

Town Council Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2011

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Turco called the meeting to order at 7:08PM in the Joseph Harvey Hearing Room. Councilor Varone, Councilor DelVento, Councilor Powers, Councilor Letterie, Councilor Boncore, Councilor Sanford, Councilor Maggio, Vice President Calla and President Turco, were present.

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

Minutes

Motion by: Councilor Sanford

2nd by: Councilor Powers to approve the minutes of December 21, 2010 as submitted by the Town Council Clerk Motion passed 7 yes votes. President Turco and Councilor Letterie abstain as they were not present at the December 21, 2010 meeting.

Minutes from the November 9th, 2010, November 30, 2010, December 6, 2010, December 14, 2010 were left on the table to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Correspondence

Vice President Calla brought to the Council's attention an e-mail that was written and sent to the Council by Carla and Ronnie Vitale in support of the overlay district for the former nursing home on Pleasant Street. President Turco mentioned it was not included on the agenda for but proceeded to read the letter. It will be printed and made part of the record.

Committee Reports

Councilor DelVento gave a Finance Committee update.

The Town Manager requests that \$40,000 be transferred from the Council Reserve to the Town Manager's expense budget for litigation expenses.

There was a discussion led by Councilor Letterie on how the Town Manager budgets for litigation and how much of this amount will be for the rink

Motion to transfer \$40,000 from the Town Council Reserve account to the Town Managers budget "contract service line item, to cover town litigation"

Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Transfer approved

The Town Manager requests that \$175,000 be transferred from the Council Reserve to the Town Expense Budget for Health Care expenses.

Motion to transfer \$175,000 from the Town Council Reserve account to the Employee Benefits Budget “group insurance line item”, said amount is to cover town-wide health insurance (school, town, retiree’s)

**No discussion on the matter. Motion passed unanimously.
Transfer approved.**

Council President Turco asked if there was a motion to approve the Town Hall Boiler Project transfer from the Town Council Reserve.

**Motion by: Councilor Varone
2nd by: Councilor Sanford
Motion passed unanimously
Transfer approved**

Town Managers Report

The Town Manager was happy to start off his report with good news. We are no longer on the DOR’s “watch list of municipalities. This would not have been possible without the hard work of the Department Managers, Town Accountant, Michael Bertino and the 21/2% override. DOR Certified Free Cash: \$361,922 GF; Enterprise Funds: \$283,528.

Gave a detailed updated of the December 26, 2010 storm, thanking the work of the DPW, Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Medical Corps, and Michele Karas.

Councilor Boncore led a discussion on the responsibility of the homeowner to remove snow 6 hours after a storm has ended during daylight hours. The public needs to be educated regarding the by-laws and a discussion was made about fining individuals who do not fulfill their obligation.

It was stated that this was not an average snow storm and was considered a blizzard. Councilor Maggio acknowledged the DPW for magnificent work and getting cars off the street to plow.

There was a discussion on post storm cleanup regarding moving sand after each storm. Councilor Powers asked if we could get a permanent plan to move sand back without having to ask for permission each time. The Town Manager thought Deer Island could be at serious risk with sand and water wiping out access.

Water materials were included in the packets for review.

Started to penalize illegal water meter connections.

We have awarded the Fire Engine Bid to Seagrave Fire Apparatus

The Town Manager acknowledged the Flanagan Family, Robert and Paul for the \$10,000 donation to the Senior Center to upgrade their computers.

Dalrymple School Update, looks like EBCDC will purchase the property.

EB Newton School update. More roof repairs. Two new tenants: Winthrop School of Performing Arts, and the Winthrop Christian Community Church. CAPIC will remain a tenant as well. Winthrop Art Association are potential tenants that will display art work.

123 Upland Road. Permanent easement move forward. Refer to Ordinance Committee

Library received a check for \$10,000 from the estate of Robert Carlson, Proceeds to be used for the purchase of furnishings for the Library.

Mid Year Reports –provided additional reports will be given in 6 months.

Project Calendar – provided, project checklist.

Town Council President Turco asked about the Ferry Terminal. The Town Manager reported everything on our behalf has been submitted. Waiting on the Speaker's Office.

Councilor Maggio asked Michele Karas for an update on the phone system. She will be taking a trip to look at the phone system.

There was a discussion regarding the liquor license issued to Hong Kong Dragon. President Turco asked if there was any objection to seeking legal opinion. No objection.

There were no more questions for the Town Manager.

Old Business

The Planning Board failed to submit their intent regarding the petition for designation of the Overlay District. The Town Manager had a verbal transaction with the Chairman of the Planning Board, Dick Dimes. It was clear the Planning Board did not want to submit any additional reports on the matter. Councilor Powers asked if it was the Chairman's decision or each individual members of the Board?

Motion by: President Turco

2nd by: Councilor Varone

For the Town Manager to send a letter to all members of the Planning Board informing them to submit a letter of reason for their decision or non decision regarding the petition for the designation of the Overlay District by January 17, 2011. In the absence of a letter the Town Council shall subpoena each individual to appear before the Town Council to answer questions on January 18, 2011. Pursuant of 27A&D of the Winthrop Town Charter.

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Appointments

Appointment for James Little, to Board of Health. Currently his term expires 2012 with two members terms expiring at the same time. James Little's term to be extended one year in order to stagger the terms.

Motion by: Councilor Letterie

2nd by: Vice President Calla

Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Appointment for Don Kearney to the License Commission. A shift in terms is needed to avoid a term expiring during their busy time.

Motion by: Councilor Boncore

2nd by: Councilor Letterie

Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Election of Council Vice President

Councilor Maggio thanked Vice President, Calla for a job well done

Motion by: Councilor Maggio

2nd **by:** Councilor DelVento to open nominations

Councilor Maggio nominated Councilor Letterie

2nd by Councilor Calla

Voted: Councilor Letterie to a one year term pursuant to the Winthrop Town Charter 2-2C

Councilor Letterie accepted the nomination.

President Turco thanked Councilor Calla for her service.

Motion by: Councilor Calla

2nd **by:** Vice President Letterie to award citations from the Winthrop Town Council to the members of the WPD Explorer Post.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Abigail Adams Scholarship winners will be at the next Council meeting scheduled for January 18, 2011

Due to the increased interest in water& sewer bills, Councilor Powers saw the need for a special meeting to discuss the matter with the public. The meeting will take place at the Cummings School All Purpose Room on February 1, 2011 at 7:00PM.

Motion by: Councilor Powers

2nd **by:** Councilor Sanford

Motion passed unanimously.

President Turco brought to the Council's attention a letter by John Munson of the Washington Chambers Condo Building regarding lack of parking and ticketing of occupants cars in the nearby municipal parking lot. The Town Manager will look into the matter and decide whether to bring back to the Town Council.

President Turco at this time informed the Council if they wanted an assignment on a different committee or any additional committee to contact him before the next meeting.

It was brought to the Council's attention that the January 17th due date for the Planning Board's deadline to submit their letter of intent was Martin Luther King Day and Town Hall would be closed.

Motion by: President Turco

2nd by: Councilor Sanford to change the deadline date to January 13, 2011

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Guy Brandenstein of Trident Avenue, Winthrop spoke about snow removal and the impact of the storm on Winthrop Beach.

David Osbourne of Pleasant Street, Winthrop spoke about Local Aid cuts impacting the town. Setting the tax rate, and recent water and sewer bill charges

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Sanford

2nd by: Councilor Powers

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37PM