

Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 3, 2008 at 7 p.m.
Winthrop Town Office

Attendance: *Chairman William MacDonald, Kevin Cookson, Linda Caprara, Ken Buck, Jim Norris, Patricia Engdahl, Priscilla Jenkins (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), and Julie Winberg (Secretary). Absent: Cornell Knight, Town Manager.*

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to approve the minutes of October 6, 2008. The vote was unanimous 5-0 (William MacDonald abstained as he was not present at the October 6, 2008 meeting).

Note: Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Cookson, to approve the appointment of Cheryl Neptune to work the polls during Election Day. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

Boy Scout Troop #604 was in attendance along with their Troop Leaders and parents to observe the Town Council at work. An explanation on some of the items and the procedure in making a decision which may or may not have a unanimous vote was reviewed. An open invitation was extended to the Troop to come and participate in these meetings. Their attendance and enthusiasm was welcomed!

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

Item #113 – Hold a public hearing on the liquor license renewal for the American Legion. The public hearing opened at 7:05 p.m. Police Chief Joe Young was present and informed the Council that there were no negative issues at the American Legion and he had no problem in approving this renewal.

The public hearing closed at 7:06 p.m.

Item #114 – Consider the liquor license application of the American Legion.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Buck, the liquor license application for the American Legion was approved by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Item #115 – Hold a public hearing on amendments to the General Assistance Ordinance for maximum levels of assistance.

Councilor Jenkins arrived at this time (7:06 p.m.).

New maximum levels of assistance are something that the Council reviews each year. This is a program that allows the Town to provide to those that are in need of assistance. The increases in various categories were reviewed. The adoption page, which was enclosed with the packet, must be signed by all Councilors. Every year the town amends the General Assistance Ordinance to reflect the new maximum levels of assistance as determined by the Department of Human Services. Donna Staples, GA Administrator, in a memo to the Council, explained the changes and her recommendations. The public hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.

Item #116 – Consider the amendments to the GA Ordinance.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Buck, the amendments to the General Assistance Ordinance for maximum levels of assistance was approved with a unanimous vote (7-0)

Item #117 – Consider the purchase of a phone system for the Ambulance Building.

John Dovinsky, Ambulance Director, was not in attendance at this time to present information on this phone system. Three quotes were obtained with the lowest price coming from Fairpoint Telecommunications. Funds will come from the balance of the construction project.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Jenkins, Item #117 – Consider the purchase of a phone system for the Ambulance Building - was tabled with a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Item #118 – Consider the sale of surplus property at the police station and the swim float at the beach.

In the attempt to clean out the police station to get it ready for the renovation to begin, a list of inventory of items collected through the years was presented to the Council by Chief Joe Young. Although the majority is considered to be trash, some items can indeed can be auctioned off or sold. Chief Young plans on getting the prisoners from the County Jail to haul everything to sell to the new location and items that will be trashed will be taken to the Transfer Station. He is asking that the council give him the authority to do this.

Motion by Norris and seconded by Caprara to approve the sale of surplus property at the police station and the swim float at the beach with the caveat that all confidential information will remain confidential. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Buck to put back on the table **Item #117** – Consider the purchase of a phone system for the Ambulance Building. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by Caprara to accept Fairpoint Telecommunication's bid of \$5,307.57 which was the lowest of the three bids received. Funds of \$3,800 to \$10,000 have been reserved for this purchase. Vote was 7-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting to consider the bids on the police station renovations will be held as one of the items to be discussed and reviewed during the Town Council's regular meeting on December 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Engdahl and seconded by Caprara to award Carol and Norm Ricker of The Winthrop Food Bank and the Payson Tucker Hose Company the Spirit of America Award. A reception and presentation will be held on December 1st at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Council's regularly scheduled meeting. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Winthrop Visioning Workshop will be held on January 10th, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Town Office. This will be a committee of 15 initially to eventually grow into several sub committees totaling to a group of 100. This will be a vision of Winthrop's future looking into a review of energy, which could include solar, windmills; preserving land or preserving farms; consider adding more housing among many other topics where active participation is most welcome.

November 17th, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Office there will be a meeting with the Department of Transportation to discuss and review the 2010 Department of Transportation Plan. Discussion of transportation concerns will be brought forward and the public is most welcome. Boy Scout Troop #604 was encouraged to attend as one of their concerns was the dangerous intersection of Route 202 and Highland Avenue.

In a meeting held with DOT officials and Joe Young, Dan Brooks, John Dovinsky and the Town Manager, there was a review of possible changes to Route 202 at the intersections of Route 135 North and South which will hopefully make it safer to travel through. DOT is also considering making a turning lane out of the east bound passing lane, adding signage, raised islands at the intersections, textured island in the roadway at each end of the turning lane (before Pineland Drive and near Stanley Road) and lowering the speed limit to 50 mph. The Plan is for this to be in the 2010-11 transportation plans. The estimated cost is \$150,000. As they develop the Plan, they will be coming to the Council for review and recommendations.

A motion was made by Buck and seconded by Caprara to **adjourn** at 7:45 p.m. by a unanimous vote of 7-0.