

Minutes of the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting

Windham Town Hall Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Tuesday, September 20, 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.

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

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.

Grace Adams, Willimantic, spoke about installing solar street lights on Main Street.

Kevin Hoxie, Willimantic, spoke about the Board of Education budget and provided statistics on Windham Public Schools regarding test scores, student enrollment, etc.

The following individuals spoke in support of making repairs to the Kramer Building: Mohammad Asan, Dency Sargent, Glenn Bouley, James Flores, Lorraine McDevitt, Joseph Flores, Rob Mangual, Sasha Gomez, Travis Mangual, and Dawn Niles.

James Flores stated he will make a motion to move Item 14b up on the agenda. He also reminded people to vote on 9/27/16 for the education budget and provided information regarding the hours and locations for voting as well as absentee ballot availability.

Dawn Niles, spoke as Treasurer of the Windham Center Fire Department and provided information on the Firefighter Memorial event on October 2nd.

4. Town Council Comment.

James Flores commended the Recreation Department for the work they do in education and sports. He spoke in support of the Kramer project.

MOTION: DeVivo MOVED, Niles seconded, to move Item 14b up on the agenda to follow Item 4. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Old Business

b. Report and recommendations from the Chairman of the Town Council's Committee on Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture, and Recreation regarding the Committee's meeting on September 14, 2016. Possible Town Council discussion and action.

i. Discussion and possible action to retain Silver Petrucelli to perform a schematic design of a new roof for the Kramer Building in the amount of \$2,700.00. This will provide a cost estimate and condition report. Work will be paid from the Recreation Department Revolving Fund.
DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to retain Silver Petrucelli to perform a schematic design of a new roof for the Kramer Building in the amount of \$2,700.00. All were favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ii. Discussion and possible action to retain Silver Petrucelli to perform a mechanical study/investigative report on an air conditioning, ventilation, and dehumidification system for the Kramer pool and gym in the amount of \$9,800.00. This will provide a cost estimate and report. Work will be paid from the Recreation Department Revolving Fund.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to retain Silver Petrucelli to perform a mechanical study/investigative report on an air conditioning, ventilation, and dehumidification system for the Kramer pool and gym in the amount of \$9,800.00. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

iii. Discussion and possible action to retain Sanitation Systems Inc. to repair the gym floor in the amount of \$5,400.00 after which the gym will be open for use. Work will be paid for from the Recreation Department Revolving Fund.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to retain Sanitation Systems Inc. to repair the gym floor in the amount of \$5,400.00 after which the gym will be open for use. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Adoption of Town Council Minutes.

a. Regular Council Meeting of September 6, 2016.

DeVivo MOVED, Flores seconded, to approve the Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2016. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Resignations.

None

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

None

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

- a. Hear a Presentation about a new veterans' monument on the Veterans' Memorial Greenway property that the Town leases to the Willimantic Housing Authority and which is located off Jackson Street and adjacent to the Airline Trail. (Informational only; no Council action necessary.)**

Vietnam Veteran Andy Carey, Human Services/Senior Center Director Mary DeMarco and Veteran Chris Paulhus addressed the Town Council and gave a presentation on the new veterans' monument on the Veterans' Memorial Greenway property that the Town leases to the Willimantic Housing Authority and which is located off Jackson Street and adjacent to the Airline Trail. A history of the Veterans' Memorial Greenway property was given and an update on the expansion of the Greenway was explained. The target date for the completion of the project is expected to be Veteran's Day.

9. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Eldridge reported that a basketball game between the Harlem Wizards and local residents will be held on Thursday night at the Windham High School at 6:00 P.M. or 6:30 P.M. He invited all to join the event.

10. Town Manager's Report.

- a. General Code analysis of the Windham Town Code.**
b. ConnectiCare update.
c. Working Cities Challenge Grant.

Town Manager Beets reported on the General Code analysis of the Windham Town Code. He explained the Town has contracted with General Code, a new firm, to codify the Town Code. He noted an analysis and report will go before the Town Attorney as well as the Town Department Heads and staff with any proposed changes followed by a recommendation to the Town Council for approval of any changes.

Town Manager Beets gave a brief update on ConnectiCare and noted the Town will work with Councilmember Ide on this matter.

In addition, Town Manager Beets reported on a Working Cities Challenge Grant. He explained some of the criteria the grant requires and stated it may be recommended that the Town seek funding for the grant. He also noted the Town is looking very closely at the grant and will be back to the Town Council with available options in the first part of the year.

Town Manager Beets answered questions from the Town Council.

Town Manager Beets noted the Willimantic Taxing District will need to set a mill rate for motor vehicles should the Board of Education budget pass on September 27th, however a Special Meeting on September 29th may be needed to authorize spending by the Board of Education should the budget fail.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications to Council.

None

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

None

13. Resolutions and Ordinances.

a. Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign a Connecticut Department of Transportation master agreement for preliminary design work on projects of mutual concern.

DeVivo read the Resolution and moved for its adoption.

DeVivo MOVED, Lessard seconded, to adopt Resolution #2689. All were in favor.

Resolution #2689 - Windham Town Council Authorizing the Town Manager to sign CT DOT Documents

Whereas, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) requires each town in Connecticut to authorize a Town official to be the signatory on a DOT Master Municipal Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Projects, and

Whereas, the Town Manager is the current signatory;

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

Authorizing Neal J. Beets, Windham Town Manager, to continue as the signatory on the DOT Master Municipal Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Projects.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Old Business.

a. Report and recommendations from the Chairman of the Town Council's Committee on Administration, Finance, Development, Health, and Human Services regarding the Committee's meeting on September 13, 2016. Possible Town Council discussion and action.

Krich reported on the Administration, Finance, Development, Health, and Human Services Committee Public Hearing and Committee Meeting.

Krich noted the Public Hearing regarding the renaming of part of the Public Library in memory of Mary Lou DeVivo was deferred until further information could be obtained regarding the costs involved.

Krich reported the Committee had heard from Executive Administrator Neida Rosado and Human Services/Senior Center Director Mary DeMarco on the veteran's services being brought back to the Town and noted a target date of July 1st was being looked at.

Krich also reported the Committee had discussed the Town Manager's performance evaluation and noted Councilmember Ide and Councilmember Fantoli will be speaking to Mr. Beets regarding this.

In addition, Krich reported the Fracking Ordinance was discussed.

i. Discuss and possibly approve a motion adopting a short sale policy for the Town of Windham regarding delinquent CDBG loans that the Town administers.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve a motion adopting a short sale policy for the Town of Windham regarding delinquent CDBG loans that the Town administers. All were in favor except Fantoli, Eldridge and Lessard who opposed. MOTION PASSED.

ii. Discuss and possibly set a Public Hearing at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, in the Bellingham Auditorium to consider a Fracking Ordinance and amendments to the Fee Ordinance.

Niles MOVED, DeVivo seconded, to set a Public Hearing at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, in the Bellingham Auditorium to consider a Fracking Ordinance and amendments to the Fee Ordinance. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

iii. Discuss and possibly approve a change to Rule 3 of the Town Council's Standing Rules of Procedure.

O'Brien MOVED, Niles seconded, to refer Item 14a iii to the Administration, Finance, Development, Health, and Human Services Committee for review. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Report and recommendations from the Chairman of the Town Council's Committee on Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture, and Recreation regarding the Committee's meeting on September 14, 2016. Possible Town Council discussion and action.

DeVivo reported on the Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture, and Recreation Committee Meeting.

DeVivo reported the Committee had toured and discussed the Kramer Building and noted recommendations from the Committee are on tonight's agenda.

DeVivo reported the Committee had heard from Jean de Smet and Tom Markland regarding the sidewalk project on Main Street.

DeVivo also reported he had done some research by speaking to Jamie Eves from the Mill Museum concerning David Mortlock's request to rename Watson Street to Veterans Memorial Drive. DeVivo explained a mill had been located in that area and the street had been originally named after Mr. Watson who was an African American mill owner and Mr. Tingley who was his business partner. He

noted the Committee took no action however recommended Mr. Mortlock find some support from veteran's groups.

DeVivo noted Tara Calixto gave a report on the activities and upcoming events of the Recreation Department.

DeVivo also reported the Committee had discussed the Town's Liquor Policy and recommended the Town staff come back to the Committee with a revised policy.

In addition, DeVivo reported the Committee had spoken about panhandling. He noted the Police Chief had explained there are laws regarding panhandling and suggested that individuals contact the Police Department if panhandling is occurring or if they feel uncomfortable.

- i. **Discussion and possible action to retain Silver Petrucelli to perform a schematic design of a new roof for the Kramer Building in the amount of \$2,700.00. This will provide a cost estimate and condition report. Work will be paid from the Recreation Department Revolving Fund**
- ii. **Discussion and possible action to retain Silver Petrucelli to perform a mechanical study/investigative report on an air conditioning, ventilation, and dehumidification system for the Kramer pool and gym in the amount of \$9,800.00. This will provide a cost estimate and report. Work will be paid from the Recreation Department Revolving Fund.**
- iii. **Discussion and possible action to retain Sanitation Systems Inc. to repair the gym floor in the amount of \$5,400.00 after which the gym will be open for use. Work will be paid for from the Recreation Department Revolving Fund.**

Moved up on the agenda to follow Item 4.

15. New Business.

- a. **Discuss and possibly approve a contract with Liberty Landscapes, LLC, for \$47,000 to reconstruct the hardball field at Rec Park using state LoCIP grant funds, as recommended by the Town Engineer.**

Krich MOVED, Niles seconded, to send Item 15a to the Public Safety, Public Works, Environment, Culture, and Recreation Committee. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Discuss and possibly approve a motion to convene an executive session to discuss a personnel matter, attended by the Finance Director, the Executive Administrator, the Personnel Director, and the Town Manager.**

DeVivo MOVED, O'Brien seconded, to convene an executive session at 8:32 P.M. to discuss a personnel matter, attended by the Finance Director, the Executive Administrator, the Personnel Director, and the Town Manager. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVivo MOVED, Fantoli seconded, to come out of executive session at 9:35 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Possibly discuss and act on matters arising out of the preceding executive session.

No action was taken.

16. Future Meetings, Events, Agenda Items

None

17. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

Fire Captain Ron Palmer provided the Town Council with a “File for Life” brochure. He explained the program and the medical card that was included. He also noted the cost for the program was paid for from the dues of the Firefighters union. In addition, Captain Palmer noted a few Firefighters will be visiting the Senior Center on Thursday at 11:15 A.M. to give a presentation to the seniors on the program. He stated they are also hoping to schedule presentations at all the Senior Housing Facilities and other venues to provide this information to our residents.

18. Adjournment

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adjourn the Windham Town Council Regular Meeting at 9:40 P.M. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted by

**Barbara J. McKinney
Clerk of the Council**