to propose a parking Ordinance. The Councilman then asked if this issue would be addressed with the Downtown Revitalization Study that is currently on going. Mr. Smith stated that zoning would be looked at with this study as well as with the Comprehensive Plan update that was recently approved.

Next, Councilman Patricelli asked about the maintaining of the weeds growing in the fence at Red’s Field. General Manager Smith explained that the City experimented with burning the weeds, which worked well, and would continue to do so.

Councilman Patricelli then asked for an update on the maintaining of vacant properties in the City. General Manager Smith stated that the City was keeping up on them and applauded the current process that Paul LaBoissiere, Head of Code Enforcement, set up. He noted that Mr. LaBoissiere prepares the list of homes that need to be maintained each week but that the City cannot touch the property until it is “in violation” of the City Code.

Next, Councilman Patricelli asked about the use of “swim shirts” at the City pool. General Manager Smith explained that, in the interest of safety, City policy is to not allow shirts in the City pool. He also stated that the Department of Health does not regulate the issue one way or another. Councilman Patricelli then asked if a swim shirt would be allowed with a doctor’s note. Mr. Smith stated if a doctor’s note is provided to the Head Lifeguard, a swim shirt would be allowed.

Councilman Patricelli also commented on the deterioration of parts of the Filter Plant. General Manager Smith stated that he has a meeting set with an engineer to determine the next steps to fixing the areas of the Filter Plant that need work and that the City would continue to look for funding as well as apply for grants to rehab the building.

Next, Councilman Patricelli asked if the discrepancy with the hours City parks are open had been cleared up. General Manager Smith stated that the City Code has the correct hours listed as opposed to the signs in the parks and that the signs would be corrected. Councilman Patricelli then asked how the enforcement of the hours was going. Acting Police Chief explained that his department takes it on a case by case basis. If there are individuals in the park after hours but are not causing a problem the Police Department may not intercede.

Councilman Patricelli then requested an analysis of Pool attendance for this season. General Manager Smith explained that attendance was being tracked daily and he would get in the information for him.

The Councilman then asked if the City had painted any cross walks this year as was planned. General Manager Smith informed him that the City has spent around Twenty-five thousand dollars on striping this year, which includes cross walks.

Lastly, Councilman Patricelli asked about maintaining the bio retention units on Third Avenue. General Manager Smith explained that the Sanitation Department handles that but have fallen behind slightly being down staff, but they would continue to maintain those areas in the coming week.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Paul Huban – 1500 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Huban asked if the City has any communication with National Grid when planning projects because National Grid recently dug up streets that the City had just paved. General Manager Smith explained that National Grid provided the City with a schedule or work for the next few years and that the City planned their paving schedule off that. However, National Grid changed their schedule for replacing gas lines this year.

Mr. Huban then pointed out potholes near the entrance to Auto Zone on Second Avenue that need to be filled. Mr. Smith stated he would inform the Highway Department.

Next, Mr. Huban asked if National Grid was going to finish their restoration of the

boulevards on 16<sup>th</sup> Street after digging them up. General Manager Smith stated that they were hydroseeded, but it was not done properly. He also pointed out that the City has reached out to the contractor to come back but have yet to hear a response. Should they not come back and finish the job the City will finish the job.

Lastly, Mr. Huban stated that there is an area near 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway that has become overgrown and needs to be cut. General Manager Smith explained that he would inform the Code department.

**Nancy Sheridan – 604 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue** – Ms. Sheridan asked if anything had been done about the concerns, she voiced at the previous City Council Meeting. General Manager Smith asked if she had contacted Code Enforcement and Ms. Sheridan stated she never heard back from them. Mr. Smith also explained that some of the concerns she had are not something that can be handled by Code Enforcement but suggested contacting Paul LaBoissiere in that department. Should she not hear back she should let General Manager Smith know.

**Frank Soucy – 1659 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Soucy suggested adding a crosswalk on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue near the Watervliet Pool. He stated that it is a dangerous area for children to cross the road. General Manager Smith asked if Mr. Soucy was referring to a mid-block cross walk and Mr. Soucy stated he was. Councilman Patricelli then asked if there used to be a cross walk in the area and Mr. Soucy confirmed there was. Mr. Smith stated he would look into it.

**Peg Germano – 1124 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue** - Ms. Germano asked for an update on the cleaning of the Reservoir, specifically the removal of the water chestnuts. General Manager Smith explained that the new aerators are running and working well. Since being installed the reservoir has required less chlorine be added to the water. He also explained that studies are being done at the Reservoir on how to improve water quality. Mr. Smith then stated that the water chestnuts are still there and that is a long process to remove them.

Ms. Germano then pointed out that the area around Papa's Restaurant could use attention. She then asked about the new Animal Control Officer's the City is employing and if they respond to all animal issues or only dogs. General Manager Smith explained that the Police Officer who have been assigned as ACO's are on duty while on shift and if neither are on shift, they can be called in for overtime. He also stated that they only handle calls for dogs.

**Don Whitehead – 1921 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – Mr. Whitehead asked if the report that Councilman Patricelli requested on the legibility of street signs was ever completed and noted that he has seen signs that are completely illegible throughout the City.

Second, Mr. Whitehead stated that some speed limit signs in the City that have been removed, such as the fifteen mile per hour sign that used to be located at St. Brigid's School, are still listed in the City Code with the incorrect speed limit. He also noted a speed limit sign on Fourth Avenue that is not located in the City Code.

Next, he explained that the apartment complex building located at 825 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue has a single handicapped parking sign but should have two designated handicapped parking signs. He

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also stated that there is a handicapped parking sign tied to a "one way" sign at 807 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. After looking at the City Code he found neither handicapped sign to be included.

Lastly, he stated that the street light located on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street is no longer needed because there is no longer a factory in that area like there was in the past.

General Manager Jeremy Smith then requested adjourning into Executive Session to discuss a pending legal matter as well as a personnel issue. Councilman Patricelli made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session, which Councilman McGrouty seconded and after a 3-0 vote the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 8:47PM.

**\*Next Meeting: August 15, 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, JULY 18, 2019**

The meeting of the Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 8:51pm.

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

The Council and administration discussed a pending legal matter and 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 9:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council