

**TOWN OF WINDHAM  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

**APRIL 6, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.**

**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, David Howe Sr., Mike Lessard, Lorraine McDevitt, Teresa Santucci, N. Joseph Underwood

Town Council members absent: Arnaldo Rivera

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Eldridge invited two youth members of the audience to lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Charlie Olbrias, Recreation Department, introduced the 21 Windham Recreation Basketball Teams and noted that 6 teams made it to the championships. They were all introduced and were congratulated on their accomplishments.

**3. Citizens and Delegations**

Harry Carboni, noted that 16 lights are out on Main Street and wanted to know what the Town is doing to fix this, along with the truck traffic and potholes. He also noted that the cemetery fence is in horrible shape and is the entrance to our Town. He commended McDevitt and family for the pride in the city with the flower baskets donated for Main Street. Jackie Harper, feels the base problem of Willimantic is the un-employment and then all other problems are followed by that.

Erika Haynes, noted the Town Wide Town Pride on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am -noon, noting 500+ volunteers. She challenged the Town Council to come out and help.

Kevin Hoxie, Pennywood Lane, discussed the speeding problem in the Pennywood Lane/Ridgewood area of Town, noting there are lots of children including 2 daycares.

Christel Donahue, discussed the Turning Pages project at the Willimantic Library from April 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> from 8pm to midnight.

Lori Jeffers, feels there is a discrepancy between the contracts and signatures for the purchase of land for the magnet school

Lorraine McDevitt, noted that the budgets for the schools are being cut and other civic organizations are helping to send students on trips and encourages more organizations to help with supplies, trips, etc. She noted that the flowerpots would be donated by her family again for Main Street.

David Howe, asked for a response from Beets for the lights out on Main Street, and asked the Mayor to write a letter to the Chief of Police to help address the speeding issues Mr. Hoxie mentioned.

Charlie Kratt, feels that modifying the ethics procedure is a bad idea, noting that a lot of people worked hard to create and review the procedure.

Dennis O'Brien, Judge of Probate, stated that sadly, he has decided not to run for re-election for Probate Judge.

John McGrath, announced to the Democratic Town Committee that he will be running in the

election for the Windham/Colchester Probate Judge.

#### **4. Adoption of Minutes**

- a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the March 9, 2010 special Town Council meeting.  
McDevitt MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adopt the March 9, 2010 special Town Council meeting minutes. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- b. Discussion and possible action to adopt the March 16, 2010 regular meeting minutes.  
McDevitt MOVED, Haynes seconded, to postpone item until the next meeting. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **5. Resignations**

Noted.

#### **6. Appointments**

- a. Discussion and possible action to appoint Yasmin Burgos (U) to the Ad-Hoc Skateboard Park Building Committee.  
Haynes MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint Yasmin Burgos (U) to the Ad-Hoc Skateboard Park Building Committee. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **7. Presentations & Special Reports**

- a. Short demonstration of Town's website by Brian Hathaway, Information Technology Manager, including sign up process for Code Red and for email notifications.  
Item tabled.

#### **8. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Eldridge reported on the following noteworthy items: DeVivo signed contract on buildings; they visited QVCC; Windham Reads banners are up; WCFD-Elks Party.

#### **9. Town Manager's Report**

QVCC Meeting-met new president; SAMA Meeting-providing economic services; Windham has an A+ rating.

#### **10. Discussion and Review of Communications**

- a. Memo from James Finger, Town Planner on AGvocate Program.  
Beets summarized noting that Windham has been accepted to participate in the AGvocate, noting no cost to the Town.

#### **11. Resolutions and Ordinances**

Donahue MOVED, Underwood seconded, to waive the readings of a-d and adopt all as a group. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- a. Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution regarding a regional economic partnership with the Northeastern Connecticut Economic Partnership.  
Donahue MOVED, to adopt resolution # 2492.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

WHEREAS, the Town of Windham would like to join the Northeastern Connecticut Economic Partnership,

WHEREAS, this partnership will be applying for Federal Designation through the Economic Development Administration to be a Regional Economic Development District representing the 21 towns of the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments and

the Windham Region Council of Governments, and one additional community from the Southeast Council of Governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Windham hereby agrees to become a member of the Northeast Connecticut Economic Partnership.

Underwood seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution regarding Fair Housing.  
Donahue MOVED, to adopt resolution # 2493.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

#### FAIR HOUSING

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The Town of Windham is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Town of Windham hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the chief executive officer of the Town of Windham or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Windham and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Underwood seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution regarding Fair Housing Statement.  
Donahue MOVED, to adopt resolution # 2494.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

TOWN OF WINDHAM  
FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT

It is both the policy and strong commitment of the Town of Windham to promote Fair Housing opportunities in all its programs and housing development activities and to take affirmative action through education and implementation to ensure equal housing opportunities for all persons and families.

The Town of Windham will take affirmative action to ensure that all tenants, applicants, residents are treated fairly without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, learning disability, mental or physical disability, including but not limited to blindness, age individuals with children, or lawful source of income.

The Town of Windham will continue to make a good faith effort to comply with all Federal and State laws and policies which speak to fair housing practices.

It is the policy of the Town of Windham that all Housing related personnel be trained and educated in the principles of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity so that Equal Housing Opportunity may be available to all qualified applicants.

This Fair Housing Policy Statement reaffirms our personal commitment to the principles of fair housing and equal opportunity housing practices.

The Fair Housing Officer, Mary DeMarco, or their designated representative is responsible for the enforcement and implementation of the Fair Housing Regulations/Plan and the enforcement of this policy. The Fair Housing Officer may be reached at 860-465-3066.

Complaint(s) pertaining to discrimination in any program funded by this Town of Windham may be filed with the Fair Housing Officer. The Town's Grievance Procedure will be utilized in this case(s).

Complaints also may be filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunity, 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

Underwood seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- a. Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution regarding Civil Rights Act of 1964.  
Donahue MOVED, to adopt resolution # 2495.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

TOWN OF WINDHAM  
COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

The Town of Windham does not unlawfully discriminate in the provision of services, the administration of its programs, or contractual agreements. The Town of Windham seeks to fully carry out its responsibilities under the Title VI Regulations.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Title VI provides that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program covered by the Regulations.

This policy is effectuated through the methods of administration outlined in the Town's Fair Housing Plan and is fully implemented to ensure compliance by the Town, as the recipient, and by sub recipients. The cooperation of all Town personnel is required.

Underwood seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

- a. Administration & Finance, Health and Human Services Sub Committee  
Meeting on 4-7-10.
- b. Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee  
Meeting 4-14-10, noting a large agenda.

**13. Old Business**

- a. Discuss and consider rejecting the offer from the State Department of Public Works for the Town of Windham to purchase the Nathan Hale building.  
Underwood MOVED, Santucci seconded, to reject the offer from the State Department of Public Works for the Town of Windham to purchase the Nathan Hale building. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**14. New Business**

- a. Discuss and consider approving a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Windham-Colchester Probate District Court.  
Underwood MOVED, Howe seconded, to approve a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Windham-Colchester Probate District Court. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- b. Discussion and consider approving bids for basketball courts at Rec Park.  
McDevitt MOVED, Haynes seconded, to approve bids for basketball courts at Rec Park. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**15. Future Agenda Items**

None noted.

## **16. Citizens and Delegations**

Mike Lessard, thanked the Mayor and Town Manager for visiting the high school and welcomed them to come back again.

Kevin Hoxie, noted that the truck traffic on Main Street is because it is the only viable way for large trucks to get from 32 by the Frog Bridge to Route 6 and 66 and 32 North, noting that Bridge Street cannot accommodate.

Lori Jeffers, expressed disappointment that there was no discussion for a re-vote.

Dennis O'Brien, thanked everyone for their support over the years.

David Howe, applauded Dennis O'Brien for the work he has done for the Town of Windham.

## **17. Adjournment**

Howe MOVED, Haynes seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council at 8:00 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Submitted By:**

**Jessie L. Shea**  
**Clerk of the Town Council**