

MINUTES OF THE WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING



**Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, April 7, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Eldridge called the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich (arrived at 7:06 P.M.), Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Joseph Underwood, Mark Doyle (arrived at 7:34 P.M.), James Flores and Charlotte Patros

Michael Lessard and Christel Donahue were absent.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Susan Johnson, State Representative, announced that she, State Senator Mae Flexer and State Representative Linda Orange will be holding office hours on Saturday morning at the Willimantic Public Library. She also noted she is always available by phone and thanked the Town Council for their work.

Dennis O'Brien spoke about his friendship with Councilman Flores as well as the work and time Councilman Flores has given to the community over the years.

Gail Gelburd from ECSU spoke about "My Windham Arts Project" and thanked Mayor Eldridge for writing the preface. She also thanked the Town for working with ECSU.

Jaime Eves, 149 High Street Willimantic and Executive Director of the Windham Textile and History Museum provided the Town Council with a flyer outlining the renovations that have been done and where the funding came from for the renovations at the Museum. He also thanked the Town Manager and Town Engineer for their work.

Henry Crane, resident of Willimantic, is sympathetic to those with disabilities and encouraged everyone to forgive and move on.



Faith Kenton, North Street Willimantic, provided the Town Council with the Newsletter for The Mill Museum which outlined their activities and included a membership form. She also spoke about the work of Bev York who is very involved with the Museum and in the community.

4. Town Council Comment.

James Flores thanked Susan Johnson and Dennis O'Brien for all their support. He noted nobody on this Council or any other Board called him the "N" or "S" word. Mr. Flores apologized from the bottom of his heart for his behavior however he stated he can only keep on working. He also encouraged those who were organizing a rally to support him to focus their energy on voting and passing the budget. He stated he would like to work to increase voter turnout.

Charles Krich spoke about the racial profiling report which involved 169 communities and he noted Willimantic ranked 12th for traffic stops and 2nd when involving Hispanics. He stated this is very disheartening and something we cannot tolerate.

Tom DeVivo stated he had also reviewed the report mentioned by Krich however he thought Willimantic ranked #8 with 50% of their stops including minorities. He suggested the Town may want to look into providing a training program possibly through Doe Hentschel and Leadership Greater Hartford.

5. Adoption of Minutes.

- a. Meeting on March 3, 2015.
- b. Meeting on March 10, 2015.
- c. Meeting on March 17, 2015.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to take Items 5a-5c as one Item. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adoption the Town Council meeting minutes of March 3, 2015, March 10, 2015 and March 17, 2015. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Resignations.

None

7. Appointments, Reappointments.

- a. Reappoint Laurel Freeman as a regular member to the Conservation, Open Space, and Agriculture Commission, with a term ending January 1, 2019.
- b. Reappoint Alex Girschick as a regular member to the Energy Commission, with a term ending April 20, 2020.
- c. Reappoint Corey Krohn as a regular member to the Energy Commission, with a term ending April 20, 2020.
- d. Reappoint Elizabeth Ostwald as a regular member to the Energy Commission, with a term ending April 20, 2020.
- e. Reappoint Michael Altshul as an alternate member of the Energy Commission, with a term ending April 20, 2020.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to take Items 7a-7e as one Item. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to reappoint the above individuals as recommended. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

None

9. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Eldridge reported he had attended a function at ECSU where he gave a proclamation recognizing several organizations including ECSU, UCONN and AmeriCorps for their leadership and volunteerism.

Mayor Eldridge also reported a peaceful rally will be held on April 15th from 12:30 to 5:00 regarding Corruption in Government. He noted he would be speaking at the rally as would State Representative Susan Johnson.

10. Town Manager's Report.

Town Manager Beets reported Housing Authority Director Kim Haddad will be speaking at the Work Study Session next week to answer some of the concerns of the Town Council.

Town Manager Beets also gave an update on the status of the WRTD shortfall and the funding for the bus route to UCONN.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications.

a. Minutes and reports from various committees, boards, and commissions.

DeVivo shared his concerns on the WPCA Public Hearing regarding the increase in sewer rates, the appraisal of property in South Windham and the plan to create a riparian buffer at Lauter Park

12. Resolutions and Ordinances.

None

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions.

None

14. Old Business.

None

15. New Business.

a. Discuss and possibly approve an application from Eastern Connecticut State University to serve alcohol in the Bellingham Auditorium for an event on April 30, 2015.

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to approve an application from Eastern Connecticut State University to serve alcohol in the Bellingham Auditorium for an event on April 30, 2015. All were in favor except Patros who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

- b. **Discuss and possibly approve a motion to convene an executive session with the Personnel Director, Executive Administrator, and Town Manager to discuss personnel matters and documents confidential under the law.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to convene an executive session at 7:39 P.M. with the Personnel Director, Executive Administrator, and Town Manager to discuss personnel matters and documents confidential under the law. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Underwood MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to come out of executive session at 8:10 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to add to the agenda, Item 15c, Discussion and possible action regarding sewer rate increases. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. **Discussion and possible action regarding sewer rate increases.**

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, that the Town Council formally requests the Sewer Department to post and hold another Public Hearing in the Bellingham Auditorium to begin at 7:00 PM regarding the rate increases. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. **Future Agenda Items**

None

17. **Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.**

Henry Crane noted there is no public comment for the next meeting. He also spoke in support of the Police and Fire budget.

James Flores spoke to encourage everyone to vote in the budget referendum.

18. **Adjournment**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular meeting at 8:21 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council

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Patricia P. Sprague
WINDHAM TOWN CLERK