

**MINUTES OF THE
WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL**



**Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, April 14, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Town Council members present: Thomas DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Tony Fantoli, Ernest S. Eldridge, James Flores, Crystal Donahue, Charlotte Patros, N. Joseph Underwood, Mike Lessard (arrived at 7:16 p.m.) and Mark Doyle (arrived at 7:27 p.m.).

Town Council members absent: Charlie Krich.

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.

Lloyd Niles questioned the Town Council on what was going to happen with the dispatch funding tomorrow night. He stated that he was against the Town Council's recommendations. He is also concerned that they will not sign the agreement if the funding is not left in the budget as recommended. Mr. Niles mentioned that they have 2 dispatchers and 1 is assigned just to the Police Department and they monitor the jail cells.

Henry Crane, Willimantic resident, stated that he attended the Board of Finance meeting and explained that if he lived in the Windham's and dials 911 the dispatchers in Willimantic answer, therefore it is a town wide service.

4. Town Council Comment.

None

5. Hear a presentation from Kim Haddad, Executive Director of the Willimantic Housing Authority, about renovation and refurbishment efforts and progress.

Kim Haddad gave a brief presentation on the proposed renovation projects that will be taking place within the next couple of years at several Housing Authority properties.

6. Discuss and possibly give direction about smoking on Mansfield Avenue near Windham Hospital. (Councilmember Flores)

James Flores explained his concerns with Windham Hospital employees smoking on Town sidewalks. Discussion took place, but no action was taken. Some Town Council members did share some concerns of people smoking by the Willimantic Library and suggested that the security guard let those individuals know that they can't smoke in front of the library.

7. Discuss and possibly direct the Town Manager to place on the April 21, 2015, regular Town Council agenda an Appropriation and Bond Authorization for \$3.2 million in bonds to refinance an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement entered into by the Board of Education, and to set a Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, at 6:30pm in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium to approve this Bond Resolution.

Town Controller Tom Pesce explained the request for the appropriation. The Town Council requested more information therefore no action was taken. The item will be placed on the next regular meeting agenda for action.

8. Discuss and possibly direct the Town Manager to place on the April 21, 2015, regular Town Council agenda a Resolution authorizing the sale of \$4 million in refunding bonds issued pursuant to Section 7-370c of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and any other enabling acts.

Town Controller Tom Pesce explained the request for the appropriation. The Town Council requested more information therefore no action was taken. The item will be placed on the next regular meeting agenda for action.

MOTION: L. McDevitt MOVED, T. DeVivo seconded, to add to the agenda item 8a. Discussion and possible action regarding computer training for Town Council. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

a. Discussion and possible action regarding computer training for Town Council.

Discussion took place and it was decided that at 6 p.m. before the next regular meeting training will be provided.

9. Future Agenda Items

- a. Tuesday, April 21, 2015: 7 PM regular business meeting of the Windham Town Council.
- b. Tuesday, June 2, 2015: 7 PM regular business meeting of the Windham Town Council.
- c. Tuesday, June 9, 2015: 7 PM study session of the Windham Town Council.
- d. Tuesday, June 16, 2015: 7 PM regular business meeting of the Windham Town Council.

10. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Gilberto Marquez, Willimantic resident, spoke about the bathrooms at Recreation Park. He was upset because he believes he was lied to. He stated that the bathrooms are not open. He wants the issue corrected as soon as possible.

James Flores apologized for the behavior of Mr. Marquez and stressed his frustration regarding the bathrooms at Recreation Park not being open.

Bernie D' Auteuil spoke regarding having a referendum and putting a question on the ballot for Police Officers to be drug tested.

11. Adjournment

L. McDevitt MOVED, T. DeVivo seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:
Neida I. Rosado
Executive Administrator