

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, December 7, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.



1. Call to Order

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Town Council meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S Eldridge, Erika Haynes, Jerry Iazzetta, Lorraine McDevitt, Teresa Santucci, N. Joseph Underwood, Christel Donahue and Mike Lessard.

Town Council members excused: Arnaldo Rivera and Kevin Donohue.

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

Susan Johnson, State Representative, 120 Bolivia Street, Willimantic, passed out copies of the 2010 Acts on Municipalities. She asked the Council to submit any suggestions they may have so she could make the proposals to the State Legislature. She noted that she had already met with certain groups.

Jeff Viens stated he was glad that Mr. Beets was being proactive with the current budget. He noted the garbage and the blight in Town was an issue. He believes the dump should be open one more day a week and that he also supports the Blight Ordinance. He said a committee should be established and inspections should be done every 2-3 years. He also noted the Town should look at protecting the rights of the children and he would like to see certain programs repelled.

Stephen Kenton, 246 North Street, Willimantic, President of the Windham Textile and History Museum, asked the Council to approve the serving of alcohol at the Snowball Dance January 15, 2011. He noted there were no problems at the event last year.

Leo Santucci, 74 Windham Street, Willimantic, stated the quality of life should be at the top of the Council's list. He believes it takes several years to get an ordinance in place and he feels nobody takes responsibility. He stated the Town Manager and Police Chief should be held accountable.

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, stated that everyone should now know she was falsely accused of the incident taking place on Election Day. She noted she has Spanish family members and she takes offense to the comment in the newspaper made by Dawn Niles.

Charles Kratt, 17 Monticello Street, Willimantic, stated he believes scooters are road legal and are only barred on major highways. He said no registration or license is required and asked the Council to check that before putting an ordinance in place. He also noted it would have been hard for Lori Jeffers to have complained about something when she was at the Windham Center polling place most of Election Day.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the November 16, 2010 Town Council meeting minutes.

Underwood MOVED, Haynes seconded, to adopt the November 16, 2010 Town Council meeting minutes. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Underwood asked to amend the agenda to move items 13a and 13b to come before Item 5. Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to amend the agenda to move items 13a and 13b to come before Item 5. **All in favor except Iazzetta who opposed.** MOTION PASSED.

13. Old Business

a. Discussion regarding changes to the Blight and Housing Codes; possible action setting a Public Hearing.

Matt Vertefeuille, Code Enforcement Officer, gave a brief report on the changes made to the proposed ordinance. He also noted before fining a homeowner he would meet with them to try to come up with a plan to remediate the issue.

MOTION: Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to forward the Blight and Housing Code Ordinances as presented to a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discussion regarding an ATV Ordinance; possible action setting a Public Hearing.

Chief Maruzo-Bolduc reported on the ATV Ordinance. She noted complaints were received frequently and she encouraged the Council to look closely at the Ordinance before moving forward. She stated the ordinance is only a tool to educate the public and that it is extremely difficult to enforce. Town Attorney Cody also noted State Statutes are in place regarding Motorbikes and All Terrain Vehicles. He stated it could possibly be double jeopardy.

MOTION: Santucci MOVED, Underwood seconded to forward the Ordinance Regulating Motorbikes and All Terrain Vehicles to a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. All in favor except Haynes & Lessard who opposed, MOTION PASSED.

5. Resignations

Noted.

Mayor Eldridge also noted two additional resignations. David Howe Sr. resigned as a member of the Town Council and Cecilio Castro resigned as an alternate member of the Economic Development Commission.

6. Appointments

a. Discussion and possible action to reappoint Victor Funderburk to the Economic Development Commission as a full member with term ending December 15, 2015.

Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to reappoint Victor Funderburk to the Economic Development Commission as a full member with term ending December 15, 2015. All in favor with one Abstention from Haynes.
MOTION PASSED.

7. Presentations & Special Reports

a. Update on Magnet School by Thomas DeVivo.

MOTION: Santucci MOVED, Haynes seconded, to table the report on the Magnet School until Mr. DeVivo arrived. All in favor except Iazzetta who opposed.
MOTION PASSED.

Mr. DeVivo was not present. No report was given on the Magnet School.

8. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge noted it was Pearl Harbor Day. He also reported on the work being done by Mr. Vertefeuille and Chief Maruzo-Bolduc with regards to the graffiti; the Fire Truck Parade-Thanks to Josh & Dawn Niles; the Round Robin Charm event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Mayor Eldridge stated he attended a meeting with State Representative Susan Johnson, Town Planner James Finger and several others regarding the possibility of the New England Railroad coming back into Town. He feels this is a great project and good for the Economic Development of the Town.

9. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Beets reported that the Town of Windham is one of several towns participating in a Neighbor-to-Neighbor Energy Challenge. He stated the program is designed to inform and educate people on how to save energy as well as money. He noted last year Windham was also a participant and met their challenge of a 20% reduction in energy use.

Mr. Beets also reported that the State has sent out an RFP to look at PSAP'S. He noted there are currently 140 centers throughout the State with Windham operating two, one at the Police Dept and one at ECSU. He stated Windham could benefit depending on the outcome of the study.

In addition, Mr. Beets noted the Eastern CT Tourism District is meeting with representatives from the Governor-elect's office to ask for funding for the Eastern District.

10. Discussion and Review of Communications

Mayor Eldridge stated he received a letter from Peter Quercia regarding the painting. He noted at the previous meeting the Council had stated the issue should be addressed by the Code Enforcement Office.

11. Resolutions and Ordinances

NONE.

12. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

a. Administration & Finance, Health and Human Services Sub Committee

No Report. A tentative meeting date of December 15, 2010 is scheduled.

b. Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee

Councilman Iazzetta reported the subcommittee's last meeting had been cancelled. He asked for another meeting date for the Victory Lane Resolution due to the Council not meeting on December 21, 2010.

Councilman Iazzetta noted he would call a Special Meeting of the **Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee** on December 14, 2010 to review the CL&P easements. He stated, the Planning & Zoning Commission has some concerns and would like to attend the meeting as well.

Councilman Underwood stated he would like the Subcommittee to review the rates for dumping at Willimantic Waste and the transfer station. Mr. Beets noted the issue was being looked at.

MOTION: Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to add under new business the Windham Textile and History Museum be allowed to serve alcohol on Town Hall property January 15, 2011, at the Snowball Dance. All in favor except Iazzetta who opposed, MOTION PASSED.

14. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action to hold the Town Council meetings the first and third Tuesday of every month except the month of June, July and August, which will be held the second meeting date, which is the third Tuesday of the month.**

McDevitt MOVED, Lessard seconded to hold the Town Council meetings the first and third Tuesday of every month except the month of June, July and August, which will be held the second meeting date, which is the third Tuesday of the month. All in favor with one abstention from Iazzetta. MOTION PASSED.

b. Discussion and possible action to keep the same meeting schedule for year 2011 for the Town Council Willimantic Service District meetings.

Underwood MOVED, Haynes seconded, to amend the 2011 Town Council Willimantic Service District meetings to the second Tuesday every other month at 7:00 pm starting in February. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Discussion and possible action to keep the same meeting schedule for year 2011 for the Town Council Windham Service District meetings.

Lessard MOVED, Underwood seconded, to amend the 2011 Town Council Windham Service District meetings to the fourth Tuesday of the month in January, April, July and October. All in favor with the exception of Donahue and Santucci who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

d. Discussion and possible action to allow the Windham Textile and History Museum to serve alcohol on Town Hall property January 15, 2011, at the Snowball Dance.

Santucci MOVED, Donahue seconded, to allow the Windham Textile and History Museum to serve alcohol on Town Hall property January 15, 2011, at the Snowball Dance. All in favor with the exception of Iazzetta and McDevitt who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

15. Future Agenda Items

Activity Report from Willimantic Fire Chief
Activity Report from Willimantic Police Chief
Report on the Budget process

16. Citizens and Delegations

Jeff Viens stated 5:30 pm was unreasonable to hold a Public Hearing due to the fact people are still at work. He said it is Communism to ban people from using their ATV's on their own property. He also stated meetings should be held more often. He said the Council is being paid while Town Hall Employees are giving back with furlough days and pay. He stated there is a lot of animosity between the Windham and Willimantic Service Districts. He also noted the complaint against Lori Jeffers was totally unfounded and there was nothing racial.

Jerry Iazzetta, South Windham, wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

17. Adjournment

Iazzetta MOVED, Santucci seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council meeting at 8:48 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Town Council