

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, August 7, 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, Arnaldo Rivera, Christel Donahue and Jerry Iazzetta

Mark Doyle arrived at 8:08 P.M.

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

Andrew Martin, Willimantic, spoke about the need for increased traffic enforcement and opening the Library on Saturday's.

Mary Gallucci, North Street, Willimantic, expressed her concerns on the redistricting of Natchaug School and the Charter changes involving the Mayor's role on the Board of Education.

Harry Carboni, Willimantic, spoke on three issues; the reporting of the \$750,000 vote on the purchase of books, an article quoting K. Donohue on the cost of building a new Senior Center, and his opposition of having a Sister City in Germany.

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, shared her thoughts on the Town Manager's job performance and listed what she believed to be violations of the Town Charter by the Town Manager.

Dawn Niles, North Windham, told the Council how much she has enjoyed taking her grandson to the Splash Park and congratulated them on that achievement. She also spoke about some of the suggestions given for Charter changes on the makeup of the Board of Education.

4. Town Council Comment

Jerry Iazzetta, noted the cost of the books from the fund balance had been mentioned at the Town Council meeting when it was presented to them. He also noted the traffic issues mentioned by the first citizen should be addressed by the Traffic Authority or that the Town Manager could take it to the Traffic Authority if he feels it is significant enough.

Mayor Eldridge, stated he had advised Mr. Martin to bring his traffic concerns to the Traffic Authority. He also noted he was the person who brings the names forward for appointments to boards and commissions and if someone is not a resident of the Town they may be serving on a Regional Board.

5. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the minutes for the July 17, 2012, Town Council Meeting.

Iazzetta MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt the minutes for the July 17, 2012, Town Council Meeting with the following correction: to include in Item 4, Town Council Comment, Devivo had requested a report on the Cedarwoods Apartments. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Underwood MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to move Item 12a up on the agenda to follow Item 5a. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Resolutions and Ordinances

a. Discussion and possible action approving a Resolution that creates an Ad Hoc Committee regarding a possible Sister City Program.

C. Donahue read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

C. Donahue MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adopt Resolution #2577 with the following amendment: to include in Section 3 Powers and Duties 3(f) to implement the recommendation of the Economic Development Commission as presented to the Town Council at the July 2012 meeting including that there shall be no cost to the Town. All were in favor.

Resolution of the Windham Town Council Creating an Ad Hoc Committee regarding a Sister City Program

The Windham Town Council adopts the following Resolution:

Section 1. Ad Hoc Sister City Committee Established.

There shall be a Town of Windham Ad Hoc Sister City Committee (the Committee) having the powers and duties set forth in this Resolution.

Section 2. Composition.

- (a) The Committee shall consist of five (5) members.
- (b) Pursuant to the Town Charter, the Mayor shall appoint Committee members subject to concurrence by the Town Council.
- (c) Upon a vacancy occurring, the Mayor shall appoint a successor subject to the concurrence of the Town Council.
- (d) Committee members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses incurred.

Section 3. Powers and Duties.

The Committee shall have the following enumerated powers and duties, and all powers and duties necessary or appropriate to accomplish effectively these enumerated powers and duties:

- (a) To gather information relevant to the sister city program and the choice of a potential sister city for the Town;
- (b) To determine the cost and benefits to the Town of creating and maintaining a sister city program;
- (c) To request the assistance of private businesses such as the Chamber of Commerce, community groups such as service clubs and organizations, and other interested persons regarding a sister city program;
- (d) To work with Eastern Connecticut State University, Quinnebaug Valley Community College, and the Windham School District regarding an educational exchange as part of a sister city program;
- (e) To make a recommendation and report to the Town Council about whether the Town should create a sister city program and, if so, with what city. In making its recommendation, the Committee shall consider what is in the best interests of the Town in light of factors including cost, economic benefits, and such other factors as the Committee deems appropriate.
- (f) To implement the recommendation of the Economic Development Commission as presented to the Town Council at the July 2012 meeting including that there shall be no cost to the Town.

Section 4. Sunset

The Committee shall sunset on October 16, 2012.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 6. Resignations.** Receive the resignation of:
 - a.** None.

7. **Appointments.** Discussion and possible action to appoint:
- a. Andrew Gutt as a regular member of the Ad Hoc Committee regarding a Sister City Program.
 - b. Bill Hettinger as a regular member of the Ad Hoc Committee regarding a Sister City Program.
 - c. Shirley Mustard as a regular member of the Ad Hoc Committee regarding a Sister City Program.
 - d. Lucy Simard as a regular member of the Ad Hoc Committee regarding a Sister City Program.
 - e. Barbara Wright as a regular member of the Ad Hoc Committee regarding a Sister City Program.

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

Iazzetta MOVED, Rivera seconded, to appoint Andrew Gutt, Bill Hettinger, Shirley Mustard, Lucy Simard and Barbara Wright as regular members of the Ad Hoc Committee regarding a Sister City Program. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. **Presentations & Special Reports**

- a. **Presentation from WINCOG Planner Jana Butts about the Town's IHZ (Incentive Housing Zone) Grant. Discussion and possible Council direction.** WINCOG Planner Jana Butts gave a presentation on the Town's IHZ (Incentive Housing Zone) Grant. Ms. Butts also answered questions from the Council.

Rivera MOVED, K. Donohue seconded, that the Town Council by way of direction urge the Planning & Zoning Commission to consider the Willimantic Incentive Housing proposal and if deemed useful move with all speed. All were in favor except Fantoli, McDevitt and Iazzetta who opposed and DeVivo who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

- b. **Presentation from Town Registrars about Redistricting for a Third Polling Location. Discussion and possible Council direction.** Luis Rodriguez, Democratic Deputy Registrar of Voters, gave a presentation on the Redistricting for a Third Polling Location. Mr. Rodriguez explained the reasons for the redistricting and answered questions from the Council. Nancy Rivera, Republican Deputy Registrar of Voters, explained why the districts were split the way they were.

The Council urged the Registrar of Voters Office to be sure to advertise the district changes to insure the voters have significant notice of the changes.

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported he had seen the BIGG PLAY team and coaches off on their trip to The Netherlands.

He also thanked the Willimantic Fire Fighters for their efforts in battling the horrendous fire on South Street. In addition, he thanked Windham Center, North Windham, South Windham, Mansfield and Columbia Fire Department's for their efforts as well. He also noted the State Fire Marshal had commended the Fire Fighters for saving the lives of the people inside the house.

10. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Beets noted he had been directed by the Council to work with the Access Agency and CLICK regarding an arrangement that could work for everyone at the Access building and noted good progress was being made. He also reported applications were being prepared for approximately \$2,000,000 in State Grant Funds to acquire and renovate space at The Access Agency. Mr. Beets also explained the time frame to submit the application for the State Grant Funds and stated an item would be placed on the Council's agenda at their first meeting in November regarding the submission of the grant application.

He also reported that the new Library Director, Druscilla Carver, would be starting Monday, September 3rd and Paul Hongo, our new Personnel Director, would be starting Monday, August 13th.

Mr. Beets also recognized the bravery and dedication of our Fire Fighters, specifically Captain Ron Palmer Jr. and Fire Fighter Chad Molochnick for going into a burning home and rescuing and resuscitating a young lady and noted the lady was in critical condition in a hospital in Rhode Island. He also stated Fire Chief Marc Scrivener did a great job managing a very difficult scene and thought it was well conducted by our staff.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications

Letter from Andrew Martin.

12. Resolutions and Ordinances

a. Moved up on the agenda to follow Item 5a.

b. Discussion and possible action setting a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room regarding a proposed Ordinance creating a Windham Senior Center Advisory Board. DeVivo read the proposed Ordinance. A brief discussion followed.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room regarding a proposed Ordinance creating a Windham Senior Center Advisory Board which includes

changing the number of regular members from 7 members to 5 members and to establish term limits of 2 years and 4 years to be staggered terms. All were in favor except Iazzetta who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

a. Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee

Mr. Donohue reported the Committee had spent the entire last meeting on the Town Manager's evaluation. He also noted coming up was the monitoring of the grant application for the Senior Center and the program for the Senior Center. Mr. Donohue stated also coming before the Committee's was the naming of the school and the review of the financial reports. In addition the Committee would be looking at developing a bid process on the recommendation of the Tri Board.

b. Public Safety, Public Works, Culture, and Recreation Subcommittee

Mr. Iazzetta reported the Committee had not met but was hoping to meet this month to discuss the Dispatch Center and a few other items. He also requested the report on the four locations being considered for the Senior Center for the Committee to review.

c. Charter Revision Commission

Ms. Niles, Chair of the Charter Review Commission, gave a brief report on the status of the Commissions work. She provided Council with a list of items that had been voted on by the Commission as well as a list of items that the Commission is currently working on. She also answered questions from the Council.

14. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action to convene an executive session with the Town Manager for the purpose of discussing his performance evaluation.

Iazzetta MOVED, Rivera seconded, to convene an executive session at 8:38 P.M. for the purpose of discussing the Town Manager's performance evaluation and to invite the Town Manager to join the executive session once the Town Council has concluded their discussion. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Iazzetta MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to come out of executive session at 9:29 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discussion and possible action regarding the Town Manager's performance evaluation.

Iazzetta MOVED, Krich seconded, to postpone action regarding the Town Manager's performance evaluation until the September 4, 2012 Town Council Meeting. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. New Business

NONE.

16. Future Agenda Items

- Formal agreement between the McSweeney Senior Center and the Town transferring title of real and personal property
- Report on the status of Cedarwood Supportive Housing, specifically how it is helping our local residents
- Review the study that was completed by the Senior Center Ad Hoc Committee

17. Adjournment

Iazzetta MOVED, Rivera seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council Meeting at 9:33 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Town Council