

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.



1. **Call to Order**

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

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, N. Joseph Underwood, Kevin Donohue, Mark Doyle, Arnaldo Rivera and Jerry Iazzetta
Christel Donahue was excused.

Department Heads in Attendance: Tara Risley-Marquez, Matt Vertefeuille, Mary DeMarco, Don Muirhead, Brad Wojick, Marc Scrivener, Ted Perch, Gay St. Louis, Patricia Spruance, Tom Pesce, Mike Licata, Joe Gardner, Joan Paskewich and James Finger.

Executive Secretary Neida Rosado and Finance Assistant 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**

Jeff Smith, 122 Windham Street, Willimantic, stated he is a professional in Municipal Finance and gave a brief background of his working history. He noted he is currently working as the Finance Director in New London. Mr. Smith shared his thoughts on the Town's proposal of Self Insurance and explained in his opinion why he feels this was not the time to proceed in that direction.

Mary Gallucci, North Street, Willimantic, spoke regarding the school buildings which she believes are the Town's, the proposed restructuring of the schools, what she believes were inaccuracies in an article in The Chronicle regarding the Teach for America program and the testimony Erika Haynes gave to the State on the choices Windham had for High Schools.

Peter Quercia, 300 Walnut Street, Willimantic, commented on Ms. Gallucci's article in the Hartford Courant, his visits to the Soup Kitchen to gather information and the amount of homeless people in the community.

Ray Pittman, 22 Jordan Road, South Windham, provided Council with a letter regarding an incident in which his 2 dogs were attacked by 2 pitbulls in his yard. He explained the incident and indicated a similar incident had also taken place the previous week. Mr. Pittman requested that Council add him on a future agenda to address the situation regarding dangerous dogs.

Elsie Jenkins, North Windham, and member of the Library Board spoke in support of the Library budget. She believes the Library reflects the Town's values.

Henry Crane, Windham Street, Willimantic, spoke in support of the Board of Education regarding classroom size and restructuring.

George Gillette, Windham Center, thanked the Council for passing the Ordinance for the ambulance. He also believes the Council should reconsider having a second Citizens and Delegations to accommodate people who work late.

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street, Willimantic, thanked those who attended the Town Meeting to vote for the ambulance. He also asked for an explanation as to what happened with the money in the ambulance fund.

Judd Ayer, Chair of the Library Board, urged the Council to continue to fund the Library budget. He believes the Library is a community place and is used for many purposes including providing services for example in power outages.

4. Town Council Comment

Jerry Iazzetta referred to an article in the Hartford Courant about the Skateboard Park. He stated the paper had mentioned the Park by name and he questioned when the Park was named. Mr. Iazzetta asked that the Town Manager look into the matter and report back to the Council.

Mayor Eldridge stated there was a misunderstanding that should be cleared up as to the Skateboard Park article and noted there was a memorial fund set up when David Walencewicz father in law passed away. He explained the people involved in the Skateboard Park had stated they were going to actively seek funds to maintain the Park and he also clarified the Park had not been named.

5. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the minutes for the February 21, 2012 Town Council meeting minutes.

Underwood MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adopt the minutes for the February 21, 2012 Town Council meeting minutes. All were in favor except Krich and Rivera who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Resignations

NONE

7. Appointments.

NONE

8. Presentations & Special Reports

a. Presentation on the Grand List by Joan Paskewich, Assessor

Town Assessor Joan Paskewich provided Council with a handout of the Town's 2011 Grand List Analysis and gave a short presentation on the report. She also answered questions from the Council.

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported the Snow Ball was a big success this year.

He also reported he met with people from the Railroad Museum and they have invited Council members to visit the Museum. They would like to show what has been done at the Museum with the Town's help.

Mayor Eldridge stated he would look to extend invitations to Council members as opportunities arise.

10. Town Manager's Report

No Report

11. Discussion and Review of Communications

NONE

12. Resolutions and Ordinances

NONE

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

a. Administration, Finance, Health and Human Services Subcommittee.

K. Donohue reported the Committee will be meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 PM.

b. Public Safety, Public Works, Culture and Recreation Subcommittee.

Iazzetta reported the last meeting of the Committee was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. He also noted Councilman Rivera would preside over the Committee's next meeting in his absence.

c. Tri-Board.

McDevitt reported the Tri-Board had met with Finance Controller Tom Pesce and he had answered some questions the Board had. She also stated Department Heads were cooperating with the Board and progress was being made. She also noted the next meeting will be in two weeks.

14. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action to award the Architect for Town Hall Use/Occupancy Study to Moser Pilon Nelson in the amount of \$ 24,500.

DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to award the Architect for Town Hall Use/Occupancy Study to Moser Pilon Nelson in the amount of \$ 24,500. All were in favor except Iazzetta who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

15. New Business

a. Discussion and possible action regarding the Town of Windham General Government Budget for FY 12-13.

Town Manager Beets stated Department Heads were in attendance to answer questions from the Council relating to their individual budgets. He also noted answers to the previous questions asked by the Council were included in their packet.

The Council reviewed the answers to the previous questions they had asked and some Department Heads answered additional questions from the Council.

16. Future Agenda Items

- Continuation on the Budget

17. Adjournment

Underwood MOVED, Rivera seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council meeting at 9:33 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

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