

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, April 19, 2016 - 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, Dennis O'Brien (arrived at 7:04 P.M.), Mike Lessard, James Flores, Nectalis Martinez, Dawn Niles (arrived at 7:20 P.M.) and Charles Krich

Lynne Ide was excused.

Executive Administrator Neida Rosado 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.

James Flores noted he was speaking as a political activist. He spoke about the Police Chief's retirement on August 1st and the need to involve the community in the process for hiring a new Chief. Mr. Flores urged the community to attend the Willimantic Taxing District meeting next Tuesday to speak under Citizens and Delegations.

4. Town Council Comment.

Tom DeVivo spoke about having people sit at a table with the microphone when commenting under Citizens and Delegations.

Mike Lessard updated the Town Council on the status of the swim team and thanked the Superintendants and Athletic Directors from Windham, Coventry and RHAM for coming together in bringing the swim team back.

Lorraine McDevitt acknowledged the wrestling team for winning the State Championship for their division four years in a row. She noted most of the young people came up through the Silverback Wrestling program and would like to see all of these positive achievements recognized.

Mayor Eldridge noted he would be happy to include recognitions on the agenda if he is notified of such.

Nectalis Martinez spoke about the incident regarding the gas lines in the area of lower Main Street this week and commended the agencies of the Town who were involved in handling the problem.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.

None

6. Resignations.

None

7. Appointments, Reappointments.

None

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

None

9. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Eldridge and Councilmember DeVivo attended the opening of the new Arts facility at ECSU and the Mayor noted there were many programs going on there. He encouraged everyone to visit the facility.

10. Town Manager's Report.

Town Manager Beets provided the Town Council with a handout outlining the proposed mill rate calculations and the budget options for dealing with the Board of Finance \$840,000 cut to the Town General Government if approved by the voters.

Town Manager Beets reported on the following:

- meeting with the seniors at the Windham Senior Center on April 28th at 10:30 A.M. to talk about the new proposed Senior Center with the Access Agency
- meeting with the Senior Center Advisory Board on April 28th at 6:00 P.M. to talk about the new proposed Senior Center with the Access Agency
- paving projects beginning and the need to use caution in those areas
- the sale of 109 Valley Street and the net profit of approximately \$71,000 to the Town
- the process of naming a room, floor or the entire Library as previously suggested be done while the renovations are taking place

Town Manager Beets asked Finance Accounting Supervisor Karen Williams to speak about the proposed mill rate calculations as outlined on the handout. Ms. Williams explained the proposed changes and how they affect the mill rate. Town Manager Beets then reviewed six budget options that may be possibilities if faced with an \$840,000 cut.

Town Manager Beets also answered questions from the Town Council.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications to Council.

None

12. Discussion and Review of Agendas, Minutes, Reports of Town Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

None

13. Resolutions and Ordinances.

None

14. Old Business.

a. Discuss and possibly act on the following recommendations to the full Town Council from the Town Council's Committee on Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture, and Recreation:

1. A motion to approve an amendment to the dispatch agreement between the Town of Windham and the Willimantic Switchboard Fire Chiefs Association.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to approve an amendment to the dispatch agreement between the Town of Windham and the Willimantic Switchboard Fire Chiefs Association. All were in favor except Krich who opposed. MOTION PASSED. (Councilmember Niles recused herself from the discussion and from voting due to her husband position as President of the Willimantic Switchboard Fire Chiefs Association).

2. A motion to approve the Windham Farmers' Market request to reform locate to the south portion of the Jillson Green property for the 2016 season, subject to compliance with all Town requirements.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the Windham Farmers' Market request to reform locate to the south portion of the Jillson Green property for the 2016 season, subject to compliance with all Town requirements. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. A motion to approve a landscaping project at Town Hall with funding to come from the Pageau Trust.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve a landscaping project at Town Hall with funding to come from the Pageau Trust. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. A motion to approve a landscaping project at the Windham Center Green with funding to come from the Pageau Trust.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to approve a landscaping project at the Windham Center Green with funding to come from the Pageau Trust subject to a Public Hearing of the Windham Historic District and their approval of the project. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. A motion to take action on proposed Transfer Station Use Regulations and Fees, which includes a fee of \$100 for a 2-year permit (\$50/year) for Landlords to use the Transfer Station, possibly by setting a public hearing on Tuesday, May 17, at 6:30 pm in the Bellingham

Auditorium to consider an ordinance, and possibly by adopting a fee resolution following the adoption of an enabling ordinance.

Lessard MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to set a public hearing on Tuesday, May 17, at 6:30 pm in the Bellingham Auditorium to consider an ordinance on the proposed Transfer Station Use Regulations and Fees, which includes a fee of \$100 for a 2-year permit (\$50/year) for Landlords to use the Transfer Station and possibly adopt a fee resolution following the adoption of an enabling ordinance. All were in favor except DeVivo who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

- 6. A motion to have the Town Engineer solicit bids to perform an audit of streetlights and to conduct a lighting study, to be paid for out of the energy efficiency account, and with all contracts for such work coming to the Town Council for approval.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to have the Town Engineer solicit bids to perform an audit of streetlights and to conduct a lighting study, to be paid for out of the energy efficiency account, and with all contracts for such work coming to the Town Council for approval. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discuss and possibly act on the following recommendations to the full Town Council from the Town Council's Committee on Administration, Finance, Development, Health, and Human Services:**

- 1. A motion to direct our Town Manager to attend all BOF meetings pertaining to the Town General Government budget during the budget season.**

Fantoli MOVED, Krich seconded, to direct our Town Manager to attend all BOF meetings pertaining to the Town General Government budget during the budget season. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 2. A motion to do an evaluation of the Town Manager with input by Department Heads, Town Council, and an agreed upon pool of community representatives, that is based on the Town Manager's job description and pertains to the period from July 1st last year to June 30th this year.**

Krich MOVED, Niles seconded, to do an evaluation of the Town Manager with input by Department Heads, Town Council, and an agreed upon pool of community representatives, that is based on the Town Manager's job description and pertains to the period from July 1st last year to June 30th this year. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. New Business.

- a. Discuss and possibly award a contract for \$310,429 to Donahue General Contractors to replace sidewalks on Dunham, Elm, Ives, Union and Wilson Streets, as recommended by the Town Engineer and to be paid from voter-approved road and sidewalk bond proceeds.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to award a contract for \$310,429 to Donahue General Contractors to replace sidewalks on Dunham, Elm, Ives, Union and Wilson Streets, as recommended by the Town Engineer and to be paid from voter-approved road and sidewalk bond proceeds. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Future Agenda Items

- a. **Tuesday, May 3, 2016:** Town Council Teleconference & Regular meeting
- b. **Tuesday, May 10, 2016:** Administration & Finance Committee meeting

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Henry Crane spoke in support of considering hiring within for a new Police Chief.

Recreation Director Tara Calixto reported the installation of the sign for Cora Moore will be held on June 4th at Lauter Park at 11:00 A.M. She noted invitations will be sent.

James Flores spoke about the budget and the difference in salaries from the top down. He did state however he will support the budget.

Dennis O'Brien stated he will be attending the coffee klatch and Senior Center Advisory Board meeting at the Windham Senior Center on April 28th along with the Town Manager.

18. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting at 8:52 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council