

Winthrop Town Council Meeting Minutes: December 7, 2015

The Town Council assembled at 6:45 PM to recognize its departing members, Kevin Cookson and Larry Fitzgerald. Chairperson Fuller thanked both councilors for their service, and presented them with plaques. Light refreshments followed.

Meeting attendance: Sarah Fuller, Chairperson; Ken Buck, Kevin Cookson, Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Henry, Linda MacDonald, Peter Nielsen, David Bubier, Priscilla Jenkins, Lauri Carson, Chief Ryan Frost, Melody Main, Mrs. Cookson, Sue Thomas, Bob Simard, Carl Swanson, Craig Crosby, Aaron Chrostowsky, Clark Phinney, 6 citizens.

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:

Item 136. The Council voted to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 2, 2015 (Fitzgerald/Cookson, 6-0).

Item 137. Bob Simard highlighted the activities of the Hillandalers Snowmobile Club in Winthrop, and thanked the Council for the town's continuing support. He referenced a handout containing information on trail mileage, land owner relations, club membership, and the club's uses of its financial support. He asked the Council to approve a trail across land on Map 9, Lot 23 adjacent to Rt. 202. The Council voted to approve the permit (Cookson/Fitzgerald, 6-0) and thanked Mr. Simard for the presentation.

Item 138. The Chair opened a public hearing at 7:08 PM to hear comment on an application for a malt, vinous license for Café at 130 Main. Three speakers identified the Café as a good place with good food. Chief Frost had received no complaints. The public hearing ended at 7:09 PM, after which the Council voted to approve the license (Cookson/Buck, 6-0).

Item 139. The Chair opened a public hearing on a liquor license renewal for Alfred W. Maxwell, Jr. American Legion Post #40 at 7:10 PM. Chief Frost had no complaints on record, there were no other comments. The public hearing closed at 7:11 PM, after which the Council voted to approve the renewal (Fitzgerald/Cookson, 6-0).

Item 140. The Chair opened a public hearing on a Special Entertainment Permit for Alfred W. Maxwell, Jr. American Legion Post #40 at 7:12 PM. There were no comments or complaints. The public hearing closed at 7:13 PM, after which the Council voted to approve the permit (Fitzgerald/MacDonald, 6-0).

Item 141. Finance Director Melody Main explained that with five months data available, revenues for the year may exceed projections by about \$53,000, which will likely be offset with roughly equal overages in expenditures due to contractual obligations. Fund balance is running below auditor's recommendations. The Town Manager said a tax anticipation note will likely be needed this year.

Item 142. The Council provided guidance to staff for preparing the next municipal budget. Three councilors stressed low to flat budget preferences. One reminded the group of its vote to include \$25,000 for targeted raises. Councilors value the capital improvement plan, and felt that planning and

preparing for future capital needs is beneficial. Priscilla Jenkins said delaying needed items costs more eventually. The Council restated its decision not to include agency requests beyond the Food Bank and Spectrum Generations.

Item 143. The Town Manager explained the competition for existing municipal trash tonnage between PERC's and the Municipal Review Committee's proposals for the period beginning April 1, 2018. Proposals will come soon from both sources. Towns will have to make choices by May 2016. A third option for Winthrop may be to join the regional incinerator in Auburn, which would shorten hauling distance. Winthrop has a stake in the accumulated reserve funds at PERC. The Council voted to cast its ballot for Peter Nielsen to serve on the Municipal Reserve Committee (Cookson/Buck, 6-0).

Item 144. The Town Manager identified differing language between the Personnel Policy and recent labor contracts on whether a departing employee will be paid for unused compensatory time. Some councilors felt comp time should be capped, going forward. The Manager will review existing contracts with a goal of making the caps equal across the contracts and the Personnel Policy. The Council voted to pay the recently departed employee the approximately \$155 for unused comp time (Cookson/Fitzgerald, 6-0).

Item 145. The Council voted to sign two quit claim deeds for satisfied tax obligations (Cookson/Henry, 6-0).

Other Business: Chairperson Fuller thanked the Public Safety Departments and the Public Works Department for supporting the holiday activities over the weekend.

Manager's Report:

1. B.L. Williams Enterprises, low bidder among three at \$23,000, installed a truck wash floor drain at the Public Works garage, which will allow us to wash trucks indoors and capture residue after snowplowing operations. The work was completed before the pavement plant closed for the season 11/25/15.
2. Reported on two meetings with Wayne Town Manager and Winthrop Transfer Station Manager on accepting Wayne's trash at the Winthrop Transfer Station. Councilors thought the idea deserved additional investigation.

Adjourn: Councilor Fitzgerald moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Cookson, voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:23 PM.