

# **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

## **SEPTEMBER 20, 2011**

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Turco called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Joseph Harvey Hearing Room. Councilor DelVento, Councilor Powers, Councilor Letterie, President Turco, Councilor Boncore, Councilor Sanford, Councilor Calla and Councilor Maggio were present. Councilor Varone was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Boncore. President Turco announced that a quorum has been established.

### **MINUTES**

July 19, 2011 – Not yet received from Town Clerk.

**Councilor Sanford motion to approve minutes of August 2, 2011**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Maggio**

**(Councilor Powers abstained)**

**Motion Passes**

**Councilor Sanford motion to approve Minutes of August 5, 2011**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Boncore**

**(Councilor Powers, Councilor DelVento and Councilor Calla abstained)**

**Motion Passes**

August 16, 2011 – Not yet received from Council Clerk.

**Councilor Sanford motion to approve minutes of September 6, 2011**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Powers**

**(Councilor Calla abstained)**

**Motion Passes**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alan Peabody of Precinct 4 had numerous complaints about the condition of our parks and playgrounds concerning overgrown weeds, broken equipment and new equipment (basketball nets) that was supposed to be ordered. Lisa Paulson of Centre Street also has concerns about the broken equipment and the Town's liability. Town Manager Jim McKenna addressed the issues regarding the upkeep and broken equipment. The new equipment will have to go out for re-bid and Mr. McKenna is looking into options for raising money for equipment and he will contact Parks and Recreation Director Sean Driscoll to address these issues.

John Ribeiro of Precinct 1 has many concerns about the Casinos possibly being built at Suffolk Downs and wants the Town to seek an Independent Cost Analysis regarding the Casinos, supporting him were Colin Foley of Precinct 2, Matt Murano of Precinct 2, Lisa Paulson with Neighbors of Suffolk Downs, John Nelson of Precinct 4, and Guy

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Bradenstein of Precinct 4. They would like Winthrop to be considered an abutter and have more representation by Speaker DeLeo and would like the council to be involved in these decisions.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

### **TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**

Town Manager James McKenna gave an update on the Town's Chapter 90 Projects:

- DPW Director Steve Calla stated water main services being performed by Defelice Construction have been mobilized and will continue through November 30, 2011 and resume in the spring of 2012.
- Bids for Sidewalk Improvement are due September 21, 2011.
- Fort Banks Playground Project is ongoing and a tentative schedule for Community Day is October 15, 2011. Purchasing of equipment from funds raised by the parents of the school (\$35,000 from their calendar drive). The Town would like to provide the funds for the rubber surface and will address that with the Council in the spring and for now the playground will have woodchips.

Mr. McKenna asked that the preliminary draft of the Health Needs Assessment be referred to the Health Subcommittee. He believes this is important to help secure grants and to address our public health needs. Councilor Calla asked about the Massport Two Year Study and although similar issues they are two separate reports.

Library Director Alan Thiebault submitted letter of resignation and he is going to Danvers Public Library. Mr. McKenna praised Alan for his work and wished him well.

Mr. McKenna recommended we have an internal auditor and recommended Mr. Hingston of Gloucester and feels he would be a great addition to our team.

Council President referred this recommendation to the Finance Committee and recommends that the Town Manager also submit two other names and conduct interviews.

Mr. McKenna spoke on a proposed draft for Vacant Building Ordinance. This was referred to Rules and Regulations.

Mr. McKenna updated us of a 5k walk for Friends and Family Against Substance Abuse; October 2 – Belle Isle Harvest Festival; November 19 – Holiday Fair at the

E.B. Newton Cultural Center; October 8 – Parks and Recreation will host their annual Oktoberfest and the Medical Reserve Corps will also be there.

Councilor DelVento requested information regarding the Notice of Intent for the Access Road at Fort Banks and had questions about the CFO and ACFO and how they are being paid their stipends. Mr. McKenna stated that their stipends haven't taken effect yet however, we are operating as if consolidated and fine-tuning roles.

Councilor DelVento and Councilor Letterie also had questions about the Facilities Manager position duties and the salary budgeted. Mr. McKenna stated the town wants to see whom they attract but also wants to stick to the budget abiding by the Ordinance for the salary scale.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Motion by Councilor Boncore to amend Council Rule Changes - Rule 2 to Schedule Meetings and Agendas**

**Motion Passes**

Councilor DelVento stated with the open meetings laws this should pass to give ample time to review.

Motion by Councilor Letterie to amend Council Rule Changes - Rule 2 to change the time to 1pm and 4pm

Motion Passes

Motion by Councilor Boncore to Amend Rule 7 Open Meeting Law Executive Session and replace with Section 21 of the Mass General Laws Chapter 38 – Executive Session

Motion Passes

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Committee Appointments**

**Pursuant to Section 2-10(b) of the Winthrop Town Charter, Council President Turco appointed the following to:**

#### **Council on Aging**

Elizabeth M Vazquez

Said appointment expires on June 30, 2014.

**Motion by Councilor Sanford**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Powers**

**Motion Passes**

Handicapped Access Commission

1. Gerald J. DiFranza  
2. Linda M. McGeorge  
Said appointment expires on June 30, 2014.

3. Susan B. Rowe  
4. Anita Martin  
Said appointment expires on June 30, 2013.

**Motion by Councilor Calla**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Boncore**

**Motion Passes**

Historical Commission

Elizabeth C. Carella  
Said appointment expires on June 30, 2012.

Thomas E. Curry  
Said appointment expires on June 30, 2013.

Judith Buono  
Said appointment expires on June 30, 2014.

**Motion by Councilor Calla**

**2<sup>nd</sup> By Maggio**

**Motion Passes**

School Building Assistance Committee

Mary Lou Osborne (individually, not as a School Committee Representative)  
William Holden (School Committee Representative)  
Adam G. Robertson  
Robert J. DiMento  
David J. Girard  
Debbie McDonald on June 30, 2012  
Said appointments expires on June 30, 2012.

**Motion by Vice President Letterie**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Calla**

**Motion by Councilor Boncore from Rules and Ordinances for proposed changes to  
Winthrop Zoning Map to modify Section 10.16.090 – Parking Prohibited on Certain  
One Way Streets  
Motion Passes**

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the parking on Terrace Avenue and one way streets in that area. It was decided that we would allow the parking and leave the streets as they are now with the option of looking at it again in 6 months. Chief Delehanty and Chief Flanagan spoke on safety issues and what is best for the people in the area. Tim O'Brien of Terrace Avenue spoke in favor of the parking space, Maggie Morris of Terrace Avenue spoke in favor of the parking but not in favor of two way streets, Cindy Levins and Christy O'Brien all in favor of the parking but not in favor of the street being two ways.

Anne McGovern of Terrace Avenue is not in favor of the parking on Terrace Avenue.

A petition was brought to the Council against the proposed changes to the Zoning Map regarding Section 10.24.010 Schedule of One Way Streets.

Council President Turco urges the council to vote no on this issue. Chief Delehanty and Chief Flanagan recommend to leave the streets as they are and revisit at a later date.

**Motion by Councilor Boncore from Rules and Ordinances for proposed changes to Winthrop Zoning Map to modify Section 10.24.010 – Schedule of One Way Streets  
Motion Denied**

John Ribeiro of Precinct 1 is a proponent of bringing Casino gambling to Suffolk Downs expressed his concerns regarding the Casino possibly abutting Winthrop. He strongly urged Town Councilors to request from state legislation an Independent Cost Analysis be done. Council President Turco read a letter that Mr. Ribeiro sent to Council with four questions regarding the Council's perspective on Casino Gambling.

Lisa Paulson of Centre Street, Patricia Nelson and John Nelson of Precinct 4, Matt Murano of Precinct 2, Andy Bombarsaro of Sunnyside all endorse Mr. Ribeiro.

Council President Turco that in the past the Council as a group has not evaluated legislation on the state level. Councilor Powers agrees with Council President but offered to send a letter to do a study/vote.

Mr. John Ribeiro suggested a Casino Commission be developed and a study needs to be done.

After a lengthy discussion Councilor Boncore said he would like to look at the 165 page bill that came out about Casino gambling. Councilor Sanford stated that we need representation and a seat on that commission.

Councilor Powers made a motion to send a letter to Speaker DeLeo and Senator Petrucelli asking Winthrop be involved in a referendum vote.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Sanford

Councilor Boncore asked for postponement to vote at next meeting as Old Business.

President Turco addressed the group that last year they had a three-member committee but they have never collectively taken a position on the casinos whereas it is a legislative matter. President Turco requested the Town Clerk form a Citizen Advisory Commission Casino Gambling.

Fort Banks Access Road to be put on Agenda for further discussion.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Guy Brandenstein – spoke on free Demo of tracking municipal maintenance. He will send copy to Town Manager.

Lee Dzedulionis – via email spoke of the sidewalks on Nahant Avenue.

Mr. Ribeiro thanked the Council for the attention to Casinos.

Superintendent Macero spoke on our improved MCAS scores.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Councilor Letterie to Adjourn  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Powers**

**Town Council Meeting Adjourned at 10:05.**

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Documents used:  
Regulation of Vacant Buildings  
Winthrop Community Health Needs Assessment 2011  
Letter from John Ribeiro

A CD of this meeting is available from WCAT.  
Public Documents used in this meeting are available in the Town Manager's Office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Town Council Clerk  
Kathleen S. Hickey