

# WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 - 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, Erika Haynes, David Howe Sr., Mike Lessard, Lorraine McDevitt, Arnaldo Rivera, Teresa Santucci, N. Joseph Underwood and Kevin Donohue (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Town Council members excused: Christel Donahue and Jerry Iazzetta.

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance

## 3. Citizens and Delegations

Harry Carboni, stated that as of last night there are 10 lights out on Main Street, which 7 of them were from the new ones that just got replaced. He questioned the Town Council if Main Street is getting paved and informed them that they're still a lot of trucks that travel through Main Street. Mr. Carboni mentioned that the Old Willimantic Cemetery fence looks horrible.

Kevin Donohue arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Lori Jeffers, asked for a revote on the Magnet School and raised concerns on the proposed Town Road that is mentioned on the land purchase agreement for the Magnet School site. Ms. Jeffers asked the Town Council again to please allow a revote on the Magnet School and since the people elected them they should do what the people asked them to do when they signed the petition.

Peter Quercia, Willimantic, stated he sent a letter again to all the members of the Town Council for the 5th time, but still has not received any respond. He mentioned that Town Manager Neal Beets was quoted in a recent newspaper article that the street sign problem is a public safety issue. Mr. Quercia asked the council to consider appointing him to Kevin Donohue's committee and asked the Town Council how can one man have all the power.

Lorraine M. McDevitt took leave of the chair to speak under citizens and delegations.

Lorraine M. McDevitt mentioned that all the flower baskets are up along Main Street. Mrs. McDevitt thanked the workers at Public Works for doing such a great job.

Larry Kellog, Spring Street, Willimantic, asked that the Board of Education put their budget on line.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the May 4, 2010 Town Council meeting minutes.**

Underwood MOVED, Howe seconded, to adopt the May 4, 2010 Town Council meeting minutes. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**5. Resignations**

Noted.

**6. Appointments**

**a. Discussion and possible action to appoint Dawn M. Niles, Diane Rayhall, Helene Chapman, David Howe, Mark Scrivener and Lisa Rasicot to the HeartSafe Committee as Town of Windham residents.**

Haynes MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint Dawn M. Niles, Diane Rayhall, Helene Chapman, David Howe, Mark Scrivener and Lisa Rasicot to the HeartSafe Committee as Town of Windham residents. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**7. Presentations & Special Reports**

**a. Overview of Victorian Days by Lynn Duval**

Lynn Duval gave a brief presentation on the upcoming Victorian Home Tour. She spoke about advertisement and flyers that have been printed and sent out to local areas and across the state. Mrs. Duval mentioned that they mailed out about 1,500 flyers. She thanked everyone and urged everyone to attend the upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

**b. Update about Magnet School progress and issues**

Norman Benjamin, Sr. Project Manager for the Magnet School gave an update on the Magnet School. Mr. Benjamin mentioned that purchase of the property should take place in a week or two. He reported that the application to the Planning and Zoning Commission has been submitted and he gave a report on radon detection in Windham.

Lengthy discussion took place between Mr. Benjamin and members of the Town Council.

**8. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Eldridge informed the Town Council that he would like to propose to hold a Council meeting on June 1, July 20 and August 17th instead of two meetings during the

summer months. The Town Council agreed to the Mayors proposal for the summer month meeting dates. He also gave a brief report on the following: VFW installation, Officer Warren Winkler's retirement party, National Day of Prayer, Doggy Style ribbon cutting, visit with Windham Hospital Administrative Staff regarding promoting our local hospital and he thanked the students from Eastern Connecticut State University whom have been cleaning garbage several streets in Willimantic.

**9. Town Manager's Report**

Neal J. Beets, Town Manager reported on the grand opening of Keri's Art Studio located on Main Street. Mr. Beets mentioned that Keri is a resident at Camp Horizon. He thanked them for a great job they did inside and outside the building.

**10. Discussion and Review of Communications**

None.

**11. Resolutions and Ordinances**

- a. Discussion and possible action to adopt a Resolution amending Resolution # 2392 to reduce the total membership of the HeartSafe Committee from 13 to 7 and eliminating certain membership criteria.**

Rivera MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt resolution # 2500.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

That resolution # 2392 is amended to reduce the membership of the HeartSafe Committee from 13 members to 7 Town of Windham residents eliminating certain membership criteria.

Santucci MOVED, Howe seconded, to amend the resolution and strike out the work certain. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, therefore the resolution reads as follow:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

That resolution # 2392 is amended to reduce the membership of the HeartSafe Committee from 13 members to 7 Town of Windham residents eliminating membership criteria.

ORIGINAL MOTION WITH AMENDMENTS PASSED with all in favor except Haynes who opposed.

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

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

Chairman Donohue reported that the committee is making progress and that the Town department surveys are very active. The committee is working on approach to improve on housing inspections, populating the Ad-Hoc Open Government

Communications Committee. Mr. Donohue mentioned to Mayor Eldridge that he would be forwarding four requests to him for consideration of individuals interested in serving on the committee.

**b. Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee.**

Vice Chair McDevitt reported that the committee will be meeting on May 26, 2010 and they will be discussing the Magnet School access road and fencing on town parks.

**13. Old Business**

None.

**14. New Business**

**a. Discussion and possible action to set a public hearing for the 2010 Neighborhood Assistance Act on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.**

McDevitt MOVED, Howe seconded, to set a public hearing for the 2010 Neighborhood Assistance Act on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**15. Future Agenda Items**

Neal J. Beets, Town Manager reported that he would be going in front of the Administration and Finance Committee to speak regarding a Town newsletter. He also mentioned that tomorrow May 19th the Board of Finance will be holding a public hearing regarding the Board of Education Budget and are hoping for a Town Meeting on June 1st and budget referendum on June 8th.

**16. Citizens and Delegations**

Lori Jeffers, spoke about the Magnet School project and had concerns on the property. She mentioned that Paula Haney said they have run out of time to acquire new property. She also mentioned that the property contract does not have the sellers signature.

Dawn Niles, North Windham, thanked the Town Council for making the changes to the HeartSafe Committee. She informed the Council that she was just appointed to the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities.

Larry Kellog, Spring Street, Willimantic, read a letter regarding the fundraising from the Booster Club and other fundraising done for several school sports. He also read a section of the Board of Education minutes, which appoint several coaching positions with a stipend. He raised concerns about mixed information provided to residents by the Board of Education regarding reducing sports at the schools.

Mike Lessard took leave of the chair to speak under citizens and delegations.

Mike Lessard, mentioned that two swimming coaching positions were cut from this current Board of Education budget and a field hockey position and fundraising took place to pay for those positions.

Tony, stated he spoke with Town Planner James Finger regarding the road that abuts the proposed property for the Magnet School and he mentioned that it was a town road that was abandoned. He questioned the Town Council if it was true that it was an abandoned town road. He is concerned with all the questions that have been raised and have not been answered. He suggests that the Town get everything lined up before paperwork is filed.

N. Joseph Underwood stated that if he was the seller of the proposed Magnet School property he would not close on the property until all questions raised are answered and resolved.

**17. Adjournment**

Santucci MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Neida I. Rosado  
Clerk of the Town Council