

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting



Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, October 4, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order.

Tom DeVivo, President of the Windham Town Council, called the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor Eldridge (arrived at 7:02 P.M.), Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Nectalis Martinez, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Mike Lessard, Dawn Niles (arrived at 7:04 P.M.), Dennis O'Brien and James Flores

Lynne Ide was excused.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom DeVivo, President of the Windham Town Council, led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

• **Recognize Participants in the Domestic Violence Poster Contest**

Nina Shea, School Social Worker at the ACT School and Patty Sue Brown from United Services Domestic Violence Program gave a brief overview of the Domestic Violence Poster contest. Some of the students spoke about their posters and what they represented.

The students were recognized by the Town Council and Mayor Eldridge and Councilmember Flores awarded the students with certificates for their participation in the contest.

Kevin Hoxie, Ridgewood Road, Willimantic, spoke in support of renewing the contract of Finance Director Christian Johnson.

Tom White, resident of Windham and Chair of the Board of Finance, spoke in support of renewing the contract of Finance Director Christian Johnson and noted all the members Board of Finance were in support of the contract being renewed.

Kevin Donohue, resident and member of the Board of Finance, spoke in support of renewing the contract of Finance Director Christian Johnson.

Tyler Griffin, resident and member of the Board of Finance, spoke in support of renewing the contract of Finance Director Christian Johnson.

Anita Sebestyen, resident and member of the Board of Finance, spoke in support of renewing the contract of Finance Director Christian Johnson.

Police Chief Rosado spoke in support of renewing the contract of Finance Director Christian Johnson.

David Mortlock, resident of Windham and Vietnam Veteran, spoke about his request to rename Watson Street and suggested an alternative Plan B for Town Council consideration. (See Attachment A).

Matt Vertefeulle, Director of Code Enforcement, spoke in support of renewing the contract of Finance Director Christian Johnson.

Dawn Niles noted the Holiday Committee had met and she provided information on the Santa Parade and the Holiday Toy Drive.

Mike Lessard provided information on the walk-in at Windham High School on Thursday at 7:00 A.M. to support the Windham Public Schools.

4. Town Council Comment.

None

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.

a. Regular Council Meeting of September 20, 2016.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Town Council Regular Meeting minutes of September 20, 2016. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Resignations.

a. Bill Powers from the Wells Building Committee.

Noted

7. Appointments, Reappointments, as recommended by the Nominating Commission.

None

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

a. Deputy PW Superintendent Scott Clairmont and Code Enforcement Director Matt Vertefeulle regarding new recycling stickers.

Deputy PW Superintendent Scott Clairmont and Code Enforcement Director Matt Vertefeulle spoke about the new recycling stickers that will be placed on all garbage cans to identify what items are recyclable in an effort to educate our residents.

b. Deputy PW Superintendent Scott Clairmont regarding the Leaf Collection schedule for 2016.

Deputy PW Superintendent Scott Clairmont provided the dates for leaf collection. He also noted a second collection was not guaranteed however he explained residents can bag leaves in biodegradable bags and call Public Works for them to be picked up.

9. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Eldridge reported on the event held at Memorial Park for Mike Beattie, the gentleman who rode his bike 12,000 miles to raise money to feed the hungry.

10. Town Manager's Report.

a. MicroGrid Update.

b. Soil First.

c. Troop K Citizen's Police Academy.

Town Manager Beets gave an update on the Micro-Grid project and noted the project is substantially complete as certified by the architect. He also noted the Middle School Roof replacement is 90-95% complete. He stated State Representative Johnson would like to honor the Building Committee for their work and stated the Committee will be invited to come before the Town Council in a month or so.

Town Manager Beets reported on the Soil First event at Lauter Park on Saturday October 15th at 10:00 A.M. He explained the program and noted it is part of an ongoing series of sustainable garden events.

Town Manager Beets reported on the Troop K Citizens Police Academy and provided information for the academy.

Town Manager Beets recognized Stan Parizo for his promotion to Lieutenant of the Willimantic Police Department and noted it was one of the best attended ceremonies with Representatives from other Police Departments coming from all over the State. He also noted it was a great tribute to Lt. Parizo as well as to the department.

Town Manager Beets provided the Town Council with a colorful map of Hurricane Matthew. He urged everyone to watch the path of the hurricane and noted Town personnel was also tracking the storm closely.

In addition, Town Manager Beets acknowledged the funding granted by Governor Malloy that provided funding to two entities in Windham. He noted the Housing Authority has received a \$4.867-million-dollar grant and the Murray/Hurley Building owners have received a \$2.57-million-dollar grant from the State Department of Housing.

Town Manager Beets also answered questions from the Town Council.

12. Discussion and Review of Agendas, Minutes, Reports of Town Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

Letter from David Mortlock regarding Plan B for the renaming of Watson Street.

13. Resolutions and Ordinances.

None

14. Old Business.

- a. Discuss and possibly approve a contract with Liberty Landscapes, LLC, for \$47,000 to reconstruct the hardball field at Rec Park using state LoCIP grant funds, as recommended by the Town Engineer and the Public Works, Public**

Safety, Environment, Culture, and Recreation Committee of the Town Council.

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to approve a contract with Liberty Landscapes, LLC, for \$47,000 to reconstruct the hardball field at Rec Park using state LoCIP grant funds, as recommended by the Town Engineer and the Public Works, Public Safety, Environment, Culture, and Recreation Committee of the Town Council.

15. New Business.

- a. Discuss and possibly approve a motion to renew a 3-year employment contract with the unified Finance Director, Christian Johnson, as recommended by the Town Manager.**

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to renew a 3-year employment contract with the unified Finance Director, Christian Johnson, as recommended by the Town Manager, subject to a redrafting of the contract.

Krich MOVED, Niles seconded, to table Item 15a. All were in favor except Martinez, McDevitt, DeVivo and O'Brien who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to take Item 15a off the table. All were in favor except Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

Niles MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to take a five-minute recess. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Eldridge reconvened the meeting at 8:07 P.M.

Town Manager Beets provided the Town Council with a copy of Finance Director Christian Johnson's evaluation and explained the evaluation.

Discussion ensued and the original motion was voted on.

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to renew a 3-year employment contract with the unified Finance Director, Christian Johnson, as recommended by the Town Manager, subject to a redrafting of the contract. All were in favor except Lessard and Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

- b. Discuss and possibly authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with Eversource to convert all cobra-head streetlights to LED bulbs, as recommended by the Public Works, Public Safety, Environment, Culture, and Recreation Committee of the Town Council.**

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with Eversource to convert all cobra-head streetlights to LED bulbs, as recommended by the Public Works, Public Safety, Environment, Culture, and Recreation Committee of the Town Council. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Discuss and possibly approve a motion to convene an executive session regarding the potential sale of town property (with the Town Manager and the Economic Development Director in attendance), and regarding a personnel matter (with the Town Manager in attendance).**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to convene an executive session regarding the potential sale of town property (with the Town Manager and the Economic Development Director in attendance), and regarding a personnel matter (with the Town Manager in attendance) at 8:35 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to come out of executive session at 9:10 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Discuss and possibly act on matters arising out of the foregoing executive session.

No action was taken.

16. Future Agenda Items

None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Jim Bellano noted the Connecticut Economic Development Association and Connecticut Main Street Center will be holding an event on Thursday, October 6th at 4:00 P.M. called The Downtown Willimantic Experience. Mr. Bellano explained the event and invited everyone to attend.

Finance Director Christian Johnson thanked the Town Council for their support.

Tom DeVivo recognized Captain Ray Chaput who was recently appointed as the State Veterans Chaplain.

James Flores spoke about people questioning him on why people are denied the opportunity to speak twice at the Town Council meeting.

18. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting at 9:17 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted by

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

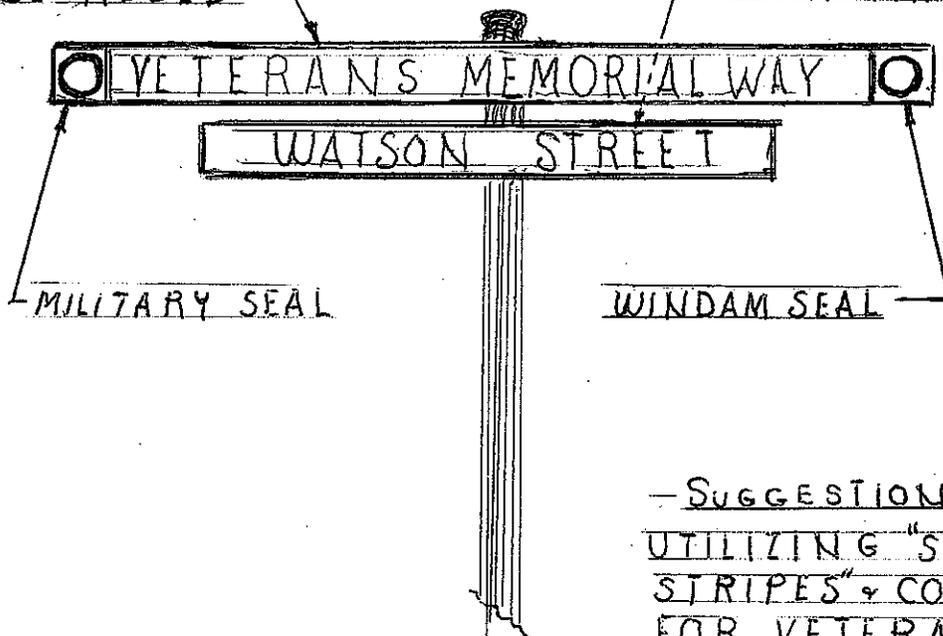
Sep. 28, '16

PLAN 'B'

SUBMITTED 9/28/16

NEWER SIGN TO BE ADDED

EXISTING SIGN TO REMAIN (LOWER)



- SUGGESTION -
UTILIZING "STARS + STRIPES" + COLORS FOR VETERANS SIGNAGE

INTERSECTIONS (2)
OF

- A. MAIN + WATSON ST.
- B. WATSON + VALLEY ST.

SUBMITTED BY

David Northcutt

Endorse - Sept. 28, '16

Signature