

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, December 17, 2013 - 7:00 P.M



1. Call to Order

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

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, N. Joseph Underwood, James Flores and Michael Lessard.

Mark Doyle, Charlotte Patros and Christel Donahue were excused.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*** SPECIAL VISIT FROM Z, RETIRED CANINE OFFICER ***

Postponed

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

Sign-in to speak using the Town Clerk's Speaker's Sign-In Sheet, on the left side of the Council dais.

Shawn Cour, Willimantic, spoke against the parking ban and gave examples of why he feels it should be repealed.

Bill Powers, 355 Scotland Road, Windham, explained the recent changes the State has made regarding signage and urged the Council to install speed limit signs on Route 14 at the Windham Center School. He feels the children, parents and school buses are at risk.

Michael Graf, introduced himself to the Council and gave a brief background of himself. He noted he serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission as an Alternate Member and was on tonight's agenda to be appointed as a full member. He asked the Council for their support.

Nathan Cour, Parish Hill Road, North Windham, and business owner of H & R Block, urged the Council to repeal the parking ban. He asked the Town Council not to make life more difficult for those that don't contribute to the Town but to make life better for those that do contribute to the Town.



4. Town Council Comment

Flores stated he is concerned when people say some people contribute to the Town and others don't. Flores noted that kind of language was insulting and is not good for our community and he believes everybody contributes to the Town one way or another regardless of whether they are at the shelter, the soup kitchen or part of the public. He also stated he was behind the speakers who are against the parking ban.

5. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discuss and possibly move to adopt the minutes for the December 3, 2013, Town Council Meeting.

Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt the minutes for the December 3, 2013, Town Council Meeting. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Resignations.

a. Michael Graf as an Alternate Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Noted

b. Juan Montalvo as a Regular Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Noted

c. Erika Haynes as a Regular Member of the Charter Revision Commission.

Noted

7. Appointments.

a. Michael Graf as a Regular Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, with a term ending December 28, 2017.

b. Peter Leeds as an Alternate Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term ending December 28, 2015.

c. Roger Morin as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, with a term ending November 3, 2015. (This is a correction from a Town Council appointment made December 3, 2013, with an incorrect term expiration date. This is the correct term expiration date.)

d. Mayor's appointments and Town Council's confirmation of the Councilmembers serving on each of the standing committees of the Town Council:

**(i.) Public Works, Public Safety, Environment, Culture and Recreation.
Lorraine McDevitt, Charles Krich, James Flores, Mike Lessard & Charlotte Patros**

**(ii.) Administration, Finance, Economic Development, Health and Human Service.
Christel Donahue, N. Joseph Underwood, Mark Doyle, Tony Fantoli & Tom DeVivo**

Mayor Eldridge also put forward the following individuals for re-appointment:

- Dan Lein as a regular member of the Planning & Zoning Commission**

- **Elsie Jenkins as a regular member of the Willimantic Public Library Board of Directors**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to vote on all appointments and re-appointments as one. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint and re-appoint all the individuals as presented. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

a. Presentation from Kathleen Beckett on immigration reform and the SAFE Act.

Postponed until the January 21, 2014 Windham Town Council meeting.

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported we had been awarded the grant for the Windham Senior Center. (Town Manager Beets explained we had received \$1.34 million dollars for a new Senior Center at the Access facility).

Mayor Eldridge also reported he had attended the following:

- the open house at the Charles H. Barrow STEM Academy
- the CJEF meeting (CT Center for Justice and Education Funding) with Town Manager Beets. (Mr. Beets explained what CJEF is and the lawsuit Windham is part of).

In addition, Mayor Eldridge reported he and Town Manager Beets were guests on the cable show hosted by Bruce John and noted he would inform the Council when it would air.

Mayor Eldridge also reported he would be attending the annual CCOG meeting tomorrow with Town Manager Beets. (Town Manager Beets noted at the end of this calendar year we would see what boundaries were drawn by OPM for all the COGS. He also noted an ordinance will be required by the Council, dissolving WINCOG and terminating our relationship with WINCOG and selecting CCOG or whatever COG the Council chooses). Town Manager Beets also answered questions regarding equipment and other issues that must be addressed when transitioning to another COG.

10. Town Manager's Report.

None

11. Discussion and Review of Communications.

None

12. Resolutions and Ordinances.

- a. Discuss and possibly move to adopt a Resolution setting a Town Meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at 6 PM, in the Bellingham Auditorium to consider an easement allowing Northeast Utilities to install gas mains on Town property.**

Krich read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

Krich MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt Resolution #2613 setting a Town Meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at 6 PM, in the Bellingham Auditorium to consider an easement allowing Northeast Utilities to install gas mains on Town property. All were in favor.

Be It Resolved by the Town Council That

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council THAT the Town of Windham grant an easement to Northeast Utilities to install gas mains on Town owned property at the Windham Water Treatment Plant located on Route 195, Mansfield, Ct. as shown on a plan entitled "Compilation Plan, Map Showing Easement Area to be granted to Northeast Utility Company, across the property of Town of Windham, Route 195, Mansfield, CT."

To move to a Town meeting on January 9, 2014 at 6:00 pm

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

- a. Magnet School, Natchaug Roof, and High School Roof Building Committee**
DeVivo reported the Magnet School set their 2014 schedule and will meet the 2nd Monday of the month.

DeVivo reported the Natchaug School Roof Building Committee was on schedule however the move in date is scheduled for January 6th, Three King's Day. He explained the issues regarding the floor and noted the school was painted and cleaned. DeVivo also explained there had been some questions regarding union contracts and how teachers would be compensated if they were moving over the weekend.

DeVivo also reported on the High School roof. He noted Underwood had something in The Chronicle and is awaiting a response on January 6th.

14. Old Business.

None

15. New Business

- a. Discuss and possibly take action on immigration reform and the SAFE Act.**
No Action Taken. Postponed until the January 21, 2014 Windham Town Council meeting.

16. Future Agenda Items

None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

None

18. Adjournment

McDevitt MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Regular Town Council meeting at 7:35 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Town Council