

# AMENDED – TELECONFERENCE 11/19/2012

## WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

### REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

### WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, November 20, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.



#### 1. Call to Order

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Council meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

DeVivo MOVED, Rivera seconded, to recess at 7:01 P.M. until the close of the Town Meeting. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, Iazzetta seconded, to come out of recess at 7:34 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Kevin Donohue, Arnaldo Rivera, Mark Doyle, Christel Donahue and Jerry Iazzetta

Charles Krich attended via Teleconference.

Lorraine McDevitt and N. Joseph Underwood 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

Dawn Niles, North Windham, noted Sunday was the annual Windham Center Green Christmas tree lighting ceremony at 6:00 P.M. and all were invited to attend. She also noted as Chairman of the Tree Lighting Committee they are seeking donations for the purpose of changing the lights on the tree to LED lights next year. In addition, Ms. Niles noted at last night's Charter Review Commission meeting the Commission voted to eliminate the provision that people can only serve on one Board or Commission. She stated they believe it is the Council's responsibility to decide how many Boards or Commissions a person can serve on.

Susan Johnson, State Representative, reminded the Council the Legislative Session begins January 9th and noted she would like to connect with the Council to talk about what they would like on the legislative agenda and what their vision is for Windham. She also noted Linda Orange would also be working on the agenda for Windham.

Bob Horrocks, Lewiston Avenue, and retired professor from ECSU, spoke in support of the Sister City Program.

Nancy Tinker, 17 Peru Street, noted she had previously lived in New Britain where they had a Sister City with Germany and Japan. She feels it is a very rewarding program and added no cost to the Town. She supports the program.

Shirley Mustard, Walnut Street, and member of the Sister City Committee, spoke in support of the program. She noted she had been involved both as a participant and organizer of an exchange program at Windham High School with Spain and France and knows what the benefits are. She also noted as a member of the Sister City Committee she had visited area schools which were all very supportive of the program. She urged the Council to support the resolution and stated it was not costing the Town a cent at this point. Ms. Mustard also read a letter sent by Tom Hebert, a local artist, supporting the program.

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, asked that the second public comment be added back to the agendas. She noted a situation where she feels her right to speak was taken away and believes it was a violation of FOIA. Ms. Jeffers shared her disapproval of the 2013 meeting schedule for the Council.

Dennis O'Brien, noted he was happy with the results of the Town Meeting regarding the Magnet School. He also expressed his support of the Sister City Program.

James Flores, noted he was happy three polling places were used on Election Day and recommends three polling places be used for all elections.

Pat Miller, 144 Chestnut Street, commended the Sister City for their hard work and spoke in support of the program.

Doug Lary, supports the Sister City Program. He also stated he was very glad to see people being appointed to Committee's and noted there were still openings on some Boards and Commission. Mr. Lary also spoke in support of Jim Hooper and the Water Commission on their plans.

#### **4. Town Council Comment**

Tony Fantoli stated he had attended a Charter Review Commission meeting a couple weeks ago and was extremely disappointed when the Chairman stated at the end of the meeting she was only on the Commission to see the Willimantic Police expanded to the Windham's. He stated as a Town Council member he finds that very disturbing. He feels

the Council should be more selective of whom they appoint to Boards and Commissions. Mr. Fantoli feels some people who are appointed to Committee's have pre-set agendas and he feels this is wrong. He also noted residents were not happy with the comments made.

Charles Krich disagrees with what Mr. Fantoli said. Mr. Krich believes we have a very good Chair on that Committee and feels everyone has the opportunity to serve on any Committee they choose. He stated the great thing about our democracy is that one person does not control anything. He would like to see everyone work together.

Tom DeVivo thanked everyone who came out tonight and thanked the Town Council for postponing their meeting for thirty minutes. He also stated that the Town Council meeting schedule for 2013 on tonight's agenda is very similar of the schedule that has been followed for over a decade. He noted if something has to change due to July 4<sup>th</sup> it could be arranged however there has always been a summer schedule.

Jerry Iazzetta stated the summer schedule is usually for July and August however this schedule includes June. He did note however a summer schedule has been followed for many, many years.

Mayor Eldridge asked if there was going to be a Fire Truck Parade on Main Street this year.

Town Manager Beets explained Santa would be riding on the Willimantic Fire Truck from the Willimantic Fire House to the Christmas tree however there was not going to be a parade of trucks. He noted there will be a ceremony and singing.

**5. Adoption of Minutes**

**a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the minutes for the October 16, 2012 Town Council Meeting.**

Iazzetta MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adopt the minutes for the October 16, 2012 Town Council Meeting. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**6. Resignations. Receive the resignation of:**

**a.** None

**7. Appointments. Discussion and possible action to appoint:**

**a.** Everett Hyde as a regular member of the Windham Historic District Commission.

**b.** Peter S. Pagliaro, Jr., as a regular member of the Historic District Study Committee.

**c.** Mary Lou DeVivo as regular member of the Historic District Study Committee.

Doyle MOVED, K. Donohue seconded, to take Items 7a, 7b and 7c as one item. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

K. Donohue MOVED, Doyle seconded, to appoint Everett Hyde as a regular member of the Windham Historic District Commission, Peter S. Pagliaro, Jr., as a regular member of the Historic District Study Committee and Mary Lou DeVivo as regular member of the Historic District Study Committee. All were in favor.  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**8. Presentations & Special Reports**

**a. Presentation from Water Superintendent Jim Hooper about property the Water Commission is purchasing. (Action item under 12.a, below.)**

Water Superintendent Jim Hooper gave a brief presentation regarding the purchase of property on Mountain Street. Mr. Hooper explained the reasons for the purchase and noted this was part of the Commission's long term planning.

**b. Presentation by Chair Barbara Wright about the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Sister City Committee. (Action item under 14.b, below.)**

Barbara Wright, Chair of the Ad Hoc Sister City Committee gave a brief report on the recommendations of the Committee. Ms. Wright thanked the Committee members for their hard work and asked the Council for their support.

**9. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Eldridge reported on the following events; Halloween on Main Street, Election Day, Veterans Day at the schools on Friday and at Memorial Park on Sunday, Harrison Judd's art display, award ceremony at ECSU awarding Dr. Nunez an award for community diversity given by Liberty Bank, launch of new website, Sama graduation, turkey pick-up and delivery with Salvation Army and serving turkey dinner at Sweeney School. Mayor Eldridge wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

In addition, Mayor Eldridge reported on the open house for the Silverback Wrestling Club, Saturday November 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 5:00. He noted several activities were planned.

**10. Town Manager's Report**

No Report

**11. Discussion and Review of Communications**

None

**12. Resolutions and Ordinances**

**a. Discussion and possible action adopting a Resolution setting Thursday, December 18, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in Town Hall for a Special Town Meeting to consider approving the purchase of property for the Water Commission.**

DeVivo MOVED, Iazzetta seconded, to adopt Resolution #2587 setting Thursday, December 18, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in Town Hall for a Special Town Meeting to

consider approving the purchase of property for the Water Commission. All were in favor.

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT**

the Town of Windham purchase the property located at 225 Mountain Street from Harold G. Semmelrock and Brenda Semmelrock in the amount of \$15,000, fund to be paid by the Water Department.

The property contains 6.9 acres and is described in a deed recorded in deed book volume #1121 page 91 in the Windham land records.

To move to a Town Meeting on Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6:00pm.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions**

- a. **Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee**  
K. Donohue reported the Committee had been unable to meet due to the storm and would be meeting tomorrow night. He noted the agenda items included the naming of the Magnet School as well as a meeting with the Consultant who was hired for the evaluation of the Finance Department. Mr. Donohue also thanked the Committee members for giving up their time before the holiday to attend the meeting.
  
- b. **Public Safety, Public Works, Culture, and Recreation Subcommittee**  
Mr. Iazzetta reported the Committee held a special meeting last Wednesday. He noted the Committee met with the Town Manager, Town Attorney and members of the Switchboard Association to discuss the future of the Switchboard Association. Mr. Iazzetta stated they had a good discussion and the Town Attorney was going to draft a proposal to create a Commission for the Dispatch Center. He noted the proposal would be reviewed by all parties and a discussion would take place next month at a special meeting.
  
- c. **Magnet School and Natchaug Roof Building Committee**  
Mr. DeVivo reported the Magnet School was well underway and noted the outside exterior work was almost complete. He encouraged everyone to visit the school and noted someone was on site on Saturday's to give tours.

Mr. DeVivo stated there was some storm damage however nothing significant.

Mr. DeVivo also reported nothing has been done regarding the Natchaug School Roof. He noted the Board of Finance had not supported the project and until funding is in place nothing is being done. He also noted the engineering work by Gale and the project management team by Friar is being paid for by the Special

Master because work being done before funding is not reimbursable by the State Grant.

**14. Old Business**

- a. Discussion and possible action setting Thursday, December 20, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., as the date and time for a Special Council Meeting in the Town Hall Meeting Room to develop a 2013 Legislative Agenda for the Town of Windham.**

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to set Thursday, December 20, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., as the date and time for a Special Council Meeting in the Town Hall Meeting Room to develop a 2013 Legislative Agenda for the Town of Windham. All were in favor except Krich and C. Donahue who abstained.  
MOTION PASSED.

- b. Discussion and possible action regarding the Report of the Ad Hoc Sister City Committee.**

K. Donohue MOVED, Iazzetta seconded, to adopt Resolution #2588 regarding the Ad Hoc Sister City Program. All were in favor.

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT**

**The Town Council of Windham, Connecticut, hereby resolves that:**

1. The citizen delegation visiting Bad Soden or an appropriate alternative German municipality this December is authorized to inform Bad Soden officials that the Town Council has asked them to speak on behalf of the Town of Windham in saying that Windham is interested in pursuing a Sister City relationship with Bad Soden or an appropriate alternative German municipality and in discussing the details of such a relationship with Bad Soden or an appropriate alternative German municipality for possible Council action and approval.
2. The Town Council encourages private citizens to form a local organization to proceed with the steps of organizing local support for a Sister City relationship.
3. The Town Council's support for a Sister City program is contingent on the effort being privately financed and not costing the Town any money.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**15. New Business**

- a. Discussion and possible action to set the Town Council meeting dates for year 2013 as follow:**

January-May and September-December, First and Third Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, Town Hall meeting room  
June, July and August, Third Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, Town Hall meeting room

Iazzetta MOVED, Doyle seconded, to set the Town Council meeting dates for year 2013 as follows:

January-June and September-December, First and Third Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, Town Hall meeting room

July and August, Third Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, Town Hall meeting room

All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**16. Future Agenda Items**

None

**17. Adjournment**

K. Donohue MOVED, Iazzetta seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council Meeting at 8:30 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Submitted By:**

**Barbara J. McKinney**

Clerk of the Town Council