

***Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 5, 2008
Winthrop Town Office***

Attendance: William MacDonald (Chair), Patricia Engdahl, Ken Buck, Kevin Cookson, Jim Norris, Priscilla Jenkins, Linda Caprara (arrived at 8:00 p.m.), Cornell Knight (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary)

Approve the Minutes of April 7, April 14, April 16, 2008 (Consider amending minutes of March 3rd, 2008).

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Norris to approve the Minutes of April 7th as presented. The vote was 5-0 (Cookson abstained)

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Norris to approve the Minutes of April 14th as presented. The vote was 6-0.

Motion by Engdahl and seconded Norris to approve the Minutes of April 16th as presented. The vote was 5-0 (Engdahl abstained).

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Norris to approve the amendment to the Minutes for March 3rd as presented. The vote was 5-0 (Jenkins abstained). The amendment was on page 3, Item #26: 'it was not determined if there was a vacancy on the Utilities District Board of Trustees'.

Public Hearing opened at 7:06 p.m. There was no public comment. The Public Hearing closed at 7:08 p.m.

Item #46 Hold a public hearing for a Special Entertainment Permit application for More to Life Family Campground, 533 B Winthrop center Road and Fast Eddie's Restaurant, Route 202 (for Cruise Night and Motorcycle Night).

Item #47 Consider the Special Entertainment Application for More to Life Family Campground (for Gospel Concerts).

Mark and Lynn Gordon, 533B Winthrop Center Road, requesting a special entertainment permit to hold gospel concerts.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Buck to approve the special entertainment application for More to Life Family Campground. The vote was 6-0.

Item #48 Consider the Special Entertainment Application for Fast Eddie's.

Russell and Barbara Angell, 714 Bishop Hill Road, Leeds, Maine requesting a special entertainment permit to hold a cruise night and a motorcycle night.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Buck to approve the special entertainment application for Fast Eddie's. The vote was 6-0.

Item #49 Hold a Public Hearing on the Victualer's License list.

The public hearing opened at 7:11 p.m. There was no public comment.
The public hearing closed at 7:15 p.m.

Item #50 Consider the Victualer's license applications.

The list of license applications was read by the Town Manager.

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Norris to approve the list as presented. The vote was 6-0.

Item #51 Consider the Transient seller's license applications for Winthrop Farmer's Market and Kennebec Community Church's Ice Cream Truck.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Jenkins to approve the transient seller's license applications for Winthrop Farmer's Market and Kennebec Community Church's Ice Cream Truck. The vote was 6-0.

The treasurer of the Farmers Market inquired as to the status of the new post office that is to be built on the spot that is the present location for the market. The list of vendors has grown to ten with the potential of continued active growth. The post office is scheduled to go out to bid in approximately one month.

The Council asked that the representatives of the Farmers Market work with the Town Manager around the timing issues and noted that the municipal parking lot would be their alternative location.

Item #52 Hear an update on Winthrop Unites Committee - Nancy Schenck

Mrs. Schenck, Education Committee, along with other committee members, were in attendance and presented an update. A packet of information was distributed highlighting the committee's ongoing work. The Committee has diligently worked for the past 2 ½ years with a successful emphasis to reaching out to other groups. That networking has worked very well.

The Councilors thanked the Education Committee for their commitment.

The Town Manager noted that the balance remaining in this account will be carried forward as approximately ¼ amount originally designated to this committee has been spent.

Item #53 Presentation of the 2008-2009 School Budget – Superintendent of Schools, Mark LaRoach

The school committee has met several times over the past few weeks and presented the budget. The school's expenditures for 2008-2009 total approximately \$10 million which is \$400,000 above the current year. Changes to the state funding formulas and state subsidies were discussed. If these figures are accepted, which includes validation from the residents at the polls, the local funds that would be required to support the school's budget will be the same as last year.

Terry Despres, former Superintendent of Schools, acting as business manager, recommended using more than \$491,117 in undesignated funds to balance revenues with expenditures and avoid a tax increase. He also recommended that the money raised from Winthrop taxpayers should remain in the town and not be carried into the proposed regional school unit.

Winthrop is in talks with five nearby towns (Fayette, Wayne, Readfield, Manchester and Mount Vernon) to form a regional school unit under the state's new law mandating school district consolidation.

The Council will hold a June 2nd public hearing on the proposed school budget and residents will then be able to vote on it at the polls on June 10th.

Item #54 Discussion with School Board on Grounds Maintenance and Performing Arts Center

The Town Manager noted that he cut the budget of the cemetery crew by \$20,000 and let school officials know last September the town crew would stop mowing

school grounds. He went on to say that the school has mowers and that the town does not have the people available and could even offer the school some of the town's mowers. He said that he informed the Superintendent last year that the more than \$76,000 in grounds maintenance services that the town has already provided should offset the money the town pays the Winthrop School Department for the Town Office rent (the town office is located on the first floor of a Winthrop school building). Shared services between the school and the town should be what these two entities focus on. The school has a zero turning mower and a John Deere riding mower plus the custodial crew at each school to handle the maintenance. A meeting between the school and the town will be held on May 6th at 4:00 to discuss options.

David Setchell, the Performing Arts Center Director, discussed the rental of the Performing Arts Center with a spreadsheet of revenues since the PAC started.

The Council took a break at 8:35 p.m. and resumed at 8:45 p.m.

Item #55 Hear an update from the Winthrop Utilities District's preliminary feasibility study for a wastewater treatment plan.

Doug Whittier, trustee of the Winthrop Utility District, was in attendance as the WUD was authorized a preliminary study to estimate the feasibility of constructing a treatment plant and disposal system in Winthrop. The study was to utilize existing available geological data. The plant would need to handle wastewater flows from Winthrop and potentially, Monmouth.

The feasibility study for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant was discussed after an overview was presented by the trustee of the Winthrop Utilities District. The current waste flow is pumped to the greater Augusta Utilities District plant. The estimated cost depending upon the type of treatment is \$9-\$11 million.

Ken Knight, Chairman of the Augusta Utilities District, was in attendance and stressed Augusta's willingness to talk and discuss viable options during these changing times. He also noted that accounting records are open to all for their perusal.

Item #56 Consider hiring Phil Locashio to prepare construction plans for the renovation at the former Health Center for the Ambulance Service

The town is now the owner of the former Health Center. The recommendation is for Phil Locashio to prepare a schedule of work, for interior renovations and the garage addition, to bid this month. His estimate is \$4000 for his work and \$2500 for engineering work. The estimated cost for the renovation is \$200,000. This will be an overall schedule and not a detailed set of plans which is not needed for either the renovations or the garage.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Norris to hire Phil Locashio to prepare construction plans based on his estimates and engineering work for the renovation at the former Health Center for the Ambulance Service. Vote was unanimous.

Motion by Norris and seconded by Cookson that Mr. Locashio is directed to secure only Winthrop General and Sub Contractors. Vote was unanimous.

Item #57 Consider an amendment to the Transient Seller's Ordinance

Section 4 of Ordinance #56 states: Any license to operate a 'lunch wagon' shall specifically state that during the Independence Day celebration of each year, only nonprofit charitable organizations holding a current lunch wagon license may sell food from the intersection of Summer Street and Bowdoin Street to the intersection of Knickerbocker Street and Memorial Drive.

Councilor Norris, as a representative to the Chamber of Commerce, discussed the rising costs of the lunch wagon sale of food on July 4th at the town park. This also includes the sale of fireworks. The town has allocated \$500.00. The total cost for this has risen to \$5,000. The Chamber would like to rent out space for food vendors during this celebration on the 4th to help defray the cost of the fireworks. The transient seller's ordinance restricts the licenses to non profits.

The American Legion provides the parking and is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce. The money that is made during this holiday is money that the Legion donates to several scholarships.

The consensus was that the Ordinance should not be changed but an active dialogue between the American Legion and the Chamber should be the next step.

Councilor Norris suggested that he will go back to the Board of Directors and discuss the town's position.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to close the street at 12:00 p.m. and to notify the Chief of Police of this action. The vote was unanimous.

Item #58 Discuss the Town Council's Appointments committee process for appointments to committees and board.

Mr. Leonard Blanchette discussed his dismay with the process and suggested that the applicants be kept informed as to the discussions, criteria and outcome keeping this process as transparent as possible. He stressed the importance of the interview process and that the selection made should be based on who is the most qualified. If selections are made based solely on preference to existing Board members, that

process is less than fair and open. Mr. Blanchette noted that at his interview, it was noted that no other candidate had applied for this vacancy. He suggested that the Council conduct a review and reevaluation of the selection process for Board and Committee appointments.

The Town Manager noted that there is no preferential treatment is given to current board members. This is open to everyone and well advertised. There is a deadline to apply and that must be met.

It Board formed an ad hoc committee with the Town Manager, Councilors Engdahl, the Town Clerk and Councilor Norris to review the procedure.

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Caprara to extend the time beyond the 10:00 p.m. hour to complete the following items on this agenda. Vote was unanimous.

Item #59 Consider the purchase of a riding mower for the Cemetery Department

The Town Manager asked for approval to trade in the Walker Mower to purchase a Toro Riding Mower for the Town's use. Four bids have been received. The cost would be \$5,000 with the trade-in and would come out of the Cemetery Reserve Fund. Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Caprara to approve this purchase. The vote was 6-0 (Councilor Norris had stepped out of the room and did not participate in this vote).

Item #60 Consider a renewal of the lease/purchase copier contract with SPC

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Jenkins to approve the renewal of the lease/purchase agreement for the copier with SPC. Vote was unanimous.

Item #61 Discussion on whether to hold further budget review meetings

Motion by Jenkins and seconded by Buck to hold a budget meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 12th. Vote was unanimous.

Manager's Report

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to accept the donation the town has received for the Ambulance Service. The vote was unanimous.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop off Day will be held on May 17, 2008 and this will be advertised.

Item #62 Consider an executive session for three real estate abatement applications MRSA Title 1 Section 405 6(F) Motion by Caprara and seconded by Cookson to go into an Executive Session at 10:20 p.m.

Return to Regular Session

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Jenkins regarding applicant #1 to grant a an abatement request pursuant to 36 MRSA Sec 841 (2) for the tax year 2007 in the amount of \$1,293.53 but deny the 2008 request at this time. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Caprara regarding applicant #2 to grant an abatement request made pursuant to 36 MRSA Sec 841 (2) for the tax year 2007 in the amount of \$1,584.75 and the 2008 year in the amount of \$1,308.75 Vote 7-0.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Caprara regarding applicant #3 to deny an abatement to applicant #3. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Caprara to adjourn at 10:41 pm. Vote 7-0.