

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 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: Acting City Manager Mark Spain, City Clerk & Clerk to the Council Dave Wheatley, Director of Finance Mike McNeff, Police Chief Anthony Geraci 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

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

Kaite Veshio from the Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance (MEGA) gave a presentation to the council regarding Community Choice Aggregation and the benefits it would provide to the residents and business owners throughout the City.

Public Hearing No. 1 - A Public Hearing is for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding the Estimate of Revenue and Expenditures for the fiscal year 2020 for the City of Watervliet.

Mayor Manning opened the public hearing and confirmed with Acting City Manager Mark Spain to confirm that the proposed increase for the 2020 budget still stands at 1.18%.

The Mayor invited those who wish to be heard to come up to the podium to speak. No one in attendance came forward and the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2017 – The Council of the City of Watervliet authorizes the removal of handicapped parking signs located in front of the residence at 202 8th Avenue in the City of Watervliet.

Acting City Manager Mark Spain stated that this ordinance was to remove handicapped signs from in front of a residence. He advised that the residents had moved from this property.

Upon a motion by Councilman Patricelli which was seconded by Councilman McGrouty this Ordinance was passed 3-0.

Ordinance No. 2018 – The Council of the City of Watervliet amends Section §168-2.4 of the Code of the City of Watervliet.

Acting City Manager Mark Spain advised that this was a proposal to amend the City of Watervliet code to have Bulk Pick-Up week only once per year. He stated this would not preclude the City from holding the pick-up week twice a year. This would give the City options moving forward.

Councilman Patricelli stated that he agrees that the design of bulk-week pick-up needs to be reworked moving forward.

Councilman McGrouty advised that the fees for dropping off bulk items off to the City garage needs to be raised as it is lower than if you drop off items to a local landfill.

A motion by Councilman McGrouty which was seconded by Councilman Patricelli to accept the Ordinance as written.

Mayor Manning voted for the Ordinance with Councilman McGrouty and Councilman Patricelli voting against. This ordinance was vetoed by a vote of 2-1.

Resolution No. 9689 – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves a Grant Agreement between The Stanton Foundation and the City of Watervliet for the City of Watervliet Police Department to establish a K-9 Unit and to cover the costs associated with such a program, and further authorizes and directed Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute same.

Chief Geraci advised of the specifics for this grant advising the City would receive \$25,000 up front for this grant then \$1,000 additionally for the next 12-weeks and a final payment of \$4,000 which would make this a \$41,000 grant.

The Chief advised that the Stanton Foundation is based out of Massachusetts and the funding is only available to establish a K-9 program with the only states that obtain funding through this grant are Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York.

He also stated that all other funding that is available through New York State is not available unless the City has a K-9 program established.

Chief Geraci stated that the Police Department already has a commitment with a local veterinary clinic that does not charge for the care of police dogs.

Upon a motion by Councilman Patricelli which was seconded by Councilman McGrouty this Ordinance was passed 3-0.

Resolution No. 9690 - The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby approves a Use & Dissemination Agreement between the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and the City of Watervliet Police Department and further authorizes City of Watervliet Chief of Police Anthony W. Geraci and/or his designee to execute same.

Chief of Police Anthony Geraci advised that this was a standard agreement between the City and the Division of Criminal Justice to gain access to criminal histories and fingerprint inquiries.

Upon a motion from Councilman McGrouty which was seconded by Councilman Patricelli this resolution was passed 3-0.

APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING

NONE

Prior to the opening of the Public Comment Period the following items were discussed.

- Acting City Manager reminded everyone the City's Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th at 5:00pm and thanked National Grid for their \$1,000 donation which allowed the City to have the horse drawn carriage at the event, Price Chopper for their donation of Italian Wedding soup and Matt Ethier at the Watervliet Housing Authority for their assistance in cleaning up the park for the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Rebecca Williams 1525 5th Avenue – Thanked the City's DPW for the job that they did in clearing the streets of snow during the recent snow storm.

Pat Fruscio 2433 Broadway – Ms. Fruscio advised that it took a long time for the City to clear Broadway during the snowstorm which she stated caused problems for traffic and residents in that area. She stated she hopes that this issue is corrected during the next storm.

Acting City Manager Mark Spain advised that in fact Broadway is traditionally the City schedules that area around rush hour traffic so the bigger plows can get through. Due to equipment issues the timing of clearing Broadway was delayed.

Mr. Spain thanked Albany County Executive Dan McCoy for agreeing to letting the City to borrow equipment and two staff to assist in clearing the city roads.

Don Whitehead – 1921 8th Avenue - Mr. Whitehead complimented the DPW staff on the job they did during the recent snowstorm. He stated that the snow removal notices were very confusion. He advised he received that he received three notices during this storm. He asked the Council to stop advising people to go to social media for updates as not everyone is on social media.

Mr. Whitehead stated that 8th Avenue is normally very tight and that the snow plowing did not move the snow back as well as in the past and he is concerned that the City garbage trucks will not be able to get down the street.

Councilman Patricelli then requested to adjourn in to Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. He further requested members of the City Council, Acting City Manager Mark Spain, Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban, City Clerk and Clerk to the Council Dave Wheatley and Director of Finance Mike McNeff to be present.

Councilman McGrouty seconded this motion and after a 3-0 vote the Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:01 PM.

Next Meeting: December 19, 2019 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

David C. Wheatley

City Clerk & Clerk to the Council

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

The meeting of the Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 8:10 pm.

Roll call showed that Mayor Michael P. Manning, Councilman Charles Patricelli and Councilman Frank McGrouty were present.

Also present from City Administration were: Acting City Manager Mark Spain, Dave Wheatley, City Clerk & Clerk to the Council. Corporation Counsel Yorden Huban and Director of Finance Mike McNeff.

The Council and administration discussed a personnel and contractual issue. There was no legislation voted on during the executive session.

A motion was made to adjourn the executive session at 8:30 PM.