



**Winthrop Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday July 12, 2021
Town Office
17 Highland Avenue
And Via Zoom
6:00 PM Executive Session
7:00 PM Business Meeting**

Call To Order – Roll Call

Chair Sarah Fuller, X Vice-Chair Andy Wess X (arrived at 6:46 p.m.)
Councilor Barbara Alexander, X Councilor Linda Caprara, __
Councilor Priscilla Jenkins X (returned at 7:08 p.m.), Councilor Rita Moran, __ Councilor
Elizabeth Peters X

Item 78 Consideration of entering Executive Session

Suggested Motion: Move to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §(6)(D) to
Discuss Labor Negotiations

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Jenkins **Vote:** 4-0

Time Entered 6:06 p.m.

Town Attorney Matt Tarasevich and EMS Director John Dovinsky also attended

Item 79 Consideration of leaving Executive Session

Motion: Jenkins **Second:** Alexander **Vote:** 4-0

Time Exit: 6:35 p.m.

Move to ratify the EMS Union Contract as presented.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Jenkins **Vote:** 4-0

Item 80 Consideration of entering Executive Session

Suggested Motion: Move to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §(6)(C) to Discuss Disposition of Real Estate.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Jenkins **Vote:** 4-0

Time Entered: 6:37 p.m.

Almerinda Siva - EPA, Becky Hewett - DEP, Scott Anderson - Verrill Dana, Sarah Meeks - EPA and Bill Elwell - UTC - also attended.

Item 81 Consideration of leaving Executive Session

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 5-0

Time Exit: 6:53 p.m.

Move to authorize the Town Manager to execute documents associated with real estate transactions and environmental covenants.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 5-0

Public Meeting Resumed at 7:02 p.m.

Item 82 Finance Reports from Previous Month

[Revenues](#) [Expenses](#) [GL Balances](#) [Other Funds](#)

Item 83 Consideration of Victualer's License [Soul Food Kitchen](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Victualer's License Soul Food Kitchen

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 5-0

Item 84 Public Hearing: [Pond Town Pub](#) Liquor License Renewal

Open: 7:05 p.m.

Close: 7:06 p.m.

Item 85 Consideration of Pond Town Pub Liquor License Renewal

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Pond Town Pub Liquor License Renewal

Motion: Wess **Second:** Alexander **Vote:** 5-0

Item 86 Consideration of adjusting the [School Committee Stipends](#)

Superintendent Hodgkin advised that the current school committee stipends are below the state minimum wage. School committee members feel \$12.50 is a fair hourly rate to be compensated. They would like to increase the annual stipend amounts for committee members to \$1000 for approximately 80 hours of work per year and \$1500 for the chair and the vice chair for approximately 120 hours of work per year. The current budget does support this increase.

Motion: To approve the increase in the school committee stipends to \$1000 per year for members and \$1500 per year for the chair and vice-chair. The current budget would allow for this change without tax implications.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Jenkins **Vote:** 4-0-1 – Wess abstained

Item 87 To determine the rate of interest that shall apply to refunded abatements of taxes
(Recommended: 4%)

Suggested Motion: Move to set the rate of interest of refunded abatements at 4%

Motion: Wess **Second:** Alexander **Vote:** 5-0

Item 88 To determine the rate of interest that shall apply to delinquent taxes for FY22.
(Recommended: 6%)

Suggested Motion: Move to set an interest rate of 6% for delinquent taxes for FY22.

Motion: Jenkins **Second:** Alexander **Vote:** 5-0

Item 89 To Set Tax Due Dates: October 1, 2021 & April 1, 2022

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Tax Due Dates: October 1, 2021 & April 1, 2022.

Motion: Wess **Second:** Alexander **Vote:** 5-0

Item 90 To Authorize Early Payment of Taxes

Suggested Motion: Move to Authorize Early Payment of Taxes

Motion: Alexander

Second: Wess

Vote: 5-0

Item 91 Public Hearing: [Remote Meeting Policy](#)

Open: 7:24 p.m.

The Town Manager advised that the Town has been operating under the state of emergency and executive orders that the governor issued. These orders will expire at the end of July. The legislature did enact new authority for remote meetings for public bodies but it is a lot more strenuous. To conduct remote meetings, we need to adopt a policy that will explain how we will run remote meetings. The suggested policy is derived from Maine Municipal Association as well other municipalities' policies.

This policy will be amended to reflect that it pertains to all public bodies of the town including council, boards and committees. In order for the policy to be disseminated to all that are affected, the second reading of this policy will happen at the next town council meeting.

Close: 7:33 p.m.

Item 92 Consideration of a Remote Meeting Policy

Suggested Motion: Move to Adopt Remote Meeting Policy with changes and hold a second reading at the August meeting.

Motion: Alexander

Second: Wess

Vote: 5-0

Item 93 Consideration of authorizing use of municipal parking lot and closure of Union St. for the Sidewalk Art Festival August 21.

Sarah Fuller, as Chamber Chair, shared that this is a traditional request from the chamber in order for the festival to take place.

Suggested Motion: Move to authorize use of municipal parking lot and closure of Union St. for the Sidewalk Art Festival August 21.

Motion: Wess

Second: Jenkins

Vote: 4-0-1 - Fuller abstained

Other Business:

Manager's Report:

Update: Norcross Point - Winthrop will be applying for the Boating Facilities Grant later this month. It focuses around the boat launch itself and the facilities that are directly associated with the boat launch.

Update: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds- The Town Manager expects it will be September before there is enough information to come up with recommendations for these funds.

[NIMS Training](#) - National Incident Management System Overview for Senior Officials (Executives, Elected, and Appointed). The Town Manager mentioned this training is coming up. Chairperson Fuller highly recommends this training.

[Historical Society Thank You/Open House](#)

August 21 at the Art Festival.

Other

Adjourn.

Suggested Motion: Move to adjourn meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Motion: Alexander

Second: Jenkins

Vote: 5-0