

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2012

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Gill called the Town Council Meeting of April 17, 2012 to order at 7:00 PM in the Harvey Hearing Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Varone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilor DelVento	Absent
Councilor Powers	Present
Councilor Letterie	Present
Councilor Boncore	Present
Councilor Sanford	Present
Councilor Calla	Present
Councilor Mael	Present
Vice President Varone	Present
Council President Gill	Present

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UPDATES BY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, ROBERT DELEO AND SENATOR ANTHONY PRETRUCCELLI

Speaker DeLeo spoke on:

- Winthrop Beach Project
- T News
- House Budget
- Chapter 70
- Chapter 90
- Elderly Nutrition Program

Senator Petruccelli spoke on:

- Winthrop Beach Project/Expectations and Challenges
- Casinos/Host Communities/Transportation Issues

There was a question and answer period from the Council regarding the timeline of the Beach Project, which as of yet has not been finalized, and the project going before Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2012.

There were also questions regarding the Casino and the criteria to be a Host Community, which was explained in detail by Speaker DeLeo, there were also concerns about traffic issues that will impact Winthrop and how this will factor into the Proposals submitted for deciding where a Casino will be located. It will be determined by the Gaming Commission to review Proposals and how they will impact the surrounding communities;

the Gaming Commission would then make a determination if they will grant a license for a Casino facility.

There was also a question and answer period from the Public. Mr. Gordon wanted to know if there is enough money to finish the Beach Project. Guy Brandenstein expressed concerns of project being derailed due to wild life.

John Riberio spoke as an opponent to the possibility of a Casino.

MINUTES

Councilor Letterie made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 3, 2012

2nd by Councilor Boncore

Motion Passes Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

President Gill read correspondence from the Beautification Committee regarding the first major Cleanup for Spring at 8:00am at Hanaford Park on April 28, 2012 and they are looking for volunteers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PRESENTATION OF STRETCH ENERGY CODE

Peter Lombardi Grants Administrator spoke on: Green Communities and how the Town has begun working on attaining a Green Communities designation. Jim Soper, Gerry Boyle, and Peter met with Joanne Bissetta, the Northeast MA Regional Coordinator of the Green Communities Program from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), to discuss this process. This designation would allow the Town to access a minimum of \$125,000 in grant funding to undertake energy efficiency and conservation projects. That baseline allocation is based on a formula looking at median family income, population, etc. and so it may provide up to approximately \$150-175,000. The grant program is non-competitive - once we meet their criterion, we will be eligible for the funding. In addition, once we spend this initial disbursement, the Town will be eligible to apply for additional funding on a competitive basis (there is \$2m available for this year's round of those applications). DOER Green Communities criteria requirements are as follows: limited as-of-right zoning and permitting for energy facilities (for which a waiver has been applied that would exempt the Town from this obligation), a commitment to 20% scheduled municipal facility energy savings over the next 5 years, a commitment to buy energy efficient vehicles going forward, and the adoption of the stretch building code.

Jim Soper, Building Inspector spoke on the definition of the Stretch Code and State standards.

There was a question and answer session from the Council on how it will effect new construction

Motion from Councilor Sanford to refer Stretch Energy Code to Rules and Ordinances

2nd by Councilor Powers

Motion Passes Unanimously

Peter Lombardi also stated that there would be a 20% savings over 5 years and it is fully funded by the state.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. McKenna spoke on:

- Spreadsheet for Local Aid
- Tree Sponsorship Program
- Hobson Family Fundraiser Pancake breakfast is May 12, 2012
- Art Association Art Show weekend of April 27, 2012
- Cataloging Council Actions/Votes
- Requested to refer to Rules and Ordinance Grease Trap Regulations and French Square Seasonal Fee
- Budget Update
- Vocational School Assessment

Motion by Vice President Varone to refer to Rules and Ordinances Grease Trap Regulations and French Square Seasonal Fee

2nd by Councilor Letterie

Motion Passes Unanimously

Councilor Boncore, Chairman of Rules and Ordinance set a meeting for April 24, 2012 at 6:30pm for discussion of Stretch Code, Public Records, Grease Trap and French Square Fee he will set a Public Hearing between May 1, 2012 and May 15th meeting.

Motion by Councilor Powers to adopt the Release and Settlement Agreement between Prism Builds et el vs. Town of Winthrop

2nd by Councilor Mael

Discussion of Release and Settlement Agreement by Town Manager including establishing a Larson Rink Fund and reimbursing the Town for legal fees connected to the settlement (approximately \$8,000).

Motion Passes Unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Councilor Letterie to relieve the Council Finance Committee of reporting on the transfers sent to Council Finance Committee regarding Unemployment, Sewer Reserve, Assessor's Contract Services and Veterans Benefits

2nd by Councilor Sanford

There was a discussion that they were sent to Committee but Committee hasn't had a meeting. Councilor Boncore stated he has a problem with this process and would like a recommendation from Committee stating if they are not an emergency they shouldn't be voted on.

Councilor Letterie withdrew his Motions and will set a Council Finance Meeting before the next Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Gill read for the record a Proclamation for Arbor Day and declared April 27, 2012 to be Arbor Day in the Town of Winthrop.

Discussion of Tree Program and the Emerson Road Project.

**Vice President Varone made a motion to accept the Proclamation for Arbor Day
2nd by Councilor Sanford
Motion Passes Unanimously**

Mr. McKenna spoke on the progress to eliminate double poles and acknowledged Chief Flanagan who stated we have removed 80 poles of the 210 and they are randomly being taken down.

Mr. McKenna stated that the Memorials Committee voted positively to have the DPW Building named after Richard Dimes acknowledging his long time service to the Town and his diligence in the location and construction of this building.

**Motion by Councilor Letterie to have the DPW Building named after Richard Dimes
2nd by Councilor Powers**

Councilor Boncore stated that he believes that the Memorials Committee should inform the Council of the vote and give the Council something in writing. Town Manager agrees and it was discussed that procedurally it should first go to Council then be referred to Memorials Committee. The recommendation could be on the Committee's own initiative or on a suggestion from a citizen. The Town Manager feels we need to clear up the procedure and jurisdiction of the Memorials Committee.

Councilor Powers exercised his Point of Privilege and would like this motion tabled until next meeting.

It was stated that this is not a reflection on Richard Dimes but on the clarification of procedures and recommendations coming from the Memorials Committee.

**Request by Councilor Boncore to request Chip Tuttle from Suffolk Downs to attend our next Council Meeting
2nd by Councilor Mael
Motion Passes Unanimously**

President Gill stated that at our May 1, 2012 the Council would meet at 6:30 for Public Comment regarding the voting/polling location of Precinct 4.

Councilor Calla gave a reminder regarding Almont Street and Locust Street turns. There was a brief discussion with Chief Delehanty and the Council about the traffic/turns off of Almont and Locust Street.

Chief Delehanty gave a reminder of street sweeping next week including ticketing policy.

Councilor Letterie announced an event at the Rink on April 21, 2012 for the Winthrop Charities Fundraiser.

Councilor Sanford expressed his appreciation for condolences of his mother passing.

There was a moment of silence for Mrs. Nolan a longtime Winthrop teacher who passed away.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Powers

2nd by Councilor Calla

Motion Passes Unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 9:12

A DVD of this meeting is available from WCAT

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

Documents used in this Meeting:

Town Manager's Report

Memo Green Communities Program and Adoption of the Stretch Energy Code

Grease Trap Regulations

Release and Settlement Agreement (Prism Buildings et al vs. Town of Winthrop

Arbor Day Proclamation

Respectfully submitted,
Town Council Clerk
Kathleen S. Hickey