

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Study Session

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, November 10, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.



1. Call to Order.

Mayor Eldridge called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

In attendance: Mayor Eldridge and Councilmembers DeVivo, Doyle, Fantoli, Flores, Lessard, and McDevitt. Absent: Councilmembers Donahue, Krich, Patros, and Underwood.

Also present was Town Manager Neal Beets.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Eldridge led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Henry Crane, of Willimantic, spoke about not ignoring Spanish speakers.

Delia Berlin, of Willimantic, spoke about Spanish translations on the election ballot.

Doug Lary, of Willimantic, spoke about the election ballot and Spanish voters.

Rep. Susan Johnson, of Willimantic, spoke about the issue of the Spanish translation on the ballot.

Bill Powers, of Windham, spoke about the right to vote and understanding the ballot.

4. Town Council Comment.

Councilmember Lessard spoke about veterans recognition activities at Windham High School.

Councilmember Flores spoke about the African-American Affairs Commission.

Councilmember Doyle thanked everyone for his years of service.

5. Hear a Presentation about Racial Profiling from Commissioner Dennis Canterbury, Ph.D., and other Commissioners of the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission. (Request of Councilmember James Flores.)

Councilmember Flores introduced Dr. Dennis Canterbury from the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission and a resident of Windham. Dr. Canterbury introduced Executive Director Glenn A Cassis. Mr. Cassis presented an overview of the Connecticut statute on racial profiling and the Commission's Report from April, 2015, looking at data from 2013 and 2014. The Report concludes that there is racial profiling in Connecticut traffic stops, and the Report identifies some strategies to use in the towns with the most severe data. Willimantic was not identified in the Report as a troublesome area from a racial profiling standpoint. Mr. Cassis then addressed questions asked by Councilmembers. The Mayor thanked Dr. Canterbury and Mr. Cassis for their presentation.

6. **Discuss and possibly give direction about Town Council organizational matters, possibly to be acted on at the Town Council's November 17, 2015, Regular Meeting, including:**
 - a. [Town Council Standing Rules of Procedure](#).
 - b. The 2016 meeting schedule for the Windham Town Council.
 - c. [Selection of Chairperson, pro tempore](#), of the Town Council to preside at Council meetings when the Mayor is unavailable.
 - d. [Selection of Parliamentarian](#) of the Town Council, to rule on parliamentary questions.
 - e. [Appointment of Town Attorney](#) (per Charter, Town Attorney must be appointed within 2 months of the municipal election).

Council decided not to discuss these organizational issues.

7. **Future Agenda Items**

- a. **Tuesday, November 17, 2015:** 7 pm Regular Meeting of the Town Council: Swearing in Ceremony. Handle organizational matters. CDBG Small Cities 2016 grant application for public housing. Hop River Trail authorization. Road and street bond authorization. Executive Session with Town Attorney re Windham Mills Project.
- b. **Tuesday, November 24, 2015:** 7 pm Regular Meeting of the Willimantic Taxing District. Organizational matters. Re-authorization of Captain Reed to work past age 65.

The Mayor reviewed these future agenda items.

8. **Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.**

Councilmember Flores, of Willimantic, spoke about the lack of interpreters at polling places. Doug Lary, of Willimantic, spoke about the conduct of the last election and the lack of poll workers.

Henry Crane, of Willimantic, spoke about the conduct of the last election.

Mayor Eldridge reminded the audience of the Veterans' Day activities tomorrow.

9. **Adjournment**

Councilmember DeVivo moved, and Councilmember McDevitt seconded, to adjourn this Council meeting at 8:09 pm.