

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, May 17, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.



1. Call to Order.

President of the Windham Town Council Tom DeVivo called the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Town Council members present: Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Nectalis Martinez, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Mike Lessard, Dawn Niles, Dennis O'Brien, James Flores and Lynne Ide

Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge was excused.

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

President of the Windham Town Council Tom DeVivo led all in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Candace Powers, 355 Scotland Road Windham, read a statement for the record regarding the Windham Textile & History Museum schedule of events and volunteerism. (See Attachment A)

Maria Zambrano Viggiano spoke about establishing the Windham Boys & Girls and asked if those supporting the club could line up to give testimony.

Harry Carboni, Willimantic, spoke about Charter Revision and the Democratic control on Boards and Commissions. He also noted his interest in serving on the Charter Revision Commission.

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street, Willimantic, shared his thoughts about Charter Revision including who should and shouldn't sit on the Commission.

Joel Meyers, landlord and taxpayer, spoke about Charter Revision and the right for property owners to vote.

Jean de Smet, Willimantic, invited everyone to 3rd Thursday this week and noted her interest in serving on the Charter Revision Commission.

Henry Crane, Windham Street Willimantic, shared his thoughts on Charter Revision.

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, shared his thoughts on Charter Revision.

Charlie Kratt, Monticello Street, Willimantic, shared his thoughts on Charter Revision.

Neida Rosado, Windham Executive Administrator, explained the Drug Free Communities Grant. She noted a Police Academy for youngsters aged 13-18 will be held July 11 through July 15. Ms. Rosado also explained the program.

The following individuals shared their support regarding the proposal for establishing a Windham Boys & Girls Club: Eric Espitia, Jen Perez, Andrew Gionfriddo, Michael Thomson, Ilda Raye, Lucinda Diaz, Melissa Alvarez, Hailey McClure, Molly Haines, Kat Womboldt, Ms. Wilson, Al Korczynski, Kelly Prescott, Murphy Sewall, Bill Powers, Stephanie White and Yvette Santiesteban.

4. Town Council Comment.

Dennis O'Brien noted his support for establishing a Windham Boys & Girls Club. He also spoke about Charter Revision and provided the Town Council with the procedures that must be followed for Charter Revision.

James Flores noted his support for establishing a Windham Boys & Girls Club. He also spoke about Board of Education meetings and allowing people to speak only on agenda items.

Dawn Niles requested a retraction from the Chronicle for incorrectly quoting her reasons for wanting Charter Revision. She then explained her reasons for wanting Charter Revision. Ms. Niles also noted her support for establishing a Windham Boys & Girls Club. In addition, Ms. Niles spoke about the Board of Education meetings and them not allowing people to speak on items that are not on the agenda.

Mike Lessard shared his support for establishing a Windham Boys & Girls Club. He also congratulated Councilmember McDevitt on her daughter's nomination for Teacher of the Year.

Lorraine McDevitt shared her support for establishing a Windham Boys & Girls Club. She also apologized for not responding to an email due to computer problems.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.

a. Regular Meeting of May 3, 2016.

Fantoli MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Town Council meeting minutes for May 3, 2016. All were in favor except Krich, Niles and O'Brien who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Resignations.

None

7. Appointments, Reappointments.

None

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

a. Hear a presentation from the Boys and Girls Club. (Request of Councilmember O'Brien.) Possible discussion and action.

Hailey McClure and Ilda Raye gave a presentation for establishing a Windham Boys & Girls Club. They provided information to the Town Council outlining the project history, stakeholders, problem statement, proposed solution and budget and funding for the Club. They also answered questions from the Town Council.

MOTION: Niles MOVED, Lessard seconded, to refer the proposal of establishing a Windham Boys & Girls Club to the Administration and Finance Committee for review and possible action. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Mayor's Report.

President DeVivo noted the Mayor was attending the ECSU graduation ceremonies tonight. He also reported on the Whitewater Park event that took place over the weekend and noted that he, the Mayor and Councilmember Flores had attended.

10. Town Manager's Report.

Town Manager Beets provided the Town Council with copies of proposed mill rate calculations and reported on the status of the budget based on the changes from the State regarding the rate cap for motor vehicle tax.

Town Manager Beets also reported on the proposed date for the annual budget meeting and the proposed date for the budget referendum.

Town Manager Beets 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.

Administration, Finance, Development and Health & Human Services Committee Chairman Krich reported there were several matters coming before the Committee for discussion & possible action including:

- Quality service to Veterans & possibly transitioning the function back to the Town.
- The Town Manager's evaluation & the criteria and methods to be used
- Email regarding a Town Employee displaying offensive item on Town property

Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture & Recreation Committee Chairman DeVivo reported the Committee had received a request to rename Watson Street and was advised to submit a formal request to the Town Manager.

Chairman DeVivo also reported on the removal and relocating of the bus shelter and the possibility of receiving a grant to purchase signs.

In addition, Chairman DeVivo noted the Committee will be addressing the policy for using Town property and insurance waivers.

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 set a public hearing on a proposed transfer station ordinance for Tuesday, June 21, at 6:30 pm in the Bruce Bellingham Auditorium.

Fantoli MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to set a public hearing on a proposed transfer station ordinance for Tuesday, June 21, at 6:30 pm in the Bruce Bellingham Auditorium. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. A motion to permit the Last Green Valley and Ellis Tech Students to construct kiosks at the Canoe/Kayak Landings on the Willimantic River and at Lauter Park and Shetucket Plains Park.

McDevitt MOVED, Flores seconded, to permit the Last Green Valley and Ellis Tech Students to construct kiosks at the Canoe/Kayak Landings on the Willimantic River and at Lauter Park and Shetucket Plains Park. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. A motion to permit Eagle Scout Alex Lebiszcak to build a pavilion at Legion Field.

McDevitt MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to permit Eagle Scout Alex Lebiszcak to build a pavilion at Legion Field. 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 have a table and table mics for public comment at Town Council Meetings.

Flores MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to have a table and table mics for public comment at Town Council Meetings. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Councilmember Niles stated for the record, "This is a good thing to do and I can't believe we have to take a vote on this".)

2. A motion to create a Charter Revision Commission comprised of seven members for a limited time frame of one month to be charged with mainly looking at:

- the timing of the Budget Referendum,
- eliminating electing the Mayor at-large and reducing the Town Council to a 7-3 allocation (the members of the Town Council will be responsible for electing the Mayor), and
- to prohibit non-residents from voting in budget referenda.

Niles MOVED, Ide seconded, to create a Charter Revision Commission comprised of five members for a limited time frame of approximately one month to be charged with mainly looking at the timing of the Budget Referendum and a draft must be given to the Town Council no later than July 7, 2016. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (Councilmember Flores stated for the record, "Mr. O'Brien spoke for 7 minutes".)

15. New Business.

- a. **Discuss and possibly award a contract for \$403,429 to Donahue General Contractors to replace or construct, as applicable, sidewalks on Prospect Street (between High and Chestnut), on South Street (between Bain and Oxbow), and on Turner Street (between Prospect and Summit), as recommended by the Town Engineer and to be paid from the voter-approved road and sidewalk bond.**

McDevitt MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to award a contract for \$403,429 to Donahue General Contractors to replace or construct, as applicable, sidewalks on Prospect Street (between High and Chestnut), on South Street (between Bain and Oxbow), and on Turner Street (between Prospect and Summit), as recommended by the Town Engineer and to be paid from the voter-approved road and sidewalk bond. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Discuss and possibly award a contract for \$49,950 to Milone and MacBroom, Inc., to assist the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission in performing a statutorily-required update to the Town of Windham's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission and to be paid from funds budgeted for this purpose in this fiscal year.**

Niles MOVED, O'Brien seconded, to award a contract for \$49,950 to Milone and MacBroom, Inc., to assist the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission in performing a statutorily-required update to the Town of Windham's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission and to be paid from funds budgeted for this purpose in this fiscal year. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Future Agenda Items

- a. **Tuesday, June 7, 2016**: Appointment of Charter Revision Commission members.

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street Willimantic, spoke about the Boys & Girls Club following procedures, having to disband a previous Charter Revision Commission and allowing others to get involved.

James Flores spoke about the confederate flag. He also spoke about what is acceptable for Town Employees to have on Town property.

Henry Crane, Willimantic, thank the Town Council for considering only the one question for Charter Revision.

Doug Lary, 183 Summit Street, Willimantic, appreciated the comments from Councilmember's O'Brien and Nile regarding the Board of Education meetings. He also noted he is extremely interested in the Charter Revision however he is concerned with the timeline.

Tony Fantoli questioned whether the sound in the Bellingham Auditorium could be fixed and noted it was very difficult to hear people.

Town Manager Beets stated he would work with the Towns Technology Manager to try to resolve the issue.

Lorraine McDevitt stated Board of Education member Tracy Lambert was against the Board of Education's policy regarding public comment at their meetings.

18. Adjournment

Lessard MOVED, Krich seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting at 9:43 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council

Attachment A

Public Comment

May 17, 2016

Windham Town Council

Good Evening:

My name is Candace Powers. I live at 355 Scotland Road in Windham.

The Windham Textile and History Museum has asked me to share some important information with you.

First, I would like to provide each of you with the Schedule of Events for 2016 for The Mill Museum and a copy of the program for the upcoming unique three day event in June called the "Textile Trio". On June 11th the focus will be Quilting and Fiber Arts; June 18th Knitting and Yarn; and June 25th - Weaving and Spinning.

Second, the Museum is fortunate to continue to have the support of talented and dedicated volunteers. Since the beginning of the calendar year through April, 64 different people have volunteered their time. This amounts to 1,617 volunteer hours.

Finally, if you have not yet visited the Irish Exhibit, please stop by the Museum. Regular Hours are from 10 am to 4 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.