

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, June 2, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Eldridge called the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:01P.M.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Mark Doyle, Michael Lessard, James Flores, Christel Donahue and Charlotte Patros

Joseph Underwood was absent.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to recess the Town Council meeting until the completion of the Town Meeting and the Public Hearing. All were in favor.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to reconvene the Town Council meeting at 7:45 P.M. All were in favor. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

Bill Powers, Scotland Road, Windham, spoke about the controversy of him holding a sign at Windham Center School to remind people to vote in the referendum.

Jeff Viens, Columbia resident and Windham taxpayer, believes the Town Council discriminated against bidders on the Bolivia Street property and cautioned them that it would come back to bite them.

Kevin Hoxie, Ridgewood Road, Willimantic, shared his concerns regarding the Windham Middle School having no Music teacher and losing Math teachers when the budget has passed.

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street, Willimantic, stated he was glad the Town meeting vote went to a Veteran however he wasn't pleased with the way the Town Council handled it.

Joe Marsalisi, Willimantic, commented on the Memorial Day Service and congratulated the Willimantic Police Department for the great job in showing their honor and pride.

Ray Chaput, Willimantic, explained that he is a lifelong resident of Willimantic and the Chaplain for the American Legion, AmVet Post II and the VFW and he is bothered that nobody knows who he is.

Chandler Rose, Candidate for the Assessor position, introduced himself to the Town Council.

4. Town Council Comment

James Flores commented on Memorial Day and the true meaning of the day.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes

a. Meeting of May 12, 2015

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to approve the Town Council meeting minutes of May 12, 2015. All were in favor except Doyle, Krich and Eldridge who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

b. Meeting of May 19, 2015

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the Town Council meeting minutes of May 19, 2015. All were in favor except Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Resignations

None

7. Appointments, Reappointments

a. Appoint Scott Lambeck as an Alternate Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, effective July 1, 2015, and with a term to end December 28, 2015.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to appoint Scott Lambeck as an Alternate Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, effective July 1, 2015, and with a term to end December 28, 2015. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Presentations & Special Reports

None

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported the Memorial Day Services were excellent. He also reported the Victorian Home Tour will be this weekend and tours of the Town Hall will be given. Mayor Eldridge noted he had also attended the SAMA Graduation.

In addition, Mayor Eldridge reported the Brass Orchestra Concert at the Congregational Church will be on Friday. He noted he would be unable to attend and asked if someone

was available to present them with a proclamation. DeVivo volunteered to present the proclamation.

McDevitt reported the Windham Regional Arts Council in Artspace will be open from 5:00 P.m. to 9:00 P.M. during the month of June. Parking will be available in the Jillson lot.

Mayor Eldridge noted the Business of the Year award was given to CLICK.

10. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Beets provided the Town Council with a letter he had received from John McGrath indicating there are several parts in the Ethics Ordinance that need clarification. He asked the Town Council for their consent to invite Mr. McGrath the Chairman of the Ethics Commission and the other Ethics Commission members to the Town Council Work Study meeting on September 8th. Town Manager Beets also noted the Ethics Ordinance is on the Town's website.

Town Manager Beets also reported authorization from the Town Meeting, Board of Finance and Town Council on the energy lease at the Board of Education has resulted in a savings of \$152,024 with Webster Bank who was the low bidder.

In addition, Town Manager Beets stated Unified Finance Director Chris Johnson was in attendance and would like to explain the stipend for Town employees and asked that the Town Council amend the agenda to add the item under Item 14a.

Town Manager Beets also answered questions from the Town Council including the status of the School Traffic Study.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications

a. Agendas, minutes, and reports from various Town boards, committees, and commissions.

DeVivo noted after reading the First Taxing District minutes it states the Town provides a services and neither Taxing District shall provide the same service. He has some concerns regarding the contract with the Dispatch Center as it appears the First Taxing District will have their own contract with them.

12. Resolutions and Ordinances

a. Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution approving a non-profit agency or agencies for inclusion in the 2015 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.

DeVivo read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to adopt Resolution #2661. All were in favor.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

The Windham Town Council approves the following agency submitting to the Town of Windham for inclusion in the Neighborhood Assistance Act for Program Year 2015:

<u>AGENCY NAME</u>	<u>PROGRAM TITLE</u>	<u>NAA FUNDING REQUESTED</u>	<u>PROGRAM DURATION</u>
Covenant Soup Kitchen, Inc	Greater Windham Gleaning Initiative	\$75,000	7/1/15 – 6/30/16

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to amend the agenda and add Item 14b, a proposal from our Unified Finance Director concerning the stipends for Town Employees. All were in favor. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions
None

14. Old Business

a. Discuss and possibly take action about marketing, sale, or development of the Town owned Tin Tsin Lot at 804-6 Main Street.

Town's RFP for Tin Tsin Lot

Proposal of George Hernandez, 2015.06.01

Economic Development Director Jim Bellano gave a brief update on the status of the RFP. He noted a response to the RFP was received from George Hernandez. Mr. Bellano explained the selection and award process for the RFP. A short discussion followed.

For the record, Krich stated he would like to request that there be particular attention made to financing on how this is going to be paid for. He asked that there be strict deadlines and that the financing be real and not imaginary.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to request the Town Manager move forward with the proposal presented by George Hernandez. All were in favor. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Proposal from our Unified Finance Director Chris Johnson regarding stipends for Town Employees.

Unified Finance Director Chris Johnson explained the stipends for the Town Employees and noted the importance of having the stipend. He also answered questions for the Town Council.

Krich read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.
Krich MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adopt Resolution #2662. All were in favor except Doyle who opposed.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Windham Town Council THAT

Effective July 1, 2015, the Town of Windham will increase the yearly gross payments to the employees who waive the health insurance benefits from the town. The yearly payment changes are as follow:

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Single coverage:	\$1,000 \$1,500
Double coverage:	\$2,000 \$3,000
Family coverage:	\$3,000 \$4,500

All such payments would be subject to withholding taxes and included on the employee's W-2. No employee will be allowed to waive coverage without providing written proof of health insurance coverage from another provider.

This resolution supersedes Resolution No. 2195 (adopted May 18, 2004).
This payment should be paid at the end each fiscal year during the month of June.

MOTION PASSED

15. New Business

- a. **Discuss and possibly take action about a new, 3-year collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME Council #4, Local 1303-116 (administrative, clerical staff in numerous Town departments).**
DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to approve a 3-year collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME Council #4, Local 1303-116. All were in favor.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- b. **Discuss and possibly take action about Town Council meeting times. (Request of Councilmembers Flores, Doyle, and DeVivo)**
McDevitt MOVED, Krich seconded, to keep the Windham Town Council meetings at 7:00 P.M. All were in favor except Doyle who opposed and Flores who abstained. MOTION PASSED.
- c. **Discuss and possibly confirm the Town Manager's appointment of Chandler Rose to be the Assessor for the Town of Windham effective Monday, June 29, 2015, at an annual salary of \$91,500.**
Town Manager Beets noted questions had arisen regarding the hiring date for

Mr. Rose. He explained the circumstances and a short discussion followed.

For the record, Flores just asked if a drug test and background check had been done and if those results had been received.

Fantoli MOVED, Doyle seconded, that Mr. Rose be hired on July 1st at the salary of \$95,232.00 under the new contract wording that was agreed upon in April. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Future Agenda Items
None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

George Hernandez invited the Town Council to the Family Community Expo at Jillson Square on Saturday, June 6, from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., put on by the Windham Public Schools.

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street, Willimantic, suggested the Town Council consider having a 2nd public comment at the end of their meetings. He also asked for clarification about fire lanes in parking areas and the equipment at the Dispatch Center.

James Flores commented on the need for drug and background checks for Town Employees. He also clarified he did not ask for any results of a drug or background check but simply asked if one was done. He noted he is fully aware of the process.

Paul Hongo, Human Resource Director, explained why he called for Point of Order when questions were being asked regarding drug and background checks. He stated a more appropriate option would be to go into Executive Session as certain personnel issues may not be discussed publicly. He apologized to Mr. Flores and the Town Council if he came across harshly.

Kevin Hoxie, Ridgewood Road, Willimantic, explained his understanding on the drug and background checks. He is concerned that our Police and Fire have no background or drug testing and stressed the importance of requiring them for all employees.

Tom DeVivo stated the Willimantic Service District will be holding their last meeting and he invited the entire Town Council to attend. He noted awards will be presented to the Police as well as the swearing in ceremony for the Police.

18. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular meeting at 9:28 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:
Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council

RECEIVED FOR RECORD

2015 JUN 15 P 2:13

Patricia P. Spence
WINDHAM TOWN CLERK