

# Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor  
Tuesday, November 15, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.

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## 1. **Call to Order.**

Mayor Eldridge called the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor Eldridge, Charles Krich (arrived @ 7:07 P.M.), Tony Fantoli, Nectalis Martinez, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Mike Lessard, Dawn Niles, Dennis O'Brien, James Flores and Lynne Ide

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.**

George Gillette, Windham Center, spoke about the government cuts and the possible closing of the Fire School. He asked for the Town's support. He also noted a breakfast will be held on Saturday at 9:00 A.M. at the Fire School to raise funds for the school.

Dawn Niles, North Windham, spoke about the Eastern CT Fire School and noted a bill had been submitted by State Representative Linda Orange asking for a surcharge on people's homeowners insurance. Ms. Niles also provided information on the Festival of Lights Santa Parade, the Tree Lighting ceremony and meeting with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Mary DeMarco, Human Services Director, explained the relocation assistance line item in the Town budget and noted her support to establish a revolving fund for blight and relocation.

Tony Fantoli noted the VFW Auxiliary is holding a turkey dinner on Saturday at 4:00 P.M. and tickets are \$10.00 per person

James Flores noted he was here today only to support Mr. Ray Chaput.

## 4. **Town Council Comment.**

James Flores spoke about people complaining about programs being cut and he suggested people put their money into local programs rather than big corporations.

Dawn Niles spoke about an article in the Waterbury Republican regarding a plan to consolidate local health departments into health districts. She would like our State Representatives to watch this closely and noted it will be a significant increase to Towns should this happen.

Tom DeVivo listed the various vacancies on the Town's Boards and Commissions and urged people to come forward and consider serving on one of the open Boards or Commissions.

Mayor Eldridge stated it has been a struggle to fill the openings on the Boards and Commissions.

**5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.**

**a. Public Hearing of October 18, 2016.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the Public Hearing minutes of October 18, 2016. All were in favor except Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

**b. Regular Council Meeting of October 18, 2016.**

McDevitt MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Regular Town Council minutes of October 18, 2016. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**6. Resignations.**

None

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

None

**8. Presentations & Special Reports.**

None

**9. Mayor's Report.**

Mayor Eldridge reported he had attended the ribbon cutting of the job center at Tyler Square with Eastconn. He also reported he had attended 4 Veterans Day celebrations and was asked why more Town Council members were not in attendance.

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

No Report

**11. Discussion and Review of Communications to Council.**

None

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

None

**13. Resolutions and Ordinances.**

None

**14. Old Business.**

**a. Report from the Chairman of the Town Council's Committee on Administration, Finance, Development, Health, and Human Services**

**regarding the Committee's meeting on Monday, November 14, 2016.  
Possible Town Council discussion and action.**

Krich reported the Committee had met last night and discussed the following:

- Neida Rosado spoke about the Town providing Veterans service and the concerns of the Veterans Council regarding moving only one time.
- A very good presentation from Economic Director Jim Bellano regarding the current status of the economic development in Town and the changes to a section of the Code of Ordinances
- Creating a revolving fund for blight – action taken with a vote of 3 to 1 with concerns on having the fund be a lockbox or a budget item.
- Budget information requested however Finance Director Chris Johnson was unable to attend the meeting
- Shared function in the Finance Department
- Renaming of the Willimantic Public Library of a part thereof for Mary Lou DeVivo – action taken with a vote of 3 to 1 to name the Children's Library after Mary Lou DeVivo.
- Setting of goals for the Town Manager – Council Representatives Ide and Fantoli will meet with the Town Manager to review his goals and report back to the Committee
- Co-designating the Columbus Day holiday

**MOTION:** Krich MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to name the Children's Library at the Willimantic Public Library after Mary Lou DeVivo.

**MOTION:** O'Brien MOVED, Niles seconded, to amend the motion and to name the Willimantic Public Library building after Mary Lou DeVivo. All were in favor of amending the original motion except DeVivo who abstained. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION:** O'Brien MOVED, Niles seconded, to name the Willimantic Public Library building after Mary Lou DeVivo. All were in favor except DeVivo who abstained. **MOTION PASSED.**

Councilmember McDevitt stated her family will donate \$500.00 toward the cost of renaming the Willimantic Public Library building after Mary Lou DeVivo.

**MOTION:** DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to waive the reading of the draft proposal to establish a revolving fund for the advancement of code enforcement, the removal of blight and dangerous property conditions, and to preserve and enhance property values within the Town of Windham. All were in favor. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION:** DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to establish a revolving fund for the advancement of code enforcement, the removal of blight and dangerous property conditions, and to preserve and enhance property values within the Town of Windham:

- (a) There shall be established a fund on deposit to provide for the Town to secure real properties which are blighted, in danger of collapse, or which pose a threat to the public health, safety and welfare.
- (b) The fund shall be used for purposes of paying, in part or in whole, expenses for boarding windows and doors, demolishing or shoring up building or structures which pose a threat

to the public health safety and welfare, protecting against public nuisance and attractive nuisances, removal of garbage and debris, and for contractors and consultants which may be reasonably necessary to carry out these purposes. Additionally, for relocation expenses pursuant to CGS title 8 Chapter 135, section 8-266.

- (c) Income to said fund shall include: (i) such amounts budgeted for each fiscal year, and (ii) one-half of such amounts collected as fines under the Anti-blight ordinance, the zoning code, or any other building or housing code or ordinance which prescribes for fines and/or liens to secure the same.
- (d) The fund shall not exceed One-Hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) at any one time. Any receipts from fines which, if deposited, would place into the fund more than this maximum amount, the overage instead shall be deposited into the Town's general fund.
- (e) Fund expenses shall not include compensation of any Town employee or general office-related expenses.
- (f) The Treasurer shall manage the fund in an exclusive deposit account established and maintained in accordance herewith and with the Connecticut General Statutes and the Town Charter.
- (g) The Controller, in conjunction with the Treasurer, shall account for the said fund in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and shall include a complete financial statement for said fund in the Town's annual financial report.
- (h) The fund shall be shown as one or more line items within the annual budget, as determined by the Board of Finance.
- (i) Except in respect of a municipal emergency, transfers from such fund to another use shall be prohibited.
- (j) Nothing herein shall be deemed to require the expenditure of any such funds for any particular purpose or property whatsoever, but such expenditures, if any are made, shall be within the full and unfettered discretion of the Town, its officers, agents and employees.
- (k) No more than \$75,000 shall be expended from the fund in one fiscal year

All were in favor except Fantoli and Krich. **MOTION PASSED**

**b. Report from the Chairman of the Town Council's Committee on Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture, and Recreation. Possible Town Council discussion and action.**

DeVivo reported the Committee had not met due to the Presidential Election. The next meeting will be in December.

**15. New Business.**

**a. Discuss and possibly act on a request to create the position of Windham Poet Laureate, and to appoint Ray Chaput ("the Captain") to that position.**

DeVivo MOVED, Krich seconded, to send Item #15a to the Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture, and Recreation Committee. All were in favor except Flores who did not vote at all. **MOTION PASSED.**

**b. Discuss and possibly set a public hearing on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 6 pm in the Bellingham Auditorium of the Windham Town Hall to consider the request of Sportech Venues, Inc., to operate an OTB (Off Track Betting) operation at the Sports Bar, 157 Boston Post Road, Windham, and to set a**

**Special Town Council Meeting that same evening, immediately following this Public Hearing, to consider an OTB Resolution.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to set a public hearing on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 6 pm in the Bellingham Auditorium of the Windham Town Hall to consider the request of Sportech Venues, Inc., to operate an OTB (Off Track Betting) operation at the Sports Bar, 157 Boston Post Road, Windham, and to set a Special Town Council Meeting that same evening, immediately following this Public Hearing, to consider an OTB Resolution. All were in favor except Krich, Flores, O'Brien, McDevitt and Ide. MOTION PASSED.

**16. Future Agenda Items**

None

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

None

**18. Adjournment**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting at 8:03 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Submitted by**

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