

**TOWN OF WINDHAM
TOWN COUNCIL**

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

JANUARY 5, 2010

MEETING MINUTES

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, Christel Donahue, Kevin Donohue, Erika Haynes, Jerry Iazzetta, Mike Lessard, Lorraine McDevitt, Arnaldo Rivera, Teresa Santucci, N. Joseph Underwood

Town Council members absent: David Howe Sr.

Staff Present: Neal J. Beets, Town Manager

Lorraine McDevitt asked for a moment of silence in memory of Bruce Bellingham.

2. Citizens and Delegations

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, stated she has 900-1,000 signatures asking for a re-vote on the magnet school, emphasizing that economically this is not a good time for the school.

Peter Quercia, Willimantic, stated that he would like to donate 1 acre of land to create a dog park, but noted there is no Dog Park Committee. He stated that he would like to continue restoring the Town street signs and is looking for a corporate sponsor and support from the Town. McDevitt provided a factual response that he needs to see the Parks and Recreation Committee regarding a Dog Park Committee.

6. Presentations & Special Reports

a. Holiday Decoration Contest award presentation

Mayor Eldridge thanked all who participated by decorating their properties, the G&L Barn in Windham who provided the Gift Certificates for the winners, the Recreation Department for organizing the contest, and the Town Council for being judges. Eldridge presented the Holiday Decoration Contest awards to: the Sabo Family in South Windham who won the Mayor's Award, the Caballero Family in Willimantic who won the Most Creative Award, the Blackburn Family of Willimantic who won the Best Traditional Award, the Kellogg Family who won the Community Pride Award, and Rajean's who won the Best Main Street Store Front Award.

3. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the following minutes:

i. December 1, 2009 Town Council regular meeting

Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2009 meeting as corrected. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ii. December 10, 2009 Town Council public hearing

Iazzetta MOVED, Underwood seconded, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2009 meeting as written. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

iii. December 15, 2009 Town Council regular meeting

Iazzetta MOVED, Santucci seconded to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2009 meeting as corrected. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Resignations

None.

5. Appointments

Underwood MOVED, Rivera seconded, to approve all appointments listed. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

a. Discussion and possible action to appoint the following to the Economic Development Commission:

- i. George Buch, Full member term ending 12-15-2012
- ii. Victor Funderburk, Full member term ending 12-15-2010
- iii. Cecilio C. Castro, Alternate member term ending 12-15-2014

b. Discussion and possible action to appoint the following to the Ad-Hoc Senior Center Building Committee:

- i. Edward Holda, Town of Windham representative

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported on the following noteworthy items: a Memorial Concert at von der Mehden Hall at UConn on 1-10-10 for Bruce Bellingham; he went on a tour of the Nathan Hale, YMC and Windham House Buildings; in response to Al Giordano's inquisition of Town Recycling Committee, Eldridge responded that Victor Rayhall represents the Town and we receive a monthly report from the meetings; Three Kings Day activities will be held from 12pm-4pm at ECSU Sports Center and all are encouraged to attend and take part in the festivities, with special thanks to all who donated toys and money to make this happened; Eldridge asked the community to think along the lines of what the community can do for Windham (ways residents can help to improve our community); reminded people to shovel out their front walkways and fire hydrants if they have one on their property; significant improvements have been done to work towards completion of the ballroom, and it is expected to be done in time for the sold-out Snow Ball, special thanks to Joe Gardner, Town Engineer for spearheading this project; a check from the Rotary Club for another K-9 unit will be presented at the next meeting; Chocolate Fest will be February 10-14th.

8. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Neal Beets reported on the following noteworthy items: a 1-20-10 CT Council of Small Towns conference and noted if anyone would like to attend to notify Neida; Thanked Windham Hospital for the tour of the facility, noting great facility and staff; commended 3 Willimantic Firefighters for recognizing a suspected arson and the Fire Marshal and Police for following up on the 3 firefighters report; stimulus money for street improvements; Boston Globe posted a overview of Windham/Willimantic encouraging people to visit.

9. Discussion and Review of Communications

None.

10. Resolutions and Ordinances

None.

11. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

a. Report by the Inter District Magnet School Committee

Susan Collins, Vice Chair of the Inter District Magnet School Committee thanked the Council for inviting them to the meeting and stated they are happy to report monthly on progress, which will help keep the doors open for communication. Norman Benjamin,

S.P.M. Arcadis reviewed the basic information and accomplishments thus far, noting they have selected a construction firm and an architect and the test pits and traffic study have been completed. He reviewed the projected timeline of events and cost analysis for tying into public water and sewer, which is less costly than on site well and septic. Petina Killiany discussed the LEED certification and the cost to be certified, noting they plan to meet the qualifications but are leaning towards not obtaining the certification due to the cost. They need to acquire the property by March 10, 2010 and would like to break ground by June 2010. Haynes and Iazzetta asked that at the next update meeting they prepare more details on the sheet passed out this evening dated January 2010, provide a copy of the traffic study report, preliminary site plans and cost to run the school. Beets to add to the next agenda the letter to O.P.M. on behalf of the Town Council.

12. Old Business

- a. Discuss and possible action to consider adopting an amendment to the Town's Liquor Policy relating to non-discrimination

No action was taken, pending clarification on wording and intent.

13. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action to award the Historic Survey contract to S&ME Inc. and to authorize Town Manager Neal J. Beets to sign the contract

Underwood MOVED, Haynes seconded, to award the Historic Survey contract to S&ME Inc. and to authorize Town Manager Neal J. Beets to sign the contract. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Future Agenda Items

Noted.

15. Citizens and Delegations

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, feels the Council is trying to silence the citizens by not granting a re-vote, she feels the student lottery is unfair, the traffic on Tuckie Road is already a problem and again requests a re-vote at the next meeting.

Larry Kellogg, Willimantic, feels the Council/Board of Finance should get the budget out to citizens ASAP and would like to see it itemized not just the bottom line figures.

16. Adjournment

Iazzetta MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council at 8:45 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Jessie L. Shea
Clerk of the Town Council