

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Gill called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:06 PM in the Harvey Hearing Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Sanford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilor DelVento-	Present
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

MINUTES

Councilor Sanford made a motion to accept the Minutes of August 7, 2012

2nd. By Councilor DelVento

Passed Unanimously

Council President Gill explains two small changes in minutes of August 21, 2012

Councilor Sanford made a motion to accept the Minutes of August 21, 2012

2nd. By Councilor Powers

Passed Unanimously

Councilor Vice President Varone made a motion to accept the Executive Minutes of August 21, 2012 2nd. By Councilor Sanford

Passed Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas McNiff—Asks about Harbormaster Situation. Council President Gill advises this is a situation with the Town Manager. Town Mgr. McKenna acknowledges there will be a Due Process Hearing on 9-12-12.

Judy VanKooiman-Promoting two town events she is running in memory of her husband Dan.

(1) Resource Volunteer Fair (2)Those Who Can for Those in Need.

Events will be held at Ingleside Park from 10 – 2 pm.

Also a Family Health Fair at the Senior Center from 9-2 pm.

Karen Chavis-Has question on harbormaster but will hold off. Has an issue concerning the Towns Finances. What exactly is going on, who has been responsible for the Towns finances and what is it costing the town? Town Mgr. McKenna explains the finance situation, who is temporarily working on an interim basis, the costs, all while still searching for a full time CFO and Budget Mgr. of which the council will be responsible to hire.

No Further Public Comment

CORRESPONDENCE

President Gill acknowledges letter from Chief Delehanty that he supports Chief Paul Flanagan as appointee as the Board of Directors of the MWRA.

Paul Marks, a long serving member of the Board of Appeals has announced his resigning effective 9-1-12. He will be moving to New Hampshire.

Bob Gadbois would like to be considered to help the town in any capacity.

Dottie Donofrio, has announced it is official that Chris Donnelly, Special Ed. Teacher at WHS will receive the George Washington Honor Medal, it is a National Award. Date of Award will be announced.

Letters in reference to the Casino Referendum written by Dottie Donofrio, Thomas McNiff and Mr. Maguire were received and acknowledged.

Tony Majahad, an advocate that works on the Airport Committee for Noise and Air Pollution might be moving and his position may be available. Will keep the council posted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rules and Ordinance- Councilor Boncore reports on meeting of August 28, 2012
Licensing Agreement in reference to 235 Court Rd., Winthrop, MA
License Agreement Accepted

Technology Committee-Motion by Council Vice President Varone to add a Technology Committee to Rules and Regulations
Council Passed Unanimously
Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 P. M.

Two Motions to bring up at New Business

No Further Committee Reports

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Town Manager McKenna acknowledges that Council President Gill has asked him to open talks about the Activities of the summer personnel matters that need attending.

Hearing is being held about Harbor Master Position

CFO position is in contract with Collins Center of Boston. Salary has been discussed as well as advertising for position, hopeful for qualified applicants. Waiting to replace assistant as it warrants input from CFO that is hired.

Donna Beshera has agreed to stay on until December 2012.

Number of changes in building over summer months. Thankful to Retirees and feels we are in good hands with respect to their replacements. Have added a Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Assessor. Agreed with Board of Assessors that their records will be online. This will be beneficial to the public and help with the office in general.

Assistant in Facility Department has been a great resource.

Most departments, Police, Fire, etc. are filling their vacancies.

Grant Writer Joe Domelowicz begins 9-5-12.

Council President Gill inquires on interim Building Inspector, Mr. Barrett. Town Mgr. McKenna acknowledges he is doing a very good job in this department. Town Mgr. McKenna feels this department and many others may need more “floating” clerical help. Needs to discuss with clerical union.

Council President Gill received question on progress of Landing Building. Town Mgr. McKenna acknowledges it is presently in progress.

Town Mgr. McKenna would like to take time out to thank all that has been involved with the French Sq. Market. It was very successful due to all that contributed.

Town Mgr. submitted to Finance Sub Committee a draft RFP for annual auditor. Request for proposals for annual audit. He asks council to look it over and put on agenda so can move forward and advertise. Expect firms to response to audit.

Town Mgr. wishes all schools good luck in their beginning their school year.

Events coming Up:

Lodge of Elks Soccer Shoot-Out at Ingleside Park Sept. 7, 2102 at 2:30 Rain or Shine

Resource Volunteer Event at Ingleside Park Sept. 8, 2012 10-2pm.

City of Chelsea is hosting a community meeting Sept. 13, 2012 at the Williams School at 6 pm to discuss the potential shipping of 1.8 million gallons of ethanol twice weekly through our waters.

Boy Scout 5075 Annual Sign Up Sept. 10, 2012, 7- 8:30 pm, grades 1-5 sign up at St. Johns Evangelist on Ocean View St.

Anticipation of the Council Fall Forum Meeting: Town Mgr. McKenna submitted a brief summary document on the town’s debt. He would like council to consider the strategic planning that now would be the time to think about debt position for worthy new projects. Now is the best time to finance long-term debt. Rates have never been lower. There are projects that are in immediate need of work. (See Summary of Debt).

Councilor Sanford requests list from Town Mgr. of what Capital Projects the Mgr. would suggest council investigate for long-term investments.

Councilor Mael asks explanation of Summary Long Term Debt, Town Mgr. explains it is the town’s current debts and what they are, how they are paid and how they are allocated to budget.

Councilor Letterie asks for balances on each debt. Town Mgr. has agreed to make report available for pay down, showing interest, balances..etc.

Councilor Boncore asks if debts can be re-financed, Town Mgr. explains this situation.

Councilor Boncore asks if Donna Beshera would be willing to sit in on meetings to answer questions on financing? Town Mgr. agrees and will ask her as well as Mr. Hingston.

Councilor Boncore acknowledges that auditor works for council, so council has to appoint committee to hire auditor after RFP Draft presented. Town Mgr. believed it was referred to Finance Sub Committee. Councilor Boncore asks is auditor doing entire audit? He needs to know if council has money to do these audits. Town Mgr. explains internal audit as well as annual audit. If council wants particular area of an audit, it would not be included in available funding. Council could hire internal auditor. Councilor Boncore is questioning what is available in budget.

Councilor Varone makes clear funding that was put aside for internal audit is now being used.

Councilor DelVento explains where balance of auditing spending is being funded. \$35,000.00 was budgeted at 1/12th each month for current auditor. Estimated balance at \$25,000.00 left in budget, Town Mgr. asks not to use this money as he needs for Mr. Hingston. Councilor Boncore and Town Mgr. discuss who Mr. Hingston works for. Town Mgr. McKenna agrees to work with whomever Council hires. Mr. Hingston is under contract with town, any auditing function is in the interest of the council and he considers him an auditor hired under the council. Mr. Hingston will be made more available to council, if needed.

Council President would like a vision as to clarify Mr. Hingston's position and where funds are coming from.

Councilor Mael points out salary of Donna Beshera and her funding should be made available back to council funding once CFO appointed.

Councilor Vice President Varone asks that Mr. Hingston meet once a month with Finance Committee. Town Mgr. agrees. Council agrees that they will attend meeting to meet with Mr. Hingston.

No Further Discussion Under town Manager's Report

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Councilor DelVento to Rescind Previous School Feasibility Design Motion

2nd. By Councilor Sanford

No Further Discussion

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor DelVento – See Attached Motion

2nd. By Councilor Letterie

Discussion by Councilor Letterie, this motion had to be rewritten due to specific language that the MSBA required which was not in original motion.

No Further Discussion

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor Sanford to refer the 5-year Subscription Service for Voice-Over IP Telephone Services to the Financial Committee.

2nd by Councilor Calla

No Further Discussion

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor Mael that the Town Council to vote on conducting a non-binding referendum vote regarding the proposed casino at Suffolk Downs, such vote to occur through a special election at a date and time to be determined, but in no event later than the next regularly scheduled municipal election in November 2013. ?

2nd by Councilor Powers, for Purpose of Discussion

Councilor Powers not opposed to this motion but at this time feels we are getting ahead of ourselves as we do not know if Revere and E. Boston are approving Casino's. Special election would cost close to \$20,000.00 and there is no reason to spend this until we have a better idea what is happening with Casino issue.

Councilor Powers motions to Table

2nd by Councilor Boncore

Councilor Powers pulls back motion to Table for purpose of discussion

Councilor Boncore takes back 2nd motion to Table

Councilor Vice President believes waiting for next municipality vote, which is Nov. of 2013 is too far in advance.

Councilor Mael wants to comment on the townspeople that contacted him that are interested in this vote. The goal of the council is to find a way for this vote to fit in. He agrees, no Casino, no vote needed. He wants these individuals to have a voice in this vote. He would like a yes vote and if not needed, would amend.

Councilor Powers comments again on why premature. On the Mass. Gaming Website there have been two verifications of applicants and ability to proceed. RFA-1 Suffolk Downs has applied. RFA-2 is for the Suffolk Downs surrounding areas to apply. It will still be close to Dec. of 2013 or Jan. of 2014 before Suffolk Downs is even ready to fully apply. Well within time frame for vote.

Councilor Powers makes motion to Table the Matter

2nd by Councilor Boncore

No Further Discussion

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor Boncore on Rules and Ordinances to amend the Winthrop Town Council Rule 9 A (c) by adding the words "including the veteran's agent or his/her designee, a member of the Winthrop Historical Commission and 3 citizens of the town, one who shall have public safety experience, serving staggered 3-year term".

No Second Needed as Came out of Committee.

No Further Discussion

Passed Unanimously

Councilor Boncore motions to amend the Winthrop Town Council Rule 9 by adding a new section A. (d) Technology Committee composed of 5 members (for staggered 3 yr. Terms) and the Mis Director shall be an ex officio member of said committee and by renumbering current A. (d) as A. (e)

No 2nd needed as coming from Committee

No Further Discussion

Passed Unanimously

APPOINTMENTS

Councilor Sanford motions to approve in accordance with House Bill No. 3807, appointing Paul Flanagan to the MWRA Board of Directors un-expired term of Marie Turner Said appointment to expire February 15, 2015

2nd by Councilor Calla

No Further Discussion

Passed Unanimously

Paul Flanagan thanks council members.

Councilor Boncore motions to approve the appointment of *Rona Mael to the **Scholarship Committee**

2nd by Councilor Letterie

No Further Discussion

Passed 8-0-1 (Councilor Mael Abstained)

Councilor Letterie motions to approve the appointment of Jeffrey Gerow and *Elizabeth Carella to the **Historical Committee** and approve the appointment of Michael V. Sullivan to the

Winthrop Commission on Disabilities

2nd by Councilor Powers

No Further Discussion

Passed Unanimously

*Re-appointments

Councilor Vice President Varone motions to approve the appointment Thomas Honan to Parks Committee.

2nd by Councilor Sanford

No Further Discussion

Passed Unanimously

Councilor President Gill announced posting an opening for the Board of Appeals as Paul Marks has resigned. Will continue to take applications until Sept. 14, 2012.

In accordance with Article 4 Section 4-1 of the Charter, Council President Gill shall initiate and lead the town council in the annual review of Town Manager McKenna. His plan is to take the template of Mr. McKenna's last evaluation and e-mail to each council for their input.

Councilor Vice President Varone comments it is also a good opportunity to review the Town Clerk annually.

Councilor Powers announces Casino Committee meeting Sept. 5, 2012

Councilor DelVento comments on events and how successful they have been.

Councilor Mael comments on Public Comment and Public Question. He feels it important for townspeople to know each councilor has an e-mail address that they will answer any questions.

Would like to publicly thank the City of Boston's Teachers Union for agreeing to contract after 3 years dispute.

Town charter states that town employee's work for Town Mgr. but charter talks about individual ethics of council and there should be zero tolerance for certain types of behavior.

Councilor President Gill clarified from last meeting the difference between Public Comment and Public Questions. Citizens are invited and welcomed to be at meetings.

No Further New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Chavis-Comments on positions open and who hired and can she get names. Town Mgr. McKenna acknowledges and can get all names at a future date.

Chief Delehanty wants to congratulate Officer Sean Hickey and Officer Patrick Curran in graduating the Police Academy. They will be on the street for full duty on Sept. 7, 2012. Comments on how important the new phone system will be.

Guy Brandenstein once again is asking about the Town Landing Fishing Pier. Wasn't this part of project? Councilor President Gill suggests this issue should be brought up with the Harbor Mgt. Committee, as does Town Mgr. McKenna. Plans have been drawn as to extend this pier.

Councilor Letterie met with the Hospital Committee and they are looking forward to close on property and develop as originally stated.

Councilor Calla has heard rumors on issues at Dalrymple School. Town Mgr. McKenna acknowledges finances have been in place but now a new detailed plan must be presented to make sure in compliance with codes. Once done, it will be re-issued to planning board but it is moving forward.

No Further Public Comment

**Motion to adjourn by Councilor Vice President Varone
2nd. by Councilor Sanford
Motion Passes Unanimously**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 PM

A DVD of this meeting is available from WCAT
Public Documents used in the meeting are available at Town Managers Office.

Documents Used in this Meeting:

Hand Written Notes
Committee Openings Documents
Roll Call Log
Written Motions / Verbal Motions

Respectfully submitted,
Town Council Clerk
Denise Quist



TOWN OF WINTHROP

Submitted By: James McKenna, Town Manager

Date: 8/30/12

MOTION/VOTE/ORDER

That the Town Council of the Town of Winthrop, MA appropriate the amount of three hundred ten thousand (\$310,000.00) dollars from the Sale of Land Account for the purpose of paying costs of feasibility study, including preliminary design and analysis of various alternatives, such study to include the potential renovation, alteration and or reconstruction of the Winthrop High School (400 Main Street, between Payson and Cross Streets) and / or combined facility with the Middle School, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the Town of Winthrop may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation, funds shall be transferred to the School Building Capital Account to be expended for the purposes stated, and further that the Town of Winthrop acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town of Winthrop incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town of Winthrop.