

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, October 6, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.



1. Call to Order.

Mayor Eldridge called the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

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

Joseph Underwood and Mark Doyle were excused.

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: Public Comment.

Gil Texeira, South Street, Willimantic, apologized to the Moore family for speaking at the earlier meeting about an unrelated issue. He also spoke about the traffic issue on South Street.

Wendy Love, Ash Street, Willimantic, spoke about the email she sent to the Town Council regarding her CDBG loan.

Leo Morris, 321 Prospect Street, Willimantic, spoke against conveying Windham Street Extension to ECSU.

Tracy Lambert, Mansfield Avenue, Willimantic, and Chair of the BOE spoke in favor of replacing the Middle School Roof and requested a BOE member be appointed to the Micro Grid Committee as a voting member.

4. Town Council Comment.

James Flores spoke about increasing voter turnout and the Town Council focusing on one project rather than several projects at one time. He also stated for the record "Juan Flores-Alvarez is no relation to him". (Mr. Flores-Alvarez is a candidate on the November ballot)

Tom DeVivo stated the community needs work on all aspects. He also acknowledged the concerns of Ms. Love and noted because it wasn't an item on the agenda it would not be discussed tonight.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.

a. Study Session of September 8, 2015.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Town Council Study Session minutes of September 8, 2015. All were in favor except Donahue who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

b. Regular Meeting of September 15, 2015

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the Town Council regular meeting minutes of September 15, 2015. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to move Item #15d & 15e up on the agenda to follow Item #5b and to move Item #13a up to follow Item 8a. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. d. Discuss and possibly approve a request from VFW Post 1724, at 1415 Main Street, for the Town to authorize gambling equipment obtained through the Connecticut State Lottery to be located on the premises in light of the deed from the Town to the VFW.

Fantoli MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to approve a request from VFW Post 1724, at 1415 Main Street, for the Town to authorize gambling equipment obtained through the Connecticut State Lottery to be located on the premises in light of the deed from the Town to the VFW. All were in favor except Krich who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

e. Discuss and possibly approve a request from Shaboo Productions, Horizons, and Willibrew to serve alcohol at a special music event and fundraiser at Recreation Park on June 25 and 26, 2016, subject to compliance with all state and Town requirements including, but not limited to, the requirements of the Police Chief, Health Department, and Fire Marshall.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve a request from Shaboo Productions and Horizons, to serve alcohol at a special music event and fundraiser at Recreation Park on June 25 and 26, 2016, subject to compliance with all state and Town requirements including, but not limited to, the requirements of the Police Chief, Health Department, and Fire Marshall. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Resignations.

None

7. Appointments, Reappointments.

None

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

a. Hear a Presentation from the Micro-Grid Building Committee, and possibly take action. (See Resolution, Item 13.a.).

Michael Callahan, Chair of the Micro-Grid Building Committee and Bob Roach, Architect from Friar Associates, gave a presentation on the Micro-Grid Project. They

reviewed the Micro-Grid and roof project budget and explained the benefits and potential cost savings of replacing the Middle School Roof as part of the project. They also answered questions from the Town Council.

13. a. **Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution authorizing the BOE to apply for a state grant to replace the Windham Middle School Roof and to empower the Micro-Grid Building Committee to handle the Middle School Roof Project.**

DeVivo read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt Resolution #2664. All were in favor except Fantoli who opposed.

RESOLVED:

To authorize the Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education for a grant in the amount of \$3,113,897.00 for the proposed Middle School roof project;

That, subject to appropriation for the Middle School roof project, the Ad Hoc Sweeney Elementary & Windham Middle School Micro-Grid Building Committee be authorized to perform such duties as are required by a school building committee to carry out the Middle School roof project, including preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications contingent on Board of Education approval.

MOTION PASSED.

- b. **Hear a Presentation about the proposed renovation of the cellblocks at the Willimantic Police Department, and possibly direct the Town's Bond Counsel to draft a Resolution authorizing the sale of bonds, notes, or other debt instruments to pay for this improvement, subject to the approval of the Town Council, Board of Finance, and Town Meeting.**

Town Engineer Joe Gardner and Architect Paul Jorgensen from Silver/Petrucci & Associates gave a presentation on the proposed renovations of the cellblocks at the Willimantic Police Department. They reviewed the design and cost of the project and answered questions from the Town Council.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to move forward and direct the Town Manger and Town's Bond Counsel to draft a Resolution authorizing the sale of bonds, notes, or other debt instruments to pay for this improvement, subject to the approval of the Town Council, Board of Finance, and Town Meeting. All were in favor except Krich who opposed. **MOTION PASSED.**

9. **Mayor's Report.**

Mayor Eldridge reported on the upcoming Salsa Festival & Chocolate Tasting events at [CLICK](#).

10. **Town Manager's Report.**

Town Manager Beets reported on the following:

- The CDBG Flyer sent to residents in the Water bills.
- The Renter Rebate Program and its 755 applicants
- The Programs offered at the Windham Senior Center

- The Mill Museum – signed lease, outside agency agreement & insurance coverage

Town Manager Beets also answered questions from the Town Council.

11. Discussion and Review of Citizen Communications to Council.

Email request from Wendy Love regarding her CDBG loan.

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

Tom DeVivo asked about the Ethics pledge and how it was distributed.

13. Resolutions and Ordinances.

- Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution authorizing the BOE to apply for a state grant to replace the Windham Middle School Roof and to empower the Micro-Grid Building Committee to handle the Middle School Roof Project.**
Moved up on the agenda to follow Item #8a
- Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to negotiate the conveyance of Windham Street Extension to the State of Connecticut, subject to the Town Council and Town Meeting approving a final agreement.**
No Action Taken

14. Old Business.

- Discuss and possibly approve a motion to convene an executive session to discuss the potential acquisition and sale of property for a Senior Center with the Town Attorney, the Human Services Director, and the Town Manager.**
DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve a motion to convene an executive session at 8:25 P.M. to discuss the potential acquisition and sale of property for a Senior Center with the Town Attorney, the Human Services Director, and the Town Manager. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to come out of executive session at 8:54 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

No Action Taken.

- Discuss and possibly give policy direction regarding the Traffic Calming Ordinance enacted by the Board of Selectmen in 2009.**
DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to request the Mayor and Nominating Committee find suitable citizens to serve on the Traffic Calming Committee. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. New Business.

- Discuss and possibly approve a contract with Eastford Fire & Rescue Sales, Inc. for \$199,979.00 to purchase a new ambulance.**
DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve a contract with Eastford Fire & Rescue Sales, Inc. for \$199,979.00 to purchase a new ambulance. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discuss and possibly approve a contract with Vision Government Services, Inc., for \$39,725 to purchase and maintain new assessment software for the Town Assessor's Office.**
DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve a contract with Vision Government Services, Inc., for \$39,725 to purchase and maintain new assessment software for the Town Assessor's Office. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- c. Discuss and possibly approve a contract with Dynamic Engineering for \$4,740 to insulate certain floors in Town Hall.**
Flores MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to approve a contract with Dynamic Engineering for \$4,740 to insulate certain floors in Town Hall. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- d. Discuss and possibly approve a request from VFW Post 1724, at 1415 Main Street, for the Town to authorize gambling equipment obtained through the Connecticut State Lottery to be located on the premises in light of the deed from the Town to the VFW.**
Moved up on the agenda to follow Item #5b
- e. Discuss and possibly approve a request from Shaboo Productions, Horizons, and Willibrew to serve alcohol at a special music event and fundraiser at Recreation Park on June 25 and 26, 2016, subject to compliance with all state and Town requirements including, but not limited to, the requirements of the Police Chief, Health Department, and Fire Marshall.**
Moved up on the agenda to follow Item #5b

16. Future Agenda Items

- a. Tuesday, October 20, 2015: 7PM Regular Meeting.** Naming a portion of Lauter Park for Cora Moore.

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Christel Donahue noted tonight was her last meeting as a Council member. She expressed her gratitude to the Council and the residents who supported her. She also wished those candidates running for office the best of luck.

James Flores encouraged voter participation.

Charles Krich stated he was sorry to see Council member Donahue leave and he spoke of her passion and commitment to the community as well as the talent and energy she gave to her work in the community.

18. Adjournment

Flores 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 Town Council