

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Special Meeting

Windham Town Hall, Bellingham Auditorium
Tuesday, June 14, 2016 - 6:45 P.M.



1. Call to Order.

Mayor Eldridge called the Windham Town Council Special Meeting to order at 6:45 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mayor Eldridge, Charles Krich (arrived at 6:47 P.M.), Tony Fantoli, Nectalis Martinez, Tom DeVivo, Mike Lessard, James Flores, Dawn Niles and Lynne Ide

Lorraine McDevitt and Dennis O'Brien were excused

Town Manager Beets was also in attendance

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

Dawn Niles spoke about Windham High school students, Emma Dawn Vining and Ailin Cuevas who are 2 of the finalist in the CHRO Kids Court Competition and St Mary School student Emilynn Auriantal, a semi-finalist in the penmanship competition. She suggested the students be presented with a proclamation from the Town Council.

Henry Crane, Willimantic, spoke in support of the appointment of Jeff Smith to the Charter Revision Commission.

James Flores updated the Council on the crisis in Puerto Rico.

Mike Lessard congratulated the two girls who are finalist in the CHRO Kids Court competition and noted both girls had been in his class and are great girls. He also spoke about an idea being considered to have a Hall of Fame for Athletes from Windham High School and noted anyone interested should contact Athletic Director Pat Risley.

4. Discuss and possibly approve a motion authorizing and directing the Town Tax Collector to issue property tax bills in July, 2016, for the new fiscal year 2016-2017 using voter-approved and BOF-approved mill rates for the Town General Government and the Board of Education for the current fiscal year 2015-2016.

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to authorize and direct the Town Tax Collector to issue property tax bills in July 2016, for the new fiscal year 2016-2017 using voter-approved and BOF-approved mill rates for the Town General Government and the Board of Education for the current fiscal year 2015-2016. Lessard, Fantoli, Eldridge and DeVivo were in favor and Martinez, Krich, Niles, Ide and Flores opposed. MOTION FAILED.

- 5. Discuss and possibly approve a Resolution authorizing expenditures by the Town Manager and School Superintendent in the first quarter of the new fiscal year 2016-2017 that are no greater than one-fourth of the expenditures allowed under the voter-approved budgets for the current fiscal year 2015-2016.**

DeVivo read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to approve Resolution #2683 authorizing expenditures by the Town Manager and School Superintendent in the first quarter of the new fiscal year 2016-2017 that are no greater than one-fourth of the expenditures allowed under the voter-approved budgets for the current fiscal year 2015-2016.

RESOLUTION of the Windham Town Council Authorizing the Expenditure of Funds

Whereas, the Voters have not approved the Town General Government and Board of Education budgets for fiscal year 2016-2017;

Whereas, Section IX-7 of the Town Charter provides the Town Council with the authority, in this circumstance, to approve necessary expenditures as provided in the Connecticut General Statutes;

Whereas, Section 7-405 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides the Town Council with the authority to approve such necessary expenditures for a period of 90 days commencing July 1, 2016;

Whereas, the Town has a strong need to expend funds for employees, programs, education, contract obligations, debt service payments, public building maintenance, equipment, utilities, insurance, environmental control system, care of public resources such as street and parks, and garbage collection; and

Whereas, the Town's disbursing officers may expend funds legally upon approval by the Town Council of such expenditures;

Now, Therefore the Town Council adopts the following Resolution:

1. The Town's disbursing officers are hereby authorized to expend funds, as necessary, for a period of time up to and including September 30, 2016, but to expend no more than \$4,396,119 within Town General Government line items; and to expend no more than an aggregate of \$11,275,737 for the Board of Education line items, prior to September 30, 2016.
2. Expenditures under this Resolution shall be measured by the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools to be kept to amounts which would aggregate, should a new annual budget not be adopted, to no more than the expenditures approved under the Board of Education and Town General Government annual budget for fiscal year 2015-2016; except that expenditures shall be made to be consistent with and meet statutory obligations.
3. The Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools shall prepare a report on the disbursements authorized by these resolutions for the Town Council and the Board of Education on a monthly basis.

4. This authorization shall expire, automatically, upon the date the Voters approve an annual budget for the Town General Government and Board of Education for fiscal year 2016-2017.

5. Should an annual budget not be approved by September 15, 2016, the Town Manager shall obtain from the Town Council further authorization to expend funds for the period of October 1, 2016 forward.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Discuss and possibly appoint Jeff Smith, or another person, to the Charter Revision Commission

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to appoint Jeff Smith to the Charter Revision Commission. All were in favor except Fantoli who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

7. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

Dan Lein, Willimantic, asked the Town Council to reconsider their vote on Item #4 and he read the statute pertaining to taxes.

Henry Crane, Willimantic, spoke about the tax billing issue and suggested having a special meeting on June 28th after the referendum if necessary.

James Flores thanked Dan Lein for explaining the tax billing issue and noted he would have voted in favor had he been given the information Mr. Lein presented.

8. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Special Meeting at 7:25 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Town Council