



Town Council Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2010

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Turco called the meeting to order at 7:00PM in the Joseph Harvey Hearing Room., Councilor Varone, Councilor DelVento, Councilor Maggio, Councilor Sanford, Councilor Powers, and Councilor Boncore and Vice President Calla were present. Councilor Letterie was not present due to a family commitment.

Councilor Varone led the Council in the pledge of allegiance. Council President Turco asked the Council Clerk to call the roll for the record.

Motion made by Councilor Sanford, seconded by Councilor Powers to approve the minutes of February 16, 2010. Motion passed on voice vote.

Public Comment

Alan Peabody of Precinct Four and Chair of the Beautification Committee spoke passionately regarding the recent tree removal at the Pond Street Park and the damage that was done during said removal. Gerald DiFranza of Walden Street spoke in favor of Senate Bill 445 and asked the Council to support the bill as well.

President Turco asked that the Town Manager respond to the Pond Street Park issue during his report. He then cautioned that the Council may want to set a policy not to advocate and take action on each bill that is brought before them by a citizen but instead listen to each presentation and present written or verbal testimony on their own to our local Representative and Senator in the State House.

Committee Reports

Councilor DelVento read into the record the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held March 1, 2010. Said Minutes are attached to this document.

Councilor Powers reported on a recent Casino meeting where he reported that Suffolk Downs is committed to doing more than just slots and that they would like to see a full resort style casino with hotel and amphitheatre.

President Turco then asked Courtney Hayes from Harvard Kennedy School of Government if she wanted to speak as she had indicated before the meeting. Ms. Hayes introduced herself and briefed the Council on the upcoming Bottle legislation that will be coming up on Beacon Hill this Spring. In summary, she said that water, sports drinks and

juice would be included and that this would dramatically increase recycling and asked the Council to pass a resolution in support of this legislation.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager McKenna reported on the following:

- Pond Street Park and how the damage occurred and what the plan was to remedy the situation.
- Suffolk Downs did have a traffic study available and it is available to anyone who would like a copy
- Acknowledged the DCR, our Police, Fire and DPW Departments for their hardwork, professionalism and diligence during last weekend's storm with live wires, wind damage, and flooding. He noted that in 48 hours the Fire Department went on 72 calls for service.
- Thanked DCR with regard to the Short Beach rehabilitation project slated to begin this summer. He said they incorporated so many of Winthrop's suggestions into the plan.
- He is working with others in the organization to organize our costs due to the storm last weekend and will be ready and able to submit for reimbursement if the opportunity arises.
- Federal Census representatives will be at the Library over the next month to assist our residents, answer questions and provide translation services.
- Attended recent youth services meeting to address our middle school age children and to improve on our activities provided to them.
- Working with Licensing Board to encourage businesses in the Crystal Cove area to be more aware of the mixed use demographic of the area and to be respectful of our citizens and where they live.
- Meeting with Congressman Markey to chat about Walk Winthrop and the Congressman's interest and excitement regarding this project. He is hopeful that Winthrop will see federal assistance for this project in the coming budget.
- Department Heads turned in FY11 budgets this week and all numbers are being reviewed carefully in preparation of our upcoming Spring Budget Forum. A snapshot of our financial picture is expected to be available for the March 8 Finance Meeting.
- Recent refund from MWRA and that it is strongly encouraged the Council put that money into the Sewer Enterprise Fund to ease the burden on the ratepayers. Further a water rate analysis was available in this office for anyone that wanted a copy.
- Two recent armed robberies that recently occurred at convenience stores here in town. The Police Department was investigating and would keep the Council abreast of any new information.
- Regionalization efforts are continuing to be studied with assistance from the MAPC to try to ease burden on municipal budgets.
- Land Agreement for Public Landing with the Mass Fish & Game was included in packet and was a rolling annual agreement.
- Winthrop Golf Course Lease was included in packet and would expire in 2013.

- Granted energy block grant to replace two boilers in Town Hall, item on our wish list for many years, with work expected to begin this summer.

The manager then took questions from the Council providing the following updates:

- The boiler work will include tank removal and a generator
- 60 boating spaces will be held for boaters in Public Landing

Old Business

Motion proposed President Turco, seconded by Councilor Sanford: to refer the revised flood map ordinance to the Committee on Rules & Ordinances for review and discussion with details to be provided by Building Inspector Jim Soper.

VOTE: Passed on Voice Vote.

Motion proposed by Councilor Sanford, seconded by Vice President Calla: to appoint Joseph Ferrino of Temple Avenue as Winthrop's Designee to the MBTA Advisory Committee, term to run the length of our Council President's Term in office.

VOTE: Passed on Voice Vote.

Motion proposed by the Finance Committee: to transfer \$194,367 from the school department budget into the employee benefits budget. The sum of \$134,867 will be in place in the unemployment line item and \$59,000 will be placed in the health insurance line item.

VOTE: Passed on Voice Vote.

Motion proposed by Council President Turco, seconded by Councilor Boncore: to appoint Joanne Hillman and Louis Piccuolo to the Winthrop Cultural Commission for a three month term effective thru June 30, 2010.

President Turco reported the following:

- He had signed a letter to MWRA Executive Director Laskey thanking him for the recent reimbursement to Winthrop's Ratepayers of \$167,000. And that he felt that money should be applied as a credit going forward.
- A member of the Board of Appeals had resigned and that a position was open
- His recent attendance at the Rotary luncheon
- E.B. Newton Reuse Committee members will be named at next Council meeting

Motion proposed by Council President Turco, seconded by Councilor Varone: to per Article 2-2(b) appoint Councilor Boncore, Councilor Sanford and Councilor Powers the Chair of the recently formed Council Casino Advisory Committee.

Motion by Councilor Boncore, Seconded by Councilor Calla: to adjourn for the evening at 8:30pm.

VOTE: Passed on Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Vitale