

# WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

## WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

**Tuesday, April 5, 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, Lorraine McDevitt and Charles Krich

Erika Haynes arrived at 7:05 P.M.

Town Council members excused: Mike Lessard

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**

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, stated she wants a revote on the Magnet School. She believes there is only a small group of students that are singled out to attend the Magnet School and we should be providing education to all kids. She feels our school system is failing and the Town is doing nothing to change it.

Peter Quercia, Walnut Street Willimantic, agreed with Ms. Jeffers. He is also concerned about possible tax increases. He stated he received salary information from the school district and feels they are paid very well and only want to hire more administrators. He noted he is also concerned about businesses closing and he is going to speak at the Economic Summit tomorrow.

Mary Lou DeVivo, 52-6 Hilltop Drive North Windham, informed the Council that the month of April is Windham Reads month. She noted she had pins and bumper stickers to pass out and said the Windham Reads banners would be going up when the rain stops. Ms. DeVivo also explained grades 1-4 would be having a spelling bee with 24 children taking part and that awards would be given to the children to Borders for \$10.00. She asked the Council to support Windham Reads program and encouraged everyone to attend the spelling bee. She also noted the children would be attending the Town Council's first meeting in May.

Leo Santucci 74 Windham Street, Willimantic, spoke about the goals that the Town Council set with the Town Manager. He feels they were lofty goals. He stated one of the goals set was improving the quality of life to attract people to Town and increase

our tax base however he believes there has been a disconnect between the population and with the non-action of our Police Dept. He feels by not enforcing certain ordinances it will discourage people from coming to Town. He also questioned where the accountability lies and stated he would like to receive reports from Chief Maruzo-Bolduc breaking down the noise, traffic and speeding incidents. He hopes the Council will take their responsibilities seriously and see that things are getting done.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the meeting minutes of the March 8, 2011 Town Council joint meeting with the Willimantic Service District.**

Underwood MOVED, K. Donohue seconded, to adopt the meeting minutes of the March 8, 2011 Town Council joint meeting with the Willimantic Service District with the following amendments: To specify the account number in the Elections budget that the \$1000 was reduced from and to include the first initial of Donohue/Donahue for clarification. All were in favor except Krich and McDevitt who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

**b. Discussion and possible action to adopt the meeting minutes of the March 15, 2011 Town Council joint meeting with the Willimantic Service District.**

Iazetta MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt the meeting minutes of the March 15, 2011 Town Council joint meeting with the Willimantic Service District with the following amendment: Item 13b to read, to remove the painting of the cemetery fence from FY 2012 and place it on FY ending 2013. All were in favor except Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

**5. Resignations**

NONE.

**6. Appointments**

**a. Discussion and possible action to appoint Michael F. Desaulniers to the Zoning Board of Appeals with term ending November 22, 2011.**

McDevitt MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint Michael F. Desaulniers to the Zoning Board of Appeals with term ending November 22, 2011. All were in favor except Haynes and Rivera who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

**b. Discussion and possible action to appoint William E. Anderson Jr. to the Economic Development Commission as a full member with term ending December 15, 2012.**

Haynes MOVED, K. Donohue seconded to appoint William E. Anderson Jr. to the Economic Development Commission as a full member with term ending December 15, 2012. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**7. Presentations & Special Reports**

**a. Magnet School Building Committee by Tom DeVivo, Chair**

Tom DeVivo thanked the Council for the opportunity to come before them. He reported the Committee hadn't met much recently however a lot of behind the scenes work was going on. He reported on the following: The sign on Tuckie Road, a pre-qualification meeting for local contractors on State certification for

bidding, construction documents to be sent to the State April 15<sup>th</sup>, a change in architects from Perkins and Will to ID3A, playground equipment, compliance of land records and the bids for clearing & grubbing.

He also noted Lori Jeffers had generously dropped the FOI complaint regarding a posting issue and that Jean de Smet had sent a letter to the Governor requesting funding be cut for the Magnet School project. Mr. DeVivo informed the Council if funding were to be stopped the Town would be liable for all expenditures. He also noted some discussion at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting with respect to the widening of Tuckie Road. Mr. DeVivo answered questions from the Council.

**b. Incentive Housing Overlay Zone presentation by Jana Butts, WINCOG**

Ms. Butts gave a brief presentation on the Incentive Housing Zones. She stated her 4 goals tonight were 1) to invite everyone to attend a Public Forum at Windham Town Hall on April 23 at 10:00 am to discuss where the Incentive Housing should be located, 2) to give a brief overview of the Incentive Housing Program, 3) to give an update of the status of the work that has been done, and 4) to invite everyone to attend a second Public Forum at Windham Town Hall on May 28 at 10:00 am to discuss what the Incentive Housing should look like. Ms. Butts answered questions from the Council and Town Planner James Finger asked the Council for guidance and encouraged their involvement.

**c. SIFT Interim Report by Councilmember Erika Haynes**

Ms. Haynes reported on the process used for the SIFT Interim Report and briefly explained the content of the report. She also noted the Committee would be having a meeting on Tuesday. She then answered questions from the Council.

**8. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Eldridge reported he had attended the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge in Hartford last week.

He also noted Governor Malloy's visit at the Windham Middle School was a big success with 535 people attending.

In addition he noted the State of Windham forum would be from 8:00 am to 10:00 am tomorrow in the Town Hall Auditorium with the following speakers; State Representative Susan Johnson, Town Manager Neal Beets, a representative from the school and himself. Mayor Eldridge encouraged all to attend.

**9. Town Manager's Report**

Mr. Beets reported the Town is researching a program which other Towns have used to put Solar Collectors on roofs of public buildings to help with energy costs. He explained the program and noted the public entity would receive the equipment and installation free and the private contractor would receive the Federal and State tax credits.

Mr. Beets also noted the Board of Finance would be meeting tomorrow night and had asked the Town to attend to answer questions with regards to the Town Budget. Some issues being looked at are the Dispatch Center, Police, Fire and EMS ambulance service, Human Services grant funding and the Library budget.

In addition, Mr. Beets stated additional staff meetings had been held with regards to the Fee Ordinance. He asked that it be put on the April 13<sup>th</sup> agenda of the Town Council- Administration & Finance, Health and Human Services Sub Committee.

**10. Discussion and Review of Communications**

NONE.

**11. Resolutions and Ordinances**

**a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the Fair Housing month resolution.**

McDevitt read the resolution and moved for its adoption.

McDevitt MOVED, Rivera seconded to adopt the Fair Housing month Resolution #2532.

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT**

**FAIR HOUSING**

Whereas, The month of April is recognized as Fair Housing Month; and

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The Town of Windham is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, The Town of Windham hereby reaffirms its commitment to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other

housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the Windham Town Council proclaims April 2011 to be Fair Housing Month in Windham and will reaffirm this each year.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**b. Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution regarding the nomination of the Shetucket River Greenway as a state greenway.**

Iazetta read the resolution and moved for its adoption.

Iazetta MOVED, McDevitt seconded to adopt a Resolution #2531 regarding the nomination of the Shetucket River Greenway as a state greenway.

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Windham has a significant natural resource in the presence of the Shetucket River; and

**WHEREAS**, this designation is consistent with the Town of Windham's Plan of Conservation and Development as indicated in its goals and objectives of protecting open space particularly along river corridors.

**WHEREAS**, the Windham Conservation and Open Space Commission has endorsed this application and indicated that one of its major goals is to create connections between existing open space, recreational space, trails and greenways;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town of Windham Town Council, to hereby support and approve the nomination of the Shetucket River Greenway as a designated state greenway.

**FURTHER RESOLVE** to authorize Town Manager, Neal J. Beets to sign any documents pertaining to the nomination of the Shetucket River Greenway for the Town of Windham.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**12. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions**

**a. Administration & Finance, Health and Human Services Sub Committee**

Mr. K. Donohue reported the Sub Committee would be meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**b. Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee**

Mr. Iazetta reported a special meeting was scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium. He noted the Sub Committee would be discussing the Skateboard Park, a proposal from the Columbia/Windham Soccer Alliance regarding the Shetucket Plains Park soccer field maintenance, Kramer usage, the

energy efficiency projects for the Town, the Solid Waste Ordinance and bids for sidewalks on Summit Street.

Mr. Iazzetta noted the next meeting would be the fourth Wednesday of the month.

**13. Old Business**

**a. Discussion and possible action by the Town Council regarding the Granicus contract for broadcasting meetings.**

Haynes MOVED, Rivera seconded to send the Granicus contract for broadcasting meetings to the Town Council Administration & Finance, Health and Human Services Sub Committee to further investigate and bring back to the Council.

All were in favor except Krich, McDevitt, Santucci and C. Donahue.

MOTION PASSED.

**14. New Business**

**a. Discussion and possible action to allow David Foster and the Mohegan Sun All Stars to sell alcohol at a fundraising event for Windham Hospital on June 25, 2011 at Jillson Square.**

K. Donohue MOVED, Underwood seconded to allow David Foster and the Mohegan Sun All Stars to sell alcohol at a fundraising event for Windham Hospital on June 25, 2011 at Jillson Square pending all paperwork is in good order and with the approval of the Town Manager. All were in favor except Santucci, Krich and Iazzetta who opposed and Haynes who abstained.

MOTION PASSED.

**b. Discussion and possible action to conduct a public hearing on April 21, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Windham Town Hall meeting room to discuss fiscal year 2012 Community Development Block Grant program and to solicit citizen input.**

McDevitt MOVED, Rivera seconded to conduct a public hearing on April 21, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Windham Town Hall meeting room to discuss fiscal year 2012 Community Development Block Grant program and to solicit citizen input.

All were in favor except Iazzetta who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

**15. Future Agenda Items**

Assignment of architectural contract for the Magnet School from Perkins and Will to ID3A

Fee Ordinance

17 Acres of landlocked land

Monthly Meetings for the Willimantic Service District

**16. Citizens and Delegations**

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, asked that the Council speak into their microphones. She also asked the Council to follow their own rules with regards to posting of meetings. In addition, Ms. Jeffers questioned why a Republican could not be appointed to the Board of Finance. She also asked for a revote on the Magnet School.

Mr. Iazzetta, South Windham, expressed his concerns with meetings being scheduled on Christian holidays.

Mary Lou DeVivo, Hilltop Drive North Windham, agrees the Council needs to rethink the TV issue. She stated a DVD player can be purchased for \$200. She noted the Board of Education currently uses one and the High School also has a program called the Bridges program which teaches the kids to be videographers.

Erika Haynes, Willimantic, reported April 16<sup>th</sup> is Town Pride Town Wide this year. She stated they are working with UCONN students this year and the Chamber of Commerce. She noted sites have been retained and they are incorporating work at visible sites such as Main Street. She stated Damien Fox from the Lucky Frog is hosting the event which will be from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. followed by lunch and the students returning back to UCONN. Ms. Haynes challenged the Council to choose a site and work with the students.

**17. Adjournment**

K. Donohue MOVED, Santucci seconded to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council Meeting at 9:17 pm. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Submitted By:**

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