

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 6, 2007**

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Joseph Harvey Hearing Room. All members were present.

In memory of Judge John L. Murphy, Jr. there was a moment of silence.

ACT ON MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION by Vice President Boncore

2ND by Councilor Letterie

VOICE VOTE:

VOTED: To accept Town Council meeting minutes of January 30, 2007 and February 6, 2007.

There was an open discussion on the matter of the property at 274 Winthrop St. regarding zoning issues; the matter is currently before the Board of Appeals.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Timothy Fife, Pat Dagostino, John Hudd, Robert Hudd and Mat Gunn made public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was submitted to Councilor Maggio from Ms. Rosalie Marino, RNBS, a Board of Health member, Town employee and a citizen of the Town regarding the lack of actions by the Town Council in the closing of the Governor Winthrop Nursing Home.

Councilor Gill recognized Michele Karas and Richard White for all their work maintaining the Town website. The Common Cause Massachusetts also extends their congratulations for their work in informing citizens and in maintaining an up-to-date website. A State House event will be held on March 15, 2007 to recognize their achievement.

President Reilly reported that Save the Harbor Save the Bay, an advocacy group for the Boston Harbor and the beaches has written a letter to the Mass. Administrative Law judges of in support of the Winthrop Beach project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice President Boncore reported the Rules & Ordinance Committee met on February 27, 2007. The open hearing portion of the meeting was to discuss the recommendation of the Traffic Study Committee on Billows Street.

Firearms By-Law.

Comments were made about Section 134-1: Firearms and Section 208-6; Missiles, fireworks, etc...

MOTION by Councilor Ferrino to change Section 275-39; Parking, parking prohibited upon certain streets, Billows St. east from the intersection of Billows St. and Triton Ave. to a point **38ft.** southerly.

2ND by Councilor DelVento

AMENDMENT by Councilor Gill to amend the motion by replacing **38 feet** with **55ft.**

2ND by Councilor Letterie

VOICE VOTE:

Amendment defeated

VOTED: To change Section 275-39; Parking, parking prohibited upon certain streets, Billows St. east from the intersection of Billows St. and Triton Ave. to a point **38ft.** southerly.

5 YES; 2 NO; 1 ABSTENTION

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager, Richard White announced the Fire Dept. received a grant for \$78,356. for turn out gear along with a heavy duty washer extractor dryer and storage racks for the Fire Dept. The Town is required to present the 5% match. The gear that is being replaced is more than 15 years old. White publicly congratulated Captain Richard Swartz, the grant writer for doing terrific work on behalf of the Town and helping avoid some significant budget demands.

At the March 20, 2007 Council meeting Mr. White will present a Street Sweeper Ordinance to be referred to the Rules & Ordinance Committee. The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee will prepare a final draft after a consultation with the Public Works Committee to then be brought before the Council to act upon.

Mr. White acknowledged he would respond to a letter from Maureen Reddy regarding Veteran's Road.

Mr. White reports the owner's of the Winthrop Hospital have filed a 10 citizen's petition to include the hospital in the zoning overlay. The matter has been referred to the Planning Board for their process, to evaluate, hold a public hearing to make a recommendation for the Council to act upon.

Mr. White reported the budget is beginning to define itself especially around revenue and the politics of local aid... Mr. White identified and presented an overview of the budget to the Council that is due May 1st.

Mr. White reported on the building inspector's action regarding the property at 274 Winthrop Street.

8:50 PM Recess

9:00 PM Meeting reconvened

NEW BUSINESS

President Reilly announced the open forum dealing with Town finances required in the Town Charter that will be held on March 20, 2007.

Councilor Ferrino makes a recommendation to have the Assessors attend the March open forum to give an informal educational forum on the way different pieces of property; waterfront versus inland property; commercial versus resident, for people to understand the process of assessment.

President Reilly stated the Charter requires all elected and appointed officials to attend the open forum meeting.

MOTION by Councilor Letterie

2ND by Councilor Sanford

VOICE VOTE:

Vice President Boncore "NO"

VOTED: To refer the matter of vacant building ordinance to the Rules & Ordinance Committee.

Councilor Gill announced the Dalrymple Reuse Study Committee and the Capital Assets Committee met on March 1, 2007 to interview 3 proposes who bid on the Dalrymple School property. There will be a follow-up meeting on March 7, 2007 to further discuss the interviews and to have a recommendation for the Council late March or early April.

MOTION by Vice President Boncore to send a resolution to the chairman of the FCC and congressman Markey proposing a free broadband wireless access to all people nationwide.

2ND by Councilor Ferrino

President Reilly postponed action until the next Council meeting.

Councilor Calla in behalf of the Council welcomes CASA (Community Against Substance Abuse) into Town Hall. CASA has numerous resource materials available to the public at no cost. CASA is working very hard to make Winthrop a zero tolerance community.

Councilor Maggio reported WCAT, Channel 3 has been running a program sponsored by the Mass. Dept. of Health which talks about the Pandemic Flu. The Public Health and Safety Committee is in the process of putting together TV programs for emergency preparation to begin in the spring.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Hudd made public comments.

MOTION by Councilor Letterie

2ND by Councilor Maggio

VOICE VOTE:

VOTED: Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

ATTEST:

Susan J. Duplin
Council Clerk

