

**TOWN OF WINDHAM
TOWN COUNCIL**

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Town Council meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Christel Donahue, Kevin Donohue, Erika Haynes, David Howe Sr., Jerry Iazzetta, Mike Lessard, 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

Lincoln Philips, 179 Church Street, discovered on Bellevue Street Saturday while cleaning up property, 3 hypodermic needles which he then turned over to the Chief of Police who was in attendance this evening. He urged the Council to help battle this problem by giving the Police Department the resources they need to help.

Peter Quercia, expressed concern for the commotion, graffiti and trash left at the high school this weekend. He also noted the lights on the scoreboard have been on for days and the booth could be ransacked because it isn't locked.

Jean deSmet, noted on October 9th there is a cooperative fiesta from 11-4 on the sidewalks on Main Street. She also noted that Tuckie Road will need a lot of work if the school is put in there.

Kevin Hoxie, thanked the Willimantic Police Department for their efforts the last 3 months. He noted last weekend there were 150 students in the middle of the afternoon partying in the street and there were 280 calls to the police in a 12 hour period. He urged ECSU to hold the kids responsible by expelling them and not holding the landlords responsible because they have not control over them. He also feels that Windham should send the Police bill for overtime to ECSU.

Larry Kellog, Spring Street, has been dealing with the students for 26 plus years and he applauds the Willimantic Police for their response but feels that the ECSU police should be responsible for the off-campus housing residents.

Lorraine McDevitt, noted the event this past weekend at Windham High School noting that there were over 2,000 people in attendance and it was a success. She feels it should be applauded that there was a constructive event for the kids in our Town that brought in visitors.

Lordez Montalvo, feels there are many positive things that ECSU students do for our community and it should be recognized that not all are trouble makers.

Den Padini, ECSU VP of Student Affairs, apologized for the behavior of the students, noting this is not a new issue unique to Windham. He discussed a \$300,000 grant to help Willi P.D. and initiatives in control. He stated that they have been working with Matt Vertefuille, Windham Code Enforcement to identify problem houses/landlords/tenants.

Henry Crane, appreciate the kids and what they do for the community, but they are taking over the Town. He urged the Council to enforce this.

Lori Jeffers, noted that the biggest part of the budget is the schools and discussed the kids

missed bus. She asked for a re-vote on the magnet school.

Tony Fantolli, urged the Council to look at the recommendations from the Public Safety Committee to widen the road. He noted that the residents shouldn't have to pay for this. Tom DeVivo, noted that funding for the fixes to Tuckie Road would be up to the Town, adding that Magnet School monies cannot be used for this. He suggested a long term solution and money be sought to fix the entire road.

Willimantic Police Chief is working in conjunction with Coventry, Windham, the D.E.A. and W.C.M.H. to hold a prescription drug turn in from 10am to 2pm at Windham Hospital.

Leo Santucci, asked the Council if they think you can have a desirable community with out having good families in the community. He asked them to figure out how to attract them and promote good values in our community.

4. Adoption of Minutes

- a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the September 7, 2010 Town Council public hearing meeting minutes
Santucci MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt the September 7, 2010 Town Council public hearing meeting minutes . MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Resignations

The following resignations were submitted:

It was noted that Mike Lessard, from the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) resigned, adding that he felt he could have really added to this Committee.

6. Appointments

Santucci MOVED, Underwood seconded, to group items 6a-e together for approval. The motion to group passed UNANIMOUSLY.

Santucci MOVED, Underwood seconded, to approval all appointments. MOTION PASSED with all but Lessard who was opposed.

- a. Discussion and possible action to re-appoint Joseph Marsalisi to the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission.
See motion above.
- b. Discussion and possible action to appoint Mark Doyle to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a Board of Education representative.
See motion above.
- c. Discussion and possible action to appoint Murphy A. Sewall to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a Board of Education representative.
See motion above.
- d. Discussion and possible action to appoint Jeffrey H. Smith to the Ad-Hoc Committee to address Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching (SIFT) as a Board of Finance representative.
See motion above.
- e. Discussion and possible action to appoint Recycling Coordinator Scott Clairmont as an Alternate to the Mid Northeast Recycling Operating Committee (MIDNEROC).
See motion above.

7. Presentations & Special Reports

- a. Chamber of Commerce presentation on tourism opportunities and visitor activities in our region.
Postponed.

8. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported on the following noteworthy items: Julia de Burgos celebration of Poetry. Arnaldo Rivera summarized the events which went well and brings together people from different ethnicities. He thanked all who helped make it happen.

9. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Neal Beets reported on the following noteworthy items: Many different communications being sent out regarding Windham Hospital and health care options through Blue Cross and Blue Shields. He noted they are currently in negotiations.

10. Discussion and Review of Communications

None.

11. Resolutions and Ordinances

- a. Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution to authorize Town Manager Neal J. Beets to sign an agreement for the downtown parking garage feasibility study.
Iazzetta MOVED, Rivera seconded, to adopt a resolution # 2516.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

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

"Agreement Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Windham for the Parking Garage Feasibility Study and Parking Program Plan Utilizing Federal Funds Under the Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program."

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discussion and possible action to amend or adopt an ordinance relating to setting a weight limit for vehicles on Card Street.
Iazzetta MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to continue this item to allow for a continued public hearing on October 19th. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Santucci and Haynes who were opposed.
- a. Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution requesting that the State Board of Trustees for Connecticut State Universities change their policies to allow the Student Code of Conduct to apply to off-campus misconduct and to authorize and direct campus police to respond proactively to off-campus parties and misconduct in surrounding communities.
Iazzetta MOVED, Lessard seconded, the resolution but changing the wording to urge other universities to do the same. MOTION FAILED with all opposed except Iazzetta and Lessard.

Santucci MOVED, to adopt resolution # 2515

A Resolution of the Windham Town Council Regarding Policies of the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System

Whereas, the Town of Windham has experienced many incidents where students from Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) have been arrested for Breach of Peace and cited for other violations of law (see attachments); and

Whereas, these incidents of student misconduct have occurred off-campus thereby repeatedly disrupting the peaceful and beneficial enjoyment of their property by other Town residents; and

Whereas, Town representatives have met with ECSU officials to discuss these incidents of student misconduct; and

Whereas, ECSU has explained that, subject to certain exceptions, the policies of the Board of Trustees prevent ECSU from applying the Student Code of Conduct to off-campus misconduct by Eastern students; and

Whereas, ECSU has further explained that, subject to certain exceptions, legal guidance from the Connecticut Attorney General's Office prevents them from having ECSU Police respond proactively to student misconduct off-campus;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Windham Town Council, that the Town Council urges the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System to:

1. Amend Connecticut State University System policies so that the Student Code of Conduct applies to student misconduct that occurs in a host city or town, whether on-campus or off-campus; and
2. Work with the state Attorney General's Office and, if necessary, the State Legislature, to allow the deployment of state university police, along with local law enforcement officers, to off-campus college party houses or other locations in the host city or town when college students are reportedly breaking the law.

Donohue seconded the motion. After extensive discussion, Santucci MOVED THE QUESTION, Donohue seconded. MOTION to move the question, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION PASSED with all in favor except Iazzetta, McDevitt, Howe and Lessard who were all opposed.

12. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

- a. Town Council Subcommittee on Administration, Finance, Health and Human Services.
Have not met yet.
- b. Town Council Subcommittee on Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works.
Chairman Iazzetta stated that the sidewalks issue has been sent to the PZC and they have not heard back yet; CL&P has not come back with an easement location; there was a ballparks study meeting in September, noting 6 or 7 of the 30 invited showed up; traffic report from BSC Group on Tuckie Road was distributed.
Magnet School Building Committee.
Tom DeVivo thanked for appointing Nancy Tinker; soil testing has been done at site and no issues have been found; meeting with St. Joseph's next Monday.

13. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action relating to recommendations from the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Works, Public Safety, and Recreation, and from the Magnet School Building Committee relating to improvements to Tuckie Road.
Discussion took place regarding the memo from BSC Group dated January 29, 2010 regarding Tuckie Road traffic report that pertained to turning and bypass lanes.

14. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action relating to the process for Town funding of non-profit agencies, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Administration, Finance, Health and Humans Services.

Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the process for Town funding of non-profit agencies, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Administration, Finance, Health and Humans Services. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Iazzetta who abstained.

- b. Discussion and a possible motion to recess to an executive session with Town Manager Neal Beets to discuss his performance evaluation.

Haynes MOVED, Rivera seconded, to recess to an executive session at 9:04 p.m. with Town Manager Neal Beets to discuss his performance evaluation. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Mayor Eldridge who was opposed.

**Executive session ended at 9:30 p.m.

- b. Discussion and possible action relating to the performance evaluation of Town Manager Neal Beets.

Iazzetta MOVED, Rivera seconded, to postpone action regarding the performance evaluation of Town Manager Neal Beets. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Future Agenda Items and Public Meetings

Items a & b were noted.

16. Citizens and Delegations

Lori Jeffers noted that if ECSU was not in Willimantic we would get no PILOT funds. She asked for a re-vote on the Magnet School.

Henry Crane, noted the apology from ECSU isn't real until the staff/administration deals with the issue and takes action.

James Flores stated he is not going to complain about the magnet school because he didn't vote and urged others to do the same.

Lourdes Montalvo, reminded the Council that changes don't happen overnight, adding that 10 top U.S. teachers graduated from ECSU.

Jerry Iazzetta, noted that Windham Center and North Windham schools are on state roads not local roads and both are wider than 22 feet, unlike Tuckie Road. He urged that we not put a school in an area where we already have a problem.

Jessie Shea, Co-Chairman of the Windham Relay For Life urged citizens and Council members to come to the event on October 16th and 17th.

17. Adjournment

Santucci MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council at 9:40 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Jessie L. Shea
Clerk of the Town Council