

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

**Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, September 15, 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, Tom DeVivo, Lorraine McDevitt, Joseph Underwood, Mark Doyle, Michael Lessard, James Flores Charlotte Patros and Christel Donahue

Town Manager Neal Beets was also in attendance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Eldridge led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of John Lescoe.

3. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Bill Powers, Scotland Road, Windham, provided the Town Council with a copy of a statement he read. (See Attachment A).

Roger Benham, 91 South Street, Willimantic, spoke about the noise & speeding on South Street.

Gil Texeira, South Street, Willimantic, spoke about the speeding on South Street.

Paul Hongo, South Street, Willimantic, spoke about vehicles speeding on South Street.

Jean deSmet, Willimantic, spoke about traffic calming devices, the CDBG grant and events on Jillson Square.

Lorraine McDevitt spoke about the danger of students sitting on roofs and the need for a solution.

James Flores spoke about treating everyone equal whether it is on South Street or in the hill section of Town.

Charles Krich suggested the South Street complaints be directed to the Willimantic Traffic Authority and he provided the names of the members.

Mayor Eldridge reiterated the comments of Councilmember Krich.

Tom DeVivo explained the process for having a meeting called.

Mark Doyle suggested the Town Council send a letter to the Willimantic Traffic Authority.

Town Manager Beets stated he will ask the Police Captain and Chairman of the Willimantic Traffic Authority to attend the meeting next week to give their assessment of the South Street traffic problems.

James Flores spoke about the speeding problems on South Street.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.

a. Special Meeting of July 28, 2015.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the Special Meeting minutes of July 28, 2015. All were in favor except Lessard and Doyle who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

b. Regular Meeting of September 1, 2015.

Underwood MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of September 1, 2015 with the following correction: Tom DeVivo was excused and not absent. All were in favor except DeVivo who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

6. Resignations

None

7. Appointments, Reappointments

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

Lessard MOVED, Patros seconded, to reappoint Rene Goss to the Windham Wastewater Pollution Control Authority with a term to expire July 1, 2021. Patros was in favor. All others opposed except Flores who abstained. MOTION FAILED.

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

a. Hear a Presentation from George Hernandez about his Proposal to purchase and develop the Tin Tsin lot (a/k/a Chapman Block) at 804806 Main Street , and possible Council action, such as sending this Proposal to the PZC and EDC for a written recommendation to the Town Council by the Town Council's Study Session on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

- **George Hernandez's Supplement to his Proposal, 20150617**
- **Staff Memorandum evaluating Mr. Hernandez's Proposal, 20150617**

George Hernandez gave a presentation on his proposal to purchase and develop the Tin Tsin lot (a/k/a Chapman Block) at 804806 Main Street. Mr. Hernandez provided the Town Council with a copy of power point and explained his vision for the project. He also answered questions from the Town Council.

Lessard MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to send the proposal to the PZC and EDC for a written recommendation to the Town Council within two months. All were in favor except Doyle who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION: Underwood MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to move Item 15a & 15b up on the agenda to follow Item 8a. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. New Business

a. Discuss and possibly approve a request from Bridges Healthy Cooking School to serve liquor at special food and art events on the Jillson Green on May 22, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, and October 8, 2016, subject to compliance with all state and Town requirements.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve a request from Bridges Healthy Cooking School to serve liquor at special food and art events on the Jillson Green on May 22, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, and October 8, 2016, subject to compliance with all state and Town requirements. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Discuss and possibly approve a request from VultureTown Arts to serve liquor at a special music event in the Bellingham Auditorium on October 30, 2015, subject to compliance with all state and Town requirements.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve a request from VultureTown to serve liquor at a special music event in the Bellingham Auditorium on October 30, 2015, subject to compliance with all state and Town requirements. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 8b. **Hear a Presentation from Mary DeMarco, Peter Huckins, and Kim Haddad about the Town's Small Cities CDBG grant program and possible Council discussion and direction.**

Mary DeMarco, Peter Huckins and Kim Haddad gave a presentation on the Town's Small Cities CDBG grant program. Mary DeMarco and Peter Huckins provided statistical information, explained the criteria needed to be eligible for the grant and the time frame that must be met to apply for the grant. Kim Haddad, Director of the Willimantic Housing Authority, noted she would like to apply for the grant to renovate Jonathan Trumbull housing. They also answered questions from the Town Council.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to recommend the Town Manager write a letter of recommendation for the Housing Authority to apply for the CDBG grant if funds are available.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to move the question. All were in favor except Flores who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to recommend the Town Manager write a letter of recommendation for the Housing Authority to apply for the CDBG grant if funds are available. All were in favor except Flores who left the table and did not vote. MOTION PASSED.

- 8c. **Hear a Presentation from Economic Development Director Jim Bellano and representatives from local groups about proposed temporary and permanent improvements to the Jillson Green. Discuss and possibly decide whether to approve a conceptual improvement plan and to authorize efforts by private and public entities to apply for grants to pay for final design and for installation of the improvements.**

Economic Development Director Jim Bellano gave a presentation about proposed temporary and permanent improvements to the Jillson Green including fencing, a pavilion and a band shell. Diane Nadeau from the Chamber of Commerce also spoke about the proposal. Mr. Bellano and Ms. Nadeau answered questions from the Town Council.

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to approve a conceptual improvement plan and to authorize efforts by private and public entities to apply for grants to pay for final design only. All were in favor except Fantoli who opposed and Flores who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

9. **Mayor's Report**

None

10. **Town Manager's Report**

None

11. **Discussion and Review of Citizen Communications to Council**

Tom DeVivo read a letter from Sgt. Alex Coriaty, Willimantic Police Department Union Secretary. (See Attachment B)

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

None

13. Resolutions and Ordinances

- a. **Discuss and possibly approve a Resolution, as drafted by the Town's Bond Counsel, authorizing the sale of Town notes or bonds, if necessary, to finance the renovation of the Willimantic Public Library, and setting a Town Meeting at 6:45 pm on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, in the Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium to approve the notes or bonds, subject to the positive recommendation of the Board of Finance.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to waive the reading of the Resolution. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve Resolution #2663. All were in favor.

RE: Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$1,000,000 for the Willimantic Public Library Project.

RESOLVED:

that the Town Council of the Town of Windham (the "Town") approves and recommends to the Board of Finance that the sum of \$1,000,000 be appropriated for the cost of the Willimantic Public Library Project, such project to include, but not limited to, renovations of the existing library building to include a meeting room and a dedicated computer room, upgrade of HVAC system, replacement windows, site work, equipment, shelving and furniture as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs (the "Project") and to meet said appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the amount of \$1,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town to which its full faith and credit is pledged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the appropriation and bond authorization be approved by the Board of Finance and the voters at Town Meeting,

(i) the Town Manager and the Treasurer be authorized to issue and sell such bonds and notes in anticipation of such bonds and to determine the amount, date, date of maturity, interest rate, form and other details of such bonds and notes, pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling; and

(ii) the Town Manager and the Treasurer shall sign the bonds and notes by either manual or facsimile signatures and that the law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds; and

(iii) the Town Manager and the Treasurer, or either of them, is authorized to designate a bank or trust company to be the certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent of the bonds; to sell the bonds and notes at public or private sale or negotiation; to deliver the bonds and notes; and to perform and comply with all requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and to perform all other acts and execute such documents which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds and notes including, but not limited to, the execution and delivery of a bond purchase agreement, tax compliance agreement and bond insurance agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town reasonably expects to incur expenditures (the “Expenditures”) in connection with the capital project for which a general functional description is provided above. The Town reasonably expects to reimburse itself for the cost of the Expenditures with the proceeds of bonds of the Town described above. The maximum principal amount of such debt is not expected to exceed \$1,000,000. This declaration of official intent is a declaration of official intent made pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the Board of Finance approve an appropriation and bond authorization for the Willimantic Public Library Project, a Special Town Meeting is hereby called to be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at the Windham Town Hall, Bellingham Auditorium, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226 at 6:45 p.m. to consider and vote upon the resolution for the Willimantic Public Library Project as set forth above.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Old Business

- a. Discuss and possibly approve the collective bargaining agreement with Police Union UPSEU/COPS Unit #340.**

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve the collective bargaining agreement with Police Union UPSEU/COPS Unit #340. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discuss and possibly authorize and appropriate \$15,174.95 in additional funds for FY 1516 for the Windham Region Transit District.**

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to direct the Board of Finance to transfer \$15,174.95 in additional funds for FY 1516 for the Windham Region Transit District from undesignated funds. All were in favor except Patros who opposed and Flores who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

15. New Business

- a. Discuss and possibly approve a request from Bridges Healthy Cooking School to serve liquor at special food and art events on the Jillson Green on May 22, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, and October 8, 2016, subject to compliance with all state and Town requirements.**
- b. Discuss and possibly approve a request from VultureTown Arts to serve liquor at a special music event in the Bellingham Auditorium on October 30, 2015, subject to compliance with all state and Town requirements.**

Items #15a & 15b were moved up on the agenda to follow Item #8a.

- c. Discuss and possibly set a public hearing on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall’s Bellingham Auditorium regarding a request to name an area in Lauter Park after Cora Moore.**

Flores MOVED, Lessard seconded, to set a public hearing on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall’s Bellingham Auditorium regarding a request to name an area in Lauter Park after Cora Moore. All were in favor except Doyle who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

- d. Discuss and possibly act on a motion to authorize the hiring of a Finance Assistant III.** Lessard MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to authorize the hiring of a Finance Assistant III. All were in favor except Krich who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

DeVivo MOVED, Krich seconded, to reconsider the vote on Item #15d. All were in favor except Flores who abstained. MOTION PASSED.

Lessard MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to authorize the hiring of a Finance Assistant III. All were in favor except Krich and Fantoli who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

e. **Discuss and possibly approve a motion to award a contract to Musco Sports Lighting LLC in the amount of \$11,500 to replace softball field lights at Park.**

DeVivo MOVED, Underwood seconded, to award a contract to Musco Sports Lighting LLC in the amount of \$11,500 to replace softball field lights at Park. All were in favor.
MOTION PASSED.

16. Future Agenda Items

None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment

Paul Hongo apologized to the Town Council if he came on too strong with his comments in the first Citizens and Delegations. He spoke again about the South Street traffic issues and gave an example of an incident from East Haven.

James Flores spoke about the number of questions that could be asked by a councilmember and political ambitions of some.

Charles Krich requested the future agenda's not be so full.

Lorraine McDevitt noted there were only two Town Council members signed up for the Relay for Life team.

18. Adjournment

McDevitt MOVED, Doyle seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular meeting at 10:00 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted By:

Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Town Council

Attachment A

Windham Town Council

September 15, 2015

Willimantic, CT.

Greetings: I would like to briefly follow up on my comments at the last Council meeting. I am thankful that you have included my written statement as an addendum to the Minutes of the last meeting. That is an option that is helpful for assuring that the public is heard and comments properly recorded. So, thanks to the meeting recorder for that. I had expressed some concerns about comments by the public which are not written and are for some reason deemed by the presenter as incomplete or inaccurate. There should be a way for the presenter to have her/his comments corrected. I know from first-hand experience recording meeting minutes that it is no easy task, having done just that for voluntary, professional and local government organizations. As such, I have always endeavored to get it right for the record when it appears that I got it wrong. At the last meeting I had to squirm in my seat because the recorder, I respectfully submit, may have gotten it wrong about what Robert's Rules allows and doesn't allow.

Robert's Rules in fact states, "Some bodies, especially public ones, may invite non-members to express their views, but this is done under the control of the presiding officer **subject to any relevant rules adopted by the body** and subject to appeal by a member." (Robert's Rules of Order : Newly Revised, 10th edition, pgs 93-94.)

Therefore it is up to you to decide to allow for public comment which is recorded in the Minutes in a complete and accurate manner. This will allow for public participation and appropriate communication to all about what occurs at meetings.

It seems there are some on the Council who would dismiss the public's right to comment and have their comments properly recorded. This is undemocratic and elitist in my view. This Council needs to assure the public's right to be heard and for their comments to be accurately shared in your minutes. Perhaps, you might consider a Citizen's Advisory Committee to Improve Communication. Thanks for your consideration.

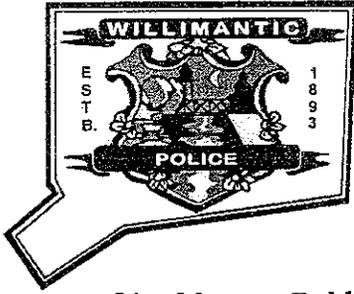


Bill Powers

Scotland Road

Windham Center

Attachment B



Police Department

Office of the Chief of Police
22 Meadow Street, P.O. Box 5
Willimantic, Connecticut 06226

Telephone
(860) 465-3141
FAX: (860) 465-3138

Lisa Maruzo-Bolduc
Chief of Police

Jack Reed
Deputy Chief

Roberto Rosado
Lieutenant - Detectives

Robert M. Buckner
Lieutenant - Patrol

To: The Members of the Town Council

From: Sergeant Alex Coriaty

Subject: Police Contract

Date: September 15, 2015

I've been fortunate enough to have been employed by The Town of Windham for the past 20 years, and during the course of those 20 years I've seen three different personnel directors involved in negotiating The Police Department's contract. I've witnessed the police department go without a contact in some respects a year, or two years, and at one point even three years.

Let it be known that our old contract ending on June 30, 2015, and the police department started their negotiations with the town in early April 2015 and came to a tentative agreement with the town on a new contract on September 8th. The police department approved the town's offer on September 15th. An agreement was met a mere three months after the contract expired.

I wanted to take this opportunity and acknowledge the understanding, professionalism, and positive commitment that Paul Hongo has demonstrated to the Town while negotiating this current contract with the police department. Mr. Hongo at all times looked out for the betterment of the town, but also realized and respected the needs of the police officers. It was a pleasure to have worked with him during this process and the Town should be proud to have an energetic, upbeat, and positive Human Resources Director in Paul Hongo. Please consider reading this letter at your next council meeting. In addition, I respectfully request that this letter be placed in Mr. Hongo's personnel file.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Alex Coriaty

Willimantic Police Department

Union Secretary

CC: Neal Beets Town Manager