

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2013

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Gill called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Cummings School

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Mael called the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Boncore to accept the circulated Revised Minutes of December 20, 2011

2nd. By Councilor Powers

6-2-1(Council President Gill and Councilor Mael not in office at this time)(Councilor Sanford Absent)

Motion by Vice President Varone to accept the circulated Minutes of January 22, 2013

2nd. By Councilor Powers

8-1 (Councilor Letterie Absent on 1-22-13)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Guy Brandenstein opposes the medical marijuana at residential locations. President Gill encourages any remarks to be made at the Rules and Ordinance Meeting regarding this issue. Mr. Brandenstein also opposes the Sanitary Fitness Inspection Ordinance. It is up the landlord what to do with apartment. President Gill again points out that these have been referred to Rules and Ordinance and should take concerns up at their meeting.

Councilor Calla explains there will definitely be other options to explore.

Councilor Letterie explains that there are discrepancies being discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Governor Patrick corresponded with the town regarding special elections.

Alex Alexanian retiring from library board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee: Councilor DelVento is working on Fees Schedule Hearing. No date set as of yet.

Rules and Ordinance: Council Boncore have scheduled two meetings Feb. 12, 203 and Feb. 26, 2013 (See Agenda)

Committee on Committee meeting scheduled for Feb.13, 2013 for varies committees to meet and express concerns and work together. Encourage all committee chairmen to attend.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Was not here at last meeting but is interested in the Council sending the Blue Wave Presentation (1-22-13) to the Finance Sub Committee for a more detailed discussion. At this time, he will provide a much broader detailed explanation of what Blue Wave can offer our town.

attended a conference on the impact of pharmaceutical opiates effecting communities. It was discussed within surrounding communities and Chief Delehanty has been working with the town of Revere on how we can engage in a new initiative on opiate use in our community.

Summary of Middle School Re-use study. Please look at draft and express comments. Presented summary of school enrollment. It has increased with certain grades.

On 2-14-13 the public can comment to the state regarding the medical marijuana regulations. There is also a meeting on 2-12-13 at the Reggie Lewis center on same information.

Discussion on Steve Perreira's electrical license being used by the town and how we are saving money using his license.

Wants community to be aware that in E. Boston there will be a public forum discussing ethanol transportation on railway cars through E. Boston. Winthrop is potentially 1 mile away from this transportation and can participate in this meeting.

CFO, Tim Gordon gives information on audit presently being done by Powers and Sullivan. The Mass DOR will be present next week in their office working with them. He gives updates on water and sewer lien information of homeowners. As of today close to \$700,000 has been paid by the liens being placed, down from over the 1.5 million of a few months prior. Though we have received these payments the DOR is still insisting on increase and will not allow this to be rescinded at this time. Councilor Boncore has issues with this as the council usually sets the rate, Mgr. McKenna explains the council sets the budget, then the rate is set.

Local aid allocation from the state has increased but this will involve tax increases also. It is fair to say that since we have received payments, hopefully the rate will be decreased sooner than later.

Councilor Powers would like to have the water shut off for unpaid bills. He understands certain positions of households but he wants this tool in out toolbox, if needed. Councilor Mael discusses how we should maintain the billing, dates and liens prior to considering shutting off. Councilor Calla asks if there is a payment plan. Yes, there is, residents should call town hall. There are also hardships allowed if you call and inquire.

There are a couple of old bills due, Hess Gas and National Grid. Councilor Mael asks how much: National Grid approx. \$10,000. Hess came in as phone call and fax that they are owed close to \$27,000. He will look into both these invoices for verification. These bills go back to March of 2010 and he knows payments have been made he will check that these payments were applied correctly. Never picked up in audits.

President Gill acknowledges documentation given to council by CFO Tim Gordon is very precise and informative.

Councilor Mael asks if anything is a “flagging” issue that CFO Gordon has seen while working on ledgers.

CFO Gordon: The Recreation and Rink budgets are being looked into. Looking into overtime in some departments, will speak to department heads.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments: See Attached

Motion by Councilor Boncore to approve appointment of Joe Clark to License Commission

2nd by Councilor Letterie

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor Calla to approve appointment of George Sennott to Historical Commission

2nd by Councilor Powers

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor Letterie to approve appointment of Steve Calla, Thomas Dederian, Janice Stevens and Susan Sweeney to Tree Committee

2nd by Councilor Calla

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor DelVento to refer the transfer of \$32,816.47 from the Debt Services Principle to the DPW Supplies and Equipment (See Attached) to the Finance Committee

2nd by Councilor Powers

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor Letterie to refer the transfer of \$6,183.53 from the Debt Service Principle to the Treasurer/Collector (Contract Services) (See Attached) to the Finance Committee

2nd by Councilor Powers

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor Calla to refer the transfer of \$15, 000.00 from the Library Personnel Account to the DPW Building Maintenance Personnel (See Attached) to the Finance Committee

2nd. by Councilor Powers

Discussion:

Councilor Letterie: Is this for the rest of the year?

Mgr. McKenna: We are establishing a stipend of to use at the discretion of the facilities manager for the use of electrical license and work. This is not a fixed stipend, it will be up to the facilities manager to pay for time and use of electrical work.

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Vice President Varone to refer the transfer of \$5,000.00 from the Town Council Reserve to the Town Manager Conference/Training Account (See Attached) to the Finance Committee
2nd by Councilor Letterie

Discussion:

Council President Gill: Dates need to be corrected on invoice, should be July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

Councilor Letterie: Is this an annual expense?

Mgr. McKenna: MAPC provides us with a lot of direction. We actually pay half of other communities, it is our contribution helping us with grants, etc.

Passed Unanimously

Lease Purchase Motion:

Mgr. McKenna discusses the “lease to own” budget of DPW equipment. The loader expense will soon be completed, we will pick up the expense by the addition of a Vacuum/Flusher truck. This truck can possibly increase the life of the current lines.

Motion by Councilor Powers to authorize the Town Manager to execute a 7-year lease (See Attached)
2nd by Councilor Letterie

Discussion:

Councilor DelVento: Do we need to approve the other transfer to clear the funds for this lease.

Mgr. McKenna: There will plenty of time to approve.

Councilor Mael: Is there money left over for maintaining current vehicles?

Mgr. McKenna: We buy vehicles with warranties and we do have budget for maintaining vehicles. Obviously, any budget could use more money.

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor Letterie that the Council vote to transfer \$430.73 from the Town Council Reserve Account to the Building Department Contract Services Account (See Attached)
2nd by Councilor Powers

Discussion by Councilor DelVento that he will vote for this invoice but wants to look into Council Reserve Fund prior to approving any other “older” invoices.

Roll Call Vote Required-Previous Year Expense

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Vice President Varone to refer the transfer of \$2,110.00 from the Town Council Reserve Account to the Recreation Purchase Services Account (See Attached) to the Finance Committee
2nd by Councilor Powers

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Vice President Varone to refer the transfer of \$4,130.00 from the Town Council Reserve Account to the Recreation Purchased Services Account (See Attached) to the Finance Committee
2nd by Councilor Letterie

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Vice President Varone to suspend council rule 2B for the Special Election
2nd by Councilor Letterie
Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor DelVento for setting the Primary Election to April 25, 2013 (See Attached)
2nd by Councilor Letterie
Passed Unanimously

Motion by Vice President Varone to call for a Special Election on June 25, 2013 for Senatorial Vote(See Attached)
2nd by Councilor Letterie
Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor DelVento to refer the appropriation of \$27,600.00 from the Town Council Reserve to the Town Clerk’s Budget (See Attached) to the Finance Committee
2nd by Vice President Varone
Passed Unanimously

PUBLIC RELATIONS

President Gill would like to recognize Alex Alexanian at the next meeting for his years of service to our town. The Spring Forum is tentatively scheduled at our regular Town Council Meeting at 6 PM. Town Council Meeting to begin at 7 PM

We will have a "joint" meeting with the Library Board at the Town Council 2-19-13 meeting to appoint the vacancy of Alex Alexanian. The electrician will be made that night.

Parks Committee would like to make presentation at our next meeting. There are memorial bricks to be purchased.

Music Matters had a great fundraiser.

All in Favor to Revert Back to New Business

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Vice President Varone to reconsider the request for the Primary Election motion, date should be April 30, 2013 not April 25, 2013.

Passed Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT

Guy Brandenstein discusses the Governor's proposed tax increase. He would like the Council to relay to the Governor's office the concerns of the citizens on the tax increase.

Councilor Mael has question on total water meter program. He understands it is \$1.5 Million for entire project but we are borrowing \$750,000 from the MWRA not \$1.5 Million.

DPW Calla: Correct

Councilor Mael: The average household is looking at approx. \$175 increase that will be billed over several months. If water meter breaks in home the town covers it for being faulty. If the homeowner is cause broken meter, they are responsible.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Powers

2nd By Councilor DelVento

Passed Unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 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