

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

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



1. Call to Order

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham 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, Kevin Donohue, Mark Doyle, Dawn Niles and Christel Donahue.

Arnaldo Rivera was 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

Jeff Viens, Columbia Resident/Windham Taxpayer, provided a few handouts to the Council outlining what is going on in the real estate market and he gave a brief summary of the information. He also had questions about the Housing Code and noted the NRZ Committee was still in effect.

Pam Viens, Columbia Resident/Windham Taxpayer, spoke with regards to the Housing Code and urged the Town Council to work together with landlords and residents to find a solution that works for everyone.

Kevin Hoxie, Willimantic, thanked the Police Department for the recent arrests in his neighborhood and shared his concerns on the education systems, which he feels is failing.

Joel Meyers, Willimantic, spoke about the Housing Code and noted the NRZ Committee is a very important factor of Willimantic. He stated he would like everyone to work together to help the Town of Windham.

Dennis Cronin, 247 North Street, Willimantic, is concerned that there is no contract with the Switchboard Association and he would like to see a written contract outlining certain criteria. He asked the Council to perform an audit or give the Town Manager the authority to research and negotiate the services. He feels the Town is paying an amount that is unsustainable.



4. Town Council Comment

Dawn Niles, reported there is an FOI workshop at Manchester Community College on September 30th from 9:00 PM to 12:00 PM for a cost of \$50 per person. She noted she would be attending and encouraged others to join. She is concerned about emails being sent when folks are replying to all. Ms. Niles also reported she has spoken to Commissioner Pryor from the Dept of Education who has agreed to come to Windham to have a community discussion regarding the education in our Town. She noted she will be speaking to him again on Monday to go over the details.

5. Adoption of Minutes

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

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

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to move up agenda Item 15a to follow Item 5. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. New Business

a. Discuss and possibly move to approve the Town Manager's and Superintendent's appointment of Christian Johnson as the unified Finance Director for the Town of Windham, including all agencies of Town government as well as the Board of Education, starting September 30, 2013, at a unified annual salary of \$150,000.

Christian Johnson introduced himself to the Town Council and thanked them for the opportunity to serve the Town of Windham. He also gave a brief background of his work experience.

K. Donohue reported he was on the Selection Committee for Mr. Johnson. He stated this was the capstone to consolidating our finance departments and he believes Mr. Johnson has come to us very well qualified particularly for our needs. Mr. Donohue noted he is very enthusiastic about this hire and thinks there will be some real changes made.

DeVivo MOVED, K. Donohue seconded, to approve the Town Manager's and Superintendent's appointment of Christian Johnson as the unified Finance Director for the Town of Windham, including all agencies of Town government as well as the Board of Education, starting September 30, 2013, at a unified annual salary of \$150,000. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Resignations. Receive the resignation of:

a. Donna Nicolino from the Charter Revision Commission.

No Action Taken

7. Appointments. Discuss and possibly move to appoint or reappoint the following persons:

- a. Diana K. Perkins to the Charter Revision Commission.**
No Action Taken

8. Presentations & Special Reports.
None

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported the newsletter from the Victorian Neighborhood Association will be out shortly. He stated Shirley Mustard had asked him to mention an article in the newsletter about Matt Vertefeuille and the garden he has in his backyard.

Mayor Eldridge also reported the O'Brien's had held a fundraiser on Sunday for the Textile Museum which was a great success. He noted the Kenton's had worked extremely hard over the past two years organizing the event. Ms. Niles also noted Claire Lary had put together a comparison from past to present of Willimantic.

10. Town Manager's Report
No Report

11. Discussion and Review of Communications
None

12. Resolutions and Ordinances

- a. Discuss and possibly move to adopt a Resolution approving a Master Agreement for Construction Services with the Connecticut Department of Transportation.**

Niles read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

Niles MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to approve Resolution #2608 approving a Master Agreement for Construction Services with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. All were in favor.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

Neal J. Beets, Town Manager, is hereby authorized to sign the agreement entitled:

“Master Agreement for Construction Services”

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

- a. Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services Committee**

K. Donohue reported the Committee had met and the major item on the agenda is the Housing Code changes. He noted they will continue working on it and does not see it coming out of Committee until they have a version that reflects the needs of the Town.

K. Donohue also reported the Committee is working on the Textile and History Museum lease. He noted they have contacted them and will meet with them at the Committee's next meeting. He is hoping to have a proposal from Attorney Prue for the lease.

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

Krich reported the Committee will be meeting on September 25th and he will have a report at the 1st meeting in October.

c. Capital Planning Action Group

Doyle reported the Committee met last Monday with representatives from the Board of Education and will meet this Monday with representatives from the Town. He stated they are reviewing the 10 year plan.

d. Magnet School & Natchaug Roof Building Committee

DeVivo reported the Magnet School is moving along and things are being wrapped up. He stated the Committee will be meeting Monday at the School.

DeVivo reported the Natchaug School Roof Building Committee had awarded the contract to Silktown Roofing. He noted the process has started and they are working diligently on the project. DeVivo also stated the Committee will be asking for help to help shepherd the Windham High School Roof. He noted when the permanent long term Building & Maintenance Committee is formed through Resolution the current Committee will be dismissed from the charge of the High School Roof and that would be moved to the new Committee. DeVivo answered questions from the Council.

14. Old Business: None.

15. New Business

- a.** Discuss and possibly move to approve the Town Manager's and Superintendent's appointment of Christian Johnson as the unified Finance Director for the Town of Windham, including all agencies of Town government as well as the Board of Education, starting September 30, 2013, at a unified annual salary of \$150,000.

Moved up on the Agenda to follow Item 5

16. Future Agenda Items

17. Adjournment

K. Donohue MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Regular Town Council meeting to order at 7:45 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council