

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Special Budget Meeting

Windham Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.



1. Call to Order

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

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Dennis O'Brien, Mike Lessard, James Flores, Nectalis Martinez, Lynne Ide and Charles Krich

Department Heads in Attendance: Druscilla Carter, Peter Zvingilas, James Finger, Marc Scrivener, Mike Licata, Matt Vertefeulle, Jim Bellano, Joe Gardner, Brad Wojick, Scott Clairmont, Tara Calixto, and Mary DeMarco

Executive Administrator Neida Rosado, Personnel Director Paul Hongo and Finance Accounting Supervisor Karen Williams were also in attendance.

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

Bev York, Educational Consultant for the Windham Textile Museum, updated the Town Council on the Windham Textile Museum's mission, events and various groups that they service. She also invited everyone to visit the Museum.

James Flores spoke about the need to have public comment both at the beginning and end of every meeting. He also requested the original budget requests from Department Heads be given to the Council.

4. Comment by Councilmembers

James Flores reiterated the need to have the original budget requests from Department Heads given to the Council.

Dennis O'Brien noted the Administration and Finance Committee were fully informed of the Outside Agencies original requests. He also spoke about the resignation of Charlotte Patros.

Charles Krich noted the Town Charter outlined the budget process.

Tom DeVivo noted he had confidence in both Committees and their recommendations.

Lorraine McDevitt noted the Department Heads were at the meeting and the Council has the opportunity to ask them questions.

Mayor Eldridge spoke about the resignation of Charlotte Patros.

5. Approval of Town Council Minutes:

a. Meeting of February 16, 2016

b. Meeting of February 23, 2016

DeVivo MOVED, Ide seconded, to approve the Town Council meeting minutes of February 16, 2016. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the Town Council meeting minutes of February 23, 2016 with a correction to the spelling of WRTD Representative Terry Coonradt's name. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Hear from Department Heads for Town General Government about their proposed operating and capital budgets for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Questions and Answers

a. Library, pg. 61

b. Building Official, pg. 54

c. Town Planner, pg. 65, 69, 70, 71

d. Ambulance, pg. 45

e. Fire Marshall, pg. 42

f. Code Enforcement, pg. 68

g. Economic Development Director, pg. 66, 67

h. Town Engineer (capital budget, too), pg. 46

i. Public Works (capital budget, too), pg. 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56

j. Recreation, pg. 62, 63, 64

k. Human Services (including Senior Center and Outside Agencies), pg. 58, 60

The above Department Heads addressed the Town Council and briefly reviewed their department's budget. They also answered questions from the Town Council.

Councilman Krich reported to the full Town Council the recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee.

7. Future Agenda Items:

None

8. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Tom DeVivo noted the Public Works Public Safety Committee will meet on March 9th.

James Flores spoke in support of the elderly and stressed the need for a new Senior Center including a bilingual staff member.

Dennis O'Brien responded to the comments made by Councilmember Flores and explained that things are moving in the right direction with regards to the Senior Center.

Nectalis Martinez spoke about the need to do better in selling the Town to attract new businesses, jobs and revenue.

Tom DeVivo stated he had attended a meeting with SSCOG and an event at CCM and noted both had discussed the need for regionalization.

Mayor Eldridge read a message he got in a fortune cookie.

Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Special Budget Meeting at 9:40 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council