

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 Harvey Hearing Room

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council DelVento lead the Pledge of Allegiance

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

MINUTES

Motion by Vice President Varone to accept the Minutes of February 19, 2013, as circulated

2nd. By Councilor

Passed Unanimously

Motion by Councilor Sanford to accept the Minutes of the Executive Session Minutes of February 19, 2013, as circulated

2nd. By Vice President Varone

Passed Unanimously

PRESENTATION

Scholarship Chairwoman, Rona Mael discusses what the Winthrop Scholarship means to the WHS and our community. We are in great need of donations for this committee to continue their program. Please note that on your tax bill you can donate to the Scholarship Committee. This donation must be separate from any payments made to town and mailed separately. Please support our Scholarship Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING

Meter Tampering Program

No Public Comment in Favor / No Public Comment Opposed

No Council Comment

Hearing Closed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karin Chavis- Precinct 2, comments on the Parks and Rec. Program. Concern is that we are going to have to supplement this program again. She thought any new programs were self-funded. Why later bills are being considered, enterprise funds are considered to be self-supported. Would Council think about making a Parks and Rec. Scholarship Fund? Town Mgr. McKenna will be addressing these issues during the Town Manager Report.

Chief Delehanty makes comment that if a Scholarship Fund for Parks and Rec is considered to make sure the children that cannot afford programs are thought of.

President Gill comments on last weeks hearing of the Sanitary Inspection Ordinance. If anyone missed that meeting or wanted to speak on behalf of this inspection, now is the time during Public Comment.

-Edward Bomarsi (Revere Resident / Winthrop Property Owner)

-Robert Wilkins (Precinct 4 / Winthrop Resident)

-James Mazzone (Boxford Resident / Winthrop Property Owner)

As a property owners and dealing with tenants, they are opposed to the Sanitary Inspections for various reasons pertaining to being a landlord, dealing with tenants, dealing with the courts, dealing with town departments.

-Chief Delehanty asks if we can afford **not to pass this Ordinance** due to several reasons of how it protects the landlords, tenants and neighbors against these properties being correctly inspected.

Would like Council to reflect on all comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Diane Davis wrote thank you for being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Thanks from Music Matter for donation of behalf of Town Mgr. McKenna's mother-in-law.
- Guy Brandenstein wrote letter in reference to the water/sewer charges rate increase and still confused with the DOR requirements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Council President Gill researched the correct name of Appointments, Committee and Commission and it is Appointments, Commission and Committees
- Finance Committee – Meeting 2-26-13 (See Finance Minutes)
- Rules and Ordinance –Meeting 2-26-13 (See Rules and Ordinance Minutes)
 - Council President Gill comments on Sanitary Inspection Ordinance that there were people who spoke for and against it and some just for the principles of what it stood for.
 - Councilor Mael also comments on the elements of this Ordinance.
 - Capital Improvement Committee Meeting 2-28-13 (See Capital Improvement Minutes)

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

- April 26 is Arbor Day. Winthrop is designated as a National Tree Community. We encourage people to plant more trees in our community.
- Update on consolidation of Building Maintenance Program. He has sent out to principles involved, should this go forward, and will keep the Council updated.
- He met with the Chairman of the House Transportation Committee in reference to the Transportation Bond.
- There is a much-needed secure source to develop transportation in this region. Winthrop is included in this funding but depends on the state.
- He did receive the 2nd phase from MAPC for what they will be providing to the town. This will determine our action steps that can be taken. Improvement of our economic development.
- The Mass School Building Authority (MSBA) did respond to our preliminary plan and we are to meet with them on March 20, 2013 to go over proposal. Needs Council to go over proposal and advise with any questions/feedback.
- There is a proposal to hang street poll banners on the bridge. It was introduced by the City of Boston to share the banners with Winthrop (Dual Sided). Would like Council's thoughts on this proposal.
- Chamber Sign will be replaced on completion of Bell Isle Bridge. Fire Chief gives report on pending ocean storm.
- Update on the beach project and asked Commissioner Lambert if this area will be cleared.
- Sent information out to Council on the increase of the future health costs. These costs will have quite an impact on our budget.
- Update on the current town loan programs with the MWRA. Both have been utilized up to 50%, we are currently updating remaining balances.
- Tim Gordon updates on the audit, it should be done by end of month. Councilors have been given a conflict of interest letter in reference to the audit, please complete and return. If any questions, please contact Tim.
- Updates on the Parks and Rec. Budget. The problem as it stands right now is last year's budget. The appropriation was not enough for this program. There are several options to amend this.
- Town Manager McKenna states that prior budgets were set without the actual revenue being known, thus the problem with the past Parks and Rec. budget. Now that we have worked on this particular budget, the appropriation will be set accordingly. He now needs a vote from the Council to make financial appropriations for the past budget to set accordingly with Parks and Rec. expenses. This must appropriated from actual available funds. We can look at this as retained earnings or pre-payments on allowance of budgets.
- Councilor Powers has questions on actually adjusting or transferring funds.
- Councilor DelVento questions the deficit. Was this over appropriation or under revenue? Town Mgr. explains it was an actual shortfall of final reconciliation. Last years appropriation was exceeded.
- Councilor Mael is more than willing to agree with appropriation as long as we do not go over the top of this budget. Town Mgr. McKenna states there are cuts that must be made in this program for financials to work.

- Council President Gill clarifies the proposal is that the Council appropriate funds. The projection is that it will create a positive balance at the end of the year which then can be made up by not appropriating funds for FY14. The reason this needs to be done is because both the income and expenditures were un-budgeted but now income is up over current budgeted. These funds will be appropriated by free cash. Councilor Mael would like this to be moved to the Finance Committee.
- Tim Gordon created a format for prior year bills and wants departments to use this format.
- Town Mgr. McKenna updates on the training period the staff had this week in reference to the budgets. It is working very well.
- We have a potential opportunity of refunding our debt services on the Cummings School. It will go from 4.4% to 2.19 %, it will be a saving of approx. \$159,000.00 for the term of this loan.
- Tax Title Letters will be going out this month for property owners behind in their taxes in FY12.
- Town Mgr. has the Blue Wave Proposal to be in open session and will be presented in Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

The Rules and Ordinance Committee have tabled the Sanitary Fitness Ordinance.

Motion to move that the Council to vote to transfer \$4,130.00 from the Town Council Reserve (See Motion)

Discussion-Councilor Powers has issue of paying previous years bills. He does not want to penalize people who are owed money but wants to make sure these matters do not continue happening within our departments. Town Mgr. McKenna explains we are setting forth procedures to ensure these past bills due not happen unless there are extreme circumstances. Councilor Powers recommends that people know they cannot buy anything they expect to get paid for by the town without the proper paperwork.

Council President Gill questions the actual invoices. He is concerned on "what happened?" Parks and Rec. Director Sean Driscoll puts a light on how this Lacrosse Program began and why the confusion on these invoices.

Councilor Boncore still questions the invoices. Do coaches actually get paid or do they volunteer?

Councilor Powers questions an invoice that was paid in two separate years.

Councilor Mael questions the start of new programs in the Parks and Rec. Sean Driscoll explains in the past it could be done, now it cannot.

Councilor DelVento asks if any chance this Lacrosse program could develop towards being its own entity? Sean believes in the future, this is very possible.

This Motion requires a unanimous vote and Council President Gill is not ready to vote on this. He will accept a motion to refer to finance commission.

Motion by Councilor Sanford to refer this motion to the Finance Commission

2nd by Councilor Mael

Discussion: Councilor Powers states this motion has already gone to the Finance Committee. Council President Gill agrees but wants the Finance Commission to look at this invoice in their entirety. He is not satisfied with the facts of these invoices. His discussion on this motion is that he believes it should go back for further study to the commission and not committee. Councilor Boncore agree.

Councilor Sanford also had questions, he believes it is imperative it go back to Finance Commission for clarification.

Council President Gill insists on clarification of these invoices and that it does not happen again.

7-1 (Councilor Powers-No) (Councilor Letterie-Absent)

Motion to move that the Council to vote to transfer \$2,110.00 from the Town Council Reserve (See Motion)

Discussion-Council President Gill will not vote for this motion and wants referred to Finance Commission.

Motion by Vice President Varone to refer this motion to the Finance Commission

2nd by Councilor Sanford

7-1 (Councilor Powers-No) (Councilor Letterie-Absent)

Motion by the Finance Committee that the Town Council approves the following for the Senior Tax Work-off Program (See Motion)

No 2nd. Needed as Coming from Committee

Discussion: Councilor DelVento explains this increases the program from \$12,500 to \$26,250, works out to approx. 25% of there tax bill. Raising the rate and increasing hours and participants.

Councilor Mael opposes these increases as it is doubling the program at the taxpayer expenses. Town Mgr. McKenna explains that these people were invaluable during the summer. It would cost quadruple to hire temps to work these hours.

Councilor Boncore states there should be a maximum.

Councilor DelVento asks if these seniors can be used in the schools. Yes, they can.

Jean Maggio speaks on behalf of this program and agrees that the program is a great program but disagrees with the amount of hours. There are other options.

Councilor DelVento comments on number of hours, the participants do not have to work the maximum number of hours.

They will get abatement credit for the number of hours worked. Council President Gill states the number of hours worked is under control of the Town Manager. The Council Vote will authorize the maximum amount of hours, abatement and total appropriation.

7-1 (Councilor Mael-No) (Councilor Letterie-Absent)

Motion by Councilor Boncore to amend section 13.04 of the Winthrop Town Bylaws (See Motion)

No 2nd Needed as Coming from Committee

No Discussion

Passed Unanimously

Request by Vice President Varone for 5-minute recess

Return from recess

In lieu of the Blue Wave Executive Session, Rick Holland from Kopelman and Paige, an expert in the “green” environment believes this discussion should be in open session and discusses the proposal of Blue Wave. Town Mgr. expresses concerns of where do we think the future of energy is going? How can we save? How can we impact the environment? Blue Wave is offering our community a “lock in” price towards our kilowatts used. (Please see Blue Wave Proposal). Do other companies offer this same proposal? Yes, but we have not heard back from them. Councilors question if Blue Wave is the only energy company offering these discounted prices? This proposal represents a long term commitment and though there is a “buy out” we would still have a cost. Councilor Boncore is very interested in negotiating our different options.

Town Mgr. states other companies have not offered this type of proposal. Town Manager will continue to explore all our energy options. Town Mgr. would like Rick Holland enter into a real level of negotiation with Blue Wave and institute a level of analysis to see if this is worth the Council reviewing.

Council President Gill requests the Town Mgr. to get an analysis cost from Rick Holland to do these negotiations and propose a motion with a dollar amount.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Council President Gill to waive Section 7-12 (See Motion)

2nd by Councilor Powers for Purpose of Discussion

Council President Gill withdraws original motion after discussion of the Blue Wave proposal.

Councilor Powers withdraws 2nd.

Council President Gill makes motion acknowledging the fact that the audit for FY12 will not meet the deadline due to extenuating circumstances.

2nd by Councilor DelVento

No Discussion

Passed Unanimously

**Motion by Councilor DelVento that those Town employees who report to the Town Council (See Motion)
2nd by Council President Gill for Purpose of Discussion**

After Discussion

**Motion by Councilor Sanford to refer this motion to Rules and Ordinance
2nd by Councilor Powers
No Discussion
Passed Unanimously**

**Motion by Councilor DelVento approve to re-appointment of Pasquale Defeo as Town Constable for a term to
expire on June 2016.
No Discussion
Passed Unanimously**

No Public Comment

PUBLIC RELATIONS/UPCOMING EVENTS

March 19TH, Town Council Meeting/Cummings School-
Regular Council Meeting 6:00PM
Spring Forum Meeting 7:00PM

Rotary has asked for attendance at the Rotary Chinese Auction on April 6th at the Elks.

**Motion by Councilor Boncore makes motion have a citation for Kathy Haskell who is stepping down as
Exalted Ruler at the Elks.
2nd by Vice President Varone
No Discussion
Passed Unanimously**

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Powers
2nd By Councilor DelVento
Passed Unanimously
Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 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



RECEIVED

2013 FEB 28 A 11: 56

Winthrop Town Council

Finance Committee

Committee Meeting February 26, 2013

Comm. Present: Chair N. DelVento and R. Sanford

Also Present: P. Gill, P. Varone, and J. Maggio

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda: Senior Tax Abatement / Work off Program

Jean Maggio presented that the current program is 25 participants for \$500 per year based on a work off rate of \$6.75 / hour. This rate is now below the state minimum wage and needs to be adjusted.

General discussion among all about the program and need to increase the rate and allowance.

Motion by N. DelVento, second by R. Sanford: "That the Winthrop Senior Tax Workoff Program as per MGL Ch 59 Sec 5K. The amount allowed per eligible participant shall be \$750.00 based on a rate of \$8.00 per hour for 93.75 hours. There shall be a maximum of 35 participants for a total program allowance of \$26,250.00 per year."

Motion to adjourn at 6:45 pm by R. Sanford, second N. DelVento unanimous vote.

Submitted by Councilor Nicholas DelVento, Chairman



TOWN OF WINTHROP

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1077 Fax: 617-846-5458

James McKenna
Town Manager

MOTION

Submitted By: James McKenna, Town Manager

Date: 1/31/13

TEXT OF MOTION

Motion: I move that the Council vote to transfer \$4,130.00 from the Town Council Reserve Account 0111052-576100 to the Recreation Purchased Services Account 6715-520000 for the purposes of paying prior year bill relative to Spring 2012 Lacrosse Program or take any other action relative hereto.

Vote: _____

Date: _____



TOWN OF WINTHROP

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1077 Fax: 617-846-5458

James McKenna
Town Manager

MOTION

Submitted By: James McKenna, Town Manager

Date: 1/31/13

TEXT OF MOTION

Motion: I move that the Council vote to transfer \$2,110.00 from the Town Council Reserve Account 0111052-576100 to the Recreation Purchased Services Account 6715-520000 for the purposes of paying a prior year bill for expenses related to summer 2012 activities or take any other action relative hereto.

Vote: _____

Date: _____

TOWN of WINTHROP



MOTION

Submitted By: Finance Committee

Date: 2/25/13

Article Number: _____

Subject: Senior Tax Workoff Program

TEXT of MOTION

MOTION:

That the Winthrop Town Council approves the following for the Senior Tax Workoff Program as per MGL Ch 59 sec 5K. The amount allowed per eligible participant shall be \$750.00 based on a rate of \$8.00 per hour for 93.75 hours. There shall be a maximum of 35 participants for a total program allowance of \$26,250.00 per year.

Signature of Petitioner: Finance Committee

Received by: _____ Time: _____



TOWN OF WINTHROP

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1077 Fax: 617-846-5458

James McKenna
Town Manager

MOTION

Submitted By: James McKenna, Town Manager

Date: 2/21/13

TEXT OF MOTION

Motion: I move that those Town employees who report to the Town Council will follow the guidelines that other non-union Town employees follow in regards to Cost of Living adjustments or take any other action relative hereto.

Vote: _____

Date: _____