

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

WINDHAM TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

Tuesday, September 3, 2013 - 7:00 P.M. (or as soon as the Town Meeting starting at 6:00 PM in the Bellingham Auditorium concludes)



1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Eldridge called the Town of Windham Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Town Council members present: Mayor Ernest S. Eldridge, N. Joseph Underwood, Lorraine McDevitt, Thomas DeVivo, Tony Fantoli, Charles Krich, Kevin Donohue, Arnaldo Rivera, Christel Donahue, Mark Doyle and Dawn Niles.

Town Manager Neal J. Beets 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 regarding the Magnet School Building Committee meeting that took place on August 25th. He mentioned the members who were present and had concerns regarding an action item pertaining to an \$80,000 invoice.

Tracey Lambert, 255 Mansfield Avenue, Willimantic, passed out an invitation to the Town Council for them to join them for the facility master plan meeting.

George Gillette, Windham Center, 911 Dispatcher for Willimantic, spoke regarding an incident that occurred over the weekend regarding interpreting for a resident that came to the Police Department. Mr. Gillette was concerned because the individual did not speak English and he reached out to the Willimantic Fire Department for help with interpreting and they couldn't help.

Jeff Viens, thanked the two Town Council members that showed up to the landlord meeting. Mr. Viens stated that he will invite them again. He read a letter to the Town Council.

Doug Lary spoke regarding the GIS system that is available through the WINCOG.

Lt. Ray Evans informed the Town Council that he has retired and thanked the Town Council for all the support in the last 30 plus years. He stated that it was a pleasure



working with all the Town of Windham staff and thanked the citizens for letting him be a Police Officer in this city.

Pam Viens stated that when the Town of Windham started code enforcement they didn't know what condemned meant. She said the Town is just losing money and asked the Town Council to please rethink the housing code.

James Flores stated he is running for Town Council and wants to sit next to Lorraine McDevitt. He mentioned that if he gets elected he would like to see the Tri Board be formed again so things like the Windham High School don't fall through the cracks.

Kathy Dubay, tax payer and small business owner asked the Town Council to consider the fairness and consistency when drafting the Housing Code Ordinance. She asked if the Town can go mow the lawn at Natchaug School.

4. Town Council Comment

Arnaldo Rivera spoke regarding bilingual staff and translations.

Lorraine McDevitt requested that the translation issue be placed on the next Public Safety Committee agenda.

Dawn Niles reported on the backpack event and mentioned that some business owners have approached her with concerns regarding the Town process when opening a business. She also requested that the Administration and Finance Committee look into the issue brought up by dispatcher George Gillette.

Thomas DeVivo responded to the Magnet School Building Committee meeting of August 25th issue that was brought up under citizens and delegations.

Kevin Donohue stated that he has sat on several boards and commissions through the years and one thing he has learned is that the work that they do is important. Everyone works together as a Town.

5. Adoption of Minutes

a. Discuss and possibly move to adopt the minutes for the August 20, 2013, Town Council Meeting.

DeVivo MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to adopt the minutes for the August 20, 2013, Town Council Meeting. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Resignations.

None

7. Appointments.

None

8. Presentations & Special Reports.

None

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldridge reported that he had attended Jazz in the Garden on Sunday and the Eastern Connecticut State University ground breaking.

Council member Niles also reported that she attended an event on child abuse at Windham Hospital and a lot of great information was shared in regards to reporting child abuse.

10. Town Manager's Report

No report.

11. Discussion and Review of Communications

None

12. Resolutions and Ordinances.

None

13. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions

a. Administration, Finance, Health, and Human Services Committee

Chairman Kevin Donohue informed the Town Council that he is meeting tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.

b. Public Safety, Public Works, Culture, and Recreation Committee

Chairman Charlie Krich reported that they met and they are looking into a permanent Building Committee for the Town. They reviewed paving bids and are looking into a Truck Parking Ordinance.

c. Capital Planning Action Group

Chairman Mark Doyle reported that they are meeting next Monday and they will be reviewing the Board of Education CIP Plan.

14. Old Business

a. Discuss and possibly move to give policy direction about which COG – Council of Government – Windham should join if WINCOG dissolves.

Lengthy discussion took place regarding COG and WINCOG. No action was taken.

b. Discuss and possibly move that the Town reissue the Animal Control RFP, as recommended by the Public Safety, Public Works, Culture, and Recreation Committee.

Niles MOVED, Rivera seconded, to reissue the Animal Control RFP, as recommended by the Public Safety, Public Works, Culture and Recreation Committee. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. New Business

a. Discuss and possibly move to approve a low-bid paving contract with B+W Paving for \$1,013,855 for various Town roads and parking lots, as recommended by the Public Safety, Public Works, Culture, and Recreation Committee.

Rivera MOVED, McDevitt seconded, to approve a low-bid paving contract with B+W Paving for \$1,013,855 for various Town roads and parking lots, as

recommended by the Public Safety, Public Works, Culture, and Recreation Committee. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Future Agenda Items

- a. September 17, 2013:** Consider naming Caisse Park Gazebo in honor of Richard A. Kelley.

17. Adjournment

McDevitt MOVED, Niles seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Submitted By:

Neida I. Rosado