

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting



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

1. **Call to Order.**

Mayor Eldridge called the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

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

Executive Administrator and Acting Town Manager Neida Rosado 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, spoke about following Robert's Rules of Order, the need for the recorder of the meeting to have a microphone, looking into the possibility of the Senior Center moving into the courthouse on Valley Street, a conflict of interest with the Chief of Police and Executive Administrator and terminating the Town Manager.

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, spoke about the poor acoustics in the Auditorium, lowering the Town Manager's pay, considering creating a new Charter Revision Commission in the fall, the \$650,000 grant for streetscapes and the band shell and not having enough time to speak at the meetings.

Kevin Hoxie, Willimantic, spoke about the Town having a hard time passing the budget and suggested using our money for other things rather than putting up a band shell.

Mary Gallucci, North Street, Willimantic, spoke about the Town complying with the law, the Town Charter, the legal charge of the Board of Finance and the Town and Board of Finance's jurisdiction over the Board of Education.

Dan Lein, Willimantic, spoke about the Town Charter and the process for making changes to the Town Charter. He also noted he would like to serve again if another Charter Revision Commission was created.

Jean Chaine, Windham Center, spoke about the public comment section of the meetings and the Town Council not being able to engage with the public during that time. He also noted he was having trouble using email to contact Council members.

4. Town Council Comment.

Mayor Eldridge noted the \$650,000 grant would not be used only for a band shell although it was getting the most press.

Tom DeVivo reminded residents of the work that would be taking place regarding the gas lines and noted letters will be sent to affected residents. He also suggested the Town develop a policy to allow Town staff to approve the use of alcohol on Town property.

Dawn Niles agreed with DeVivo regarding the Town developing a policy for the use of alcohol on Town property. She also reminded the Council of the need to address the fee ordinance to allow landlords to use the transfer station. In addition, Niles provided information about the backpack program including the drop off locations and final date of drop off.

Lorraine McDevitt asked that the School Board be notified and encouraged to help students become familiar with the Town and the streets.

James Flores spoke about the Council having laptops to save on paper. He also spoke about corrupt media reporting and about bringing the community and police together through events such as the one held at Windham Heights today. Flores stated "More Books, Less TV."

Tony Fantoli stated he is hopeful the sound system in the Auditorium will be fixed soon.

Mayor Eldridge spoke about the event at Windham Heights and noted he and Councilmember Flores had attended. He also noted the Registrar of Voters and Recreation Department were there as well.

Dennis O'Brien thanked the Mayor for clarifying that the \$650,000 grant was not only for a band shell. He also commended Economic Development Director Jim Bellano for his work on the grant. In addition, O'Brien spoke about efforts being made to keep the courthouse on Valley Street as well as the High School and hospital in Windham.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.

a. Town Council Special Telephonic Meeting Minutes June 17, 2016

b. Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes June 21, 2016

c. Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes July 19, 2016

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded. to approve the Town Council Special Telephonic Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2016. All were in favor except Krich who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2016. All were in favor except Lessard who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to approve the Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2016. All were in favor except Niles who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to add under Item #13b a Resolution concerning the Micro-Grid project and the Town of Windham for an easement to Yankee gas. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: O'Brien MOVED, Flores seconded, to add under Item #15d to discuss and possibly act on appropriating up to \$1,000 to contribute to the backpack efforts initiated by James Flores and Dawn Niles. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Resignations.

a. Charles Kratt from the Wastewater Pollution Control Authority.

Noted

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

None

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

None

9. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Eldridge reported on the swearing in ceremony for Police Chief Rob Rosado.

10. Town Manager's Report.

Executive Administrator and Acting Town Manager Neida Rosado reported on the completion of the audit. She also provided the Council with a copy of the audit as well as a copy of the proposed budget. In addition, she stated if the Town Council has questions regarding the audit she will have Finance Director Chris Johnson attend the next Town Council meeting to address any questions.

Executive Administrator and Acting Town Manager Neida Rosado also reported on receiving a petition from David Mortlock regarding the renaming of lower Watson Street.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications to Council.

DeVivo questioned whether Councilmembers had been notified of the event at Windham Heights today and noted he had no knowledge of the event.

A brief discussion took place and Mayor Eldridge stated he will notify the Council of all events in the future.

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

DeVivo reported there had been a Special Meeting of the Public Safety, Public Works Committee and Economic Development Director Jim Bellano had given a presentation regarding the \$650,000 grant. DeVivo noted the consensus of the Committee was to approve the building of a permanent band shell.

13. Resolutions and Ordinances.

- a. **Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution approving an application and grant for \$650,000 from the State of Connecticut, through its Department of Economic and Community Development, to undertake the Streetscape, New Town Green, Band Shell, and Downtown Building Improvements Project.**

Niles read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

Niles MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to adopt Resolution #2685.

McDevitt MOVED, Niles seconded, to move the question. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The original motion was voted on. All were in favor except Fantoli who opposed and Krich who abstained.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

WHEREAS, pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes 4-66c**, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the **Town of Windham, Connecticut** make an application to the **State of Connecticut** for **\$650,000.00** in order to undertake the Streetscape, New Town Green, Band Shell and Downtown Building Improvements project and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Town of Windham Town Council:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by
Connecticut General Statutes 4-66c,and
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the **Town of Windham, Connecticut** in an amount not to exceed **\$650,000.00** is hereby approved and that **Town Manager, Neal J. Beets** is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the **Town of Windham, Connecticut**.

MOTION PASSED

- b. Discuss and possibly adopt a Resolution regarding the Micro-Grid Project.**
DeVivo read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.
DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt Resolution #2686. All were in favor.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

In furtherance of the Micro-Grid Project, the Town of Windham convey to Yankee Gas Services Company, dba Eversource Energy, a gas distribution easement as shown on a certain plan or map entitled 'Compilation Plan Map Showing Easement Area to be granted to Yankee Gas Service Company dba Eversource Energy Across the Property of the Town of Windham 123 Quarry Street, Willimantic, Connecticut Scale: 1"=40' Date: July 8, 2016 File No. E6077'; and that the Town Manager is hereby authorized to execute and deliver such instruments as may be necessary to carry out the said conveyance, in such form and content as approved by the Town Attorney."

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

14. **Old Business.**
 - a. Discuss and possibly act on a motion to approve an appropriation from the Town General Government's contingency account of approximately \$8,350 for architectural service to develop a conceptual floorplan and estimated renovation budget for the Town's Senior Center in Unit 1 at the ACCESS**

Agency building at 1315 Main Street, which conceptual floorplan and renovation budget are necessary in order to amend the Town's grant application to the Connecticut Department of Social Services.

DeVivo MOVED, O'Brien seconded, to approve an appropriation from the Town General Government's contingency account of approximately \$8,350 for architectural service to develop a conceptual floorplan and estimated renovation budget for the Town's Senior Center in Unit 1 at the ACCESS Agency building at 1315 Main Street, which conceptual floorplan and renovation budget are necessary in order to amend the Town's grant application to the Connecticut Department of Social Services. All were in favor except Fantoli who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

For the record, Ide stated she thinks this is money well spent.

- b. Discuss and possibly act on a motion to approve or reject proposed changes to the Town of Windham Charter per the recommendation of the Charter Revision Commission.**

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the proposed changes to the Town of Windham Charter per the recommendation of the Charter Revision Commission. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. New Business

- a. Discuss and possibly approve an application from Bridges Healthy Cooking School for a series of food events, serving beer, at Jillson Square on the following dates in 2017, subject to compliance with all applicable state and Town requirements: June 10, 5pm-8pm; July 8, 5pm-8pm; August 12, 5pm-8pm; September 9, 1pm-4pm; October 14, 1pm-4pm.**

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to approve an application from Bridges Healthy Cooking School for a series of food events, serving beer, at Jillson Square on the following dates in 2017, subject to compliance with all applicable state and Town requirements: June 10, 5pm-8pm; July 8, 5pm-8pm; August 12, 5pm-8pm; September 9, 1pm-4pm; October 14, 1pm-4pm. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discuss and possibly approve building a permanent band shell and not a portable band shell on the Jillson Square property as recommended by the Public Safety, Public Works Sub-Committee.**

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve building a permanent band shell and not a portable band shell on the Jillson Square property as recommended by the Public Safety, Public Works Sub-Committee. All were in favor except Fantoli who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

- c. Discuss and possibly approve a motion to convene an executive session regarding the sale of Town property, with the Economic Development**

Director and Executive Administrator in attendance. Possible discussion of and action on items arising out of this executive session.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to table Item #15c until after Item #15d. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED.

d. Discuss and possibly act on appropriating up to \$1,000 to contribute to the backpack efforts initiated by James Flores and Dawn Niles.

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to transfer \$1,000 from the Town Council part time payroll (page 26 in the budget book) to the Recreation General Program Community Services (page 63 in the budget book). All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Discuss and possibly approve a motion to convene an executive session regarding the sale of Town property, with the Economic Development Director and Executive Administrator in attendance. Possible discussion of and action on items arising out of this executive session.

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to take Item 15c off the table. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to convene an executive session at 8:40 P.M. regarding the sale of Town property, with the Economic Development Director and Executive Administrator in attendance. All were in favor except Krich who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to come out of executive session at 9:20 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action was taken.

16. Future Agenda Items

None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, spoke about the \$650,000 grant and the sidewalks, trees, bricks and trash cans on Main Street. She also suggested the Town Council sit on the stage for meetings to possibly help with the poor acoustics in the Auditorium.

Bernie D'Auteuil, 168 Walnut Street, Willimantic, spoke about the need for a crosswalk in front of the High School and the need to revamp the Board of Education.

Kevin Hoxie, Willimantic, spoke about the Board of Education budget, his support of the Senior Center and the lack of plans for the band shell.

18. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting at 9:30 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNNAIMOUSLY.

Submitted by:

Barbara J. McKinney

Clerk of the Town Council