

# TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2011

RECEIVED

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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 Boncore, Councilor Sanford, Councilor Calla and Councilor Maggio. All members of the Council were present and a quorum was established. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Letterie.

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

Minutes for October 18, 2011

**Councilor Sanford motion to approve minutes of October 18, 2011**

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

**Motion Passes**

Councilor DelVento rose to a Point of Order regarding minutes from October 18, 2011 reflect that there would be a resolution of having the minutes from July 19, 2011 completed.

Town Manager James McKenna stated that a clarification came in late today from the Town's Attorney Kopelman and Paige. Mr. McKenna summarized the clarification stating the Town Clerk serves the Town Council.

Fall Forum of October 18, 2011 – To be completed by November 15, 2011 meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dave Osborne of Precinct 2 spoke about the Town's Attorney and bid process, the meal tax not being waived, the Beach Renovation Project and a Grant the Town did not apply for.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Maggio Chairwoman of the Health and Safety Committee reported that the Public Health Department will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Flu Clinic on November 2, 2011 at the Senior Center from 4-7 and there is no charge.

Councilor Powers Chairman of the Council Finance reported that they had a meeting on October 25, 2011 which included 8 items on their Agenda including financial transfer requests and items that are tabled.

Councilor Boncore Chairman of Rules and Ordinance met on October 24, 2011 to discuss 3 issues including Sex Offender Ordinance, Vacant Building Ordinance and Winter Parking.

## **TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**

Town Manager James McKenna spoke on the:

- Appointment of new DPW Director Steve Calla.
- Consolidation Update and Facilities Manager Update and the changes going on between the school and the town offices.
- MBTA – Mr. McKenna spoke with Mr. Brian Caine of the MBTA Advisory Board and received an update of Plan B. The Orient Heights Project is planned for June and the MBTA is facing some fiscal issues. The Project should take about 6-8 months and during that time the buses will run from Winthrop to Wood Island and there will be a shuttle from the Airport up and down the Blue line. The MBTA is open to tweaking the plan and are willing to address issues. They will give a full presentation when ready to go.
- Supplemental Budget Capital Checklist was given to Councilors addressing repairs and improvements the Town Manager suggested and also his request for an additional \$123,000 for necessary improvements. Some of the items listed are for a multipurpose vehicle to push snow, a new vehicle for the Police Chief, Boiler Fitting replacement for 3 Boiler Projects – National Grid to contribute 50% of cost, and Weatherization of the Police Station. The Town Manager asking for some of the departments to also contribute. The Council President asked that the Town Manager treat these as transfers.
- The Town Clerk has been mandated to update Annual Census which has not been budgeted.
- A petition for 154 Adams Street has been referred to the Planning Board.
- The MWRA has sent a lengthy report and a copy is in the Town Manager's Office and the Library of the Emergency that occurred at the MWRA in September. President Turco asked if they commented about the reverse 911 and the Town Manager responded that issued was not covered it was more an environmental report.
- DPW Director Steve Calla spoke on
  - o Chapter 90 Projects on schedule
  - o National Grid replacing gas mains
- Locust Street – National Grid started full gas main relay this week, they will be working through December and requested to work on Saturday.
- \$500,000 came through in Supplemental Budget for Walden Street. The rest of the cost will be a state financed supplement with MWRA 0% loans.
- 235 Court Road - Town Manager stated we addressing the issue as best as we can. There was a conversation on who owns the pipe and who is responsible for what. Chairman of the Finance Committee Councilor Powers wanted clarification on how the \$20,000 will be used and the Town Manager intends on using that for an emergency repair and the \$50,000 to go to the Town and how the Town should proceed. The Town Manager stated that \$70,000 may not be enough to do

everything but enough to do what we feel we are responsible for, we are going to assume the pipe is ours and meet with the property owners and come up with a plan that is mutually agreeable. There was discussion amongst the Council on access to the public, suggestions on how to secure the pipe and what is our obligation. The property owners own 40 feet and the Town owns 15 feet. Building Commissioner Jim Soper and DPW Director Steve Calla gave opinions on what action should be taken and how much it may cost. The Town Manager stated these are open questions and we want to stabilize first then understand on how to proceed.

- Sidewalks approximately 45 locations will be done by next week.
- Completion of the Beachmont Project may not be done until next Spring.

Issues regarding Governors Park are still be worked on with GEOD and waiting for appraisal. Councilor Letterie and Councilor DelVento brought up questions about meeting with Governor's Park, the Appraisal and the environmental groups on a state and local level. The Town Manager stated we need to be clear on our information and we want to work with Governors Park. The Town has asked for a viewpoint from both routes appraising both ways. The meeting with Governor's Park is tabled until the 15<sup>th</sup> and if not on the night they will be notified.

School buses are running the cost is \$150 per child per year and more kids are taking the bus. Mr. Consella wanted to know if there are controls in place and if children from Cottage Hill are offered free service. President Turco responded that issues come up with private paid buses and the School Committee has given the Superintendent the authority to decide.

Town Manager looking into a cease and desist order on Clear Channel on the Water Tower.

There were questions from Councilor DelVento as to why the school hasn't closed out their books with a response from Councilor Powers stating because the school has not requested to take it off. It is believed that the request is coming up at the next School Committee Meeting on November 17, 2011. Finance Director Michael Bertino made a Point of Information regarding delays in consolidation stating no way can you be asked to do a report in 30 days and unpaid bills are always taken up in late fall. There was discussion from the Council on the resignation of the business manager, athletic bills without purchase orders and a request to the Town Manager to make the reports of the audit available.

Councilor Varone wanted to know why a mirror hasn't been placed outside of Dunkin Donuts during bridge construction. The Town Manager has made a request along with Police Chief Delehanty requesting additional lighting.

Mr. Mael had comments regarding the Governors Park delay and any thought to better direct the afternoon traffic up into the cemetery area.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Supplemental Transfer from School – \$147k – Tabled**

**Harbor Management Committee Re naming of Ferry Terminal – Tabled.**

**Proposed Zoning Ordinances – Vacant Building Ordinance – Tabled until Public Hearing/Council Meeting on November 15.**

**Motion by Councilor Maggio to waive reading of Vacant Building Ordinance  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Powers  
Motion Passes**

Councilor Boncore read a summary of the proposed ordinance including Purpose, Definitions, Registration, Penalty. Proposed Ordinance to be put online.

**Fort Banks Access Road Issues – Tabled**

**Motion by Councilor Boncore to table Fort Banks Access Road Issues until  
November 15, 2011  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Maggio  
Motion Passes**

**Report from Town Manager on WCAT Funding Allocation.** Request from Council for Town Manager to put into an actual motion

**Winter Parking Regulations –** Chairman Boncore stated it was agreed in committee that we do not need bylaw changes.

**Motion by Councilor Boncore from Committee to put in Striping and Signage for  
Winter Parking from Chester to Cross Street  
Motion Passes**

There was a lengthy discussion about the Winter Parking around the High School and Golf Course and the removal of the cars after the snow band is lifted, Chief Delehanty and DPW Director Calla stated the Police and DPW Department are very observant of the rules and strongly enforce them.

**Sex Offender Ordinance - Tabled until Public Hearing/Council Meeting on  
November 15, 2011**

There was a lengthy discussion of fines and breach of the peace of an offending party after being fined.

**Motion by Councilor Letterie to hold Sex Offender Ordinance until November 15  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Sanford  
Motion Passes**

## **Financial Transfers Requests**

### **Discussion on Enterprise Accounts - Tabled**

**Motion by Council Finance Committee to approve the transfer request of \$35,000.00 from the sale of land account to fund survey and initial engineering services for the Winthrop Street corridor project.**

**Motion passes**

**Motion by Council Finance Committee to approve the request to authorize \$510,000.00 for the expanded scope of the School Building Committee.**

**Motion passes**

**Motion by Council Finance Committee to approve the transfer request from the Town Manager to transfer \$17,775.00 from the sale of land account to fund the current sidewalk repair program.**

**Motion passes**

**Motion by Council Finance Committee to approve the transfer request from the Town Manager to transfer \$22,000.00 from the sale of land account for anticipated expenses to repair a damaged outfall pipe located on Shirley Street.**

**Motion passes**

**Motion by Council Finance Committee to approve the transfer request from the Town Manager to transfer \$20,000.00 from the sale of land account to repair a damaged storm drain at the rear of 235 Court Road.**

**Motion Passes**

**NOTE:** This project will also require a transfer of \$50,000.00 from the Harbor Waterways fund to repair the seawall. – Tabled until Meeting of November 15, 2011.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion of Councilor DelVento to amend sections 10.12.120 and 10.12.110 of Winthrop Municipal Code Regarding left turns.**

After a lengthy discussion regarding Councilor DelVento's motion regarding left turns it was decided it was referred to TSAC and Rules and Ordinances. TSAC meets on the third Wednesday of each month and a meeting for Rules and Ordinances has been set up for November 16 at 7:00PM.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

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

**Motion by Councilor Letterie to suspend rules for appointment  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Delvento  
Motion Passes**

Alternate member of the School Building Assistance Committee

Anthony Evangelista

**Motion by Councilor Boncore**

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

**Motion Passes**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Grants Administrator Peter Lombardi is looking into renovating the athletic fields and would like to establish an Athletic Field Committee

**Motion to suspend rules in order to establish an Athletic Field Committee by  
Councilor Letterie**

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

**Motion Passes**

Mr. McKenna announced an Event at Winthrop Yacht Club for Saturday, November 5, 2011 for the victims of the fire.

Councilor Boncore commended Chief Flanagan and his department stating they were outstanding and did an amazing job keeping the fire under control.

There is a fundraiser and two funds set up for the Huberman Family at East Boston Savings Bank and the Duffy Family at Winthrop Federal Credit Union.

President Turco offered thanks to our fireman and police.

Councilor Calla commented on the Northeaster.

Councilor Maggio stated Medical Reserve Corps have been put on alert through each emergency and also sets up shelters for animals and she attended a conference in Las Vegas for emergency shelters.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Councilor Powers to Adjourn**

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

**Town Council Meeting Adjourned at 10.00**

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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