

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Gill called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Harvey Hearing Room

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Powers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECEIVED

2012 DEC -5 A 11: 02

TOWN CLERK
JANET HARRIS

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Chavis discusses concerns on Water Meters, New Phone Voice Over IP System, the Ferry Building and mentions the current situation with the Town's CFO. Mr. McKenna addresses all issues.

Council President Gill moves, if no objections by council (none) to move straight to Finance Committee Motions.

Motion by Councilor DelVento on Main Motion to Pay past Fiscal Years Legal Bills See attached (no second required, coming out of committee)

Motion by Councilor DelVento to amend the main motion by adding that funds be transferred from council reserve to pay the bill

2nd By Councilor Sanford-For Discussion

Councilor Boncore wanted to know why did Fin Com recommendation change from last year's fin com recommendation? Can we possibly negotiate bill down?

Councilor DelVento explains the bill has been reduced and there have been no late charges have ever been charged since 2008.

Councilor Boncore: The invoice was late, why are we agreeing to pay now?

Council President Gill asks why bill was not submitted in a timely fashion.

Councilor DelVento explains bill was issued in a timely manner but with the changing legal counsel, the invoice was never sent to accounts payable.

Town Manager McKenna believes on good faith this invoice should be paid as it is an obligation from the prior legal counsel.

Amendment Passed 7 0 1 Councilor Boncore voted no

President Gill calls for vote on main motion as amended. He states that a 9/10ths vote is required to pass, therefore a unanimous vote in this case.

Councilor Powers: In the past there was a discussion on reducing this invoice. Has there been any other discussion to this effect?

Mr. McKenna: Yes, invoices have been reduced from original.

Councilor Powers: Do our attorney's think this invoice is fair?

Mr. McKenna: Yes

Councilor Sanford: Wasn't this original amount budgeted?

Councilor Mael: Are there any other cases pending?

Mr. McKenna: Yes, but this will pay in full for all these past cases.

Main Motion Fails 7-0-1 (Councilor Boncore- No) (Councilor Letterie-Absent)

Motion Does Not Pass

Unanimous vote required to pay previous year's bill

Motion by Councilor Powers to reconsider paying invoice for the purpose of discussion

2nd by Councilor Mael

Councilor Mael: What happens at this point?

Councilor Boncore: Lawyer can sue us.

Councilor Mael: Lawyer should be paid

Councilor Boncore understand moral obligation but invoice was submitted late and we should try to reduce.

Councilor Gill agrees that the bill should be paid in fairness to the attorney as she was hired by the town.

Councilor Boncore explains that we are in financial straights, this bill comes from the past counsel. not the current and we were told a year ago that we did not have to pay this invoice. Why, without a complete breakdown of invoice should we pay? Invoice not submitted on time, should have her reduce amount.

Councilor Mael questions if the invoice was actually submitted late.

**7-0-1 Motion Fails(Councilor Boncore-No)
(Councilor Letterie-Absent)**

Council President Gill sums up primary purpose of this special meeting: Setting Council Goals and Objectives for the FY 2014 Budget. He will email a summary of the goals discussed tonight to the council within the next few days for comment. If no comments or change, he will forward the summary to the Town Manager as is by December 11, 2012. - See attached

Public Comment - None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor DeIVento

2nd. by Councilor Calla

Passed Unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 PM

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

Budget Goals FY 14 to Town Manager
Attitude is contagious
Winthrop's Worth It

Some thoughts to bear in mind as we prepare the FY 14 budget.

Winthrop is a desirable seaside community offering the opportunity of safe, affordable living within easy commuting distance to Boston, a world class city. We need to be committed to the preservation and improvement of Winthrop's resources as we prepare the budget for FY 14 and the years to follow

What do the citizens of Winthrop to look like five / ten years from now?

We need to determine the wishes of the citizens on the future of Winthrop

What will attract young and vibrant families to Winthrop and encourage those already living in Winthrop to stay living in Winthrop.

What image do we want to portray of Winthrop? "Winthrop is a nice place to live" or "Winthrop is a cheap place to live"

Our residents need to believe that financial support of improvement in our community is an "opportunity to invest" in our community rather than an "obligation to pay"

We are mandated to provide Education, Public Safety, Health, and Public Works. (roads, infrastructure, etc).

The Council needs to establish and fund priorities with citizen input for Winthrop's future.

We need realistic long range planning for maintenance and improvement of facilities and infrastructure

Schools -

Construction of 6-12 middle / high school

Educational incentives to continue to improve instruction and keep pace with today's technology.

Town Side

Continued sidewalk repair and park restoration

Continued road and infrastructure work.

Winthrop Street Corridor Improvement Program

Capitol improvement including facilities maintenance and energy improvements

Planned replacement of vehicles and equipment

Continued efforts for improving the cleanliness and overall attractiveness of the town including on going tree replacement program

Revenue and cost concerns -

State revenues are down - Possible negative effects on local funding including Chapter 70

Probable increases in town's cost of health insurance

Sewer rate adjustment due to low flow projections

We need to live within a 2% budget cap (or increase revenues)

We need to continue to build (increase) free cash

Our representative from DOR Winthrop has stated that in his opinion Winthrop does not have a spending problem rather that Winthrop has a revenue problem

Some ideas of specific FUNDING ideas to help accomplish Winthrop's goals

Debt exclusion plans (temporary real estate tax increase)

Construction of a middle / high school

Menu style for consideration of

Purchase of Fire engine

Purchase of DPW sewer pumper truck

Five year tree planting program

Other

Continuing efforts to seek grants. – (we need to budget matching funds required for some grants).

Fees for services - services paid for by those who use them. Fees structured to be like enterprise funds – cost of service plus reserve

Inspectional services need to be strengthened.

Trash enforcement – residential not before 7:00 AM, covered barrels

Dumpsters – enforcement

Additional alternatives / supplements to trash removal funding

Rental apartments - Annual inspection for health, safety, code enforcement (fee?) fines

Traffic enforcement - On street and parking lots (including tag and tow 7:00 AM during street sweeping and snow emergency)

Stronger enforcement of all ordinances will pay for itself, accomplish better compliance and create a cleaner healthier environment.

Stickers (annual fee) for all Municipal Parking lots will provide funds for construction of additional off street parking (ex: Dalrymple School, Crest Ave Walden Street) and maintenance of lots

Parking “meters” at local business districts

Owner Occupied Real Estate tax exemption residential exemption shifting some of the costs to non owner occupied unit owners (landlords)

Winthrop Town Council
Peter T. Gill, President
December 4, 2102