

MINUTES

WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
LECTURE ROOM
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010, 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Elaine Adams
Richard DiFederico
Katherine Duplissie
Richard Fusco
Linda Masayda
Raymond Primini, Chairman
Paul Rinaldi
Mary Ann Rosa, Vice Chairman
Thomas Winn

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: John Gavallas, Police Chief
Audio Technician

OTHERS ABSENT: Charles Frigon, Town Manager
Frank Nardelli, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

1. Call Meeting To Order

Mr. Primini, Chairman, Called the Regular Meeting to Order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. LaForme, Board Clerk, executed the Roll Call.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Primini, Chairman, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Proclamations Honoring Messrs. Carl R. Mancini, David Demirs, and Gary Bernier for their Service as Members of the Watertown Town Council

Mr. Primini: We have Proclamations for previous Council members. I'd like to have Gary Bernier, Dave Demirs, and Carl Mancini please come to the podium.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION

Honoring
CARL R. MANCINI

In recognition of having served as a member of the Watertown Town Council
from November, 2005 to November, 2009
and for his significant contributions and dedication to the Town and the Citizens of Watertown.
Congratulations are hereby bestowed upon
Carl R. Mancini

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 4th day of January, 2010.

Raymond Primini, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

CITIZEN RECOGNITION

Honoring
DAVID DEMIRS

In recognition of having served as a member of the Watertown Town Council
from November, 2007 to November, 2009
and for his significant contributions and dedication to the Town and the Citizens of Watertown.
Congratulations are hereby bestowed upon
David Demirs

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 4th day of January, 2010.

Raymond Primini, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

CITIZEN RECOGNITION

Honoring
GARY BERNIER

In recognition of having served as a member of the Watertown Town Council
from November, 2007 to November, 2009
and for his significant contributions and dedication to the Town and the Citizens of Watertown.
Congratulations are hereby bestowed upon
Gary Bernier

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 4th day of January, 2010.

Raymond Primini, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Mr. Primini: I'd like to thank Carl and Gary for what they did on the Budget, Carl the last 4 years and Gary the past 2 years. Everybody who has served on the Budget Committee knows what it's like going through that. One thing when we all serve together on the Town Council, these 3 guys, we've all become good friends over the past few years and I know people find that hard to believe, I know Carl and I and Dave were out campaigning and people said well you're on different parties, how can you be friends? It doesn't matter. I know over the last couple of years that's what tended to happen (inaudible) and I consider these 3 guys to be friends of mine and I'm sure the rest of the Council feels the same way. Once again, thank you.

5. Public Participation

Gary Bernier, 33 Morro Street, Oakville, CT 06779

Mr. Bernier: Thank you and I did want to take a few moments to congratulate all of you. I'm sure that over the next 2 years you'll work as well as the last Council did. Through the Chair, Mr. Fusco I know you'll carry on very well. I understand you're Chairing Finance and as I promised, I will be here from time to time to talk to you, because I still think we have a lot to accomplish, we accomplished a lot (inaudible) last Council (inaudible). With that said I'm going to leave because (inaudible) to go home now.

Elizabeth Wasnitynski, 514 Sylvan Lake Road, Oakville, CT 06779

Ms. Wasnitynski: Unfortunately I was not here for the last meeting, but I read about it in the newspaper, I read the Minutes of the meeting and so Mr. Primini, as the Chief of our governing body, I would like you to explain to me why is it that a party that has not won any seats on the Town Council has been seated on boards and commissions, and yet another party who won 3 seats on the Town Council has been rejected as I understand from all (inaudible).

Mr. Primini: As I mentioned at the last meeting, we said nominations that were given by the Town Committees (inaudible) I didn't even have them until last Monday night's meeting, that's why they weren't on the Agenda, because we didn't have them until that Monday night just like everybody else, they were presented to us and that's what we went by.

Ms. Wasnitynski: (Inaudible) pronouns (inaudible)?

Mr. Primini: They were presented by the respective Town Committees to the Town Manager's Office and they gave it to us.

Ms. Wasnitynski: Are you aware that there is an Independent Party?

Mr. Primini: Yes.

Ms. Wasnitynski: Wouldn't it have struck you as being unusual that you had an incomplete set?

Mr. Primini: That's all I had.

Ms. Wasnitynski: Isn't it a part of the Agenda (inaudible)?

Mr. Primini: Yes. I don't understand what you're asking.

Ms. Wasnitynski: I am very curious as to whether you had not noticed that there was an Independent Party that have won seats on the Town Council as an Independent Party; the Democrats did not win any seats. Did you notice that?

Mr. Primini: I just got what I was presented with.

Ms. Wasnitynski: Mr. Chairman, you have been elected Chairman, shouldn't you have the power to also ask questions, don't you?

Mr. Primini: Anybody could have presented any other nominations.

Ms. Wasnitynski: We would like to present nominations (inaudible) you as Chairman have the right to accept nominations?

Mr. Primini: The ones have already been voted on.

Ms. Wasnitynski: Mr. Primini, do you understand how crazy this sounds when you say

Mr. Primini: I'm not going to get into a debate with you, if you have to make a statement, make a statement.

Ms. Wasnitynski: I've made a statement, but so have you, thank you.

Nancy Rahuba, 99 Old Farms Road, Watertown, CT 06795

Ms. Rahuba: The Independent Party campaigned on honesty, integrity, and transparency in government. On December 21, 2009 we saw first hand that these qualities are not possessed by the Town Council's Republican Members, Ray Primini, Mary Ann Rosa, Richard Fusco, Kace Duplissie, Tom Winn, and Richard DiFederico. In November the voters elected the Independent Party as the new minority party in Watertown. The minority party is entitled to appointments on boards and commissions. The Independent Party invited all voters, regardless of party affiliation, to come forward if they were interested in serving on boards and commissions and promised to pick the best qualified candidates. The Republicans continued their trend of secrecy and side deals by moving up the process for nominations to boards and commissions by one month. They scheduled the vote during the week of Christmas and asked the Democrats to submit nominations. They did not notify the Independent Party of the change in timing or request that they submit nominations.

Watertown Town Council

Regular Meeting

January 4, 2010

Page 5

On December 21st the Republican members of the Town Council cheated the voters out of the representation they elected and recognized the Democrats as the minority party and voted to accept their nominations to these positions, even though the voters had not elected a single Democrat to the Town Council. The minority positions on the boards and commissions rightfully belongs to the Independent Party. The Republican Town Council has shown that they are not worthy of the trust that the voters have placed in them to act on their behalf. There will be citizens at all Town Council meetings to monitor and disclose the Town Council's unethical actions.

Judy Wick, Northfield Road, Watertown, CT 06795

Ms. Wick: Mr. Primini, my understanding as Chairman of this Council, you are the final arbiter of the agenda, is that correct? I mean you know what the Agenda is before the meeting, is that correct? You work with the Town Manager.

Mr. Primini: Are you making a statement?

Ms. Wick: I'm asking a question.

Mr. Primini: Yes.

Ms. Wick: Okay, so you knew that there was an item on the agenda for boards and commissions. Are you also aware that the existing terms are not up until the end of January?

Mr. Primini: Yes, January 31st.

Ms. Wick: So would it have been in your power to say at that time when you were handed this list that you say you had no idea of, to say well we don't have anyone from the Independent Party on this list and since these appointments aren't due until the end of January, why don't we wait until the next meeting before we vote on these nominations? That would have been within your power?

Mr. Primini: It could of, yea.

Ms. Wick: So the answer is you chose not to do it, so don't try to make us believe that you are this innocent party sitting here and were just handed this list and you had no choice. The choice was yours and you made your choice and now you're stuck with it. Thank you.

Alan Mickel, 95 Woodbine Avenue, Oakville, CT 06779

Mr. Mickel: I attend most Town Council meetings, you've seen me here before. I couldn't make the last one, it was unfortunate. You guys disgraced the Town, I believe. What happened, I'm going to read this because I think the Town Times will edit some of the words I put in as a Letter to the Editor so I'm going to read it here. What happened at the last Town Council meeting was a disgrace. The Independent Party was denied its right as the minority party to nominate people to boards and commissions. And the people in Town voted for the Independent Party and not the Democratic Party to be the minority party. Our campaign said we would open the boards and commissions to all the voters in the Town. I'm not going to read our brochure, I'm sure you read it before, that was one of the key standing points of our campaign and we won 3 seats on this Town Council and you denied them the right that we would have and I think that's a disgrace. What makes it worse is that it was done behind closed doors. The Democratic Town Committee and the Republican Town Committee got together behind closed doors to commit this act. What makes it more of a disgrace was it wasn't necessary. You have the majority. You appoint people to boards and commissions and have the majority on boards and commissions. You have the people in place to carry out what you want them to carry out. The minority was just there to represent a different point of view. They would not have impeded any progress that you wanted. You did it because you are a bully and you disgraced yourselves.

Mr. Primini, Chairman, Closed Public Participation at 7:45 p.m.

6. Minutes

A. Regular Meeting – December 21, 2009

MOTION: (Ms. Rosa, sec. Mr. DiFederico) to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated December 21, 2009 as presented.

Discussion: **Ms. Adams:** Under the board and commission appointments, I believe it was after the fourth appointment made, I had brought up are we going to have any discussion. That didn't make the meeting minutes. Maybe Lynn can go back and check on that to see, because I noticed it wasn't in here. It shows up again on Page 16 when I asked again can we have discussion and I was told (inaudible) discuss this, we can't have any discussion on anything and Mr. Primini says no. Now after that you've got Discussion: None, Discussion: None, there wasn't any discussion allowed so discussion shouldn't even be part of the Minutes.

Mr. Primini: (Inaudible) corrections?

Ms. LaForme: Do you want me to listen to the tape again?

Mr. Primini: Yes.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Chairman's Report

Mr. Primini: I received a letter from Patricia Kropp, 80 Highland Avenue, Watertown, CT to Virginia Russo, Town Clerk, 39 Deforest Street, Watertown, CT.

Dear Mrs. Russo: I'm tendering my resignation to you from the Board of Assessment Appeals. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Patricia Kropp.

Ms. Rosa: I believe Elaine wanted a copy of that letter.

Ms. Adams: Thank you.

Mr. Primini: I have a notice dated January, 2010:

It's Time To Get Your
FREE
H1N1 VACCINATION

NOW!

**The H1N1 vaccine is now available for
EVERYONE
There are no longer any restrictions or priority groups.**

***FREE H1N1 Vaccine Clinics** offered by The Torrington Area Health District;*

*Every Friday in January (January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th)**

Torrington Area Health District Office

350 Main Street, Torrington, Ct

11 AM to 3 PM

*Tuesday, January 12**

The Chamber of Commerce of Northwest CT

333 Kennedy Drive, 1st Floor, Torrington, CT

4 PM to 6 PM

(No Appointment Necessary At Any Clinic)

***Cancellations due to weather will be announced on WZBG
and our HOTLINE 860-626-6640**

8. New Business

A. Consider Bid Waiver for the Purchase of 11 Mobile Data Terminals

MOTION: (Ms. Duplissie, sec. Ms. Rosa) I move to authorize a bid waiver for the purchase of eleven mobile data terminals, one server as well as car mounts from Telrepc Corporation of Wallingford, Connecticut for a contract amount not to exceed \$21,610 for the terminals and car mounts and CDWG Corporation from Shelton, Connecticut for an amount not to exceed \$9,130 for the server.

Discussion: **Chief Gavallas:** You'll probably recall at a recent Town Meeting you appropriated \$30,000 for the purchase of this equipment. (Inaudible) that is grant money that we'll be receiving. And at the time I thought we could purchase under the GSA Contract, we sometimes do, but Watertown unfortunately wasn't listed to do that so that's why I'm asking for the bid waiver. The GSA contract does give us the best price available.

Mr. Fusco: I understand what you're saying, that we have to approve, (inaudible)?

Chief Gavallas: Yes. It's a government contract, (inaudible) through them and we usually get the best price.

Mr. Fusco: But we're not on their list?

Chief Gavallas: Well I think it's the Town's choosing whether they want to accept purchases from GSA, I'm not entirely sure how that process works. I know some communities do buy off the GSA contract. Maybe the Purchasing Agent could look into that and the Manager could report back on how we could participate in that program.

Mr. Fusco: (Inaudible.)

Chief Gavallas: It would be an advantage to us. We've already received \$22,000 of the \$30,000, it's in our account as of now.

Mr. Fusco: You understand where I'm coming from?

Chief Gavallas: Yes.

Mr. Fusco: And you agree with it?

Chief Gavallas: Absolutely, I think it would be a great benefit to us.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Public Participation

Richard Wick, Northfield Road, Watertown, CT 06795

Mr. Wick: Momentum is a pretty powerful force. I don't remember the exact statistics, but I think a battleship traveling at normal speeds takes several miles before it can turn around 180 degrees. There is momentum going on right now in Town and I keep thinking about the amount of effort and time being spent on what has become a fairly negative issue. It boggles the mind to think about how much better off we'd all be, how much better off our Town would be if all of that energy could be directed together in a positive way, and I'm leading up to a suggestion. Because the appointments that were voted on on December 21st do not take effect until the end of January, it is possible to right that wrong, it is possible to reconsider what is the right thing to do, and as Chairman of the Independent Party I can assure you that knowing you are the majority, you still have the votes, but you still also have the power to direct the efforts of our government in the right direction, and I can assure you you will get our cooperation if you decide to reconsider.

Al Mickel, 95 Woodbine, Avenue, Oakville, CT 06779

Mr. Mickel: One of the things I noticed about this meeting room is most of the meetings can be taped, the tape usually goes back to the Town Hall Annex to the Town Manager and they used to show up on the local cable network. The Board of Education seems to be on that channel but I haven't seen the Town Council on that channel, and I wondered if this was something that can be done.

Mr. Primini: It has been taped, it was (inaudible) last week.

Ms. Rosa: Yes, that's what I was going to say.

Mr. Mickel: It was presented to the Cable Channel?

Ms. Rosa: It ran on Cable 5 whenever cable (inaudible).

Mr. Mickel: I missed that one, thank you.

Mr. Primini, Chairman, Closed Public Participation at 7:56 p.m.

Ms. Masayda: Since I'm fairly new to the protocol here, I appreciate Dick's comment reconsidering that. What would be the protocol now to consider that and possibly revote? I mean when we walk out of here tonight, how does that happen?

Watertown Town Council
Regular Meeting
January 4, 2010
Page 10

Mr. Primini: (Inaudible) make a motion to the Town Manager's office to place this on the agenda.

Ms. Masayda: So we can revote?

Mr. Primini: Yes.

Ms. Masayda: That wouldn't (inaudible)?

Mr. Primini: (Inaudible.)

Ms. Rosa: A motion to reconsider anything has to be made by the prevailing side so we can certainly look into it as far as doing it legally, if in fact there was a desire to do that.

Ms. Adams: I think that's what the public wants to know, is if there is a desire to do that.

Mr. Primini: We'll look into it.

Ms. Adams: We'll have an answer at the next meeting? You'll let us know, or let Dick know?

Mr. Primini: Yes.

Ms. Adams: Okay, thank you.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: (Ms. Rosa, sec. Mr. Winn) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Regular Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond F. Primini, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Lynn M. LaForme, Clerk