

**WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

Tuesday, April 19, 2011 - 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, Jerry Iazzetta, Arnaldo Rivera, N. Joseph Underwood, Christel Donahue, Kevin Donohue, Teresa Santucci, Mike Lessard, Erika Haynes and Charles Krich

Town Council members excused: Lorraine McDevitt

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

Bernie DøAuteuil, 168 Walnut Street, Willimantic, questioned the status of the train derailments.

John Wylie, North Windham Fire Chief, addressed his concerns regarding the dispatch center. Chief Wylie feels the Board of Finance is trying to force the dispatch center out. He also questioned whether the Board of Finance had the authority to allocate \$20,000 for a dispatch study to be done. In addition, Chief Wylie stressed the importance of having a dispatch center that is local and one that understands the needs of the community.

Lloyd Niles, South Windham Fire Chief, feels having the dispatch center is a strong public safety issue. Chief Niles questioned whether this issue was brought to the Town Council. He noted the Town Council sets policy not the Board of Finance. He also questioned how many Council members have read the QV proposal.

Peter Leeds, Willimantic, passed out additional information on the proposal from the Columbia/Windham Soccer Alliance and explained the proposal. He also noted there will be no risk to the Town.

Adrian Manville, Church Street, Willimantic, expressed his frustration with the budget process. He feels the more taxes are increased the less people will come to Town. He believes parents must get involved with their children's education and we should not be throwing more money into education.

Teresa Santucci, 74 Windham Street, Willimantic, noted the budget is now out of the Council's hands. She encourages all to attend the Board of Finance meeting tomorrow

night. Mrs. Santucci also shared an example of 2 children on skateboards who were nearly hit crossing the street. She stressed the need for crosswalks throughout the Town.

Peter Quercia, 300 Walnut Street, Willimantic, feels he is a major taxpayer in Town. He feels the Social Services statistics are appalling. He believes the State coming into our schools is the best thing that could happen. He doesn't believe giving the schools more money will help.

Erika Haynes, Willimantic, reported the 4th annual Town Wide Town Pride event was a great success. She thanked all who participated, including UCONN students, Matt Vertefeuille, The Lucky Frog, and the Town Council. The group helped several area organizations and refurbished the triangle on Bridge Street among other projects. She also noted Prides Corner Farm was a generous donator in the event. In addition, she asked for the status on the train derailments.

Charlie Kratt, Monticello Street, Willimantic, agreed with Council member Santucci about children in the streets. He noted he has spoken to the schools about the crossing guards and teaching the children to cross in the crosswalks.

Tom DeVivo, 30 South Park Street, Willimantic, spoke with regards to Item 13b. He explained the assigning of the contract was a formality and asked the Council if they had any questions.

Mary Galucci, North Street, Willimantic, supports the use of Kramer by the Wrestling Club. She also supports the efforts of the Board of Education.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the April 5, 2011 Town Council regular meeting minutes.

Iazzetta MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adopt the April 5, 2011 Town Council regular meeting minutes with the following correction: Item 14a under New Business Santucci voted against the motion. All were in favor except Lessard and Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

5. Resignations

NONE.

6. Appointments

a. Discussion and possible action to appoint Elsie L. Jenkins to the Willimantic Public Library Board of Directors with term ending December 2, 2011.

Underwood MOVED, Rivera seconded, to appoint Elsie L. Jenkins to the Willimantic Public Library Board of Directors with term ending December 2, 2011. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Presentations & Special Reports

NONE.

8. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge thanked all who worked at the Town Wide Town Pride day including UCONN and ECSU students. He especially thanked Council member Haynes for all her work as well as Council member Krich. Mayor Eldridge stated he and Council member Haynes would be on the radio Tuesday at 5:10 PM in the Chamber Business Report segment.

Mayor Eldridge also reported he and Town Manager Neal Beets had attended the opening of the 560 Main Street Frog Bridge Apartments. He stated flyers for the apartments would be available at Town Hall.

In addition, Mayor Eldridge noted the Chamber of Commerce award dinner is tomorrow night from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at the University Club. He stated the Town's Business of the Year award was being awarded to Willimantic Waste Company. He feels they have done a tremendous job and are always here when needed.

Mayor Eldridge also noted, Thursday April 28th, he and Anita would be giving a presentation on the Titanic at the Willimantic Public Library. He invited all to attend.

Mayor Eldridge also noted tomorrow Mr. Beets, Bill Sayers, and himself would be hosting students from QVCC. He stated they would be speaking about former Mayors and the new form of government and how it affects the Town.

9. Town Manager's Report

a. Budget Update

Mr. Beets handed out new mill rate calculation sheets and reviewed the budget. He noted there were also no increases in Water or Sewer rates.

Mr. Beets reported Senator Blumenthal visited to help celebrate the acquisition of an \$82,000 Federal Grant to help with training in extricating people from cars in traffic accidents.

Mr. Beets also reported full compensation was received from the Providence/Worcester Railroad on the train derailment in Windham. He also stated invoices had been submitted for the derailment in Willimantic however he was unsure of the current status.

In addition, Mr. Beets reported the Board of Finance would be holding a Public Forum at 6:45 PM tomorrow night. He also noted the Town Meeting for the budget will be May 3rd and will adjourn to Referendum on May 10th.

MOTION: Santucci MOVED, Rivera seconded, to consolidate Items 10a and 10b. All were in favor except Iazzetta who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

10. Discussion and Review of Communications

a. Discussion and possible action regarding memo from Ana Ortiz, Superintendent of Schools, about creating a Tri-Board to improve communication in general and in particular to interface with the state Department of Education and its proposed Special Master for Windham Public Schools.

b. Discussion and possible action regarding Council member Haynes' proposals for addressing the state Department of Education initiatives in the Windham School District.

Superintendent, Ana Ortiz and Board of Education Chairman, Ken Folan addressed the Council with their position on creating a Tri-Board and they answered questions from the Council. Discussion followed.

K. Donohue MOVED, Krich seconded, to ask the Town Manager to craft one of more proposed resolutions for the Council to review that would include the language proposed by Council member Haynes regarding the Tri-Board and that the 3 members appointed to the Tri-Board are representatives of the Town Council in all discussions with the Commissioner and State regarding Education and that the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools be asked to provide staff support. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Resolutions and Ordinances

NONE.

12. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

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

Mr. K. Donohue reported the Subcommittee had an active meeting He noted the Town Clerk had made a presentation regarding the software to upgrade the land records and the process used to solicit bids and determine which company to contract with.

Mr. K. Donohue also reported the subcommittee had discussed the fee ordinance coming before the Council tonight as well as a future agenda item for the Naming of the Auditorium.

b. Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation Subcommittee

Mr. Iazzetta reported the Subcommittee had met on April 6, 2011 and discussed the following: the proposal from the Columbia/Windham Soccer Alliance, the Skateboard Park, Kramer Usage, the Energy Efficient Projects, the Solid Waste Ordinance and the Bids for Summit Street.

Mr. Iazzetta informed the Council that Town Controller, Tom Pesce, would be attending the Subcommittee's next meeting to discuss the Energy Efficient Projects and Asst. Superintendent of Public Works, Scott Claimont, is currently revising the Solid Waste Ordinance.

In addition, Mr. Iazzetta, questioned why the issue regarding the dispatch center had not been sent to the Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation Subcommittee. Mr. Iazzetta requested the Subcommittee receive all information pertaining to the dispatch center for the Subcommittee to review.

13. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action to begin the process of selling Town of Windham property located on Back Road, as stipulated in the Town of Windham Property Sale Policy.

Santucci MOVED, Lessard seconded, to have the Town Manager proceed with the steps to begin the process of selling Town of Windham property located on Back Road, as stipulated in the Town of Windham Property Sale Policy. All were in favor.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discussion and possible action to assign the Magnet School architectural contract from Perkins + Will Architects to Id3a Architects, as recommended by the Magnet School Building Committee.

Underwood MOVED, Rivera seconded, to assign the Magnet School architectural contract from Perkins + Will Architects to Id3a Architects, as recommended by the Magnet School Building Committee. All were in favor except Lessard, Iazzetta and C. Donahue who opposed and Santucci and Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

14. New Business

a. Discussion and possible to set a public hearing on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to hear public comment on the proposed amendments to the Town of Windham Fee Ordinance, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services.

K. Donohue MOVED, Krich seconded, to set a public hearing on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to hear public comment on the proposed amendments to the Town of Windham Fee Ordinance, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services. All were in favor.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Underwood MOVED, Haynes seconded, to move Item 14e up on the agenda. All were in favor except Iazzetta who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

e. Discussion and possible action to grant the Silverback Wrestling Club the use for the time being of a part of the former cafeteria area in the Kramer building, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation.

Iazzetta MOVED, Santucci seconded, to grant the Silverback Wrestling Club the use for the time being of a part of the former cafeteria area in the Kramer building, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Safety, Public Works and Recreation. All were in favor except Haynes who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

b. Discussion and possible action to approve the proposal from the Columbia Windham Soccer Alliance by allowing them to hire and pay GreenScapes, Inc Landscape Construction Company to renovate the soccer fields at Shetucket Park and work in conjunction with the Public Works Department, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation.

Iazzetta MOVED, Underwood seconded, action to approve the proposal from the Columbia Windham Soccer Alliance by allowing them to hire and pay GreenScapes, Inc Landscape Construction Company to renovate the soccer fields at Shetucket Park and work in conjunction with the Public Works Department, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Discussion and possible action to move forward with a RFP for the design-build for the proposed skate park, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation.

Underwood MOVED, Rivera seconded, to move forward with a RFP for the design-build for the proposed skate park, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Discussion and possible action to award the Summit Street sidewalk project to New England Concrete in the amount of \$367,152.80, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation.

Iazzetta MOVED, Krich seconded, to award the Summit Street sidewalk project to New England Concrete in the amount of \$367,152.80, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

f. Discussion and possible action to authorize Neal J. Beets to negotiate and sign the contract with IQS for the Town of Windham Town Clerk's Office land records software.

K. Donohue MOVED, Iazzetta seconded, to authorize Neal J. Beets to negotiate and sign the contract with IQS for the Town of Windham Town Clerk's Office land records software. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Future Agenda Items

Fee Ordinance

Update on Card Street/Mitlitsky trucks

Discussion on the Naming of Town Hall Auditorium as recommended by the Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee

Discussion on a possible recreational field on Route 203

Discussion on possibly completing crosswalks in Town starting with Main Street

16. Citizens and Delegations

Tyler Banks, thinks it is great that the Silverbacks have a place to run their club.

Rafael Calixto, thanked the Council for allowing them to use the space. He gave examples of children who benefit from the program.

John Ware, Windham, made note that the Silverbacks had 22 wrestlers at High School Nationals. He stated they had received a lot of commendations from different high school and college coaches. He thanked the Council for allowing them to stay in the space.

17. Adjournment

Donohue MOVED, Santucci seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council Meeting at 9:11 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council