

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 30, 2007

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Joseph Harvey Hearing Room. All members were present.

120 BANKS STREET LAND USE

An open discussion involving the Town Council, Planning Board Chairman, Town Manager, Building Inspector, Fire Chef and the citizens'/Banks St. neighborhood regarding issues and concerns regarding the business of Viking Oil at 120 Banks St.

President Reilly stated that until it is known what the eventual use of the property by the current ownership and current business is intended may color what actions the Town is able to take.

Councilor Letterie's concern was to establish a dialogue with everybody involved. Letterie stated the Council has little if any role enforcing this issue but would like to work with the neighbors on getting the issues and concerns on the table to answer as many questions as the Council can. "The neighbors have been patient for a number of years".

OPEN DISCUSSION

The matter of business development was referred to the Economic Development Committee, to report back to the Council with some future proposals.

President Reilly reported, under the new Charter, Annual Reports are required to be filed at the beginning of the fiscal year in July. Reilly would like these committees and boards to present their Annual Reports before the Council and publicly to provide a better understanding as to what they do.

President Reilly reported, under the new Charter, the Council is required to evaluate the Town Manager on an annual basis. Some of the sub-categories of the evaluation will consist of financial and fiscal practices, the development and management of the budget, capital out-lay plan and providing information to the Council relative to finances. The Council will evaluate these sub-categories to be scored on a numerical system to be completed for the beginning of the fiscal year.

The By-Law Review Committee is in the process of working with a consultant to revamp the current Town By-Laws to coincide with the Charter. The Committee is also working with the Council and the Town Manager to put the By-Law program in a way that is understandable for the Council and the public. The By-Laws, once updated, will be computerized and posted on the Town website for the public including links to the relative state statutes.

The main topics of concern discussed amongst the Council were:

Councilor Maggio couldn't stress enough that The Medical Response Core & the Citizen's Reserve Core are still in need of volunteers to get involved in the trainings and getting emergency plans in place for the community. There will be 3 separate trainings (Feb., Mar. & Apr.) at the Cummings School involving the Pandemic Flu, the Emergency Dispensing Site and how to prepare for an emergency. The Council needs to find a way to sit down as a group and do some brainstorming. She would also like to see a medical facility or center come back to Winthrop.

Councilor Calla would like to continue the Neighborhood Partnership policing. She would like to receive a report back to the Council after these meetings take place as to what was discussed, what some of the solutions were and some of the processes the Town Manager might be taking to rectify some of these concerns. There was discussion on having a "Council Chamber" which has been determined to be in the basement level.

Councilor Sanford would like better lines of communication amongst the Council to be more open and fluid. Prior notification as to what is going on, not to be notified at the last minute.

Vice President Boncore would like to know what committees are in existence and that they are active. He would also like to fulfill a promise to seek grant money for a Cultural Arts and Recreation center that is state of the art.

Councilor Letterie would like the Town's grant writer to link together with the schools to pursue grants for MCAS testing help. Letterie also acknowledges the Winthrop High School football team for an outstanding successful season that should not be put on the back burner.

Councilor Ferrino would like to have a joint meeting with the school committee and Town Council to discuss and understand what the School Committee does and to have a general discussion on the issues of budgets and grants. He would also like the Economic Development Committee to renew their interest in the Winthrop Hospital site, which is a potential opportunity for revenue for the Town. To also have a meeting with Massport to discuss their priorities and how it will affect Winthrop.

Councilor DelVento stated the Council needs to look at what are we going to do in the next five years? The Council and the Committees need to become proactive as to how we want to see the Town grow, develop and move forward. To have a full or part-time planner that brings together the assets, economic development and financial committees to put together a 5-10 years forecast for the Town.

Councilor Gill echoes President Reilly's statement of having the Town Committees give a report to the Council. He would also like to set up a meeting with Congressman Markey, Senator Travaglini and Representative DeLeo to talk about legislative priorities and how their efforts interact with what the Council is doing.

MOTION by Councilor Letterie

2ND by Councilor Calla

VOICE VOTE:

VOTED: To suspend Council Rules canceling the February 20, 2007 Council meeting, to meet with the Citizen's on Finance at the next Council meeting.

MOTION by Councilor Letterie

2ND by Councilor Calla

VOICE VOTE:

VOTED: Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

ATTEST:

Susan J. Duplin
Council Clerk