



Town Council Meeting Minutes

June 15, 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 DeVento, Councilor Sanford, Councilor Powers, and Councilor Boncore, Councilor Maggio and Councilor Letterie and Vice President Calla were present.

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

Public Comment

Michael Thompson, local business owner stated that he had sent a proposal to the Town offering his security company be contracted to secure the Dalrymple School on an ongoing basis. The Council President informed him that day to day operations of the Town are handled by the Town Manager and that he should follow up with Mr. McKenna on this matter.

Chief Delehanty stated that he felt strongly that any additional monies that could be allocated to securing the Dalrymple with an outside security firm should be put into the Police Department Budget as he felt his officers do a fine job given the amount of Officers on the street.

Mr. Thompson then asked about his pending Constable application with the Town and when he could expect to know the status of that application. Council President informed him that indeed his application had been forwarded to the Council and at this time there were several applications pending.

William Stafford of Tafts Avenue stated his ongoing concern with speeding on Tafts Avenue by MWRA employees and trucks going to Deer Island.

Robert Impemba of South Main Street spoke on the pending TSAC issue of parking on South Main Street. He stated that he has been a resident of that street for 24 years and in that time there has never been a parking problem. He believes the current issue is one between two neighbors and should not be one the Town needs to resolve.

John Fitzpatrick of Bowdoin Street thanked Councilor DelVento for his vote against the recent amendment to the School Department appropriation. He feels the money should remain in the School Department at this time.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager James McKenna reported on the following items:

- List of double utility poles in town was distributed to Council for review
- Resident parking sticker permit process is in full swing and will be advertised
- Town Hall Hours beginning July 1 are not yet in place, negotiations are ongoing
- Fiscal year closing out with collections at about 98%
- Fire Department recently awarded \$262,000 for new pumper
- No bonfire at Yirrell Beach this year
- Beaches will be cleaned up before July 4 holiday
- Water main work will be completed by mid-July
- MWRA will be painting new crosswalks
- Town Manager distributed information relative to his annual review
- Comcast PEG Disbursement memo
- Updating fees
- Walk Winthrop Final Report

President Turco asked the Manager if our Town could pass an ordinance that would impose a fee to Utility Companies after a certain time if our double poles were not fixed? The Manager stated he would look into it and at the next Council Meeting report back.

Councilor DelVento asked the Manager what the final cost will be relative to moving the School Department into the Town Hall? The Manager said details and work plans were being formulated and he would report back at the next meeting.

Councilor Letterie question why the Tennis Courts would be locked going forward? The Manager stated that after a careful review of the ongoing destruction of the court he regrettably felt it should be locked and made available to the public with a key and appointment.

Councilor Boncore asked if there was a firm date for completion of the Putnam Street water main project? The Manager stated he felt the second week of July.

Councilor Varone asked when would the new public safety personnel hit the street? The Manager answered that appointments should be made over the next few weeks.

Councilor Maggio stated that there will be beach water testing done weekly going forward and that results would be posted on WCAT and on the Web.

Councilor Boncore asked the Manager if a speed bump could be placed on Tafts Ave to ameliorate the speeding issue. The Manager said he would check on the criteria with DPW Director Hickey and report back at the next meeting.

New Business

The Council President then asked the Town Clerk to report on the possibility of changing voting locations as was requested in an effort to streamline her budget. The Town Clerk read from a recommendation report she submitted to the Council. Said recommendation is attached to these minutes. In summary, her opinion is that the best option available is to move both Precincts 3 and 6 from the High School, as well as Precinct 4 from Golden Drive and move all three to the Senior Center. This will be more accessible to a majority of voters in Precinct 4 as well as alleviate the poor ADA compliance issues that currently exist in the High School. She further stated that the total savings per election would be approximately \$2500 and if the community upset was overwhelming, she was comfortable with keeping the status quo, as this recommendation was initiated from a budget exercise.

Council President then asked Commission on Disabilities Chair Ms. Lee Dzedulionis to give her recommendation. Said recommendation is attached to these minutes. In summary, her recommendation would be to move Precinct 3 to the Middle School and move Precinct 4 and 6 to the Senior Center.

Councilor DelVento stated he would like to see Precinct 3 go to the Senior Center rather than the Middle School.

Councilor Maggio would like to see Precinct 4 remain at Golden Drive.

Councilor Powers stated he was not in agreement with adding any more Precincts to the Middle School at this time.

President Turco then opened it up to the Public for comment.

School Committeeman Holden stated that in hearing that the Cummings School was also a potential option, he wanted to state his opposition to that location.

Arthur Marcella stated he felt no change was needed at all.

Councilor Sanford added that if ADA accessibility was a concern at the high school that temporary ramps could be added to improve that situation.

Ms. Dzedulionis stated she felt the Senior Center Lunch program should not be interrupted for voting.

Councilor Boncore stated that it was his impression that the final decision rest with the Town Clerk and the Board of Voting Registrars and so that this public hearing allowed for all parties to discuss and now the Clerk and the Registrars could come to a decision.

Councilor President Turco brought forward the name of James L. Little for reappointment to the Board of Health.

Motion by Councilor DelVento, seconded by Councilor Letterie to approve Council President Turco's appointment of James L. Little to the Board of Health for a term to expire June 30, 2012.

President Turco then brought forward the matters of Highland Avenue and Dunkin Donuts Main Street as process states after going through TSAC the matters would come before Council. He stated that in the case of these two items, the Zoning Board of Appeals had already given opinions and he did not feel it would be appropriate to weigh in, that the Zoning Board Decision should stand. Several Council members agreed and both matters were sent back to TSAC with no action.

Motion by Councilor Sanford, seconded by Councilor Letterie to refer the South Main Street TSAC issue back to the Traffic Safety Advisory Group for further reconsideration.

President Turco referred Comcast PEG Distribution, fee proposal, snow/ice as well as rink bond items all to the Finance Sub Committee for review. Councilor DelVento asked the Clerk to post a meeting for that group to be held on Monday, June 21 at 6pm in the Second Floor Conference Room of Town Hall.

Motion by Councilor Letterie, seconded by Councilor Boncore to award a citation to Anthony Rossetti, proprietor of Publix Shoe for his commitment to business in this community, upon his retirement after 62 years in business in the same location in the Town of Winthrop.

Councilor Letterie then invited the School Department along with residents to have a meeting to discuss and clarify the reasoning behind the reduction in the School Department's budget for FY11.

Motion by Councilor Powers, seconded by Councilor Boncore to award a citation to the Winthrop Police Association, upon another successful Special Olympics Day at Miller Field held on June 12, 2010 and that organization's dedication to the Special Olympics.

President Turco read from the Charter Article 5 Section 1:h Filling of Vacancies: *"If a vacancy occurs in the school committee or board of library trustees the remaining members shall give written notice of the existence of such vacancy to the town council. The town council, with the remaining members or members of such board shall, at a joint meeting, fill such vacancy in a timely manner by a joint vote. The person chosen to fill*

any such vacancy shall serve in such office until the next regular town election at which election the balance of the unexpired term, if any shall be filled by the voters.” President Turco then read into the record an email sent to the Council and School Committee on June 10th:

Dear Colleagues:

This evening the School Committee discussed the process to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Martucci. As this is an undefined process in the charter, there were many questions. I agreed to send an email with this suggested process.

The normal town committee application would be used by applicants. Applicants would be encouraged to submit a resume and any other supporting materials with their completed application. All applications must be submitted to the Town Clerk before her office closes on Thursday, July 1, 2010. As applications are submitted, consistent with other committee applications, the Town Clerk will pdf copies to all school committee and town council members. Completed applications would be on file for the public to review and posted on our website in addition a list of those applying would be on file (similar to who took out nomination papers) at the Clerk's office. The joint committee would meet on July 6, 2010 (the date of the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting) at the Cummings School all purpose room to elect Mr. Martucci's replacement. Assuming the process would not take more than an hour, the regularly scheduled council meeting would take place after the joint committee concludes its work. If no member of the Town Council objects to this process and time line, the process would be posted on our webpage, announced at our meeting, and Michele K. would send out an email blast.

Members of the School Committee, if I left anything out please let me (us) know asap.

Members of the Town Council, if you have any objection, please let me know before mid-day Monday.

In either case, I will read this email into the record on Tuesday (for open meeting purposes).

Thanks.

Be well,

*Jeff Turco
Council President*

President Turco stated that he had received no negative feedback to that email and therefore would like to set joint meeting with the School Committee on July 6, 2010 at the Cummings Multipurpose to fill the vacancy.

Public Comment

Michael Thompson spoke offering his services relative to securing the Tennis Courts at Ingleside Park.

President Turco stated that the School Committee had stated at its last meeting that there would be no layoffs going into the fall in Winthrop Public Schools.

He then asked all to rise for a moment of silence to recognize Virginia Wolfe recently passed who was a Council on Aging Volunteer, Scout Leader and former Town Meeting Member.

Motion by Councilor Calla, seconded by Vice President Calla to adjourn at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Vitale