



Town Council

TOWN OF WATERTOWN

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*motion debated
to accept these
amendments
to minutes*

Corrections and Amendments - Town Council Meeting Minutes May 12, 2009

Correction – the name of the Commandant of the Shutt Detachment is Dom RICCI- submitted minutes read: Rickey.

Under 5 -Ordinance to temporarily modify hours of operation of the administration building-

Councillor Devaney stated that every year she asks for the manager's consideration to extend the temporary hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day –closing on Fridays at 2 p.m. She noted that in many of the town and city halls in her council district - they close every Friday at 12 noon year round and make up the hours during the week. She said she hopes the manager will consider it next year.

Under 5A Acceptance of Proclamations-

Councillor Devaney in presenting the Governor's Council proclamation to Chief Orangio explained the honor that Mario Orango had received. She noted that she served for over twelve years on the Commission of Social Justice, the Sons of Italy of America, in Massachusetts. She explained that it is a very special honor to be chosen for the Public Safety Award –and that Chief Orangio was the first firefighter to receive it. She stated how Mario Orango, being the first Italian American Fire Chief, was very personal to her. She gave background history in Watertown - that the first Fire Department was established in 1832 and in 1906 it was official with the opening of the Main Fire Station. In those days, she related, that it was the Fire Chief who appointed the firefighters – and that particular chief served nearly four decades. She advised that no Italian American was allowed on the Fire Department until civil service was adopted in the wisdom of the vote of Town Meeting Members in 1938 and it took four more years for an Italian American to be appointed. She stated that this affected one of her family members – her mother's brother Sandy DeNucci who wanted to be a firefighter since he was a child. She explained that when her uncle tried to apply to be a firefighter, the Chief told him that "there will never be an Italian on the Watertown Fire Department" – and noted he used a derogatory word for "Italian". She added - that for decades, Italian American men were denied the opportunity to be firefighters. She also noted that Mario Orangio was the youngest Fire Chief appointed in Massachusetts.

6a Committee on Economic Development and Planning report

After the report, Councillor Devaney was recognized and thanked all the veterans and veterans' organizations who came to the meeting tonight and the other night. She pointed out that at that meeting –every chair was filled with veterans. She noted they included Al Iodice WW2 Veteran who was a POW in a German war camp for 18 months and Mr. Maloney 92 years old; who was a glider pilot in WW2 and was shot down. She pointed out how important it was for them to come out and show their support for the veteran's agent.

Correction on page 4-

(minutes submitted read: Councillor Devaney stated that we listen to the voters if favorable and then vote no when we don't want..)

Should read:

Councillor Devaney following up on comments regarding Charter changes- advised that at the last charter review a question was on the ballot asking the voters to allow the Town Councillors to ratify the appointments of the town department heads by ordinance and it was voted nearly 2-1 by the voters. She noted that she brought the ordinance before the council two different times -and exempted the appointments of the police and fire chief. She advised that the Town Council voted against it two different times. She then asked - with this ordinance - realistically how many times would councillors actually vote against a department head. She commented -why talk about upcoming charter changes when we don't respect the voters when they direct us by their vote to adopt an ordinance. She further noted every city council ratifies department head appointments.

Amendment-

President Younger -Stated that he concurred with Councillor Devaney's statement. He said that the question was passed by the voters and that Councillors Hecht and Piccirilli did not pick up on this charter ballot question. Councillor Devaney in response to questioning of this ballot question- said she will bring **the ballot question in to show** the councillors.

Correction

On bottom of page 4 - under Committee on Public Works Report

Councillor Devaney stated that the council is not the place to take up time to bring up every concern but her concern has been one of many years- that she had been reporting and providing photos- concerning the area on the top of Watertown Street and Fifth Avenue. She explained how the Town, years ago, beautified the location by placing a beautiful area of grass in front of the dentist's home..The dentist lives there with a combined office, and has a sign directed to his patients - not to park in his driveway and instead - he allows his patients everyday -to park on the grass area *owned by the Town.*

Under 9 Consideration and referral of Chapter 358 of the acts of 2008.

The President referred it to the Committee of the Whole and Finance. (There was no discussion reported in the minutes Re: this item)

After the motion received a second -Councillor Devaney was recognized and stated her purpose in speaking was to explain-for the people at home, what was being referred to committee. She explained that the Act involved four retired town employees- that a bill approved by the Governor now allows municipal workers to combine their years of service in one municipality with service in another municipality -to total 25 years or more- for a benefit -only if the salary of their previous position dropped 50% of the present salary for that position. Councillor Devaney stated that these four employees were not included in the 90c legislation that the council voted in years previously - which benefitted those retirees having 25 years of service in Watertown. She further explained that these four retirees' years of service did not total 25 years in Watertown but did have - combined with another municipality.. She noted it is not retroactive - and will provide a maximum of \$1500. per year for each of the four retirees. She stated that she hoped that the Council would support it as it was a matter of fairness and equity.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn M. Petitto-Devaney*