



Town Council Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2010

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Turco called the meeting to order at 7:00PM in the Harvey Hearing Room, Winthrop, MA. Councilor Councilor Boncore, Varone, Councilor DelVento, Councilor Maggio, Councilor Sanford, Councilor Powers, Councilor Letterie and Vice President Calla were present.

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

Motion by Councilor DelVento, Seconded by Councilor Sanford: to move Executive Session to the end of the meeting.

VOTE: Passed on Voice Vote.

Public Comment

A gentlemen, (name not provided) mentioned his concern with fuel trucks going back and forth to Deer Island.

Reporting on behalf of the Rules Committee, Councilor Boncore read four amendments to current Ordinances related to flood hazard zones and liquor license stipulations. The full text of that proposal is included with minutes herein. Councilor Boncore then stated that his hope was that after appropriate publication, the Council would have a public hearing on this issue on April 27, 2010.

Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager discussed the following items

- Proposed fee adjustments for Council consideration that if all passed would raise revenue approximately \$78K
- Town's financial picture
- GIC Open Enrollment along with a proposed incentive idea to mitigate escalating costs related to providing healthcare to our employees and retirees
- WCAT cable contract and budget
- Upcoming regional vocational school meeting
- Potential budget overruns
- MWRA financial aid update

- Finds contained in the Consolidation Report authored by Town Manager McKenna and Superintendent Jenkins.

President Turco asked the Town Manager to ask Vocational School Representative Sue Bolster and former Councilor Richard Gill to attend the Vocational School Committee Meeting and report back to the Council in the very near future.

Department of Public Works Director Dave Hickey gave a status report of ongoing water and street projects in town as well as an overview of MWRA bond/loan incentives available to Winthrop.

New Business

President Turco appointed Councilor DelVento, Councilor Varone and Councilor Maggio to the Committee on Committees, with Councilor Maggio presiding as Chair. He also asked that the Council consider Guy Brandenstein of Trident Avenue as the MWRA Advisory Board Member for the Town of Winthrop.

Motion by Councilor Boncore, Seconded by Councilor Maggio: to approve said appointment.

VOTE: Passed on Voice Vote.

Councilor Letterie asked that a renewed effort be made to look into the truck route on Lincoln Street. He asked that the DPW Director along with the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee look into research done in prior years and revisit the issue.

DPW Director Hickey gave a brief overview of the importance of Arbor Day, the Resident Purchase a Tree Program and asked for support of the Arbor Day Proclamation.

Motion by Councilor DelVento, Seconded by Vice President Calla: to declare April 30, 2010 as Arbor Day in the Town of Winthrop.

VOTE: Passed on Voice Vote.

Motion by Councilor Letterie, Seconded by Councilor DelVento: to authorize the Town Manager, at his request, to create an incentive to employees that migrate to a lower tier health insurance.

After much discussion of details surrounding this issue, Councilor DelVento withdrew this motion.

Motion by Councilor DelVento, Seconded by Councilor Letterie: to authorize the Town Manager and Finance Director, to develop an incentive plan for currently enrolled Town employees and retirees to migrate from a PPO to a less expensive health care plan. Said incentive is to be specifically put into a designated medical savings account not to exceed \$200 for a single plan and \$500 for a family plan. Said incentive plan is to be administered in accordance with the rules of the Commonwealth's Incentive plan and that

the Town Manager and Finance Director develop an incentive plan for currently enrolled employees to withdraw entirely from our healthcare benefit.

President Turco then reiterated for the Council the assignments referred during the meeting. They are as follows:

- Finance Committee will look at the proposed fee schedule, the CPI adjustment and WCAT funding.
- Economic Development Committee will look at parking and vacant building ordinance proposals.
- Public Works Committee will look at MWRA Pipeline funding program.

Public Comment

The gentleman from earlier made similar comments regarding speed and trucks at Deer Island.

President Turco then called for a ten minute recess.

Motion by Councilor Sanford, Seconded by Councilor Powers: to postpone the Executive Session originally scheduled to be held on April 12, 2010 at 7pm in the Harvey Hearing Room.

Motion by Councilor Letterie, Seconded by Councilor DelVento: to adjourn for the evening at approximately 10PM.

VOTE: Passed on Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Vitale