



**Winthrop Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday June 6, 2022
17 Highland Avenue
And Via Zoom**

<https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/85227312296>

Call To Order – Roll Call

Chair Sarah Fuller, X Vice-Chair Andy Wess, X
Councilor Barbara Alexander, X Councilor Bruce Burns, X
Councilor Linda Caprara, X, 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. § 405(6) (E) Legal Advice.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 6-0

Time Entered: 6:01 p.m.

Item 79 Consideration of leaving Executive Session.

Motion: Wess **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 6-0

Time Exit: 6:08 p.m.

Action: To Approve the consent decree and authorize the Town Manager to execute.

Motion: Wess **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 6-0

Item 80 Consideration of approving minutes of meetings held [April 11](#), [May 2](#) and [May 23, 2022](#) and sign disbursement warrants.

Councilor Alexander asked to have the May 23, 2022 minutes amended to reflect her recommendation that the town adopt a more formal procurement policy this summer and that more extensive outreach and education be undertaken this summer regarding the expanded Maine programs to provide income tax and property tax relief to our residents. It was discovered that this recommendation was made during a budget workshop for which minutes are not taken.

Motion: Peters **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 6-0

Item 81 Finance Reports from Previous Month

Revenues Expenses GL Balances Other Funds

Item 82 Consideration of [Transient Seller License for Brick Oven Bakery.](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Transient Seller License for Brick Oven Bakery.

Motion: Wess **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 6-0

Item 83 Consideration of [Transient Seller License for Mylinn's Market.](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Transient Seller License for Mylinn's Market.

Motion: Peters **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 6-0

Item 84 Consideration of [Augusta West Kampground Special Amusement Permit.](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Augusta West Kampground Special Amusement Permit.

Motion: Burns **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 6-0

Item 85 Consideration of [Sully's Tavern Special Amusement Permit.](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Sully's Tavern Special Amusement Permit.

Motion: Peters **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 6-0

Item 86 Public Hearing: [Sully's Tavern Liquor License Application.](#)

Open: 7:06 p.m.

Close: 7:07 p.m.

Item 87 Consideration of Sully's Tavern Liquor License Application.

Police Chief Frost did not have anything to report regarding this application.

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Sully's Tavern Liquor License Application.

Motion: Peters **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 6-0

Item 88 Consideration of [Tavern on the Hill Special Amusement Permit](#).

Co-owner Melissa Goucher, reported they are looking to provided entertainment a couple times a week.

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Tavern on the Hill Special Amusement Permit.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 6-0

Item 89 Public Hearing: [Tavern on the Hill New Liquor License Application](#).

Open: 7:09 p.m.

Close: 7:10 p.m.

Item 90 Consideration of Tavern on the Hill New Liquor License Application

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Tavern on the Hill New Liquor License Application.

Ms. Goucher reported they are looking to create a family environment for the area communities. They will provide a full menu of food, a variety of beers and a full bar.

Police Chief Frost did not have anything to report regarding this application.

Motion: Caprara **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 6-0

Item 91 Public Hearing: [Maine Cider Company, LLC. Liquor License Application](#).

Open: 7:10 p.m.

One of the owners advised that they are located at 799 Center Road. They have a small winery license and manufacture wine and cider. We are looking to add beer to our menu.

Police Chief Frost recommended caution when parking along side of the roadway; try to avoid it as much as possible.

Close: 7:12 p.m.

Item 92 Consideration of Maine Cider Company, LLC Liquor License Application.

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Maine Cider Company, LLC License Application.

Motion: Burns **Second:** Caprara **Vote:** 6-0

Item 93 Consideration of [Maine Cider Company, LLC Extension of License on Premise Application](#).

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Maine Cider Company, LLC Extension of License on Premise Application.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Caprara **Vote:** 6-0

Item 94 Public Hearing: [My Sister's Pizza Liquor License Application](#)

Open: 7:13 p.m.

Close: 7:14 p.m.

Item 95 Consideration of My Sister's Pizza Liquor License Application.

Suggested Motion: Move to approve My Sister's Pizza Liquor License Application.

Police Chief Frost did not have anything to report regarding this application.

Motion: Peters **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 6-0

Item 96 To consider authorizing Resolution 2022-6, [Winthrop Utilities Community Development Block Grant](#).

[Application](#)

Town Manager Kobrock advised that the Town of Winthrop will be the grantee for this particular award and Winthrop Utilities District will be the sub grantee.

Dan Wells of Winthrop Utilities District explained that this project will allow the replacement of the Mechanic Street pumping station and generator. This station was built in 1956. The Utilities District received \$400,000 in grants and have to put \$150,000 towards it. They applied and received \$200,000 in grant funding from DEP. An advisory group is required. Councilor Burns volunteered to be part of the advisory group.

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Order 2022-6, Winthrop Utilities Community Development Block Grant.

Motion: Burns **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 6-0

Item 97 Public Hearing: Proposed FY23 Municipal and School Budgets

Open: 7:21 p.m.

As a preface, Chairperson Fuller advised that department heads, town manager, finance director, superintendent, the board of education, and the council have been working diligently on these budgets. Since about January we have been going through some revisions trying to find savings where we can.

Both sides have been successful in their labor negotiations recognizing what the labor market is right now and staying within the confines that the Council laid out at the beginning of the process. We have had a number of workshops. We have gone through the details, looking at revenues expenditures, to find some savings and carry over from last year. We are looking at an increase this year and we try to hold it as minimal as possible.

Town Manager Kobrock advised that the increase started at about a 10% but they were successful in finding about \$450,000 to cut from the budget during the budget workshops. We are now at a 6% increase. The increase on a one hundred thousand dollar property would be about \$123. We have a lot of work to do before we can project a mill rate and commit taxes in August.

Councilor Caprara shared her concern about the budget increase. She will not be voting in favor of this budget. This tax increase is associated with large salary increases and she finds this irresponsible.

Councilor Alexander mentioned that all the Town Council members voted for the union contract in this budget. Nonunion members need something equivalent. There is a rainy day fund and she would like a discussion of allocating some portion of that to offset the current increase in this budget.

Chairperson Fuller mentioned that the fund balance or the rainy day fund is our designated surplus fund. We do have policies in place that guide the Council in keeping it at a certain level, as well as the auditors suggest that it should have at least three months of operating funds in case a disaster happens we have the cash flow. The policy also states that we can only spend it on one-time capital expenditures because if our practice was to extract the fund balance to cover ongoing expenses, we create a whole for ourselves that we would have to make up in the following year.

Councilor Peters advised that the Council did not come upon these decisions lightly. We had to take into consideration the unprecedented wage increases and the shortage of labor across all levels of employment. We need to keep our services intact, without having a loss of services or a loss of ability for people to access their government, etc., or their schools.

Public Comments: A community member asked if wages were being increased to be where other towns are. She feels we need to stay competitive to retain staff, especially teachers.

Susan Thomas asked for the five-year plan for road repairs.

Close: 8:04 p.m.

Motion: To add a \$300,000 from the fund balance to be allocated to the municipal budget revenues, thus reducing the increase in taxes from \$720,000 to \$420,000.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** None - Motion dies.

Item 98 To consider Resolution 2022-1 FY23 Municipal Budget

Expense and Revenue

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2022-1 FY23 Municipal Budget

Motion: Burns **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 5-1 Caprara

Waive Second Reading

Motion: Wess **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 5-1 Caprara

Item 99 To consider [Resolution 2022-2 FY23 School Budget – Public Education PK - Grade 12.](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2022-2 FY23 School Budget – Public Education PK - Grade 12.

Motion: Wess **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 6-0

Waive Second Reading

Motion: Burns **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 6-0

Item 100 To consider [Resolution 2022-3 FY23 School Budget – Additional Local Funds.](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2022-3 FY23 School Budget – Additional Local Funds.

Motion: Burns **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 6-0

Waive Second Reading

Motion: Wess **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 6-0

Item 101 To consider [Resolution 2022-4 FY23 School Budget – Adult Education.](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2022-4 FY23 School Budget – Adult Education.

Motion: Burns **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 6-0

Waive Second Reading

Motion: Burns **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 6-0

Item 102 To consider [Resolution 2022-5 FY23 School Budget – School Nutrition.](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2022-5 FY23 School Budget – School Nutrition.

Motion: Burns **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 6-0

Waive Second Reading

Motion: Burns **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 6-0

Item 103 To determine the rate of interest that shall apply to overpayment of taxes
(Recommended: 1%)

Suggested Motion: Move to set the rate of interest for overpayment of taxes at 1%.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 6-0

Item 104 To determine the rate of interest that shall apply to delinquent taxes during FY 23.

Suggested Motion: Move to set an interest rate of 4% for delinquent taxes for FY 23.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 6-0

Item 105 [Consideration of Order 2022-13, Authorizing Equipment/Vehicle Lease Purchases.](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Order 2022-13, Authorizing Equipment/Vehicle Lease Purchases.

Motion: Peters **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 6-0

Item 106 [Consideration of Order 2022-14 – Cemetery Improvements.](#)

Suggested Motion: Move to accept Order 2022-14 Cemetery Improvements.

Motion: Alexander **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 6-0

Other Business:

Manager's Report:

Adjourn.

Suggested Motion: Move to adjourn meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Motion: Wess **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 6-0