

Minutes

Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting

Monday January 8, 2007 at 7 pm

Town Office

Attendance: James Norris, Patrice Putman, Kevin Cookson, Linda Caprara, Ken Buck, Patricia Engdahl; Town Manager – Cornell Knight, Joe Young Police Chief, Lisa Gilliam Town Clerk, John Dovinsky EMS Director, Police Capt Ryan Frost and 30 residents. Councilor MacDonald will be late arriving.

Meeting to Order at 7:00 pm.

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

The Town Clerk conducted the Swearing in of elected officials:

Town Council

Linda Caprara

Kevin Cookson

Patricia Engdahl

Election of Town Council Chair, Vice-Chair

Motion by Norris Seconded by Cookson to nominated Patrice Putman as Chair. Vote 6-0.

Chair Putman thanked Councilor Norris for his work as Chairman over the past year.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Putman to nominate Linda Caprara as Vice Chair. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Caprara to approve the Minutes of December 4, December 18, 2006. Vote 6-0.

Item # 01 Council Appointments

Motion by Norris Seconded by Caprara to postpone this item until the February Meeting. Vote 6-0.

Item # 02 Councilor appointment to the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Buck to appoint James Norris to the Chamber Board of Directors. Vote 6-0.

Item #03 Town Manager Appointments

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Caprara to approve the Managers appointments. Vote 6-0.

Item #04 Spirit of America Awards, Roger Blackstone.

Roger Blackstone presented the project of the year to the Roger Guerette Community Trail Committee. Members are Roger Guerette, Jay Lindsey and Ray Giandrea. He also presented an award to Roger Guerette as citizen of the year for his work on completing the community trail. A plaque with the award winners will be displayed in the Town Office.

Item #05 Hold a public hearing on the liquor license renewal for the Cyber Cow Café, 1318 Rte 202.

Opened at 7:14 pm. Councilor Buck asked about the grease trap issue. Roger Guerette from the Winthrop Utilities District said the rules have been postponed until November 2008.

Hearing closed at 7:16 pm.

Item #06 Consider the liquor license renewal application for Cyber Cow Café.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Caprara to approve the application. Vote 6-0.

Item #07 Consider a request for speed bumps on Greenwood Avenue, Marshall and Nona Burke.

The Town Manager said the cost of each plastic speed bump would be \$480 and would likely divert traffic onto other neighborhood streets.

Marshall Burke said he has lived on the road for 40 years and traffic goes too fast. Capt Frost said his speed survey showed the average speed at 29.1 mph. The fastest of 129 vehicles in the two hour period was 42 mph and the slowest 19 mph. The police chief said he would explore a matching highway safety grant for mobile radar sign, that flashes the speed to motorists as they pass the machine. It costs between \$4,000 and \$6,000. Grant funds are usually available after July 1.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Caprara for the police to step up radar enforcement, the town crew to move the speed limit signs so they will be noticed more, the chief to apply for a grant for a mobile radar sign machine, and for the chief to borrow the regional mobile radar sign machine on a temporary basis. Vote 6-0.

Chair Putman asked that the speed issue be on the agenda as a follow up in a few months.

Item #08 Consider Order #127, to schedule an election for the Public Safety Building Complex.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Caprara to approve Order 127 and set the date for the referendum at February 27, 2007.

Councilor Buck asked if there could be a motion to delay the vote until June because the charter petition could be voted on at the same time.

Councilor Norris was concerned about the \$4,000,000 limitation and what happens if bids go over that amount.

John Dean, Chairman of the public safety building committee said the vote should be decided on its own without any other issue on the ballot and the committee after consulting with design professionals is comfortable that the \$4 million is the outside figure and hopefully bids will be lower.

David Rheame said the school issue was decided in 2 years, was \$12 million and benefited 900 students and no one was complaining. This issue has been 3 years and will benefit all in the community and the committee is frustrated and wants it to be voted on soon.

Councilor Cookson said the question should be voted on without a conflicting issue.

Councilor MacDonald arrived at 7:55 pm.

John Dean said that the issues are separate and the charter petition issue supporters could be considered anti government and would be opposed to the public safety building.

Councilor Caprara said it has been 3 years and the question should go to the citizens and it will save a year in construction delays by voting next month.

Vote on the original motion to approve Order 127: 6-1 (Buck opposed).

Break, return at 8:05 pm

Item #09 Consider a contract with the Kennebec Valley Humane Society.
Motion by Buck Seconded by Caprara to approve the contract. Vote 7-0.

Item #10 Update on the regional meetings to discuss joint services such as solid waste disposal.

The Town Manager said that the regional meetings had narrowed the items of interest to solid waste disposal, regional public works, insurance bidding, animal control and land conservation. He would like to explore offering solid waste disposal to some of the towns if it is financially good for Winthrop and the other town. There is a question of capacity at the Transfer Station to handle the increased tonnage and trucking costs. He will report back to the council when there is a plan to offer the other towns.

Item #11 Review up coming meetings.

Motion by Norris Seconded by Caprara to move the council goals session meeting from January 22 to January 29th. Vote 7-0.

Motion by Cookson Seconded by Caprara to hold a special meeting solely to discuss TABOR and the revaluation process before the budget is presented and before the reval notices go out. Motion and second withdrawn.

Motion by MacDonald Seconded by Caprara to hold the TABOR discussion as an agenda item at the March meeting if it is not too busy of a meeting, otherwise hold the discussion at a special meeting the following Monday. Vote 7-0.

Manager's Report

The town manager reported on the Dept of Labor safety inspection and the DEP inspection. The town will participate in the compost bin sales through Maine Resource Recovery. Councilor Norris called attention to the way in which the Maine Revenue Services calculated the town's state valuation as result the valuation was lowered by \$14 million.

Chair Putman asked what can be done about the Post Offices reluctance to make their facility ADA compliant or move to another facility. Mentioned were protests, publicity campaign, marketing/education campaign, letters to congress, contacting advocacy groups. The town manager was asked to speak to the landlord and the postmaster about the issue. Councilor MacDonald will contact some advocacy groups for assistance.

Motion by Buck Seconded by Norris to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Vote 7-0.