

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, November 16, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.



1. Call to Order

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Town Council meeting to order at 7:07 pm

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S Eldridge, Kevin Donohue, Erika Haynes, Jerry Iazzetta, Arnaldo Rivera, Teresa Santucci, N. Joseph Underwood, Christel Donahue and Mike Lessard.

Town Council members excused: David Howe Sr. and Lorraine McDevitt.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, noted that the article in the newspaper regarding the incident that took place at Windham High School during the November 2, 2010 State Election was incorrect and that she had no involvement in calling the police on James Flores. She said many people were complaining about Mr. Flores both to the poll workers and to the Registrar of Voters because of his signs. She explained what she thought to have taken place.

Lynn Duval, 700 Main Street, Willimantic, believes Trick or Treat on Main Street is the best event the Town has. She noted she disagreed with the article in the newspaper and she felt the event wasn't as well attended because Halloween fell on a Sunday. She noted that the event was started by John French and the downtown business council and has put a smile on many children's faces. She thanked both the residents and businesses for participating.

Leo Santucci, 74 Windham Street, asked why the Noise Ordinance isn't being enforced. Mr. Santucci noted another incident of a loud car screeching down the street. He would like to know how the Police could extend their services to North Windham when they can't enforce a Noise Ordinance here in town. He also stated 3 out of 5 lights across the street were out.

Tom DeVivo, gave a brief report on the Magnet School. He explained the present bidding process and would like the Council to support a commission-based bidder. He stated WINCOG also endorsed this concept. He noted Skanska & Arcadis would be holding

workshops. He also stated all the easements are in place for the Magnet School and they are hoping to break ground around the first of the year.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the October 19, 2010 Town Council 5:30 p.m. continuation public hearing minutes.

Santucci MOVED, Iazzetta seconded, to adopt the October 19, 2010 Town Council 5:30 p.m. continuation public hearing minutes with the correction of the date. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Lessard, Haynes and Rivera who abstained.

b. Discussion and possible action to adopt the October 19, 2010 Town Council 6:00 p.m. public hearing minutes.

Santucci MOVED, Iazzetta seconded, to adopt the October 19, 2010 Town Council 6:00 p.m. public hearing minutes with the correction of the date and time and amending the name of Canton to Kenton. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Lessard, Haynes and Rivera who abstained.

c. Discussion and possible action to adopt the October 19, 2010 Town Council regular meeting minutes

Santucci MOVED, Iazzetta seconded, to adopt the October 19, 2010 Town Council regular meeting minutes with the correction of the date. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Lessard who abstained.

5. Resignations

NONE.

6. Appointments

a. Discussion and possible action to appoint Jean de Smet to the Energy Commission as a full member with term ending April 20, 2010.

Santucci MOVED, Haynes seconded to appoint Jean de Smet to the Energy Commission as a full member with term ending April 20, 2010. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discussion and possible action to appoint Lynn Duval to the Eastern Connecticut Tourism District as the Town of Windham Representative.

Santucci MOVED, Haynes seconded, to appoint Lynn Duval to the Eastern Connecticut Tourism District as the Town of Windham Representative. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Discussion and possible action to appoint Teresa Santucci to the Thread City Development Corporation as a Town Council Representative.

Haynes MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint Teresa Santucci to the Thread City Development Corporation as a Town Council Representative. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Donohue asked to amend the agenda to add CL&P under Presentations & Special Reports. Haynes MOVED, Santucci seconded, to amend the agenda to add CL&P to the agenda under Presentations & Special Reports. All in favor with One Abstention from Iazzetta. **MOTION PASSED.**

7. Presentations & Special Reports

a. CL&P gave a brief report on the proposed new transformer locations

The spokesperson for CL&P handed out 2 drawings: one on the Existing CL&P Transformer Locations around Windham and one on the Proposed New CL&P Transformer Locations. He explained what the current power regulations are and why it is so important to upgrade our current system. He stated the system currently in place is 4,800 volts and the new proposed system would be a 23,000 volt system. He also explained the difficulties in maintaining underground transformers. He believes it is necessary for the Economic growth of the Town.

MOTION: Underwood MOVED, Rivera seconded, to send the resolution back to the Public Safety, Recreation & Public Works Subcommittee. All in favor except Haynes, Donohue, Santucci and Donahue who opposed. **MOTION PASSED.**

8. Mayor's Report

a. Update on Senior Center feasibility study

No report on Senior Center feasibility study.

Mayor Eldridge thanked the Council for a great first year. He said it has been 1 year since he was elected and he couldn't have done it without them. Mayor Eldridge stated he also received a letter from Peter Quercia regarding graffiti on the curbing near his house and Council has been given a copy. After a brief discussion, Councilman Donohue stated the Town has a process and the Council should not be addressing this issue. Councilman Donohue, feels it should be handled by Matt Vertefeuille, the Code Enforcement Officer. Mayor Eldridge also reported on the following items: Trick or Treat on Main Street-Thank you to Lynn Duval and all the downtown businesses; Kay Haskell, who served on several committees is moving to South Carolina, she will be missed; Amount of money being spent on advertising for Public Hearings is growing and is asking the Town Council to look closer at things before sending to Public Hearings-possibly consider having Public Forums; asked Council if all had received, read and are satisfied with the letter regarding Mr. Beets' evaluation-is being put in his file.

9. Town Manager's Report

a. Update on budget preparations for FY 2010-11

Mr. Beets reported that the budget process is beginning. He stated he has met with Department Heads and has asked for a net 0 increase although he is aware that we have contractual obligations in payroll and medical co-pays. He also stated that he asked the Department Heads to make a list of what they believe is necessary to run their individual departments and he will share those lists with the Council. He

believes it is going to be another tough year and he is waiting to see what happens with the State. The time frame is as follows:

1/15/2011–Department Head Budgets; 2/28/2011-Town Managers Budget;
3/15/2011-Recommended Budget to Board of Finance.

Mr. Beets also reported receiving an email from Paula Stahl, Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission. He noted that Ms. Stahl said the Commission is revising the commercial zoning regulations and the site plan for WCMH 30,000 sq ft buildings has been approved. He explained she also said the proposed buildings 2 & 3 are in an RPO Zone, which allows for residential and offices and was made to accommodate smaller buildings and that she is proposing the Commission create a Hospital/Medical Zone.

Mr. Beets in addition reported, as well as the 1 year anniversary of Mayor Eldridge and himself, it was also the 1 year anniversary of Cafemantic-Congratulations Andrew Gutt; Friday, November 26th is the Festival of Lights with a procession from Memorial Park to Jillson Square. Mr. Beets encourages everyone to attend.

10. Discussion and Review of Communications

NONE.

11. Resolutions and Ordinances

- a. **Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution to amend #2507 that formed the Ad-Hoc Committee on Strategic Initiatives to Finance Education (SIFT) by changing the interim report and final report dates.**

Haynes MOVED, Underwood seconded to adopt resolution #2520.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

Resolution # 2507 that formed the Ad-Hoc Committee on Strategic Initiatives to Finance Education (SIFT) be amended by replacing the language on # 2 as follow:

2. SIFT shall produce an interim report by March 15, 2011 and a final report by June 30, 2011, at which time it shall sunset;

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution to accept roadway to be known as Victory Lane and move to a Town Meeting on December 21, 2010.**

Santucci MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adopt resolution #2521

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

The Town of Windham accept a Roadway to be known as Victory Lane and described as follows:

Beginning at an intersection with High Street and extending approximately 773 feet in easterly direction with a width of fifty feet, terminating in a cul-de-sac with a radius of fifty-five feet, as shown on a map to be filed in the Windham Town Clerk's Office entitled, "As-built Subdivision Plan Prepared for Dan Ouimette Builders, LLC #485 & 507 High Street Windham, Connecticut, Date 8/11/10 Scale 1"=40', Book No. 433, Disc No. 71(11), CAD DWG. 05183AS, Drawn JHB, Checked MDM, Sheet No. 10f 1, Job No. 05-183" Towne Engineering, Inc. Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors

Said roadway contains 43,200 square feet more or less or 0.99 acres.

And to accept a 48 foot wide utility easement across portions of lots 5 and 6 and 78 Horizon Drive from Daniel Ouimette and Dan Ouimette Builders, LLC. , as shown on the above described map.

To move to a Town Meeting on December 21, 2010.

MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Iazzetta who abstained.

- c. Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution for CL&P easements for equipment on Town of Windham property and move to a Town Meeting on December 21, 2010.**
Consensus of the Council to send Item 11c to Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee.
- d. Discussion and possible action to set a public hearing for December 7, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. to hear public comment on proposed BLIGHT and Housing Code Ordinance.**
Consensus of the Council was to add Item 11d back on the regular Town Council agenda on December 7, 2010 to review the ordinance before going to public hearing.
- e. Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution authorizing Neal J. Beets to sign the Urban Green Grant Agreement between the Town of Windham and State of Connecticut.**
Lessard MOVED, Rivera seconded, to adopt resolution #2522.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

That **Town Manager Neal J. Beets**, of the **Town of Windham** be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the **Town of Windham** a **Urban Green Grant Agreement** under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance authorized by Public Act 2005-228 Section 6 to acquire, reclaim or enhance open space for passive recreation. This project, **REC Park Restoration UGCG-14 2010** is to be managed as open space land pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that **Neal J. Beets** was **appointed, Town Manager**. His term of office began on **October 26, 2009** and will continue indefinitely. As the **Town Manager**, **Neal J. Beets** serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the **Town of Windham** and on **December 7, 2010** had both the authority and the office to sign on behalf of the **Town of Windham** a **Grant Agreement** for financial assistance **for the removal of the existing fencing, trash, and debris, clearing out invasive plants and underbrush, and to establish walking trails.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- f. **Discussion and possible action to set a public hearing for January 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to hear public comment regarding an amendment to Section 13-161 Sidewalk required; width; specifications for construction of the Code of Ordinances.**

Consensus of the Council was to add Item 11f back on the regular Town Council agenda on December 7, 2010.

12. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

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

No Meeting.

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

Councilman Iazzetta reported that the subcommittee discussed the CL&P easement and voted to bring it to the Town Council without recommendation. He stated they also discussed the resolution regarding Victory Lane, the bids for radiant heaters at the Willimantic Fire Complex as well as the bids for the Summit Street survey services and the installation of occupancy sensors at the Kramer Building. Councilman Iazzetta also noted the meeting on November 25, 2010 is cancelled and the subcommittee may meet in December.

- c. **SIFT: Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Initiatives for Financing Teaching**

Councilman Haynes reported the fiscal challenges we will be facing in the next 5 years. She noted the subcommittee has spoken to some Educational experts from the State and they are arranging to have some speakers come in within the next few months. Councilman Haynes stated the subcommittee is hoping to create a public forum around the State and possibly the Country through a BLOG, which is currently waiting for formal approval. Haynes noted the next meeting is on Tuesday, November 23, 2010.

13. Old Business

NONE.

14. New Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action to approve the union agreement between the Town of Windham and Local 760 CSEA, Service Employees International Union for Water Department Employees from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012.**

Mr. Muirhead explained the 2-year agreement with regards to wages, overtime, insurance co-pays and the ING contributions and matches by the Town.

MOTION: Haynes MOVED, Rivera seconded, that the Tentative Agreement between the Town of Windham and Local 760 CSEA, SEIU be accepted and that the Town Manager be authorized to execute a new collective bargaining agreement in accordance with the terms of the aforementioned tentative agreement. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Discussion and possible recommendations to the Town of Windham Registrars regarding polling places in the Town of Windham.

Mayor Eldridge stated he was at the WCFD the entire day of the Election and the traffic was indeed a problem. He feels a new location should be considered to accommodate the people. Mrs. Lescoe, Democratic Registrar of Voters, addressed the Town Council and stated the Registrars are happy to listen to any suggestions regarding a change in location from the WCFD. She noted the Registrars had visited 17 locations within the Town with the State and are currently scheduling a meeting to look at alternative locations. She stated she will keep the Council informed and encourages them to speak to the residents for any input.

c. Discussion and possible action to authorize Town Manager Neal J. Beets to send letter to WPCA asking them to waive the treatment fees for the Windham Splash Park.

Mr. Beets explained the fees for the Windham Splash Park were waived last year and he would like to ask the WPCA for another waiver this year.

Underwood MOVED, Lessard seconded, to authorize Town Manager Neal J. Beets to send letter to WPCA asking them to waive the treatment fees for the Windham Splash Park. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Discussion and possible action to award the installation of occupancy sensors in the Town Hall and Kramer Buildings to Ray's Electric in the amount of \$15,338.70

Underwood MOVED, Lessard seconded, to award the installation of occupancy sensors in the Town Hall and Kramer Buildings to Ray's Electric in the amount of \$15,338.70. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

e. Discussion and possible action to award the Summit Street survey services to Rob Helstrom Land Surveying in the amount of \$8,400.00.

Iazzetta MOVED, Donohue seconded, to award the Summit Street survey services to Rob Helstrom Land Surveying in the amount of \$8,400.00. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- f. **Discussion and possible action to award the installation of radiant heaters at the Willimantic Fire Complex to Fahrenheit Mechanical in the amount of \$56,000.00.**

Iazzetta MOVED, Underwood seconded, to award the installation of radiant heaters at the Willimantic Fire Complex to Fahrenheit Mechanical in the amount of \$56,000.00. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

15. Future Agenda Items

Purchase agreement for the Magnet School
Blight Ordinance
ATV Ordinance
Report on Ordinance for local bidders choice

16. Citizens and Delegations

Lori Jeffers, stated it was very hard to hear tonight and she asked the Council to speak louder at the next meeting. She reiterated her feelings about the incident that took place at the November 2nd Election.

Mayor Eldridge noted the Norwich Bulletin had a reporter at tonight's meeting and welcomed and thanked him for being there.

17. Adjournment

Iazzetta MOVED, Haynes seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council meeting at 9:07 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

**Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council**