

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 4, 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 Varone, Councilor DelVento, Councilor Powers, Councilor Letterie, President Turco, Councilor Sanford, and Councilor Maggio were present. Councilor Boncore and Councilor Calla were absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Maggio. President Turco announced that a quorum has been established.

MINUTES

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

Councilor Maggio motion to approve minutes of August 16, 2011

2nd by Councilor Sanford

Motion Passes

September 20, 2011 – *Circulated via email.*

Motion by President Turco to take Governors Park/Fort Bank issues out of order.

Motion by Councilor Varone to table Governors Park-Fort Bank Issues until Town Council next regular meeting.

2nd by Councilor Powers

Motion Passes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Casinos

John Ribeiro of Precinct 1 spoke of the impact of the Casinos and the need to send message to the Legislature.

Fort Banks Access Road

Peter Gill of Precinct 5 had questions about Eminent Domain regarding the Fort Banks Access Road. Mary Alice Sharkey of Precinct 2 had questions about the postponement of the meeting regarding the access road. Council President Turco stated that an appraisal is required by law before we can proceed, also that he has had a discussion with the Town Manager, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Belcher of Governors Park and Steve Calla regarding the access road. Also there will be a meeting with the Conservation Commission.

Update on Bridge Project

Mr. Vitagliano of Mass DOT gave an update on the Bridge Project. He explained that although they had a late start of about six weeks the issues with the FAA have been resolved and the project is moving forward, he praised the police for their

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professionalism. There were comments from DPW Director Steve Calla and Police Chief Terence Delehanty about the work being done and safety issues. There was a discussion regarding police details and additional lighting at Dunkin Donuts. Councilor Letterie suggested that a mirror be put on a pole across from Dunkin Donuts and he would like to see a detail officer stationed there. Mr. Mael candidate for councilor of Precinct 6 had questions about the boat yard access and closing of the waterway, Mr. Vitagliano stated neither should be affected. Mr. McKenna stated that time wise the project is right on track and if possible working through the winter with an end date of 2013.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

PRESENTATION

It was agreed to take out of order under New Business a presentation by MIS Director Vincent Ruocco on Electronic Recording of Meetings. Mr. Ruocco explained that the company Granicus provided the best options and price for the Town of Winthrop out of the four companies that were interviewed. The system would change the way citizens interact with local government. There was a handout to councilors and lengthy discussion of cost, features and different options. **Referred to the Finance Committee. Policy discussion referred to Rules and Ordinances.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Powers Chairman of the Finance Committee read the Minutes of September 26, 2011 meeting and brought forward motions that were discussed at their last meeting.

Motion from Council Finance Committee to approve the Bond Refund Loan request from the Town Manager and Town Accountant

Motion from Councilor Varone

2nd by Sanford

Councilor Maggio, Yes; Councilor Sanford, Yes; Councilor Varone, Yes; Councilor DelVento, Yes; Councilor Powers, Yes; Vice President Letterie, Yes; President Turco, Yes

Motion Passes Unanimously

Motion from Council Finance Committee to retain the meals tax in the Town of Winthrop Motion had incorrect wording and Council Finance Committee agreed to discharge their motion and agreed to allow Councilor Letterie to make motion.

Motion from Councilor Letterie to repeal the local option on the meals tax

Motion from Councilor Sanford

2nd by Varone

Councilor Maggio, No; Councilor Sanford, No; Councilor Varone, No; Councilor DelVento, No; Councilor Powers, No; Vice President Letterie, Yes; President Turco, No

Motion Failed; Aye 1, Nay 6.

Motion from Council Finance Committee to approve the 2% raise for the Town Manager

Motion from Councilor Sanford

2nd by Varone

Motion Passes Unanimously

Councilor Maggio Chairwoman of the Health and Safety Committee spoke on the upcoming Flu Clinics and the Children Flu Clinics at the Fort Banks and Cummings Schools.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Town Manager James McKenna spoke:

- National Grid scheduled power outage.
- Seaport Bond Council Meeting he will attend on October 18, 2011 for potential Harbor Walk design funding.
- Meeting with potential contractors regarding the potential Radio Read Project.
- Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil on October 11, 2011.
- Chapter 90 Projects
- Steve Calla DPW Director spoke of National Grid's poor records regarding Somerset and Bellevue, Dig Safe markers were up to 19 feet off. National Grid has remarked and cleared up any issues. Mr. Calla also stated the Defilice Construction has been very professional.
- Twenty-two students earned a perfect MCAS score.
- Parks and Recreation Fall Fair on Saturday.
- October 19th being the last day to register to vote.
- October 28th the Clock Tower Gallery event at the E.B. Newton.
- Fire Chief Flanagan spoke on the double polling problem and how Verizon has removed 9 poles with another 65 poles to be removed over the next two to three weeks.
- Councilor DelVento brought up International Walk to School Day and made note that there is not a pedestrian road in the plans for Fort Banks Access Road and would like to see that incorporated. Mr. McKenna agrees it would be worthwhile to explore.

Motion by Councilor Letterie to approve from the Council Reserve a transfer of \$6596 into Council on Aging.

2nd Maggio

Motion Passes

Motion by Councilor Powers to approve the request for a total of \$8271 from the Council Reserve to pay for unforeseen expenses to Town Clerks Contract Services line item.

2nd Varone

Motion Passes

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Powers brought up a Point of Personal Privilege to withdraw his Motion to have the Town Council send a letter to Speaker DeLeo and Senator Petrucci requesting that language be added to the bill establishing expanded gaming that will include the Town of Winthrop in any referendum vote that is taken regarding the approval of a casino at Suffolk Downs race track. Councilor Powers stated after he read the House Gaming Bill he feels Winthrop's interest is well protected and there is no need to send a letter.

It was agreed to leave Supplemental Transfer from School \$147 as a placeholder on the Agenda.

Request from the Harbor Management Committee – RE: name of the Ferry Terminal – Council President Turco to speak with Larry Holmes regarding the Memorial Committee.

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Changes (referred to Planning Board).

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Appointments

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

Associate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals

David E. Ferreira

Said appointment expires on June 30, 2013

(Vote Held for next meeting until application circulated)

WCAT Funding Allocation – Referred to Finance Committee

Winthrop Street Project – Town Manager requested a transfer from the Sale of Land account for \$35k to fund survey and initial project engineering services for the Winthrop Street Corridor Improvement project so that we can accelerate application with the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) funding with MASSDOT.

Referred to Finance Committee

School Building Committee Expanded Scope Authorization – Now that the scope of this project has been expanded to include middle/high school option, it is necessary that the Town adjust its authorization allowance in order to show local support for this expanded scope. This requires us to authorize an additional \$510,000 bringing the total authorization to \$900,000 to equal 1.5 percent design formula.

Referred to Finance Committee

Sidewalks – To support the sidewalk repair program that is currently underway, we are seeking an additional \$17,775 from the Sale of Land account in order to close the gap in funding for this project. In addition to these funds, we are utilizing \$10,220 from the DPW budget as well as \$2210 from the Enterprise accounts for a total expense of \$30,205 as estimated for this project. Please refer to the enclosed sidewalk repair schedule.

Referred to Finance Committee

Outfall pipe repair on Shirley Street – Town Manager is requesting \$22,000 from the Sale of Land account for anticipated expense to repair a damaged outfall pipe located on Shirley Street.

Referred to Finance Committee

235 Court Road Drain Pipe repairs – Town Manager is requesting \$20,000 from the Sale of Land account to repair a seriously damaged storm drain located at the rear of 235 Court Road. This project will also require appropriation from the Harbor Waterways fund of \$50,000 for the seawall. We are hiring an engineer to prepare a survey and plans for this repair work.

Referred to Finance Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was a discussion of the Craig property and pipe issues that have come up and who is responsible. Attorney Scott Lucey representing the Craigs and Mr. McKenna had a brief discussion of over who is the owner of the pipe. Mr. McKenna stated he would like a Title Search done and that the Town needs legal information from Mr. Lucey. President Turco suggested that we stabilize the situation first.

**Councilor DelVento made a motion to award Council Citations to honor the retirement of Joseph Clark and Ellen Fife, of the Winthrop Federal Credit Union.
2nd by Councilor Sanford
Motion Passes**

Regarding the Casino Referendum Matt Murano, John Ribeiro, Christopher Power and Andy Bonasaro voiced their opinion on the Casino and ask the council to reconsider sending a letter.

President Turco wished a Happy New Year to the Jewish Community, thanked the Winthrop Fire Department for their work on the fire on Madison Avenue. President Turco also spoke in memory of Deputy Chief Clark Poofy Heighton who passed earlier in the week.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Councilor Sanford to Adjourn
2nd by Councilor Varone**

Town Council Meeting Adjourned at 10:05.

Documents used in this Meeting:

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager's Memo of Transfers for September 29, 2011 Council Meeting

Presentation by Vincent Ruocco - Granicus Electronic Recording of Minutes

Minutes from Finance Committee

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