

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 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, City Clerk & Clerk to the Council Scott O'Reilly, 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 REPORT

General Manager Jeremy Smith announced that budget preparations for 2020 have begun and that the first budget workshop will take place on September 5th. All budget workshops will take place at 6:00PM prior to City Council Meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 2008 – 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.

General Manager Smith explained that Lieutenant Brian Strock, who was Acting Police Chief at the time, recommended placing handicapped access point signs in front of the property at 2416 Broadway.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2009 - 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.

This Ordinance, also recommended by then Acting Police Chief Brian Strock, would remove handicapped parking signs located in front of 401 7th Avenue.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2010 – 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 Jeremy Smith explained that his Ordinance would clearly define the areas around the City Schools as "School Zones" that would correspond with the lower speed limits in those areas.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2011 – 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 Jeremy Smith explained that this Ordinance would change parking spaces located at various parts of 19th Street to "Time Limit" parking spaces and that it was recommended by Councilman Patricelli.

Councilman McGrouty then made a motion to move on the Ordinance, which Councilman Patricelli seconded. A vote was taken with Councilmen Patricelli and McGrouty being in favor and Mayor Manning being opposed. As this was the first reading of the Ordinance, the Ordinance did not pass.

RESOLUTION NO. 9639 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an agreement between the City of Watervliet and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute commencing on March 1, 2019 and ending on February 29, 2020, to allow Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to occupy the boathouse located at Hudson Shores Park and to have access to and use the non-motorized dock that accompanies the boathouse for purposes of gaining access to the Hudson River for rowing activities conducted by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this is an annual agreement. Mayor Manning then asked if the fee for the crane that is used for installation and removal of the docks was included in this agreement. Mr. Smith informed him it was.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9640 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves an Agreement between the City of Watervliet and the New York State Unified Court System for the City of Watervliet to provide security services to Watervliet City Court.

General Manager explained that this was a formal agreement with the State Court System to have our Police Officers provide security at the Watervliet City Court. He also noted that their overtime wages for the security services are fully reimbursed.

Councilman McGrouty then 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. 9641 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves the payment of \$1,535.94 to Sharon A. Boucher, owner of property located at 712 5th Avenue, as a refund for overpayments of water and sewer bills for the billing periods of May 2013 to November 2018.

General Manager Jeremy Smith explained that this individual was being billed incorrectly. Director of Finance further explained that the tax software program the City uses had this individual as having a flat metered rate when, in fact, the property had no water meter.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9642 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby establishes an advisory committee known as the "Dog Park Committee" to assist the Council in the establishment of a dog park in the City of Watervliet and further appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Dog Park Committee for a term of three months; Irvin Ackerman, Member, Karla Carusone, Member, Andrea Hughes, Member, Austin McGuire, Ex Officio Member, and Robert Loya, Ex Officio Member.

After a motion from Councilman McGrouty and a second by Councilman Patricelli the Resolution passed with a 3-0 vote.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

NONE

Prior to the opening of the Public Comment Period Councilman Patricelli announced that the Child Safety Seat Check was held on August 1, 2019, in the parking lot of Watervliet Elementary School. The program was run by the Albany County Sheriff's Department and was well attended with roughly thirty participants.

Councilman Patricelli also stated that the painting and canopy at the Dome was finished and he thanked Stripes, John McAvoy, and Bill Conroy for their assistance with the project.

Next, Councilman Patricelli asked about installing warning lights in the area of the Elementary School. General Manager Smith explained now that the School Zone Ordinance had passed the City could purchase the flashing signs indicating School Zone areas.

Councilman Patricelli then asked about the reimbursement the City is expecting from the DEA for drug seizures. Mr. Smith informed him that the City must draw down the money.

Lastly, Councilman Patricelli asked about the City's new water line grant. Mr. Smith explained the City received \$500,000.00 from the New York State Department of Health to replace lead water lines going into people's homes.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Paul Huban – 1500 12th Avenue – First, Mr. Huban thanked General Manager Smith for taking care of the high grass on Twenty-Fifth Street. Next, he stated that there are several potholes throughout the City that have not yet been addressed. He also stated that the boulevards on Sixteenth Street still need to be addressed. Lastly, he asked why the proposed bus shelter that is going to be placed in front of the old OTB is going to be set against the building and pointed out that the contractor CDTA is using for the project is hard to communicate with.

General Manager Smith explained that work orders have been submitted to address the pot holes that were referred to. With regards to the boulevards on Sixteenth Street, Mr. Smith explained that National Grid is planning to plant new grass in September. General Manager Smith also stated that because the bus shelter will be in the public right of way it does not have to be set back from the building but that CDTA is going to set up a meeting with Mr. Huban to speak about the issue. He also offered to be at the meeting if Mr. Huban wanted him to be. Mr. Huban said he would appreciate if Mr. Smith could be at the meeting.

Tatianna Moragne – 2318 3rd Avenue – Ms. Moragne stated the intersection of Nineteenth Street and Second Avenue needs to be "policed" better because it is dangerous to cross in that area as a pedestrian.

Sean O'Neil – 1313 5th Avenue – Mr. O'Neil, who is an officer at Douglas Industrial asked what steps needed to be taken in order for Douglas Industrial to take possession of the "paper street" that runs behind the Douglas Industrial building. General Manager Smith then asked if Douglas Industrial wanted to purchase the property in question. Mr. O'Neil informed him that his company would like to purchase it then clean it up and level it off so they could use it for parking. Mr. Smith stated the City would have to make sure the property is not currently used by the City before it could entertain the idea of selling. He also stated any potential sale

would have to be done by Ordinance. Corporation Counsel Yuban interjected saying a survey of the land would also have to be completed.

Councilman McGrouty then asked if they were planning on expanding their building if they were able to purchase the property. Mr. O'Neil stated they were not.

Don Whitehead – 1921 8th Avenue – Mr. Whitehead pointed out multiple street signs located in the City that are not included in the City Code, including a “15 mile per hour” speed limit sign on the 600 block of 4th Avenue and a “handicapped parking” sign. He also stated that the traffic signal located on the corner of 23rd Street and 6th Avenue is not listed in the City Code.

Next, Mr. Whitehead asked if there had been any movement on the City Charter revision that has been brought up at past City Council Meetings. Corporation Counsel Huban informed him that nothing has been done yet. Mr. Whitehead then stated he believed the new document is a “bad document” and that there should be a committee formed.

Maria Vera – 700 19th Street – Ms. Vera requested having a time limit parking area installed in front of her business on Ninetieth Street. She stated too many people park in front of her business which makes it hard for her customers to find parking.

With there being no further comments Mayor Manning closed the Public Comment Period. Councilman Patricelli then mad a motion to adjourn the meeting. After a second from Councilman McGrouty, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37PM.

***Next Meeting: September 5, 2019 7:00pm**

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott P. O'Reilly

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council