

MINUTES OF THE WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order.

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

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Joseph Underwood, Mark Doyle, James Flores, Charlotte Patros and Charles Krich

Michael Lessard and Christel Donahue were absent.

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.

Henry Crane, Windham Street, Willimantic, questioned the process an organization must follow to be allowed to serve alcohol in the Bellingham Auditorium.

4. Town Council Comment.

James Flores stated he had done his homework as suggested by Councilman Doyle regarding transfers by the Board of Finance. He noted he had not found anything in the minutes which were only available through August 2014. Mr. Flores suggested the Town Council resign.

Tom DeVivo reminded the Willimantic Service District Council of their meeting on March 24th. He stressed the importance of the meeting and noted the agenda will be specific to discussing how the Service District will be operating once the new Charter becomes effective on July 1.

5. Adoption of Minutes.

a. Special Budget Council Meeting on March 3, 2015.

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to approve the minutes of the Windham Town Council Special Budget Meeting on March 3, 2015. All were in favor except Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Resignations.

None

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to add to the agenda the appointment of Mr. Markland to the Energy Commission. All were in favor except Flores who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

7. Appointments, Reappointments.

Appointment of George T. Markland aka Tom Markland as a regular member of the Energy Commission.

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint George T. Markland aka Tom Markland as a regular member of the Energy Commission.

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded to call the question. All were in favor except Krich and Flores who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

A vote was taken on the original motion.

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint George T. Markland aka Tom Markland as a regular member of the Energy Commission. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

None

9. Mayor's Report.

No Report

10. Town Manager's Report.

Town Manager Beets reported on the following:

- Dairy Queen has opened
- Curbside Pick-up will be the week of May 18 – May 22, the same day as your regular garbage pick-up. There will also be no charge at the Transfer Station the entire month of May.
- The dollar amount in Item #15a on the agenda should read **\$1,441,291.33**. The number was inadvertently typed as \$1,454,921.33.
- A tentative agreement has been reached with MEUI (Dept Head Union). The union will bring the agreement to their membership for approval and it will be on the next agenda for Council approval if in fact it is approved by the MEUI membership.
- Calendar Items:
 - Tomorrow the Board of Finance meets at 7:00 P.M. to consider the Board of Education budget.
 - One week from tomorrow, March 25th, the Board of Finance has invited the Town Council and Willimantic Service District to present their budgets. Town Manager Beets will present a modified version of his

original power point presentation. The Town Council is also invited. In addition, the Town Attorney will be present to discuss the powers of the Board of Finance under the newly revised Charter.

- One week from today, March 24th, the Town Attorney will be present at the Willimantic Service District meeting to discuss by-laws.
- Chromebooks will be distributed next week with a training to follow at 6:00 P.M. on April 7th.

Town Manager Beets also answered questions from the Town Council.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications.

a. Minutes and reports from various committees, boards, and commissions.

DeVivo noted the Planning & Zoning Commission is meeting on March 26th to discuss the 6 parcel subdivision for The Access Agency. He explained this may help with moving the Senior Center along. Mr. DeVivo also noted the shortfall of WRTD and questioned the Town's responsibility.

Town Manager Beets responded to Councilman DeVivo's question regarding WRTD and explained the WRTD is current to date with monies owed to the Town. Town Manager Beets did however caution the Town Council about an additional assessment that WRTD may request and he explained the reasons for the possible assessment. He did also note the State has no interest in continuing the bus route on Route 195.

12. Resolutions and Ordinances.

None

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions.

None

14. Old Business.

None

15. New Business.

a. Discuss and possibly approve a contract with TradeMark Contractors for \$1,454,921.33 to construct a multi-purpose asphalt trail from approximately Bridge Street to state Route 66 at the Willimantic River. This award is contingent on ConnDOT approval.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve a contract with TradeMark Contractors for \$1,441,291.33 to construct a multi-purpose asphalt trail from approximately Bridge Street to state Route 66 at the Willimantic River contingent on ConnDOT approval. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discuss and possibly approve an application to serve alcohol in the Bellingham Auditorium.

Mayor Eldridge explained no application had been submitted.
No Action Taken.

c. Discuss and possibly give direction about developing an ordinance banning fracking waste, perhaps similar to the ordinance in Washington, CT. (Request of Councilmember Krich.)

Councilman Krich requested Item 15c be rescheduled for another meeting.
No Action Taken.

16. Future Agenda Items

None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

James Flores shared his reasons for not wanting to appoint a person to a Board/Commission without seeing the application for them. He asked that the Town Council stop rubber stamping things and ask the tough questions as he does. Mr. Flores also stated he does not work for party bosses but works for the community.

Henry Crane, Willimantic, thanked the Town Council for explaining the procedure used to serve alcohol in the Bellingham Auditorium.

Charles Krich shared his thoughts regarding accusations made of Council Members. He suggested the Town Council unite rather than divide and believes the Council gives their best to the business brought before them. Mr. Krich also explained he has faith in his fellow Council Members when voting for someone he doesn't personally know. He also stressed the need for Council Members to respect each other.

18. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular meeting at 7:36 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council