

Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 6, 2006 at 7 p.m.
Winthrop Town Office

Attendance: Vice Chair Jayne Despres; Council Members William MacDonald, Kevin Cookson, Patrice Putman, Ken Buck. Town Attorney Lee Bragg, Town Manager Cornell Knight and Secretary Julie Winberg, Joe Young Police Chief.. **Absent:** Chairman Jim Norris and Linda Caprara. Also attending: Roger Guerette, Don Holley, Dan Wells, David Clark, David Dyer, Linda Dyer, Dale Glidden.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by MacDonald and seconded by Buck to approve the minutes of October 2, 2006 and October 11, 2006. the vote was unanimous - with the following corrections to be made and incorporated into the final minutes for the meeting held on October 2, 2006 Councilor Putman noted that on Page 2, second paragraph, 4th sentence should read, 'two of the town councilors who voted to disband, need to'. And, on the same page third paragraph, 2nd sentence should read, 'Sue O'Halloran and Patrice Putman wrote the report'.

In addition on Page 5, 4th paragraph, 1st sentence should read 'Chairman Norris replied'. The last paragraph on the same page should read 'Chairman Norris commented; and the 2nd sentence of the same paragraph should read 'Councilor Cookson was in favor'.

Vice Chair Despres made the following corrections to be added to her statements on Page 7 regarding the Council's Goal Session:

By not setting goals, the Council has been without direction for the past year. This has caused numerous issues including lack of focus and leadership for the town. Lack of goals has provided none of the appropriate methods for evaluation of the Town Manager. This is not fair to him.

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

Item #119 – Consider a transient seller's license for David Clark, The Wicked Bean, Royal Street.

David Clark handed out a brief introduction. His business, The Wicked Bean, is relocating from Manchester, Route 202, to the Royal Car Wash site in Winthrop.

Motion by Cookson and seconded by MacDonald to approve the transient seller's license for David Clark. Vote 5-0.

Item #120 – Hold a public hearing on the liquor license renewal for Alfred W. Maxwell Jr., American Legion Post 40, 117 Bowdoin Street.

A public hearing opened at 7:10 a.m.

Police Chief Young said there were no issues with the Legion. The public hearing closed at 7:12 a.m.

Item #121 - Consider the liquor license application for the American Legion Post 40.

Town Council Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2006

Page 1

Motion by Putman seconded by Cookson to approve the liquor license application for the American Legion Post 40. Vote 5-0.

Item #122 - Discuss the report entitled "Augusta Utilities Coalition, A Study of the Operational and Financial Impacts of Consolidation" with the Trustees of the Winthrop Utilities District.

A brief summary was distributed by the Trustees of the Winthrop Utilities District. In summary of the report, the Council was informed that there were no major cost advantages for consolidation for either towns. However, all involved agreed that the open communication was a significant outcome. An agreement was made to keep this dialogue going and to revisit this consolidation proposal in a few years. If this merger did happen, there would not be any line changes but Winthrop and Augusta would need new pumping stations.

The Winthrop Utilities District Trustees held a meeting during the council meeting to consider the "Augusta Utilities Coalition, Study of the Operational and Financial Impacts of Consolidation" report with the council. Motion by Holley seconded by Guerette, the Trustees accept the recommendations in the report, not to change current operations, with the caveat that they would agree to review this proposal again in 2010, or earlier, if circumstances change. Vote 2-0.

Item #123 - Hold a public hearing to hear comments on the progress of the CDBG Business Assistance grant to Alternative Manufacturing.

The public hearing opened at 7:32 p.m.

The Town Manager informed the Council that the State requires this public hearing to complete the grant process. He said that the funds had been distributed to Alternative Manufacturing and they had used the funds for operating capital and equipment purchases. The company had submitted the necessary paperwork to the state regarding the number of new employees.

Councilor Buck commented that it was reported that the company laid off twenty people a few weeks ago.

Councilor MacDonald commented that he would be interested to know more on the lay offs as the Board's approval was part of the agreement it had with Alternative Manufacturing to hire and keep ten employees at a minimum.

Councilor Cookson commented that he felt the Company met their initial requirements and that these lay offs would not effect the Board's decision. Fluctuation due to seasonal employment is all part of this kind of industry.

Councilor MacDonald commented that his approval of this request was based on the idea that this Company would be building an employee base.

The Town Manager was asked to inquire into these layoffs and to report back to the Council.

The public hearing closed at 7:37 p.m.

Item #124 - Set a date to hold a public hearing on the proposed Winthrop Public Safety Complex.

The Police Chief informed the Council that the Committee has held a few public hearings. However, the Committee was surprised to see this item on the November Agenda. He told the Council that copies of the report on the Complex are available at the Town Office, at the Police Station, and at several other locations. A big campaign has not been necessary at this point since all the responses from the public have been positive.

Councilor Cookson, also a member of the Committee, informed the Council that they were still conducting a public campaign.

Councilor Buck commented that he has heard from over 100 people who are not in favor of the proposal and definitely want to see this put on a referendum.

Vice Chair Despres confirmed with the Town Manager that it takes approximately 45 days to print the ballots. She went on to say that it was important to schedule a public hearing and referendum in the immediate future as the project should be started in the spring. That if one was held at the end of November or beginning of December (i.e. one on Monday and one Wednesday), that would give more people the opportunity to attend. She suggested that one should be held on November 27th after the Thanksgiving holiday. Councilor Cookson commented that as long as it was well publicized with posters and attendance was good.

Councilor Buck commented that the time to schedule a public hearing is very important as weather may be a factor. It would be important to have fair weather for at least one of them.

Councilor Putman commented that she had thought the initial timeframe discussed at a previous Council meeting was January and February, 2007.

Police Chief Young stated that the Committee is presently working with the Department of Agriculture. Building on wetlands is prohibited and that may be an issue. To date, they have not heard back from them as yet. He suggested that the town should go out with a referendum in February.

Councilor MacDonald commented that he too was surprised that this was on the agenda as he thought the process was that the Council was going to hear back from the Committee first and that is the reason that he would be reluctant to move ahead on this this evening.

Councilor Cookson commented that he was in agreement and if the Council went back to review the last council's meeting minutes on this when the Committee met with the Council, they were to come back to the town manager after they completed with their informational meetings and discuss dates for the public hearing. A motion was made then that the Committee would continue their advertising and meeting with the public groups that were enumerated at that meeting. Councilor Cookson stated that they were not ready to hold a public hearing at this point.

Vice Chair Despres recommended that the Council table this to the next meeting in December.

Councilor Cookson stated that the Committee should continue to hold informational meetings.

Councilor MacDonald agreed. The official proposal is on the table and informational meetings are a healthy way to bring this up to an eventual conclusion.

Vice Chair Despres stated that the Council does need to designate a date for a public hearing so that people can make plans.

Item #125 – Consider the new General Assistance Maximum Levels of Assistance Annual adjustments were made by the Department of Human Services increasing the overall maximum of eligibility for general assistance primarily due to the overall jump in oil.

Motion by Buck and seconded by Putman to approve the new General Assistance Maximum Levels of Assistance as presented. Vote 5-0.

Item #126 - Consider the encumbrance balances from the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Motion by Cookson and seconded by MacDonald to approve the encumbrance balances from the 2005-2006 fiscal years. Vote 5-0

Manager's Report

An audit was conducted the first week in November and will be completed during the second week of November.

The Monmouth litigation continues with a formal mediation next month. Lee Bragg will be in attendance for the mediation.

Friday is a holiday but the Transfer Station will be open. They will close on Saturday. A surprise visit from the DEP showed several violations and a few issues to correct...more lighting, compost pile, the lack of drainage and need to put a gate in front of the waste oil. Some children got into the waste oil in some other town and made a mess.

Motion by Buck seconded by Putman to **adjourn** at 8:40 p.m. Vote 5-0.