

**TOWN OF WINDHAM
TOWN COUNCIL**

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

August 3, 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, David Howe Sr., Jerry Iazzetta, Mike Lessard (7:34 p.m.), Lorraine McDevitt, Arnaldo Rivera, Teresa Santucci, N. Joseph Underwood

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Eldridge lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations

Richard Bloomer, Prospect Street, felt it was wonderful when the noise ordinance was enforced but is now miserable again since the enforcement has stopped.

Harry Carboni, noted the lights that are out on Main Street still; paving of streets, condition of the fence at the cemetery. He also expressed concern with putting DeVivo on the Magnet School Committee, feeling that DeVivo has not gotten results in the past, feels we need all new people from the community on this board.

Jeffrey Viens, echoed what Carboni said, and added that he isn't against spending the money on the school, just emphasized that it needs to be done right, and should be done in the service district, noting that the mills site should be looked at.

Tony Fantolli, thanked the Town and Big Play for the opportunity that the kids received going to China to play.

Dan Hill, President of the Little League, is opposed to the proposal at Lauter Park, noting that it is not underused.

Peter Quercia, noted that the fields in Town are in bad shape, and noted the problems he continues to have with the Town of Windham.

Mary Galucci, feels that officials in Town can't control traffic and other minor issues and can't understand how this Council feels they can pick a new Committee.

Charlie Kratt, expressed displeasure with the Council holding a Special Town Council meeting on a Third Thursday. He also feels they should stop micro-managing the Public Works Department, noting they run fine and do good work.

Jeremiah King, feels that there are real problems with the Magnet School in general and a new Committee is not going to fix it.

Lori Jeffers, asked the Council to listen to the citizens and asked for a re-vote on the magnet school. She is happy the Council disbanded the last Committee and asked them to be careful who they put on the new Committee.

Caesar Castro, submitted a law suit from Vermont in 1999 regarding the removal of a member of a board. He noted that this is a private case between him and the accuser and has nothing to do with his volunteering on the ECD Committee.

Leo Santucci, discussed the four goals the Council established and how all of them depend on the Quality of Life. He stated that we need to be accountable and the noise on the streets is still unbearable.

David Howe, feels we should move forward and do something about the lights on Main

Street. He stated that if any citizens have a problem with anything or anyone, they should bring it up to that person first before doing so in public, noting that it doesn't benefit anyone to beat up on someone in meetings. He also feels that putting Phelps back on the Committee is not the best thing for the Committee because of his expressed passion and claims of rage. Mark Phelps, took offence to Howe's claim of rage and defended himself. John Burkett, feels ashamed that the soccer and baseball programs have to fight over the use of Lauter Park. He suggested the Middle School fields be kept up and used before they go to waste.

4. Adoption of Minutes

- a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the June 1, 2010 Town Council regular meeting minutes
Rivera MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adopt the June 1, 2010 Town Council regular meeting minutes. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- b. Discussion and possible action to adopt the July 20, 2010 Town Council public hearing minutes
Eldridge MOVED, Haynes seconded, to adopt the July 20, 2010 Town Council public hearing minutes. MOTION PASSED with Eldridge and Haynes in favor and all others disqualified.
- c. Discussion and possible action to adopt the July 20, 2010 Town Council regular meeting minutes
Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt the July 20, 2010 Town Council regular meeting minutes. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Rivera who abstained.

5. Resignations

None.

6. Appointments

- a. Discussion and possible action to appoint Thomas E. DeVivo to the Inter-District Magnet School Building Committee
Howe MOVED, Haynes seconded, to appoint Thomas E. DeVivo to the Inter-District Magnet School Building Committee. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except McDevitt, Iazzetta and Rivera who were opposed.
- b. Discussion and possible action to appoint David M. Walencewicz to the Inter-District Magnet School Building Committee
Donohue MOVED, Haynes seconded, to appoint David M. Walencewicz to the Inter-District Magnet School Building Committee. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- c. Discussion and possible action to appoint N. Joseph Underwood to the Inter-District Magnet School Building Committee
Howe MOVED, Donohue seconded, to appoint N. Joseph Underwood to the Inter-District Magnet School Building Committee. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Santucci and Iazzetta who were opposed.
- d. Discussion and possible action to appoint Jose Lopez Morales to the Ad-Hoc Open Government Communications Committee
Rivera MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint Jose Lopez Morales to the Ad-Hoc Open Government Communications Committee. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- e. Discussion and possible action to appoint Richard Bloomer to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT)
Howe MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint Richard Bloomer to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT). MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- f. Discussion and possible action to appoint Erika Haynes to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a Town Council representative.
Donohue MOVED, Howe seconded, to appoint Erika Haynes to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a Town Council representative. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Haynes who abstained.
- g. Discussion and possible action to appoint Kevin Donohue to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a Town Council representative
Iazzetta MOVED, Haynes seconded, to appoint Kevin Donohue to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a Town Council representative. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- h. Discussion and possible action to designate Town of Windham Council representatives to several CCM Policy Committees.
No action was taken.
- Howe volunteered to represent Windham on the CCM Policy Committee on: Public Safety, Homeland Security and Code Enforcement.
 - Underwood volunteered to represent Windham on the CCM Policy Committee on: Land Use, Housing and Community Development.
 - Haynes volunteered to represent Windham on the CCM Policy Committee on: Education
 - McDevitt volunteered to represent Windham on the CCM Policy Committee on: Task Force on Children, Youth and Families.
 - Donahue volunteered to represent Windham on the CCM Policy Committee on: Taxes and Finance.
- i. Discussion and possible action to appoint Charles L. Pennewill to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a Board of Finance representative
Underwood MOVED, Santucci seconded, to appoint Charles L. Pennewill to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a Board of Finance representative. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- j. Discussion and possible to appoint Michael Lessard to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a resident of the Town of Windham
Howe MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to appoint Michael Lessard to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a resident of the Town of Windham. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Lessard who abstained.
- k. Discussion and possible action to appoint Mark A. Phelps to the Inter-District Magnet School Building Committee
Santucci MOVED, Donahue seconded, to appoint Mark A. Phelps to the Inter-District Magnet School Building Committee. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Rivera, McDevitt and Haynes.

7. Presentations & Special Reports

None.

8. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported on the following noteworthy items: went to the Camp Meeting Association; attended a fundraiser for the Mansfield/Windham Soup Pantry; many people have applied to be on the Magnet School Building Committee and there are still vacancies but he is hand selecting members that he feels will move this forward and who have expertise. He noted he is still accepting applications.

9. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager, Neil Beats reported on the following noteworthy items: We have now appointed 4 members to the Magnet School Building Committee which will meet on Monday, August th

at 7pm at Town Hall and it will be televised. He noted that a link to the CT Central Job Bank will be added to the Town website to help the community find jobs, adding that there will also be information about job training and programs for cost help; pipe fixed at the Splash Park and the Kramer Roof leak to be fixed soon. Underwood requested that the Council extend cable coverage on Channel 13 until 11pm.

10. Discussion and Review of Communications

None.

11. Resolutions and Ordinances

- a. Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution authorizing the Town of Windham to apply for a grant through the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Haynes MOVED, to adopt resolution # 2512.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

Whereas: The Town is engaged in public and private partnerships to revitalize and re-build the Downtown and other areas of Town; and

Whereas: The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funding through their Community Challenge Planning Grant; and

Whereas: The Town of Windham is in need of assistance to revise its zoning regulations and to examine various transportation and development corridors so that those corridors address and integrate housing, compatible land uses, economic competitiveness, revitalization, efficient energy use, climate change strategies, public health and environmental impacts;

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council for the Town of Windham, CT, that the Town Manager is authorized to submit an application for assistance to HUD for not more than \$65,000 with an in-kind match of \$55,000; and further that the Town Manager is authorized to sign said grant and execute contract documents as necessary on behalf of the Town.

Howe seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

- a. Administration & Finance, Health and Human Services Sub Committee
Chairman Donohue noted that they meet on Wednesday and have a very full agenda.
- b. Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee
Chairman Iazzetta noted that they did not have a meeting and that the next meeting will have a very full agenda.

13. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on a recommendation from the Economic Development Commission to place an Alternate Member on a leave of absence.
After extensive discussion, Howe MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to postpone indefinitely action to place an Alternate Member of the Economic Development Committee on a leave of absence. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Iazzetta and Haynes who were opposed.

- b. Discussion and possible action on a recommendation of the Town Council's Subcommittee for Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation to convert the Lauter Park baseball field to soccer fields.

After extensive discussion, Donohue MOVED, Haynes seconded, to send this item back to the Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee with the charge of looking at the fullest utilization of our sporting fields and to retain a comprehensive study, but to encourage the committee to make a speedy decision on the Lauter Park field. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Underwood and Rivera who were opposed.

14. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract providing for voluntary participation by Windham residents and small businesses in a program with discounted electric rates from Direct Energy.

Howe MOVED, Rivera seconded, to authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract providing for voluntary participation by Windham residents and small businesses in a program with discounted electric rates from Direct Energy. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Future Agenda Items

Noted.

16. Citizens and Delegations

Lori Jeffers, congratulated Jose Lopez on his appointment. She felt comments about an "Italian temper" were inappropriate. She suggested when the Town Attorney is present for particular items, it should be moved up on the agenda to ensure he doesn't waste time and money being here. She asked for a re-vote on the magnet school.

Dan Hill, thanked the Council for sending the Lauter Park item back to the Committee.

Tom Devivo, thanked the Council for their support, and noted that he can make daytime meetings if necessary. He feels we need this school for our families and the community, but noted that clear guidance is needed. He also encouraged Mayor to consider Tony Frantolli for the Committee.

Caesar Castro, noted that he relocated here to be near his family and to make this his home and because he likes it here. He does not feel there is a conflict of him being on the EDC.

Henry Crane, feels that it is always the same people who gets picked for Committees, but was happy to see Jose Lopez appointed.

Kay Haskell, is happy to live here in Town and supports and appreciates the Town Council. She understand that the Town Manager and Mayor had good reason to bring the issue forward to the EDC, but that it wasn't the EDC's decision to remove anyone when the Officials appointed.

James Flores happy about the decision to postpone indefinitely the issue about EDC. He congratulated Jose Lopez on his appointment.

Mark Phelps, thanked the Council for being re-appointed, and noted that there are many decisions that still need to be made.

17. Adjournment

Howe MOVED, Donohue seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council at 9:30 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

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