

Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2009
Winthrop Town Office

Attendance: Kevin Cookson, Chair: Patricia Engdahl, David Rheaume, Priscilla Jenkins, Ken Buck and Sarah Fuller; Cornell Knight (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary) Absent: Linda Caprara
Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Engdahl the minutes of October 5, 2009 were approved with one abstention. Vote 5-0-1 abstain Cookson.

Tabled from October 5, 2009, Item #102 Consider the second reading of the amendments to the Traffic Ordinance #17, which bans skateboards on Main Street sidewalks.
Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Fuller to remove from the table. Vote 6-0

Councilor Engdahl reported on the meeting that was held with skateboarders, students, parents and the police. Minutes of that meeting were sent to all the Councilors. The meeting was at the Kennebec Savings Bank which also included a visit to the skate park. The attendees talked about issues, problems and recommendations.

The actual proposed change to the present ordinance is that bicycles are not allowed on the sidewalk from Bowdoin Street to Clark street and adding to the ordinance will be skateboards, roller-skated, and scooters. In addition, the change would amend the designated area from Main Street to Metcalf Road and adding that there will be no clinging to a moving vehicle, giving your true name and address plus your date of birth to the police, and keeping to the right. This gives enforcement options to police for over 18 and under 18.

The consensus is that skateboarding is a popular sport. Some recommendations would work for some and not for others. The last place the skateboarders should be is on the street and that is where they would ride if not allowed on the sidewalk.

The consensus was also to come up with a set of rules of what a good skateboard park should be as the present park is inadequate. The informal committee did come up with a list of things in addition to ideas to raise money to fund these ideas.

There was agreement with banning skateboards and bikes from the Main Street sidewalk between Morton and Clark Streets during business hours and not requiring helmets in the skatepark. The council asked that the committee work on new rules for the skate park and submit them to the council for approval and to offer alternatives to walking the skateboards between Morton and Clark at the December meeting.

Motion by Rheaume Seconded by Buck to table item #102 until the December meeting and for the committee to work on new rules for the skatepark. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Engdahl Seconded by Fuller to eliminate the requirement for helmets at the skatepark. Vote 6-0.

Item #120 Hold a public hearing on the American Legion's Liquor license application

Public hearing opened at 7:50 p.m. and closed at 7:51 p.m. noting that Chief Young informed the Council that the Legion takes care of their own problems.

Item #121 Consider the American Legion's liquor license application renewal.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Jenkins to approve the American Legion's liquor license application renewal. Vote 6-0.

Item #122 Hold a public hearing on amendments to the General Assistance Ordinance.

Public hearing opened at 7:52 p.m. and closed at 7:54 p.m.
A chart showing the minimum levels of assistance that are part of the town's General Assistance Ordinance were reviewed. These levels are prepared by the Maine Municipal Association. These levels are amended annually.

Item #123 Consider the first reading of amendments to the General Assistance Ordinance

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Buck to accept the amendments as presented. Vote 6-0.

Item #124 Consider an equipment change order to the new fire truck.

Modifications were made to the truck to meet the operation needs of the Fire Department. Some credits and debits are offsetting the amount due and the end product totaled an increase of \$5,033 over the bid price. Funds would come out of the bond issue balance. The truck is scheduled to be delivered in January, 2010.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Buck to accept the change order as presented to the new fire truck. Vote 6-0.

Item #125 Consider a change order to the fire alarm system installation at the Police Station

In order to meet the ADA or state fire code requirements, the cost has increased by \$1,560. Funds for the change order would come from the bond issue balance.
Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Fuller to accept the change order as presented to the fire alarm system installation at the Police Station. Vote 6-0.

Item #126 Consider the Green Committee's recommendation to apply for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

The Green Committee is requesting approval to submit a grant application to the PUC. The project would fund the installation of a photovoltaic panel on the high school roof. The power produced would be put on the grid so there would be no need for batteries. The estimated cost of the project is \$81,840. The maximum grant award is \$85,000. The town must match at least 10% of the cost but the school has agreed to pay half of it. The council would need to approve up to \$4,092 to submit the application. The PV panel will

produce 15.2 kw. It is the committee's hope that as the cost of panels is lowered that additional panels can be added to the roof to produce more electricity. The applications are due November 18th.

Motion by Rheaume and seconded by Buck to accept the recommendation to apply for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and agree to the 10% local match. Vote 6-0.

Item #127 Consider the appointment of the committee to review Spirit of America Award nominations.

Councilor Engdahl informed the Council that there are four nominations this year. The Committee this year will be Councilors Rheaume, Fuller and the town manager.

Manager's Report

The DOT has sent a notice that it intends to upgrade the drainage system on Main Street from Mechanic's Row to the Metcalf Road in 2010

The sticker inspection conducted at the Transfer Station earlier this month went very well

Assessor interviews will be this week.

The street lighting repair downtown is still in process. This will include the light by the Key Bank parking lot.

Applied for a Me Waste mgt tool kit grant for \$500 to will help lower the cost of compost bins.

The estimated savings from the town doing their own bond issue sale is \$37,000 compared to going through the MMBB.

The draft proposal for a wind power ordinance should be presented to the Council at the December meeting.

The motion made by Caprara and seconded by Jenkins to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. carried a unanimous vote.