

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall, 2nd Floor, Bellingham Auditorium
Tuesday, July 19, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.



1. Call to Order.

Mayor Eldridge called the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mayor Eldridge, Charles Krich, Tony Fantoli, Nectalis Martinez, Tom DeVivo, Mike Lessard, Lorraine McDevitt, Dennis O'Brien, James Flores and Lynne Ide

Dawn Niles was excused

Town Manager Beets was also in attendance.

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Brian Hathaway, Information Technology Manager, shared his concerns regarding the proposed budget cuts to the Information Technology budget.

Andrew Martin, Willimantic, spoke about the conditions on Holbrook Avenue, having a street light installed outside building #1 at Jonathan Trumbull Terrace, the need to obtain funding to renovate Jonathan Trumbull Terrace and the need to maintain the property near West Avenue & the VFW.

Jamie Eves 149 High Street, Willimantic and Director of the Windham Textile Museum spoke about the Town's 375th year anniversary.

Bill Powers, 355 Scotland Road, Windham, read a statement for the record. (See Attachment A).

Mary Gallucci, 242 North Street, Willimantic, spoke about the Board of Education budget with respect to the Town Charter and the Connecticut State Statutes.

Maureen Crowley, President of the Board of Directors of Thread City Developers, commended Town Engineer Joe Gardner, Assistant Public Works Director Scott Clairmont, Economic Development Director Jim Bellano, Lt. Coriaty and newly appointed Police Chief Rob Rosado for their work and involvement with the community and Thread City Developers.

Susan Johnson, State Representative, spoke about the \$650,000 grant for the Main Street streetscape and band shell. She praised the Town and Economic Development Director

Jim Bellano for their work on the grant. She also spoke about the Police Leadership Academy program and the opportunity it gives to our youth. In addition, State Representative Johnson spoke about Gail Zeiba at the Library regarding her work with individuals and the growth they learn through the progression of artwork and storytelling as well as the citation given to Nicholas Khan for his artwork that was displayed at the ECSU Fine Arts building.

Lorraine McDevitt provided information about the Retirement Celebration for outgoing Police Chief Maruzo-Bolduc on September 24th.

James Flores spoke about the turmoil in America and how the media portrays the news.

4. Town Council Comment.

James Flores spoke about the media and their control over people.

Tom DeVivo stated he has tickets for the Retirement Celebration for outgoing Police Chief and provided information regarding the swearing in ceremony for newly appointed Police Chief Rosado.

Mayor Eldridge apologized for his recent absence at Town Hall and explained his wife had been hospitalized for a serious medical condition however he noted she is currently recovering.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.

a. Special Meeting of June 14, 2016.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to approve the Town Council Special Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2016. All were in favor except McDevitt, O'Brien and Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Resignations.

None

7. Appointments, Reappointments, as recommended by the Nominating Commission.

a. Senior Center Advisory Board

- i. Gene Light as a regular member with a term to expire on October 1, 2018.**
- ii. Robert Greenleaf as a regular member with a term to expire on October 1, 2018.**
- iii. Joan Light as a regular member with a term to expire on October 1, 2020.**
- iv. Janet Ragno as a regular member with a term to expire on October 1, 2020.**
- v. Victor Rayhall as a regular member with a term to expire on October 1, 2018.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to reappoint the above individuals to the Senior Center Advisory Board as recommended by the Nominating Committee. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Windham Region Transit District

- i. James L. Wright as a regular member with a term to expire May 19, 2018.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to appoint James L. Wright as a regular member to the Windham Region Transit District. All were in favor except Flores and O'Brien who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

- a. Hear a presentation from Jeffrey Beadle of the Windham Regional Community Council (WRCC) about funding for the Positive Youth Development Initiative (PYDI) and the Youth Services Bureau (YSB). Possible discussion and action.**

WRCC Director Jeff Beadle provided the Town Council with a letter from Program Director Pat Calvo explaining the discontinuance of the "Lunch and Read" summer program due to State budget cuts as well as an outline of the Positive Youth Development Program and its budget. Mr. Beadle reviewed the information and answered questions from the Town Council.

Flores MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to send the matter to the Administration and Finance Committee for review and to provide the full Town Council with a recommendation for funding. Flores and Martinez were in favor with all others opposed. MOTION FAILED.

9. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Eldridge reported on the success of the Farmers Market following their move to Jillson Square. He also reported on the grant received from the State for the Main Street facade project. Mayor Eldridge noted he is pleased to see the Town moving forward.

10. Town Manager's Report.

- a. PILOT funds.**

Town Manager Beets explained the PILOT money allocations between the Town General Government budget and the Willimantic Taxing District budget. He provided examples of some allocations and noted they can change from year to year based on the recommendations from the Town Council.

- b. Acoustics in Bellingham Auditorium.**

Town Manager Beets reported a proposal of \$6,500 was received from Sound Engineers to analyze the sound in the Bellingham Auditorium and to provide recommendations to improve the sound quality.

DeVivo MOVED, Krich seconded, to send the information regarding the acoustics in the Bellingham Auditorium to the Public Safety, Public Works Committee for review. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Police Chief Swearing-In Ceremony: Thursday, 7.28.16, Bellingham Auditorium.**

Town Manager Beets provided information on the Police Chief Swearing in Ceremony.

d. Family Dollar.

Town Manager Beets reported on the status of the Family Dollar Store and noted the project had gone through the Planning & Zoning Commission. He explained the foundation was going in and the store should be an asset to the neighborhood.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications to Council.

a. Letter from the ACCESS Agency about the Senior Center.

Councilmember O'Brien stated he was meeting with Town Attorney Cody on Thursday to finish up the paperwork on the agreement with the Access Agency regarding the Senior Center. He explained the agreement will then be submitted to Town Manager Beets and Senior Center Director Mary DeMarco for review. Councilmember O'Brien expressed his confidence in the negotiations moving forward.

12. Discussion and Review of Agendas, Minutes, Reports of Town Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

None

13. Resolutions and Ordinances.

a. Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution supporting the location of the National Coast Guard Museum in New London.

Fantoli read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

Fantoli MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adopt Resolution #2684.

RESOLUTION of the Windham Town Council Supporting New London as the Site of the National Coast Guard Museum.

Whereas, for more than 225 years the United States Coast Guard has maintained an active presence in southeastern Connecticut enhancing the economic, historical, and educational resources of this region; and

Whereas, in 2014 the city of New London donated land at its City Pier as the site of the future National Coast Guard Museum; and

Whereas, the New London City Pier affords the best deep water access for America's Tall Ship, the Coast Guard Barque EAGLE and for visiting Coast Guard vessels and waterborne exhibits; and

Whereas, cities and towns within the Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments -- SCCOG -- support locating the National Coast Guard Museum at the City Pier in New London;

Now, Therefore, the Town Council adopts the following Resolution:

Supporting the location and construction of the National Coast Guard Museum at the City Pier in New London.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. **Old Business.**

a. **Mayor calls on the Chairman of the Town Council's Committee on Administration, Finance, Development, Health, and Human Services to report on the Committee's discussion and actions. Possible Town Council discussion and action.**

i. **\$500,000 in Town General Government budget cuts.**

Krich reported that the Administration, Finance, Development, Health, and Human Services Committee met last Tuesday and he thanked DeVivo, Lessard and Martinez for attending. Krich noted the Committee discussed the following:

- Update on the Senior Center
- Town Manager evaluation
- Creating a revolving Blight removal fund
- Fracking Waste Ordinance
- Reducing the Town General Government budget by \$500,000

Krich reported the Committee had struggled with the cuts that needed to be made and explained their recommendations. He also answered questions from the Town Council.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the cuts as recommended by the Administration, Finance, Development, Health, and Human Services Committee. All were in favor except Flores who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

b. **Mayor calls on the Chairman of the Town Council's Committee on Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture, and Recreation to report on the Committee's discussion and action. Possible Town Council discussion and action.**

DeVivo reported the Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture, and Recreation Committee held a Special Meeting last night and discussed the following:

- Bulky Waste cost to the Town
- Sidewalk grant
- Band shell being permanent rather than temporary
- Awarding the sidewalk project to Genovesi Construction
- Noznick Property site visit

Economic Development Director Jim Bellano provided the Town Council with a breakdown of the \$650,000 grant.

Councilmember DeVivo and Economic Development Director Jim Bellano answered questions from the Town Council.

c. **Discuss and possibly act on a motion to extend the date for the Charter Commission to present its draft report to the Town Council.**

Charter Revision Commission member Dan Lein reported the Charter Revision Commission had completed its work and submitted a draft report to the Town Clerk's Office on July 12th.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to set a Public Hearing for August 2, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Bellingham Auditorium to hear public comment regarding proposed changes to the Windham Town Charter. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Eldridge turned the meeting over to Town Council President DeVivo. Mayor Eldridge left the meeting.

15. New Business.

- a. **Discuss and possibly award a contract for \$217,144 to Genovesi Construction to construct sidewalks on the north side of Main Street, from High to Bank Streets, as recommended by the Town Engineer and to be paid from voter-approved road and sidewalk bonds.**

McDevitt MOVED, Flores seconded, to award a contract for \$217,144 to Genovesi Construction to construct sidewalks on the north side of Main Street, from High to Bank Streets, as recommended by the Town Engineer and to be paid from voter-approved road and sidewalk bonds. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Discuss and possibly approve an application from the Willimantic Farmers' Market/Windham Regional Community Council to conduct the 40th Anniversary Farm-to-Table BBQ, with beer and possibly providing music, at Jillson Green on Saturday, August 20, 2016, from approximately 12:30 PM to approximately 3:30 PM, subject to compliance with all applicable state and town laws and policies.**

McDevitt MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve an application from the Willimantic Farmers' Market/Windham Regional Community Council to conduct the 40th Anniversary Farm-to-Table BBQ, with beer and possibly providing music, at Jillson Green on Saturday, August 20, 2016, from approximately 12:30 PM to approximately 3:30 PM, subject to compliance with all applicable state and town laws and policies. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Future Agenda Items.

None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Andrew Martin, Willimantic, strongly suggested enforcing a Town ordinance regarding ATV's. He also spoke about changing the hours at the Library to better serve the community and installing drop off slots for the return of DVD's.

Paul Hongo, Human Resource Director addressed the comments regarding the lack of food at the Animal Control facility. He assured the Town Council that donations were plentiful and there was no problem especially due to being a no kill shelter.

Kevin Hoxie, Ridgewood Road, Willimantic, spoke about the budget, high medical costs, abandoned property and the burden to middle class taxpayers.

Jean Chaine, Windham Center, shared his concerns regarding the clarity in the Town Charter with reference to language surrounding the ownership and purchase of large ticket items such as land, buildings, etc.

Dennis O'Brien acknowledged the problem with the acoustics in the Auditorium. He also responded to the questions raised by Mr. Chaine and suggested a meeting to discuss his concerns.

James Flores encouraged the Town Council to read all emails sent by the Town Manager. He also noted the Town Manager had reported the draft proposal from the Charter Revision Commission had been sent to the Town Council.

18. Adjournment.

McDevitt MOVED, Martinez seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting at 9:35 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted by:

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Town Council

Town Council 7/19/16

Windham CT.

Comments from Bill Powers, 355 Scotland Road, Windham, CT.

Greetings: Recently there has been discussion concerning the performance evaluation of our Town Manager. The Council Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2014 contain an addendum of my comments about this in which I stated, "the avenues to the public as part of the evaluation process are unclear to me". I offered a brief commentary about my experience with Mr. Beets. At this time those avenues are still unclear to me. It appears that the your committee is addressing some of the long term issues, concerns, problems and needs associated with this performance evaluation. This is indeed a positive move to improve the situation.

While a 360 feedback model is being employed which includes a number of stakeholders to collect information, there are important factors which ought to be considered – for instance that the person being evaluated should identify the stakeholders to be included as group members, that the feedback is a part of a performance management model which culminates in a performance appraisal.

I am hoping that the Town Manager at his last appraisal had the opportunity to participate in a process for determining the goals, objectives /strategies, and measurement criteria which will be used for assessment at the next appraisal. In this way there is a much better opportunity to assure that the assessment is fair, valid and objective.

Finally, may I say that my interactions with Mr. Beets and his Department Heads have always been extremely positive, professional and positive. This is in the roles of tax payer, Chairman of Town Committees and Director in a Taxing District. Thank you for your attention.

Bill Powers

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Powers".