

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, September 1, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.



1. **Call to Order.**

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

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

Tom DeVivo was 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.**

Kevin Hoxie, Ridgewood Road, Willimantic, shared his concerns with the lack of crosswalks on High Street and the sizes of rental signs advertising property.

Christopher Mezzarone, Willimantic and member of the Eastern Region Mental Health Board informed the Council the Board was trying to find a piece of property to use to help Veterans suffering with PTSD.

Dawn Niles, North Windham, spoke about the letter from Edith regarding the Senior Center, the Wounded Warrior Project benefit that will be held at the Elks Club on November 28th at 6:30 PM featuring the group ACDC, the Windham Willimantic Cares program toy distribution event and the Festival of Lights Parade.

4. **Town Council Comment.**

James Flores asked Charles Krich, Parliamentarian of the Town Council, for a ruling regarding public comment. He noted there was no public comment at the Town Council Nominating Committee meeting that was held prior to the Town Council meeting and called it a private meeting.

Charles Krich noted public comment is not required by FOIA and stated he was not familiar with any law that required it. He stated the only requirement is that the public is noticed of the meeting.

Mayor Eldridge stated the meeting was not a private meeting and the meeting was posted properly.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.

a. Meeting of June 18, 2015.

Krich MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Town Council minutes for June 18, 2015. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Meeting of July 7, 2015.

Underwood MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Town Council minutes for July 7, 2015. All were in favor except Donahue who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Resignations.

a. Orland Donald, from the board of directors for the North Central Health Department.

Noted

7. Appointments, Reappointments.

a. Appoint Roger Benham as a regular member of the North Central District Health Department, with a term to expire on April 15, 2016.

b. Reappoint Jean Gaskin to the Willimantic Housing Authority, with a term to expire on July 31, 2020.

c. Reappoint Helmut Traichel to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission, with a term to expire on July 1, 2019.

d. Reappoint J. Michael Callahan to the Water Commission, with a term to expire on July 1, 2021.

e. Reappoint Bill Sayers to the Water Commission, with a term to expire on July 1, 2021.

f. Reappoint Rene Goss to the Wastewater Pollution Control Authority, with a term to expire on July 1, 2021.

Mayor Eldridge noted the Nominating Committee approved the appointment and reappointments of the individuals in Items #7a-7e and postponed the reappointment of the individual in Item #7f.

McDevitt MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to vote on Items #7a-7e as one Item. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

McDevitt MOVED, Underwood seconded, to appoint and reappoint the individuals in Items #7a-7e and took no action on Item #7f. All were in favor except Flores who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

a. Hear a Presentation from Michael Desjarlis and Michael Callahan from the Micro-Grid Building Committee, and possible action.

Michael Desjarlis introduced himself and Michael Callahan to the Council and provided a Presentation Outline of the project. Michael Callahan gave an update on the status of the Micro-Grid Building Committee project and presented the

recommended changes the Committee is seeking for the project. He also answered questions from the Council.

9. Mayor's Report.

No report

10. Town Manager's Report.

Town Manager Beets explained the issues with the cable TV communication in broadcasting the meetings.

Town Manager Beets also reported on the new electric car the Town purchased and he thanked Jean and Grace, members of the Energy Commission, for the Commissions help with the cost of the purchase.

11. Discussion and Review of Citizen Communications to Council.

a. Letter from the Mill Museum asking for \$15,000. Possible Council action.

Doyle MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to have the Mill Museum reapply through Mary DeMarco's Committee and that the Committee come back to the Town Council as a whole with a recommendation conditional on the Mill Museum signing a contract through the Outside Agencies, submitting a budget report as to how the money is going to be used and that there be a signed lease agreeable to the Town before the money is released. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fantoli stated he had received some complaints regarding the Parking Monitor and he explained the complaints. A short discussion followed and Town Manager Beets stated he would speak to Chief Maruzo-Bolduc to clarify the areas in which the Parking Monitor has authority.

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

None

13. Resolutions and Ordinances.

None

14. Old Business.

McDevitt questioned the status was on the Hurley building and the Flying Carpet building.

15. New Business.

a. Discuss and possibly approve the award of a contract for \$26,000 to JJS Universal Construction to replace the roof on the Dugan Building of the Mill Museum.

Underwood MOVED, Doyle seconded, to approve the award of a contract for \$26,000 to JJS Universal Construction to replace the roof on the Dugan Building of the Mill Museum. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Future Agenda Items
None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Lorraine McDevitt reminded everyone that the Relay for Life will be held on October 17th & 18th at the ECSU Complex and she is hoping everyone will participate. McDevitt noted a t-shirt will be given for a donation of \$20 and additional donations are encouraged.

Christopher Mezzarone noted the Lighthouse was walking in the Relay for Life as they do every year.

Kevin Hoxie spoke about the additional money given to the projects at Natchaug School, the Magnet School and other projects in Town and doesn't understand why there is a problem with giving the Mill Museum an additional \$15,000.

James Flores shared his opinion on the way the Council is operating. He spoke about the former sub-committees, the nominating committee and the lack of public comment at meetings.

Mayor Eldridge explained the Mayor was solely responsible for bringing names forward to the Town Council for appointments to Boards/Commissions. He noted a change was made in the newly adopted Town Charter which requires a Nominating Committee be created and is now charged with that responsibility.

Grace Adams questioned the dates of the Middle School roof as presented by the Micro-Grid Committee and asked for clarification.

18. Adjournment

McDevitt MOVED, Underwood seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular meeting at 8:26 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:
Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council