

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 3, 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.

ACT ON MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of minutes deferred to the next Town Council meeting.

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Council met with members of the Citizen's Advisory Finance Committee, Robert Wynne, Chairman, Janet LaRosee, Karin Chavis and Barbara Flavin were present. Under the Charter the seven voters appointed by the Town Council President shall constitute a Citizen's Advisory Committee on Finance and, as such, shall serve as a resource for the Town Council in all matters affecting finance. Chairman, Robert Wynne reported the Finance Commission has met several times throughout the year to look at a number of different items

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Gill reported the Capital Assets & Dalrymple Reuse Study Committee held a joint meeting. There will be another meeting Thursday, April 5, 2007 with consultant, Judy Barrett regarding this matter. Councilor Gill said the Committee will move forward with some deliberate speed and try to come up with a solution which is in the best interest of the neighborhood and the larger Town.

Councilor Maggio reported a public forum was held on April 2, 2007 at the Senior Center for precincts 4 & 6 regarding the Dalrymple property. Approximately 25 citizens attended the meeting. The results of a questionnaire Councilor Calla designed with 4 questions that were broken down into 3 categories consisted of; A) senior housing plan, B) the new construction plan and C) other plans that people talked about. The results of the questionnaire were, senior housing-9, new construction-8 and, other suggestions such as arts or recreation centers, assisted living centers, different style town houses versus condo development-11.

Councilor Calla reported there was a great turnout and people were happy that they reached out to them and valued their opinion that wanted their comments passed along to the Council. The citizens would also like to have more public forums with various department heads to be updated on what is going on in the community. Councilor Maggio and Councilor Calla apologized for scheduling this public forum during Passover.

President Reilly informed the Council that under the charter he must make a recommendation on the sale of real property and that the final determination is by the council.

Vice President Boncore announced the Rules & Ordinance Committee will meet on April 10, 2007 at 7PM in the Joseph Harvey Hearing Room to discuss the Vacant Building Ordinance, Street Sweeping Ordinance and Traffic and Parking.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager, Richard White reported the bids were opened for phase 2 of the rink project. The bids called for the reconstruction of the rink surface, which would also require new underpinnings, a new floor, an expanded rink, which provides more flexibility, bleachers and a dehumidifier system so Winthrop can have a state of the art rink. The bids came in at a total of 1.2 million dollars, so far allocated for this project is \$800,000. Mr. White will submit proposals to the Finance Commission then a recommendation will be brought before the Council for a vote.

Mr. White stated as he started the budget at the beginning of the year there were a number of goals such as establishing a Capital program, investing in our school system and enhancing the public safety compliment with the implementation of a combined dispatching function where a civilian component would be added to free up some uniform people to be implemented towards the end of the fiscal year. His goal is to establish a base core, move things forward the improvements that have been made in every department over the last year and not lay anyone off.

Mr. White acknowledged reluctantly the resignation of Building Inspector, Michael Crofts. During the six months as building inspector Mr. Crofts established some terrific systems and a terrific rapport with most of the builders in Town, being consistent and fair to everyone. Mr. Crofts will be leaving the Town the end of April.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION by Vice President Boncore

2ND by Councilor Ferrino

Reilly passes Chair to V.P. Boncore

VOICE VOTE:

VOTED:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, free, unfettered and unlimited access to reliable broadband Internet service is essential for our Nation's economy to grow and compete in the information economy;

WHEREAS, for many Americans, reliable, quality broadband Internet access is either too costly or simply unavailable, which lack of access has contributed to a digital divide that separates Americans in their access to information and, consequently, in their ability to give fair opportunities to their children and participate in the information economy and in civic affairs;

WHEREAS, the United States continues to fall further behind other countries with regard to the availability of broadband Internet access;

WHEREAS, protecting children from exposure to indecent material on the Internet continues to be a serious challenge with which parents and educators need help;

WHEREAS, there is a need for reliable communication among first responders, command centers, and municipal officials everyday and in response to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other emergencies;

WHEREAS, there is increasing demand among Americans for broadband access that is available where they need it, not just at home or at work;

WHEREAS, a nationwide, free, wireless broadband network that is made safe for children, by employing network-level filtering of indecent material, would benefit the American public in many ways, by:

- Helping to bridge the digital divide and give more Americans the opportunity to participate in the information economy and in civic affairs, and to afford their children access to learning resources outside the classroom, or when library access may not be feasible;
- Helping American businesses, and, in particular, small businesses and entrepreneurs, compete in the United States and around the world, by increasing access to information, encouraging innovation, expanding marketing opportunities, and improving prospects for growth;
- Protecting children from indecent material on the Internet, while allowing for increased freedom to use the Internet as an educational tool in school, at home, at home, and in home schools; and
- Improving the ability of first responders, command centers, and municipal officials to respond to emergencies, thereby enhancing public safety; and
- Providing access where Americans need and want it, to download maps and stay in touch by email, even when they are not at home or at their desks; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Winthrop would benefit from such a wireless broadband network;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winthrop Town Council supports efforts to provide free, nationwide, wireless broadband access that will help bridge the digital divide that separates many Americans, help all Americans compete for jobs in the information economy, ensure a safe environment and prosperous future for our children and make us global leaders in providing our citizenry access to the Internet and all its benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Winthrop Town Council urges the elected representatives of its citizens in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States government and the Federal Communications Commission to support a public-private

partnership approach consider all alternatives to the delivering of free, nationwide, wireless broadband access to its citizens.

V.P. Boncore passes Chair to Reilly

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Letterie recommends an amendment to the current liquor license requirement, which currently allows up to 99 seats. The matter is referred to the Economic Development Committee for the appropriate language and to report back to the Council.

MOTION by Councilor Ferrino

2ND by Councilor Letterie

VOICE VOTE:

VOTED: To transfer \$18,000. from the Reserve account to the Town Clerk's Expense account.

President Reilly submitted under the provision of Article 10 Section 5(p) appoints the following as Constable for a three-year term effective May 1, 2007.

Steven R. Acone, James T. Foley, Pasquale DeFeo, Jr.

MOTION by Councilor Ferrino **VOICE VOTE:**

VOTED: To suspend Council rules and hold the next Council meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2007.

MOTION by Councilor Letterie

2ND by Councilor Calla

VOICE VOTE:

VOTED: Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

ATTEST:

Susan J. Duplin