

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, May 19, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Eldridge called the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Mark Doyle, Michael Lessard, James Flores, Christel Donahue and Charlotte Patros

Charles Krich and Joseph Underwood were absent.

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.

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street Willimantic, suggested modifications be made to the Town Manager's contract to include a start and end date to the contract. He also spoke about the Tech School and the need to update and keep the school in Town.

4. Town Council Comment.

Mayor Eldridge thanked everyone for putting up with his recent absences from the meetings.

James Flores spoke about people commenting on wanting to hire the best candidate for the job when in fact he stated those same people, when in power, hire their best friend and family members which he claims is hypocrisy.

Mike Lessard explained the ECO program being offered at Windham High School and is hopeful that it may help keep students remain in Town.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.

a. Meeting of May 5, 2015.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to approve the Windham Town Council meeting minutes for May 5, 2015. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Resignations.

None

7. Appointments, Reappointments.

None

8. Presentations & Special Report

None

9. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Eldridge thanked Town Council President Joseph Underwood for chairing the meetings in his absence. He also thanked everyone for their understanding of his absence.

10. Town Manager's Report.

None

11. Discussion and Review of Communications.

a. Agendas, minutes, and reports from various Town boards, committees, and commissions.

DeVivo noted this was the second month in which the WPCA chose not to have another Public Hearing regarding the rate increase. He wants people to remember this when the current Commission members are up for reappointment.

MOTION: Lessard MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to add to the agenda, Item 12b, discussion and possible action to amend Resolution #2648 to add language to the Resolution. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Resolutions and Ordinances.

a. Discuss and possibly approve a Resolution increasing the stipend for all Town employees who choose *not* to take health care insurance from the Town.

Lessard MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to postpone Item 12a. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discussion and possible action to approve a resolution amending Resolution # 2648 to add language to the Resolution.

McDevitt MOVED, Lessard seconded, to waive the reading of the Resolution. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

McDevitt MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to approve Resolution #2648 as amended. All were in favor.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

***A Resolution of the Windham Town Council Amending Resolution
2648 Creating the Elementary School Building Committee regarding
Wells***

Be It Resolved by the Windham Town Council as follows:

Section 1. Ad Hoc Elementary School Building Committee Regarding Wells Established.

There shall be an Ad Hoc Town of Elementary School Building Committee regarding Wells (hereinafter “the Committee”) having the powers and duties set forth in this Resolution. The Committee shall foster effective public communication and decision-making regarding the drilling and installation of two, safe drinking water wells serving Windham Center Elementary School and the North Windham Elementary School (hereinafter “the Project”).

Section 2. Composition.

- (a) The Committee shall consist of no less than three (3) and no more than seven (7) members.
- (b) The Mayor shall appoint Committee members subject to concurrence by the Council.
- (c) Upon a vacancy occurring, the Mayor shall appoint a successor subject to the concurrence of the Council.
- (d) Committee members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses incurred.
- (e) Committee members may consist of members of the Town Council, the Board of Finance, the Board of Education and other community residents interested in construction contracting, financial accountability, and decision-making transparency.

Section 3. Powers and Duties.

The Committee shall have the following enumerated powers and duties, and all powers and duties necessary or appropriate to accomplish effectively these enumerated powers and duties:

- (a) To authorize conceptual and final drawings, plans, and specifications for the Project, and to assure that those drawings, plans, and specifications comply with all applicable codes and standards;
- (b) To approve all budgets and expenditures for the Project;
- (c) To select, evaluate, and direct the work of Project contractors;
- (d) To review and approve the start-up operation of the Project and to assure that it performs according to specifications;

- (e) To complete and file all paperwork required by the state Department of Education's Bureau of School Facilities and all other applicable agencies of government;
- (f) To keep itself and the community accurately informed about the status of the Project, responding to all public questions and concerns about the Project;
- (g) To work with Windham Board of Education and State officials to preserve and implement the funding grant by which approximately 80 % of eligible school construction costs are paid for by the state;
- (h) To request the assistance of the Superintendent of Schools and the Town Manager, their staff, or persons under contract with the Board of Education or the Town, in order to construct the best Project we can.

Section 4. Sunset.

The Elementary School Building Committee regarding Wells shall sunset upon issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for both elementary schools following drilling and installation of their respective wells.

Section 5. First State DOE Change for North Windham Elementary.

- (1) **RESOLVED, that the Windham Town Council authorizes the Windham Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Well Project at North Windham Elementary School.**
- (2) **RESOLVED, that an Ad Hoc Elementary School Building Committee Regarding Wells is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the Well Project at North Windham Elementary School.**
- (3) **RESOLVED, that the Windham Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and the outline specifications for the Well Project at North Windham Elementary School.**

Section 6. Second State DOE Change for Windham Center Elementary School.

- (1) **RESOLVED, that the Windham Town Council authorizes the Windham Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Well Project at Windham Center Elementary School.**
- (2) **RESOLVED, that an Ad Hoc Elementary School Building Committee Regarding Wells is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the Well Project at Windham Center Elementary School.**
- (3) **RESOLVED, that the Windham Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and the outline specifications for the Well Project at Windham Center Elementary School.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions.

DeVivo stated he was going to ask the Town Council to make a motion tonight to dissolve both the Inter District Magnet School Building Committee and the Windham High School Roof Building Committee. He gave a brief overview on both of the committees and thanked the Town Council for allowing him to serve on them.

14. Old Business.

a. Discuss and possibly take action regarding a collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local 493 in the Town's Public Works Department.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local 493 in the Town's Public Works Department. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discuss and possibly take action regarding a collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local 493 in the Town's Wastewater Treatment Department.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local 493 in the Town's Wastewater Treatment Department. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Discuss and possibly take action to approve pay increases and working conditions for the non-union department heads that would be the same as the Town Council has already approved for unionized department heads in the MEUI collective bargaining agreement.

DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to approve pay increases and working conditions for the non-union department heads that would be the same as the Town Council has already approved for unionized department heads in the MEUI collective bargaining agreement. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Discuss and possibly approve the grant agreement with the State of Connecticut, Department of Libraries, for \$500,000 in state funds to be combined with \$500,000 in Windham funds in order to renovate the Willimantic Public Library.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the grant agreement with the State of Connecticut, Department of Libraries, for \$500,000 in state funds to be combined with \$500,000 in Windham funds in order to renovate the Willimantic Public Library. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to add to the agenda Item 15b, to dismiss the Inter District Magnet School Building Committee and the Windham High School Roof Building Committee. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. New Business.

a. Discuss and possibly approve a summer meeting schedule.

McDevitt MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to hold one Town Council meeting in June and July on the first Tuesday of the month and no meeting in August unless there is a need for one or an emergency arises. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discuss and possibly take action on dismissing the Inter District Magnet School Building Committee and the Windham High School Roof Building Committee.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to dissolve the Inter District Magnet School Building Committee and the Windham High School Roof Building Committee. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Future Agenda Items

None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street Willimantic, commented on the Town Meeting vote for the Master Lease agreement.

Henry Crane, Willimantic, spoke in agreement with Mr. D'Auteuil's comments.

18. Adjournment

McDevitt MOVED, Doyle seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular meeting at 7:48 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Town Council