

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call showed that Mayor Michael P. Manning, Councilman Charles J. Diamond and Councilwoman Ellen R. Fogarty were present.

Also present from City Administration were: Mark E. Gleason; General Manager, Yorden C. Huban; Corporation Counsel, David Wheatley; Deputy City Clerk, Police Chief Ron Boisvert, Fire Chief Don Clickner and Mark R. Gilchrist; Assessor/Bldg. Inspector.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with and approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

The following agenda was presented to the Council by Deputy City Clerk.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**ITEM #1** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that Nick Ostapkovich and himself met with Dan Russo from Upstate Utilities. Mr. Gleason explained that Upstate Utilities is a energy broker who can get a better price for energy purchases. Mr. Gleason noted that with the deregulation of energy in New York State, the City may get a better energy price by purchasing through a broker. Mr. Gleason provided the Council with a copy of a handout to look at regarding the energy broker. This would allow the City to purchase the gas and electric on the open market. Mayor Manning asked if Mr. Gleason new what the potential savings would be. Mr. Gleason stated that the City would save on the unit cost, it will give the City the advantage of the fluctuation in the market. National Grid is our current supplier, they deliver the energy not to offer the best price. Mr. Gleason also explained that residents can also purchase their energy from another source other than National Grid. Deregulation has allowed energy companies to buy the energy at cheaper costs then will sell to residents using National Grid as the transporting agency. Mr. Gleason would like to present a proposal for the Council to consider at the February 28, 2008 Council Meeting. Councilman Diamond asked what does the City pay on delivery charges. Mr. Gleason noted that he is not sure what the delivery charge is, he will look into this for an answer.

**ITEM #2** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 he attended a meeting at Clough Harbour Associates regarding the street lights which will be replaced on 19<sup>th</sup> Street. There will be over 40 street lights replaced during the reconstruction project. The new light fixtures will be the responsibility of National Grid. The new lights will be much like the current lights in the eastern corridor of 19<sup>th</sup> Street. The City obtained the brightest lights possible. This will promote a more secure street.

**ITEM #3** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that the Sanitation Committee has met three times this past month. Mr. Gleason thanked the members of the Sanitation Committee for taking time to be a part of this program. Mr. Gleason introduced each member of the committee. Mr. Gleason noted that the Sanitation Committee has been working to prepare policies and a plan to pickup the garbage. Once the Sanitation Committee has the documents prepared they will present them to the City Council.

**ITEM #4** – Mark Gleason; General Manager informed the Council that Jeff Budrow from Fraser Associates Engineering has completed the report for the Upper and Lower Dams to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The binder is approximately 2 inches thick. Mr. Gleason has a copy if any of the Council would like to see it. Mr. Gleason noted that it will take approximately three to four weeks for DEC to review and issue and comments they have.

**ITEM #5** – Mark Gleason; General Manager announced to the City Council that the City will be hiring a Recreation Program Assistant. Mr. Gleason explained that Working Supervisor Chris Daus will be making the transition to the Sanitation Department. The Recreation Department will need assistance to assume the duties Mr. Daus has done in the Recreation Department. The notification for this position has been placed on Channel 17, City Hall and Library. Mr. Gleason noted that resumes need to be returned to his office by February 17, 2008.

**ITEM #6** – Mayor Michael P. Manning announced that RoseMary Nichols has taken the position of Deputy General Manager focusing on Community Development and Revitalization. Mayor Manning officially welcomed Rosemary Nichols the staff of City Hall.

**ITEM #7** – Mayor Michael P. Manning announced that Tom Mackey was hired to be a caretaker at the Watervliet Fire Department. Mr. Mackey has been an adjunct member who is there all the time. Mayor Manning welcomed Tom Mackey to the Fire Department staff.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**NONE**

## NEW BUSINESS

**RESOLUTION NO. 8203** – The Council hereby authorizes Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute an agreement with Hacker & Murphy, LLP for legal services related to Article 7 trials and appeals along with property tax assessment matters for the period February 7 thru December 31, 2008. Before voting Mayor Manning explained that this firm will bill for services as needed by Mark Gilchrist in the Assessor's Office. Mark Gilchrist Assessor/Building Inspector noted that Eckerd and Price Chopper Plaza has open cases. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted

**RESOLUTION NO. 8204** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes an increase in the hourly rate of pay for School Crossing Guards to a rate of \$9.00 per hour retroactive to February 4, 2008. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8205** – The Council hereby authorizes Bruce A. Hidley; City Clerk to advertise once in the official newspaper that the City will receive bids until 11:00 AM on Friday, February 22, 2008 for a truck with a 25 cubic yard hydraulically actuated packer body. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8206** – The Council hereby authorizes the amendment to the Deferred Compensation Plan for employees of the City of Watervliet effective December 7, 2007. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8208** – The Council hereby authorizes the Mayor Michael P. Manning to execute the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Watervliet and the Watervliet Uniformed Firefighters Association for the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008. Upon motion of Councilwoman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Diamond, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

## **APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING**

**RESOLUTION NO. 8207** – The Council of the City of Watervliet hereby authorizes the transfer of funds from certain accounts in the annual estimate due to unforeseen circumstances. Before voting Mayor Manning requested that Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance explain this Resolution. Mr. Fahr explained that these are budgetary transfers within the General Fund and Water Fund for 2007. Some of the funds were over spent others were under spent. This is a reallocation of balances to be sure we do not over spend our accounts for 2007. Upon motion of Councilman Diamond, seconded by Councilwoman Fogarty, this Resolution was approved and adopted.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

1.) Lori Sylvester – 1904 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Watervliet, New York – discussed a recent newspaper article which discusses the fact that the City is bringing in new businesses to the Arsenal. The part that bothered Ms. Sylvester was the fact that the City was referred to as a bedroom community. This calls to mind that Watervliet is more like a suburban area were you just sleep in. Ms. Sylvester would to see the City more attractive, useable and pedestrian friendly. She would to see that maximized. Mayor Manning noted that this is one of the functions that we could serve due to our proximity. There are quite a few people who live here that the Mayor wants to stay living here. Mayor Manning thanked Ms. Sylvester.

Before closing Mark Gleason requested that the Council adjourn into Executive Session to discuss City business.

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn into Executive Session, the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 7:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley  
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
FEBRUARY 7, 2008**

The Executive Session was called to Order by Mayor Michael P. Manning at 7:25 PM

Roll Call showed the following present: Mayor Michael P. Manning, Councilman Charles J. Diamond and Councilwoman Ellen R. Fogarty.

The following were in attendance from City Administration: Mark R. Gleason; General Manager, Yorden Huban; Corporation Counsel and Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance.

**Item #1 – General Manager Mark Gleason** provided the Council with an update on two Workers Compensation cases. The Council authorized Mr. Gleason to take the appropriate action to resolve one of the issues for the next Council Meeting.

**Item #2 – General Manager Mark Gleason** requested Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance to discuss the once a year tax collection process. Mr. Fahr provided the Council with a full report of how the once a year tax collection was proceeding with seniors and homeowners.

**Item #3 – General Manager Mark Gleason** requested Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance to discuss the Town of Guilderland water bill. Mr. Fahr explained in detail the status of the water bill. Different proposals were discussed about this issue in detail.

**Item #4 – General Manager Mark Gleason** requested Robert A. Fahr; Director of Finance to discuss the AIM. Mr. Fahr reported to the Council a problem ongoing. There is a report due on this issue 60 days after the budget is passed.

**Item #5 – Mayor Michael P. Manning** discussed a City revaluation issue for consideration by the Building Department.

There being no further business to come before the Executive Session, a motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hidley  
City Clerk and Clerk to the Council