

Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 5, 2011 at 7 p.m.
Winthrop Town Hall

Chairman Cookson brought the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Attendance: Chairman Kevin Cookson: Councilors, David Rheaume, Linda Caprara, Ken Buck, Sarah Fuller, James Lattin, and the Town Manager, Jeffrey Woolston. Councilor Priscilla Jenkins was absent.

Chairman Cookson presented a plaque to Councilor David Rheaume for his three years of active and dedicated service to the Winthrop Town Council.

Ordered that the Winthrop Town Council meet to consider the following item:

- Approval of November 7, 2011 meeting minutes
- Approval of November 14, 2011 meeting minutes

Councilor Fuller made a motion, seconded by councilor Buck to accept the November 7 and November 14, 2011 meeting minutes as written and Councilor Rheaume abstained from voting on the November 14, 2011 meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously for November 7 and (5,0) for the November 14, 2011 meeting minutes.

Chairman Cookson introduced Mr John Mitchell, the Winthrop School Board Chairman, who then introduced Mr Gary Rosenthal. Mr. Mitchell remarked that the board had been extremely pleased with Mr Rosenthal so far. Mr Rosenthal said it was a privilege to be in Winthrop and asked anyone to visit him in his office. He is looking forward to being a part of Winthrop into the future.

- Item #67 - Hold a Public Hearing
 - o Winthrop Fire Works Sales and Use Ordinance

Chairman Cookson opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 pm. During the discussion, Chief Dan Brooks requested another statement be added to paragraph 1 which reads: B. The storage and distribution of fireworks within Winthrop, Maine is prohibited. **He closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 pm.**

- Item #100 - Consider Winthrop Fire Works Sales and Use Ordinance

Councilor Rheaume made a motion, and Councilor Fuller seconded the motion to approve the ordinance with the added statement after legal review by the District Attorney and the Town Attorney.

Manager's Report

- Woolston delivered the most recent draft of the Memorandum of Understanding to consolidate the town's financial management personnel into one operational function. He told the council that the school superintendent had forwarded a copy to the Winthrop School Board, but had not heard back. He would ask about the status on Thursday during the finance discussions with the superintendent. Chairman Cookson requested the Town Attorney also review the document. He also stated that the existing MOU is still in force.
- Woolston made a proposal to move \$13,900 in cost savings to move the Finance Director to a 5-day work week, and fund the first phase of installing Trio financial management software. Councilor Fuller said she would like to save the remaining \$10,000 dollars for next year's salary increases. Based on the cost savings in maintenance and the need to move several backlogged finance areas forward; Councilor Rheume made a motion, seconded by Fuller to approve the requested movement of funds and the encumbrance of the remaining cost savings. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Council Chairman Cookson asked why the mural had been taken down and other hardware was in the wall. Woolston explained that the Art Department did it to hang other student art in the space on the wall. Chairman Cookson explained that the council had originally approved the placement of the mural on the wall, and that the council is the deciding function for any modifications to the walls in the all purpose room.
- Woolston also said that Andro Pay will be available by the first of 2012 for electronic payment of taxes. The charge for using an electronic check will be \$1 dollar.
- The Ted Berry team was on the ground moving towards successfully slip lining the culvert under the athletic field behind the grade school.
- The fire department has applied for a no-matching funds grant
- The police department will be getting several thousand dollars from a federal grant.
- Woolston presented the fire department fees relative to the anticipated budget. During the discussion, he said that the federal government will publish new EMS fees when the time comes, and that the library fees of about \$1,500 dollars are put back into funding the repair or replacement of books. The assessor's office fees will not be changing for the coming year.
- He concluded his remarks by saying that there are public hearings about upcoming budgets cuts to General Assistance. He said that Ms Donna Staples was helping to formulate a way ahead to present to the appropriations committee. Woolston will sit in on the first day of the hearings that are scheduled for December 14th and 15th.

- Item #99 - Executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 401 - Personnel Issue

- Councilor Rheume made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to move to an executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 401 for a Personnel Issue. The council came out of the executive session at 8:27. At that time, Councilor Rheume made a motion, seconded by Councilor Caprara that the Town Manager will prepare a public statement with input by the Town Attorney and Chief Young concerning the personnel matter including names. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Rheume made a motion, seconded by Councilor Caprara to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.