

Winthrop Town Council Meeting Minutes: November 2, 2015

Attending: Sarah Fuller, Chair; Ken Buck, Linda Caprara, Kevin Cookson, Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Henry, Linda MacDonald, Peter Nielsen, Beth Young, Joe Young, Mark Arsenault, Lauri Carson, R. Frost, D. Bubier, Priscilla Jenkins, Jonathan Russell, Carl Swanson, Sharon Flaherty, Tony Charette, Garrett Corbin.

Following the Call To Order at 7:00 PM, Chairperson Fuller led the Pledge of Allegiance, determined the quorum, and began the meeting, to wit:

The Chair recognized Beth Young with thanks and a plaque for her many years of service as Code Enforcement Officer. The meeting gave Beth a standing ovation.

The Chair recognized retired Police Chief Joe Young with the 2015 Winthrop Spirit of America Award for his many years of community service. The meeting gave Chief Young a standing ovation.

Item 126. The Council voted to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 5, 2015 (Fitzgerald/Henry, 7-0), and signed disbursement warrants.

Item 127. The Chair opened a public hearing at 7:04 on a renewal application for an Automobile Graveyard and/or Junkyard Permit for 2015-2016 for Ernest and Sharon Flaherty at 67 Soper Rd (Map 1 Lot 41). Beth explained Mrs. Flaherty's request for a renewal and recommended the Council's approval. The public hearing ended at 7:05 PM. Following the public hearing, the Council voted to approve the permit renewal (Buck/Cookson, 7-0).

Item 128. The Chair opened a public hearing on a liquor license renewal for Peppers Garden and Grill at 7:06 PM. Jonathan Russell attended to answer questions. Chief Frost indicated there are no areas of concern. The public hearing closed at 7:07 PM. Following the public hearing, the Council voted to approve the renewal (Cookson/Caprara, 7-0).

Item 129. Item 130. (taken together) Appointments Chairman Cookson explained the Appointments Committee had met prior to the Council meeting to talk with candidates for appointment. The Appointments Committee therefore recommended Garrett Corbin for Planning Board; Aaron Chrostowsky, Elizabeth McKenney, and Jeff Toothaker for Conservation Commission. The Council voted to approve the recommendations (Cookson/Caprara, 7-0).

Item 131. After discussing two bids, the Council voted to award the work to grind and remove brush from the Transfer Station and grind compost to Douglas W. Jones, Inc, Cross Excavation, who will pay the town \$2/ton for the ground brush and grind the compost without charge (Caprara/Buck, 7-0)

Item 132. The Council signed an affidavit to ME DHHS for General Assistance Ordinance changes approved October 5, 2015.

Item 133. The Council approved a property tax abatement in the amount of \$56.81 to Adam Ahmen, resulting from lien fees and interest for a 2014 tax bill mailed to the wrong address (Caprara/Cookson, 7-0).

Item 134. Councilor Cookson identified the four quit claim deeds prepared for Council signatures: two for satisfied property tax obligations, and two for sales of tax acquired properties decided at the October 5 council meeting. The council voted to sign the four (4) quit claim deeds (Cookson/Fitzgerald, 7-0).

Item 135. After discussion, the Council voted to raise the price of interring a casket to \$350 from \$325, burying cremated remains to \$175 from \$150, and the cost of a grave site to \$250 from \$225. The proposed increases were the first since 2009, and were in line with neighboring towns. The Council discussed a policy change to reimburse 50% of the original purchase price for unused assigned lots, upon proof of purchase. The Council approved the fee changes and the policy change with one motion (Cookson/Fitzgerald, 7-0).

Other Business:

1. Councilor Fitzgerald asked about a protest in his neighborhood on 11/1/15. The concern was for crowded dogs with questionable shelter. The Animal Control Officer and Maine Animal Welfare are responding.

2. Councilor Fuller reported on a fund raiser to help a local cancer patient; the House for Hope; the 12/5/15 Holiday Parade at 3:30 PM, and efforts to decorate Main St. light poles for the holidays.

Manager's Report:

1. Police Department won a grant for \$5,831 to provide computer tablets that are less reliant on station based technology.

2. Cobbossee Watershed District minutes/agenda.

3. Introduced Mark Arsenault, the new Code Enforcement Officer. Reported Ruth Peters is the new Finance Assistant, Gary Vigue is the new Public Works truck driver.

4. MEDOT plans to mill and fill 1-1.5 inches of pavement on Main St. from Green St to Rt. 133 in 2016. Project length is estimated to be 1-2 weeks. MEDOT requested input from the town on its preference for daytime or nighttime work. Council felt it depends on the month it is done. Manager will follow up.

5. Distributed MRC newsletter. Gathering information from Augusta, MMWAC in Auburn to make recommendations.

Councilor Fitzgerald reminded the group of an upcoming program in Portland 11/18/15 on large scale solar projects.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.