

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
11 RYE STREET  
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Robert Maynard called the meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m., in the East Windsor Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, East Windsor, Connecticut.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

Robert Maynard, First Selectman  
Richard P. Pippin, Jr., Deputy First Selectman  
Jason E. Bowsza, Selectman  
Dale Nelson, Selectwoman  
Steve A. Dearborn, Selectman

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jim Richards, 29 Pleasant Street – He expressed that moving this ordinance to Town Meeting concerns him because it is restrictive against businesses. He indicated that it means if he were to bring a business to town, regardless of what it is, and fewer than two dozen people don't like his business, then they can restrict him. He added, there's a lot of businesses in town that operate and have their restaurant, bar, and Kenos. He questioned if they would be restricted as well. He feels strongly that this ordinance is a dangerous path. He just learned the Town Charter requires the Town to move this to Town Meeting because of the petition and he expressed that it's a shame. He also talked about the EDC meeting, members discussing how to promote our town and how to sell our products. He brought up 30 years ago a sewer plant was built and in doing so the movie theater moved in, and there was the same kind of "silliness". He asked everyone to think about this before voting. He also said the rumors of backroom deals are ridiculous, it wasn't a back room deal, it was done in front of everyone. He strongly believes that going forward with this sends a message to the community. He encouraged the selectmen to vote in the best interest of the town. He added, the state will not help us, we have to help ourselves.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**Petition on the Ordinance**

**MOTION** made (Pippin) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) pursuant to the Town Charter, Section 10-5a to have the petition for a Town Meeting submitted to the Town Clerk on April 13, 2017 by Brianna Stronk relating to an ordinance to regulate casino gambling in Town to be submitted to Town Meeting for consideration on 04/27/2017 at the time prescribed by Charter and the location to be determined Friday before publication in the newspaper.

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**Discussion:** Selectman Dearborn said, the decisions he makes are for the better of the Town and the better of the people. He feels that this ordinance is not for the better of the people or for the town. He said that he agrees with Jim Richards. He added, there is no way he is voting for this, it is a private deal and he feels that we do not have to go to a referendum. Therefore, he will vote no.

First Selectman Maynard said he does not believe the ordinance providing for a licensing of a gaming facility in the Town of East Windsor is in the proper form, he does not believe it conforms to the law. He would like to wait until he reads the town counsel's opinion on the ordinance before the Board of Selectmen move the ordinance to a Town Meeting. He believes it is the role of the Board of Selectmen to move only valid ordinances to a Town meeting. Therefore, he will vote against it.

Selectman Bowsza feels there are many unfortunate things about this:

- He doesn't know that the contents are even necessary.
- The subject matter contained in the ordinance is premature because we do not know if the legislature will act or how they will act.
- This ordinance is asking us to spend town dollars on a Town Meeting that could result in a referendum to cast a vote on something that may never be necessary for us to even consider.
- He also believes that we would have benefitted as a Town if we had been able to do sufficient research into a number of issues that had come up since last Thursday when this was submitted. We could have waited until next Monday to have verified these signatures. He is disappointed we did not have the opportunity to be fully educated on the relevant statutes.
- He does not believe there is a member on this board that thinks the contents of the ordinance are in sound public policy or are in the spirit with which they entered into a deal with MMCT that they fully intended to honor. He said this is a backdoor way of trying to accomplish something that is already a settled issue. They negotiated in good faith, struck a deal, we have been good faith partners to MMCT.
- The ordinance tends to regulate something that is not even legal; it seeks to set up a structure to regulate something we should not be allowing under the current statutes anyway. This is something that the State would need to regulate, not local government.
- The ordinance attached to the petition is flawed, there are more than 60 blank spaces in the ordinance. He comes back to CGS 7-1 and expressed that he wished they had more time to fully understand whether this is something that is lawful, frivolous or proper.
- He stated that the only option is to accept the petition and forward it to Town Meeting, and to make it clear that this ordinance is a flawed submission and it should be rejected, but it should be rejected by our legislative body. For those reasons, he will be supporting the motion.

Selectman Nelson indicated that she agrees with Selectman Bowsza. Selectman Pippin said that agrees with First Selectman Maynard, Jim Richards, and Selectman Bowsza, but feels that we must follow the rules in the Charter.

First Selectman Maynard questioned what would happen next if there is enough people in the room to pass the ordinance. Selectman Bowsza said there is a process in place for things like this. He said he would imagine the Town Attorney will examine all these questions and more. He believes suit will be brought against the Town if this does pass Town Meeting and Referendum.

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Selectman Nelson said her heart is very heavy sending this to Town Meeting since they have made a commitment, signed a deal, and now are allowing 20 people to manipulate the process which is very offensive; with that said, the residents do have their rights and we must do the right thing by them.

A brief discussion followed.

**In favor: Bowsza, Nelson, Pippin. Opposed: Dearborn and Maynard. Motion passes.**

**MOTION** made (Pippin) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) to request the Town of East Windsor's Town Counsel issue a legal opinion with accordance Town Charter 10-5b for the Town Meeting to consider whether the petition submitted by Brianna Stronk on April 13, 2017, regarding an ordinance to regulate a casino gaming facility in the Town of East Windsor is proper in its form and in conformity with laws and if the petition is not proper in this form or is not in conformity with law the town counsel shall instruct the Town Meeting on how to consider said petition.

**Discussion:** Dearborn said there is a lot of things in there that are incorrect and asked if the vote to pass the ordinance would make the ordinance null and void. Selectman Bowsza indicated that is one of the questions we are getting legal counsel on.

**In favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Pippin. Opposed: None. Motion passes.**

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Nelson) to adjourn.

**In favor: Bowsza, Dearborn, Nelson and Pippin. Opposed: None. Motion passes.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Amanda Schroll*

Amanda Schroll,  
Recording Secretary