

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, June 5, 2012 - 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, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, N. Joseph Underwood, Kevin Donohue, Mark Doyle, Christel Donahue and Jerry Iazzetta

Arnaldo Rivera was excused.

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

a. Mary Lou DeVivo presents reading awards to children.

Mayor Eldridge, Mary Lou DeVivo, Lee Ann Packer and Bill Stover presented reading awards to students from Natchaug School, Sweeney School, North Windham School, Windham Center School and St Mary School.

Bill Hettinger, Chair of the Economic Development Commission, referred to Item 11b on the agenda and expressed his support for the concept of such a program. He also noted he would be willing to serve on an Ad-Hoc Committee regarding Sister Cities International and urged the Council to consider the idea.

Moises Flores, Willimantic, shared his concerns about the number of cars in Town that are registered in other States and are not paying taxes in Town. He is also concerned with scooters riding on the streets not following traffic laws and causing safety issues.

Steve Baclit, Moodus, spoke in support of the dirt jump park at the Skateboard Park. He also shared his experience with dirt bike riding and volunteered to help build the jumps.

Rey Soto, Code Enforcement Officer, spoke in support of the BMX bicycle area. He believes a dedicated area is needed and believes it will help in keeping kids off the streets.

Charlie Kratt, Monticello Street, Willimantic, spoke in support of both the reading and book program at the schools and the BMX bike area.

4. Town Council Comment

Tom DeVivo, spoke briefly on the status of the Magnet School. He noted there will be a topping off ceremony in a few weeks when the final beam is put up and explained that the lights are now on for security purposes. Mr. DeVivo also asked for information on the number of local residents living in the Cedarwoods Apartments and how many people from area Towns are living there.

5. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discussion and possible action to adopt the minutes for the May 15, 2012 Town Council Meeting.

Underwood MOVED, Doyle seconded, to adopt the minutes for the May 15, 2012 Town Council Meeting. All were in favor except McDevitt, Krich and Eldridge who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Resignations. Receive the resignation of:

a. None.
NOTED

7. Appointments. Discussion and possible action to appoint:

a. Nancy Thorpe as a regular member of the Windham Historic District Commission.

K. Donohue MOVED, Krich seconded, to appoint Nancy Thorpe as a regular member of the Windham Historic District Commission. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Presentations & Special Reports

a. Presentation from BOF Chair Lynne Ide, BOE Finance Subcommittee Chair Nancy Tinker, and BOE staff regarding a BOE reading and book program. (Possible action item under "Resolutions," 12.b, below.)

BOF Chair Lynne Ide, shared with the Town Council the recommendation of the BOF to support the BOE reading and book program and the appropriation of \$755,000 for the purchase of the program. BOE Finance Subcommittee Chair Nancy Tinker, then explained the reading and book program that was being looked at for Kindergarten through Grade 5 and expressed the need for a rather quick turnaround time to ensure teachers would be trained properly before the start of the next school year. Superintendent Ana Ortiz and John French, member of the BOE, also addressed the Town Council to ask for support of the program. Superintendent Ana Ortiz and BOE Finance Subcommittee Chair Nancy Tinker answered questions from the Council.

b. Presentation from Architect Rich Brown about an alternative layout and preliminary cost estimate for the renovation of the Third Floor of Town Hall. Discussion and possible direction from the Town Council about Town Hall renovation.

Town Manager, Neal Beets, gave a brief review of the status of the renovations being considered regarding renovations to the Town Hall and Probate Court.

Architect Rich Brown gave a presentation on an alternative layout and the preliminary cost estimate for the renovation of the Third Floor of Town Hall. Mr Brown also explained the layout and design for each floor of the Town Hall, a breakdown of the cost estimates associated with the project and options addressing parking and the amount of spaces available.

Probate Court Judge, John McGrath, shared his thoughts on the renovations. He also noted the Probate Court Administration favors having the Courts remain in Town Halls.

MOTION: K. Donohue MOVED, Underwood seconded, to authorize the Town Manager to meet with the Superintendent of Schools and the Special Master to ascertain their interest in moving the Board of Education to Town Hall and to secure a memorandum of understanding regarding that move. All were in favor except Eldridge who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

c. Presentation from Dennis O'Brien, the Town's representative to CCJEF (Connecticut Council on Justice in Education Funding), updating the Council about CCJEF's activities and its school funding lawsuit in which Windham is a Plaintiff.

Dennis O'Brien, the Town's representative to CCJEF, reported briefly on the status of the case which addresses the achievement gap in education and explained the importance of Windham being part of the suit. He also noted he had recently been elected to serve on the Steering Committee for CCJEF.

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported on the Memorial Day celebration and thanked Andy Carey and the Fantoli family for their participation. He also reported on the Victorian House Tours and the Skateboard Park Grand Opening.

In addition, Mayor Eldridge, noted on Saturday, June 9th, a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony in Norwich for the Inter Model Transportation Center and stated the Council was invited to attend.

10. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Beets reported the car currently used daily by the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director has died. He explained repairing it is not recommended

by the mechanic due to the extent of the problems and mileage on the car. Mr. Beets stated he is working on a solution.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications

Mayor Eldridge noted a young man had brought in a letter from his mother tonight however he stated he would not read any letters that are not signed. He stated if anyone has a complaint it should be brought to the Town Clerk's Office.

a. Fire Fighter Mike Bergeron's Retirement Party

NOTED

b. Sister Cities International Information

NOTED

12. Resolutions and Ordinances

a. Discussion and possible action adopting a Resolution relating to the Windham Neighborhood Assistance Act.

DeVivo read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

DeVivo MOVED, Doyle seconded, to adopt Resolution #2572 with a correction on the date of the Program Duration of United Services, Inc. to read 9/1/12 - 2/28/13. All were in favor.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

**AGENCIES SUBMITTING TO
THE TOWN OF WINDHAM
FOR THE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT
FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013**

<u>AGENCY NAME</u>	<u>PROGRAM TITLE</u>	<u>NAA FUNDING REQUESTED</u>	<u>PROGRAM DURATION</u>
Access Community Action Agency, Inc.	- Family Asset Development	\$ 20,000	7/1/12 – 6/30/13
	- Homelessness Prevention	\$ 20,000	7/1/12 – 6/30/13
	- Meeting Basic Human Needs	\$ 20,000	7/1/12 – 6/30/13
Community Economic Development Fund Foundation, Inc.	Small Business Counseling & Skills Training Institute; Community Development	\$150,000	7/1/12 – 6/30/13
Community Health Resources, Inc.	Substance Abuse Treatment	\$124,850	1/1/13 – 12/31/13
United Connecticut ActionCLiCK (Commercially Licensed For Neighborhoods, Inc. Co-operative Kitchen)		\$150,000	7/1/12 – 6/30/13

United Services, Inc.	Windham Regional Center – Energy Conservation	\$150,000	09/1/12 – 2/28/13
Windham Hospital Foundation, Inc.	Technology Purchases & Clinical Program Costs	\$100,000	1/1/12 – 12/31/13
Windham Region No Freeze Project, Inc.	Windham Region No Freeze Project	\$ 60,000	11/1/12 – 4/15/13

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Discussion and possible action adopting a Resolution setting a Town Meeting on June 19 at 7 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room to consider approving a special appropriation for a BOE reading and book program.**

K. Donohue MOVED, Krich seconded, to take a five minute recess. All were in favor except Doyle, McDevitt, Fantoli and Eldridge.

The Council reconvened at 9:10 PM.

Doyle read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

Doyle MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt Resolution #2573 setting a Town Meeting on June 19 at 6 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room to consider approving a special appropriation for a BOE reading and book program. All were in favor.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

The Town Council call a Special Town Meeting, to be held Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 6 p.m., in the Bellingham Auditorium, Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, Connecticut, to consider and act upon the following question:

Shall the Town of Windham appropriate from its undesignated fund balance the amount of \$755,000, for a Kindergarten through Fifth Grade book and reading program, as recommended by the Board of Finance?

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

a. Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee

K. Donohue reported the Committee had met and discussed several items. He noted the Sister Cities Program had been referred to the Economic Development Commission and C. Donahue briefly explained the program to the Town Council.

Donohue also reported the Committee had discussed the Town Managers Evaluation. Doyle then handed out copies of the evaluation forms to the Town Council and explained the format and process the Committee is recommending to be used. Input from the Town Council was given to the Committee.

In addition, Donohue reported the Committee had spoken with Human Services Director, Mary DeMarco and had also discussed their concerns surrounding the Senior Center. He noted the Committee had toured the Access Agency with regards to available space for the Senior Center and explained there was possible DSS funding available through a grant. He also explained the timeline that would have to be met for the grant. Donohue stated the Committee has asked the Town Manager to come up with two approaches for what the Senior Center should look like at which time the Committee will review them on July 11 and make a recommendation at the July 17th Council meeting.

b. Public Safety, Public Works, Culture, and Recreation Subcommittee

Iazzetta reported the Committee had met on May 23rd and discussed the Dispatch Center, which had no update due to a meeting being cancelled and the information from the Town Manager had not yet been received.

Iazzetta also reported the Committee discussed the Transfer Station usage by landlords, the MOU with the Public Works Director and the BMX area adjacent to the Skateboard Park. He noted recommendations have been made for the Transfer Station however no recommendations were made regarding the BMX area or MOU with the BOE because the Committee had some questions they wanted to discuss with the Council.

c. Tri-Board

McDevitt reported the Tri-Board had two meetings remaining before a final report would be presented.

d. Ad Hoc Health Care Insurance Committee

John French reported the Committee has a meeting on June 7th and the Board of Education will be having a full presentation on June 14th and he is hoping a decision will be made to which direction to proceed. He also hopes the Town Council will meet after the Town Meeting on June 19th to look at the direction the Town will go in based on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. French noted a lot of work must be done if we are to be Self Insured and to meet the deadline of July 1st. He also answered questions from the Council.

14. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the BOE to share a Public Works and Facilities Director.**

No Action Taken.

- b. Discussion and possible action approving a new policy to be effective July 6, 2012, allowing landlords to use the Windham Transfer Station, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Works, Public Safety, Culture, and Recreation.**

Iazzetta MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to approve a new policy to be effective July 6, 2012, allowing landlords to use the Windham Transfer Station, as recommended by the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Works, Public Safety, Culture, and Recreation. All were in favor except DeVivo who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

15. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action approving a BMX bicycle area in Lauter Park next to the Skate Park.**

Iazzetta MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to approve a BMX bicycle area in Lauter Park next to the Skate Park. All were in favor.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discussion and possible action canceling the Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 3, 2012, and scheduling a Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, and Tuesday, July 17, 2012.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to cancel the Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 3, 2012 and schedule a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 and Tuesday, July 17, 2012. All were in favor.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Future Agenda Items

- a. Health care insurance.**
b. Request an update on monthly budgets.

17. Adjournment

Underwood MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adjourn the Town of Windham Town Council Meeting at 9:55 pm. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Town Council