

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2012

RECEIVED

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Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Gill called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Cummings School Multipurpose Room. Vice President Varone, Councilor DelVento, Councilor Letterie, President Gill, Councilor Boncore, Councilor Sanford, Councilor Calla, Councilor Powers and Councilor Mael were in attendance and a quorum was established. Councilor Powers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Councilor Vice President Varone made a motion to approve minutes from July 16, 2011

2nd by Councilor Powers

Motion Passes

President Gill and Councilor Mael to abstain from voting on minutes, as they were not elected as of that date.

Councilor Sanford made motion to approve minutes from January 17, 2012

2nd by Letterie

Motion Passes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy VanKooman request that the Town move voting back to Golden Drive. Jeffrey Turco Precinct 2 had questions regarding if there would be public comment after polling/voting locations agenda item. Susan Ellen, Precinct 4 has issues with closing Senior Center. Dottie Donofrio, Precinct 4, had questions regarding the legal notice including Senior Center. Conrad VanPolo, Precinct 4 had questions about convenience and safety.

Bill Stafford of Precinct 3 brought to the attention of the Council and Town Manager of a dog situation with a log of dog debris down on Tafts Avenue.

CORRESPONDENCE

President Gill read letters from Dottie Donofrio, Lee Dzedelounis and Peg Tierman Lyons regarding reinstating voting at Golden Drive.

President Gill also read a letter from the Board of Registrars stating that wherever the location of voting it will be inconvenient for some and suggest they get an absentee ballot.

Vice President Varone made a motion to suspend Council Rules to take out of order and put on the table Precinct 4 polling location.

2nd by Councilor Powers
Motion Passes

There was a lengthy discussion amongst the Councilors regarding the polling at the Senior Center.

Councilor Powers stated discussion has now turned that they don't want any polling at Senior Center and he would like input from Senior Center Director Nancy Williams and the Town Clerk Carla Vitale. Councilor Sanford supports Councilor Powers point of view and believes due diligence to get as much info as we can to make a decision. Councilor Mael stated he had a conversation with Vice President Varone regarding getting the opinion of the voters in an informal way to gauge their thoughts and concerns. Councilor DelVento stated that Precinct 3 needs to come up with a viable option if we don't use the High School and the Senior Center is a Town Building. Councilor Calla of Precinct 6 also stated they need a location to because the High School is not accessible to the Handicapped. Vice President would like to delay the decision

Mr. Turco read three emails that were sent out from the Town Clerk in January 2010 and June 2011 regarding the voting locations and the reason the Cummings School could not be used. Mr. Turco also wanted to clarify that the change in voting locations did not originate from the Councilors but from the Town Clerk.

Senior Center Director Nancy Williams thought at first I may be a good idea but at that time they did not have new carpet, new computer labs or a big screen TV, she also thinks the area will be too congested with three precincts voting and that the Senior Center van may not be able to pick up the people from Golden Drive. There was some discussion as to when we need to make a decision by with input from the Town Clerk and she believes the decision should be made as soon as possible.

Motion to lay it on the table withdrawn regarding Precinct 4 polling places by Vice President Varone.

2nd by Councilor Powers
Motion Passes

Motion by Councilor Boncore to be table the issue of Precinct 4 until May 1, 2012 meeting

2nd by Vice President Varone
Motion Passes

After more discussion it was decided that it would be tabled until the May 1, 2012 regular meeting and during that time we will be gather information.

President Gill thanked the Seniors for their input and went back to Correspondence.

President Gill summarized letters the Council received regarding bus service.

The Council received requests from:

Conservation Committee to name a room inside the Ferry Terminal Building which President Gill referred to Memorials Committee.

Requests from Harbor Management to add two new members.

Requests from Planning Board to add a new member.

President Gill read a note from the Chamber of Commerce thanking the Council for the Awards they presented at the Chamber Kickoff Dinner and also a note regarding bus service. There will be a meeting at the Senior Center on February 27 from 6-8 and Speaker DeLeo will be there.

Barbara Bishop sent a letter to acknowledge Joanne Hillman and the Award she is receiving from the Cultural Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Councilor DeVento Chairman of the finance Committee read the minutes of the Finance Committee held on January 31, 2012.

Motion by Councilor Boncore to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee and take up under Old Business

2nd by Councilor Sanford

Motion Passes

Rink Committee

Councilor Letterie discussed the topics discussed at the Rink Committee Meeting including discussion of heating the locker rooms, converting boiler to gas, putting a plan in place to build a Rink Room for ice sharpening, the creation of a Facebook page which would be linked to a calendar of available ice for a party or skating and also year to date budget.

Motion from Councilor Sanford to accept Rink Report

2nd by Boncore

Motion Passes

(Need report from Councilor Letterie)

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager James McKenna spoke on:

- Updated on Daws Playground the equipment has been removed. Prepared for redevelopment and we have received funding for the project and equipment from a grant

and that, in addition, a neighbor had had discussed a possible donation. It it will have nice fresh look to the area.

- Woodward and Curran to make a presentation at our February 21, 2012 Council meeting about the Walden Street Project.
- Enterprise Funds were brought up and Mr. McKenna would like a workshop before we start digging into the budget. There was a lengthy discussion at this point regarding the Enterprise Funds and it was agreed that there would be a Special Town Council Meeting schedule for February 28, 2012 and one hour would be dedicated to each of the 3 Enterprise Funds up for discussion. (1) Water/Sewer (2) Rink/Recreation and (3) Harbor Management. It was agreed that is should be a full council and should include the Citizens Finance Committee.

Motion made by Councilor Sanford for a Special Meeting for February 28, 2012 specifically to discuss Enterprise Funds with Citizens Finance Committee
2nd by Vice President Varone
Motion Passes

- Mr. McKenna continued his report speaking of a Letter of Interest for an Internal Auditor who would report to the Council for approximately 20 hours per week on a contract basis and may provide the Council with quarterly findings and keep a running report on issues and it would be an important preventative measure. He also pointed out it is an essential function of other communities. Mr. McKenna suggested this be referred to Finance Subcommittee.
- Mr. McKenna had Mr. Calla the DPW Director give an update on snow and ice budget. Mr. Calla referred to the Memorandum he sent out today to the Council addressing any questions. President Gill commended Mr. Calla on his ability to catch up on his maintenance. Councilor Powers also commended Mr. Calla for being proactive.

Councilor Letterie had questions about if we have transponders on our buses and CFO Michael Bertino stated that we do not and there is a whole report with the School and Viking Pride. Councilor Mael had questions regarding snow and ice budget and he was informed that is the only budget we are allowed to overspend. Mr. McKenna stated we need to get back to a schedule to replace vehicles. Councilor Letter asked for an update from Gerry Boyle Property Maintenance Director and Mr. McKenna stated he was in the process of preparing a report on his findings.

OLD BUSINESS

From Council Finance Committee a motion to advertise \$38,040 to the Unemployment Account from the Unemployment Reserve.
Motion Passes

From Council Finance Committee a motion to advertise \$33,000 for Rink Litigation from Council Reserve
Motion Passes

From Council Finance Committee a motion to allow the Town Manager to transfer \$17,200 for Assessor Contract Services from Council reserve
Motion Passes

**From Council Finance Committee a motion to allow the Town Manager to transfer \$23,000 for Parking "Municipal Hearings" Department from Council Reserves
Motion Passes**

There was a discussion amongst Councilor Boncore and CFO Michael Bertino regarding the new company handling the parking tickets and the billing. Mr. Bertino stated that we pay them per ticket.

**There was a motion to waive council rules by Councilor Sanford
2nd by Councilor Powers
Motion Passes**

**There was a motion from Council Finance Committee to allow the Town Manager to transfer \$2,300 for Town Council Salary account from Council Reserve
Motion Passes**

**Motion to have a public Hearing for Roadway and Infrastructure Project, Contract 3 Bond Authorizations on February 21, 2012
Motion Passes**

Granicus Technology Proposal – Tabled

**From Council Finance Committee a motion to advertise \$35,876 unpaid School Department bills FY11
Motion Passes**

NEW BUSINESS

**Motion by Vice President Varone to refer Conservation Commissions request for naming a room at the new Ferry Terminal Building referred to Memorials Committee
2nd by Powers
Motion Passes**

Motion to refer to Rules and Ordinance Committee a request from the Planning Board to move from seven to eight members

Motion from President Gill to increase the Harbor Management Committee to 9 if there are no objections. He will bring in the appointments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Guy Brandenstein of Precinct 6 had concerns over the Planning Board being an even number, questions as to why the municipal buildings don't pay water bills and stated the parking stickers cause problems and why can't we get rid of it. Todd Sacco of Precinct 2 encourage the council not to appropriate the Patrolman's Union Contract stating it is going to put a strain on the budget.

Motion by Councilor Calla in regards to Section 7.3 to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation

2nd by Councilor Powers

Councilor DelVento – Yes; Councilor Letterie – Yes; Councilor Powers – Yes; councilor Boncore – Yes; Councilor Sanford – Yes; Councilor Calla – Yes; Councilor Mael- Yes; Vice President Varone – Yes; Council President Gill – Yes

9 Yea / 0 Nay

Town Council went into Executive Session at approximately 9:20

Motion by Councilor Boncore to end Executive Session

2nd by Councilor Powers

Councilor DelVento – Yes; Councilor Letterie – Yes; Councilor Powers – Yes; councilor Boncore – Yes; Councilor Sanford – Yes; Councilor Calla – Yes; Councilor Mael- Yes; Vice President Varone – Yes; Council President Gill – Yes

9 Yea / 0 Nay

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor DelVento

2nd by Councilor Letterie

Motion Passes

Town Council Meeting Adjourned at approximately 10:15 pm

A DVD of this meeting is available from WCAT

Public Documents used in this meeting are available in the Town Manager's Office.

Correspondence from Dottie Donofrio, Lee Dzedelounis, Peg Lyons and Marie Wynne of the Register of Voters regarding polling locations. Requests from Harbor Management Committee and the Planning Board. Request from Conservation Committee.

Town Manager's Report

Minutes of Finance Council Meeting (*Councilor DelVento*)

Minutes of Rink Committee Meeting (*Councilor Letterie*)

Memorandum from Public Works Director Steve Call regarding Snow and Ice Budget Update

Emails (3) to the Council regarding Consolidation of Voting/Polling Locations

Respectfully submitted,
Town Council Clerk
Kathleen S. Hickey

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 7, 2012**

RECEIVED
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TOWN CLERK
JUDITH MACK

Executive Session commenced at 9:20 and ended at 10:15. There were two topics discussed.

The first topic was the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Winthrop Police Union and the Town Manager – Mr. McKenna.

Council Clerk asked the Town Council if they would like her to recuse herself as her husband is a Winthrop Police Officer and a member of the collective bargaining unit that will be discussed. The Council did not feel I needed to leave.

The Town Manager stated for the record that he has a legal obligation to support this and he is here to support this and he was responsible for the negotiations and that he endorses and represents the Police Patrolman's Union. He stated that there is a good strong relationship with the management and union and for the first time in ten years they did not have to go into arbitration. Their last contract was 0%, 0%, and 2% in their final year of arbitration and it was anticipated by Howard Greenspan to expect to see 2%+ in the coming years if it goes to arbitration.

The Town Manager explained the 3-year deal to equal 5% and he provided handout and informational sheets showing trends of negotiations and contractual raises. Councilor Boncore questioned if we have enough to do that for the other unions (teachers) and Mr. McKenna responded it does not mean all unions get it and he does not negotiate their (teachers) contracts. Councilor Powers stated the reality is in general if one gets it another gets it and Councilor Varone wanted to know what if the teachers get more would the police get more. Mr. McKenna also told the Council of the adjustment from 28 years to 25 years for longevity and having 4 more qualified officers, they are mandated to retire at 65, public safety is stressful job.

A concern of Councilor Powers is 60,000 more is salary which means the fire will settle for 60,000 and DPW 60,000 that would equal \$180,000 increase without touching the School. Councilor Powers stated it is not about the raise but about he doesn't think we can afford it two years from now.

Mr. McKenna hopes the Council takes action and he believes if the Patrolmen's Union files arbitration you will see a decision of 2%+ this and the JLC ("Joint Labor Commission") would come back with higher percentages.

Chief Delehanty stated he has to be at this meeting by law. There was a debate between Chief Delehanty and Councilor Letterie over the amount of money the Rink costs every year. Chief Delehanty stated his budget covers what is on the street.

Mr. McKenna stated the expectations for unions are not zero it is 5% after 3 years. If it goes to arbitration the arbitrator makes the decision and according to the handout the Police Union has taken 0 they would possibly get more than what they are getting with this new contract.

President Gill had a question regarding the lack of funding if it is going to cause a layoff. Chief Delehanty stated his budget will cover the proposed contract cost. Mr. McKenna stated that we need to look at revenue and solve the revenue problem; we need new growth and fee adjustments. Councilor Mael stated that he stands by the Manager saying we live in the cheapest Town, Councilor Boncore also agrees.

Councilor Letterie questioned if the Contract was signed and Mr. McKenna stated he signed it but the law requires endorsement from the Council but the Council doesn't have to appropriate the money and the Chief Delehanty the Manager would go back and tell the Patrolmen's Union and then go to arbitration. There was a discussion between Chief Delehanty and Councilor Letterie regarding the amount of money the Rink costs the Town each year compared to what the Police get.

Councilor Powers stated he is not against the raise but asked the manager "do you believe you can fund this contract? And if we can't fund it will it leave us to layoff?" The Manager responded with "puts a lot of work a burden to close this but there will be some leveling off of Health Insurance this year and we if we can get around the School challenges.

Councilor Boncore in favor of raise and it has to go back to the other unions it is for Public Safety.

Councilor Mael made a motion to endorse the contract brought forward by the Town Manager for the Winthrop Police Union

2nd by Councilor Powers

Motion Passes

8 to 1

Councilor Letterie Opposes

At the end of the discussions the Councilors told Chief Delehanty that they feel they (police) do a great job and deserve it.

Mr. McKenna stated he had 6 sessions of negotiations and it is the first time in ten years they would not go to arbitration and he believes the increases would have been higher numbers if we went to arbitration to the JLC.

Documents used in this Executive Session:

Memo from Town Manager Mr. McKenna 1/31/2012

Email Correction to Memo dated 1/31/2012

Memorandum of Agreement of proposed changes to the Winthrop Police union
MCOP Local 421 AFL-CIO regarding new three year Collective Bargaining
Agreement.

Handout of Police Union Costing Projections FY12-14

Joint Labor Management Commission Arbitration Awards 2009-Present