TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022
REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
61 ECHO LAKE RD.
WATERTOWN, CT 06795

1. Call Meeting to Order.
   Chair Jonathan Ramsay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.
   Chair Jonathan Ramsay led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call.

   PRESENT:       Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
                   Mary Ann Rosa, Vice Chair
                   Ken Demirs
                   Robert Desena
                   Gary Lafferty
                   Robert Retallick
                   Denise Russ

   ABSENT:        Anthony DiBona
                   Rachael Ryan

   OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Raimo, Town Manager

4. Public Comment.
   Al Mickel, 95 Woodvime Avenue: Mr. Mickel is a member of the Commission on Aging
   and talked about ordinance (2-192) regarding the representation of party members and
   asked if the ordinance committee could look at it. Mr. Mickel thought it would be wiser
   not to bundle the Police Station and the Community Center together. Mr. Mickel talked
   about the makeup of residents in town in regards to the budget.
Joe Pawlak, 173 Middlebury Road: Mr. Pawlak had numbers to share with the commission in regards to the BOE budget. Mr. Pawlak talked about the number of staff positions working for the Superintendent with salaries and compared the numbers to past budgets.

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place: Mr. Camara talked about the Deputy Chief being vacant for two years. Ms. Camara also talked about a resident on Watertown Talks website going into tax foreclosure.

5. Minutes.
   a. Regular Meeting- May 16, 2022
      Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to accept the Regular Meeting minutes dated May 16, 2022 as presented.

      Motion passed unanimously

   b. Special Meeting- May 23, 2022
      Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Denise Russ: I move to accept the Special Meeting minutes dated May 23, 2022 as amended.

      Robert Desena: I would like to have a correction be made into the minutes. On page 6, the seventh full paragraph beginning with Robert Desena, I would like an amendment to the motion. Going down several sentences it says above the Superintendent that is not what I said. It should say below the Superintendent it is in my notes I remember saying that and it changes the whole concept, it should read below that is what I said.

      Motion passed unanimously

6. Chairman’s Report
   a. Correspondence.
      Chair Jonathan Ramsay: The referendum is in two weeks and asked if everyone could vote.

7. Town Manager’s Report.
   Mark Raimo reported:
   • Watertown - Total COVID cases 79, 707 tests, 26.2 % positivity rate.
   • Noise Ordinance – pending response of DEEP
   • Wilson Street Bridge – Pending bid process
   • Guernseytown Rd – Pending bid process
   • Steel Brook Greenway – Discussions continue regarding scope of work and pricing
   • Naugatuck River Green Way – No additional update
Union – Negotiations are continuing:
  o Highway
  o Police Supervisors Unions.

Tabletop Hurricane Response - May 24, 2022 was successful procedurally. We have identified additional pre-work for future emergency responses which will improve our ability to respond and recover. However, we have identified IT issues that need to be corrected in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and we are working on correcting.

Grant Funding – the Community Project Funding requests through Congresswoman Hayes’s Office have been recommended to the House Appropriations Committee. Police and Public Works.

Middlebury Rd Area Drainage – A notice to proceed letter has been issued to Stonybrook Construction.

LPR Plate Readers – Will be installed tomorrow. With a go live date in the near future.

Police – The Chief will be assembling a five-year plan for the department during the month of July the Chief will report on the survey results and would like your input as he moves through the planning phase.

Resignation Letter – The Town Clerk has received a resignation letter from the Democratic Registrar of Voters, Sally Kuslis.

Memorial Day Parade – Was a success and very well attended

Mark Raimo added:
The Texas mass shootings, the Chief of Police, myself and the Superintendent with all parties involved will have a hazards meeting reviewing policies and procedures, working towards identifying some issues that may have prevented police officers in Texas moving into that room and we are going to talk about these items and see if we can create a better plan for response to these matters. The plan is to move to a table talk exercise before we go back into school. I would hope we can get together and do a response drill to see how everybody works together and that we are on top of our game when it comes to things like this.

To make a comment regarding the Tax Collector, the issues of sending properties for tax collection, there is a procedure in place and the procedures were followed. The Tax Collector made me aware of the issue specifically talked about tonight and there were attempts to make contact with the family and obviously what the family was going through there was no response. Normally what the tax collector does is he moves forward and stays consistent. Because it is important to be fair to everybody when we go into tax collection. We want to follow our procedures and all procedures were followed.

8. Subcommittee Reports. – none.

a. Consider a resolution setting the mill rate to levy taxes on motor vehicles for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget will be sent to referendum on June 21, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to HB-5506, the new motor vehicles tax cap is set at 32.46 for Fiscal Year 23. This is effective with the July 1, 2022 tax billing cycle; and

WHEREAS, the motor vehicle mill rate must be established to levy the taxes on motor vehicles prior to approval of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget at referendum on June 21, 2022 so that motor vehicle bills can be processed and sent out.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Watertown hereby adopts the mill rate of 32.46 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 due and payable on July 1, 2022 for Motor Vehicle taxes.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 6th day of June, 2022

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution setting the mill rate to levy taxes on motor vehicles for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 at 32.46 which is the state tax cap for motor vehicles.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager: The state has put a cap on the mill rate for motor vehicles to 32.46 mills, that is state wide. When they passed this bill through and it became law it restricted us all to 32.46 mills. We were also told that we would be receiving compensation for the difference between whatever the municipality mill rate is. We are going to run $125,000 short and the state will be reimbursing us on this cap. We are obligated to impose this mill rate and we would like to do that prior to the budget vote so we can get the bills out for motor vehicle taxes.

Motion passed unanimously

b. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $6,422.02 for Police overtime. Funds received from the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration as reimbursement for participation in drug enforcement activities.
Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Desena: I move to approve an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $6,422.02 for Police overtime. Funds received from the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration as reimbursement for participation in drug enforcement activities.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

c. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $7,308.52 for Police overtime. Funds received from the State Connecticut Department of Transportation for distracted driving and high visibility enforcement.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Desena: I move to approve an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $7,308.52 for Police overtime. Funds received from the State Connecticut Department of Transportation for distracted driving and high visibility enforcement.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

d. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $2,604.42 for Police overtime. Funds received from the FBI as reimbursement for participation in gang task force activities.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Desena: I move to approve an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $2,604.42 for Police overtime. Funds received from the FBI as reimbursement for participation in gang task force activities.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

e. Consider a bid waiver for the purchase of an upgrade to the current Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system software for the Water and Sewer Department. SCADA system to be provided by Integrated Control Systems for an amount not to exceed $32,990.
Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to approve a bid waiver for the purchase of an upgrade to the current Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system software for the Water and Sewer Department. Such SCADA system to be provided by Integrated Control Systems for an amount not to exceed $32,990.

Denise Russ: For clarification the Water and Sewer, we do not have anything to do with it, they bring their budget to us but it is their money we don’t tell them what to do with it, why would we be involved with this.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager: You are just giving them the approval to go through with the bid waiver.

Denise Russ: We give approval to spend their own money?

Mark Raimo, Town Manager: That is correct, they do need your authority to go outside the bid waiver.

Motion passed unanimously

f. Consider a resolution authorizing the transfer of funds between line items for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, expenses in the 2021-22 fiscal year require the transfer of funds:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by vote of the Watertown Town Council, that the following actions are taken relative to the transfer of funds.

CRESTBROOK
AMOUNT: $13,500
FROM: $3,500 – 074.50310.123.0080.9074 – Golf Professional
       $10,000 – 074.50317.123.1606.9074 – Maint. Land & Building
TO: 074.50480.123.2284.9074 – Fuel - Gasoline
REASON: Due to increase in fuel costs.

GENERAL FUND – FIRE DEPARTMENT
AMOUNT: $10,148
FROM: $6,498 – 010.50321.018.0000.9010 – Other Equipment Maint.
       $3,650 – 010.50573.018.0000.9010 – Firefighting Equipment
TO: 010.50319.018.0000.9010 – Vehicle Maintenance
REASON: Unexpected vehicle repairs.
Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 6th day of June 2022.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of funds between line items for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Chair Jonathan Ramsay: The transfers are the ones with Crestbrook going from Golf professional land and building to fuel and gasoline. Then there is also Fire Department going from other equipment maintenance and firefighting equipment to vehicle maintenance.

Motion passed unanimously

g. Consider a resolution authorizing an appropriation of $2,486.26 for tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have applied for Tax Refunds pursuant to Section 12-129, Refund of Excess Payments; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommended that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-129; and

WHEREAS, in order to refund taxpayers who have been approved for their refunds, monies must be appropriated into the budget line item to expend the funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appropriates $2,486.26, to line item 010-50341-043-0102 from the General Fund for tax refunds.
Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 6th day of June 2022.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing an appropriation of $2,486.26 for tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously
h. Consider a resolution authorizing tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have made applications for property tax refunds in accordance with C.G.S. Section 12-129 *Refunds of Excess Payment*:

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-1298;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the attached listing of tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 6th day of June 2022.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retaillick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

10. Adjournment.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Approved:

Susan King, Clerk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City/State/Zip</th>
<th>Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Tax</th>
<th>Int</th>
<th>Fag</th>
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<td>2018-03-0050192</td>
<td>ACAR LEASING LTD</td>
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<td>FORT WORTH, CT 76110</td>
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<td>58 CURTISS RD</td>
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<td>202 ORCHARD LN</td>
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