

# WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

### WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, July 17, 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.

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

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**

Mary Lou DeVivo encouraged everyone to sign up for a library card and to use the Library.

Jeff Viens spoke about economic development.

Shirley Mustard spoke about the advantages of educational and cultural exchange programs.

Phoebe Godfrey spoke about her application to serve as an Alternate Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission

Doug Lary spoke about his resignation from the Ethics Commission.

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

Arnaldo Rivera spoke about how nice Lauter Park was this summer, with the SplashPark and SkatePark full of kids enjoying themselves. Tom DeVivo asked for a report about the Cedarwoods Project and whether they were fulfilling their promises about providing housing for homeless persons.

Tom DeVivo requested a report on the Cedarwoods Apartments.

#### 5. **Adoption of Minutes**

##### a. **Discussion and possible action to adopt the minutes for the June 15, 2012, Town Council Meeting.**

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adopt the minutes for the June 15, 2012, Special Teleconference Meeting. All were in favor except Krich, K. Donohue, and Iazzetta who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

**b. Discussion and possible action to adopt the minutes for the June 19, 2012, Town Council Meeting.**

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adopt the minutes for the June 19, 2012, Regular Town Council Meeting. All were in favor except McDevitt, and Rivera, who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

**6. Resignations. Town Council received the resignation of:**

- a.** Dave Hemenway from the Board of Finance.
- b.** Cheryl LeBeau from the Windham Historic District Commission.
- c.** Doug Lary from the Ethics Commission.

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

**a. Phoebe Godfrey as an Alternate Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.**

K. Donohue MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint Phoebe Godfrey as an Alternate Member of the PZC. Krich urged Godfrey to read and study the zoning regulations. Iazzetta asked Godfrey if she supported the concept of zoning and she replied, "Yes." All were in favor except McDevitt and DeVivo, who voted No. MOTION PASSED.

**b. Michelle Rae Mallette as a Regular Member of the Energy Commission.**

Rivera MOVED, K. Donohue seconded, to appoint Michelle Rae Mallette as a Regular Member of the Energy Commission. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**8. Presentations & Special Reports**

**a. Presentation from Water Superintendent Jim Hooper about the FY 12-13 budget for the Water Works.** Hooper reviewed the operating and capital budgets for the Water Works for FY 12-13. The budget is flat and there will be no water rate increase.

**b. Presentation from WPCA Superintendent Dave Garand about the FY 12-13 budget for the Water Pollution Control Authority.** Garand reviewed the operating and capital budgets for the Sewer Facility for FY 12-13. The budget is flat and there will be no sewer rate increase.

**c. Presentation of a Final Report from Chair Andy Carey of the Tri-Board of Intergovernmental Programs and Operations about their work and recommendations.** Tri-Board Chair Carey thanked his Commission members, Council, and Staff. He reviewed the recommendations and accomplishments within, and answered questions about, the Commission's Final Report, which is attached to these minutes.

**9. Mayor's Report**

Eldridge thanked everyone for the Grand Opening of the solar array at the Water Works and for another successful Boom Box Parade.

**10. Town Manager's Report**

Beets urged everyone to switch to one of the discount electricity suppliers that the state approves and describes at [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)

**11. Discussion and Review of Communications**

None.

**12. Resolutions and Ordinances**

None.

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

- a. **Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee.** Committee Chair K. Donohue indicated that the Subcommittee had met and addressed the senior center issue and the evaluation of the Town Manager. He urged Councilmembers to return their evaluations of the Town Manager to him as soon as possible.
- b. **Public Safety, Public Works, Culture, and Recreation Subcommittee.** Committee Chair Iazzetta indicated that if the Committee needs to meet in July it would meet on Wednesday, July 25.
- c. **Magnet School and Natchaug Roof Building Committee.** Chair DeVivo reviewed progress at the Magnet School, and answered questions. DeVivo noted that the Admin Finance Committee should begin the naming process for the Magnet School.

**14. Old Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action to convene an executive session with the Town Manager, Town Controller, and the respective Department Heads pertaining to collective bargaining and personnel.** Item was tabled by consent.
- b. **Discussion and possible action approving a collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local 493 (Highway and Public Works Employees).** McDevitt MOVED, Underwood seconded, approving the three-year agreement with the PW Teamsters as presented. Doyle voiced concerns about the Council approving the agreement before the Teamsters had voted to approve the agreement. All were in favor, except Doyle who voted No. MOTION PASSED.
- c. **Discussion and possible action approving a collective bargaining agreement with Local 1303-116 of Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO.** McDevitt MOVED, Iazzetta seconded, to approve a three year agreement with AFSCME as presented. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED.
- d. **Discussion and possible action purchasing a dump truck for the Public Works Department, as approved by the Council, the BOF and the Voters in the FY 12-13 Budget.** McDevitt MOVED, Iazzetta seconded, to approve this purchase as presented. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED.
- e. **Discussion and possible action to create a Sister City relationship with Bad Soden Am Taunus, Germany, as recommended by the Economic**

**Development Commission.** C. Donahue presented. K. Donohue MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to implement the recommendations of the EDC by creating (using the standard Town procedures) a five-member, ad hoc citizens' committee to exam the details of creating a sister city relationship with Bad Sodem Am Taunus and for this ad hoc committee to report back to the Town Council with their recommendations by October 15, 2012. Eldridge suggested that maybe a delegation from Bad Sodem should visit Windham and Willimantic first, since they were not familiar with us and had not decided yet whether they wished to be a sister city with us. All were in favor of the motion. MOTION PASSED.

- f. **Discussion and possible action directing the Town Manager to negotiate with the ACCESS Agency and CLiCK regarding a potential senior center space, as recommended by the Town Council's Subcommittee on Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services.** K. Donohue presented, explaining that up to \$2 million in grant funding was potentially available from the state Department of Social Services but only if the Town applied this Fall. He explained that ACCESS would provide technical assistance with preparing a grant application on behalf of the Town. K. Donohue MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to authorize and direct the Town Manager to negotiate with the ACCESS Agency and CLiCK about a potential senior center and commercial, co-op kitchen in the building owned by the ACCESS Agency on West Main street. C. Donahue favored a new senior center but opposed buying a building and renovating. All were in favor of the motion, except C. Donahue who voted No. MOTION PASSED.

**15. New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action confirming the Town Manager's appointment of J. Drusilla Carter as the new Library Director for the Town of Windham.** Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, that the Council approve the appointment of J. Drusilla Carter as the new Library Director. All were in favor, except DeVivo who abstained due to a relative's participation on the Interview Panel for this position. MOTION APPROVED.
- b. **Discussion and possible action confirming the Town Manager's appointment of Paul Hongo, Jr., as the new Personnel Director for the Town of Windham.** Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, that the Council approve the appointment of Paul Hongo, Jr., as the new Personnel/HR Director. All were in favor. MOTION APPROVED.

**16. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Next regular Town Council Meeting is Tuesday, August 7, 2012; then Tuesday, September 4, 2012, and Tuesday, September 18, 2012. No meeting Tuesday, August 21, 2012.
- b. MSIF: Main Street Investment Fund Applications.
- c. Town Manager's Performance Evaluation.
- d. Natchaug Roof.
- e. Renovation of Town Hall.
- f. Dispatch Center.

In addition to these items, Doyle asked that the Finance Director appear before the Admin Finance Subcommittee when the Town Audit is released.

**17. Adjournment**

Respectfully Submitted,

Neal J. Beets  
Town Manager