



Winthrop Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday October 3, 2022

7PM

17 Highland Avenue

And Via Zoom

Executive Session at 6:00 PM

Open Session resumes at the conclusion of Executive Session – Approximately 7:00 PM

Call To Order – Roll Call

Chair Sarah Fuller, X Vice-Chair Andy Wess, X
Councilor Bruce Burns, X Councilor Linda Caprara, X,
Councilor Elizabeth Peters X Councilor James Steele X

Item 138 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: Peters **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 6-0

Time Entered: 6:03 pm

Item 139 Consideration of leaving Executive Session.

Motion: Peters **Second:** Burns **Vote:** 5-0 Steele not present

Time Exit: 7:16 pm

Action: None.

Item 140 Consideration of approving minutes of meeting held [September 12, 2022](#), and sign disbursement warrants.

Motion: Peters **Second:** Wess **Vote:** 5-0-1 Fuller abstained, as she was not present for the meeting.

Item 141 Finance Reports from Previous Month

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

Item 142 Consideration of recommendations from Appointments Committee.

The Appointments Committee did not have recommendations.

Item 143 Public Hearing: [American Legion Post #40 Liquor License Renewal](#).

Open: 7:21

Close: 7:22

Commander Hewitt and another representative from the American Legion attended the meeting to answer questions. There were no questions. The Town Manager mentioned that Police Chief Frost does not have issues with this application.

Item 144 Consideration of American Legion Post #40 Liquor License Renewal.

Suggested Motion: Move to approve American Legion Post #40 Liquor License Application.

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

Item 145 [Consideration of Transient Seller License for The Mad Egg](#).

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Transient Seller License for The Mad Egg.

Owner, Jenna DeVore attended the meeting and explained they are working at the Absolem Cider Company selling hand held breakfast sandwiches.

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

Item 146 Discussion of \$3,100,000 School Buildings Upgrade Project.

The Town Manager explained that he and Vernice Boyce now have a better understanding of the project in general. They have looked at both finance options, lease/purchase and bonding. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the finance options and the urgency of when this project should begin. It was decided that there should be a special meeting scheduled in the near future to discuss and vote on this item. The meeting will take place when the Superintendent returns as there are several items that require his input.

Item 147 Consideration of [Order 2022-16 Authorizing Various Carry Forwards](#).

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Order 2022-16 Authorizing Various Carry Forwards.

Councilor Steele asked for clarification of carry forwards. Vernice Boyce explained it is money that was not spent in fiscal year 2022 that the Council is being asked to approve carrying forward into the fiscal year 2023 but for specific purposes.

There was conversation regarding the increase in pricing of these specific items.

Motion: Wess **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 4/2– Caprara and Steele opposed

Item 148 Consideration of [Order 2022-17 to Ratify Various FY22 Overdrafts](#).

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Order 2022-17 To Ratify Various FY22 Overdrafts.

Councilor Steele asked for clarification regarding the additional costs at the Landfill Building and Norcross Point. Vernice Boyce explained the increase at the landfill building was due to having to use that building during COVID when the public works crew had to split up. Vernice will send Councilor Steele a list of the additional costs such as maintenance at Norcross Point.

Motion: Wess **Second:** Peters **Vote:** 4/2 – Caprara and Steele opposed

Item 149 Consideration of [Order 2022-18 Writing Off Uncollectable Tax Balance](#).

Suggested Motion: Move to approve Order 2022-18 Writing off Uncollectable Tax Balance.

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

Other Business:

A member of the audience spoke about the last Town Council meeting and how members of the public were not allowed to speak during “other business”. Chair Fuller mentioned that the Council will be more open about having public discussions at the end of meetings.

There was also discussion regarding videotaping and posting Town Council meetings. It was asked if this item could be put on the next Town Council agenda for discussion. Chairperson Fuller explained that the Town Manager will research this and put together a proposal with the facts and figures for the Council to consider at a future meeting.

Chairperson Fuller stated that due to the town manager, legal counsel and herself not being present at the last meeting, legal counsel advised not to discuss the mooring issue. She also advised that the Town Council is working on a path forward for upcoming meetings to have public discussions about this as soon as feedback from legal counsel is received.

Councilor Steele asked about ARPA funds. Chairperson Fuller explained there was a brief update a few meetings ago and that this will be on the agenda at a future meeting.

There was a question asked the property tax relief program for senior citizens and how that will affect the town. The Town Manager explained that the state will reimburse the town 100%.

Another member of the audience urged the Council to adopt the School Buildings Upgrade Project. He also asked about a timeframe to discuss the mooring issue further. Chairperson Fuller advised hopefully in November or December, but that remains to be seen.

Manager's Report:

There was an attempt to burn down the bathrooms at Norcross Point. The damage was not structural but is significant. Councilor Caprara asked about installing cameras at the location due to the reoccurring vandalism over the years.

We were successful in obtaining the boating facility funds grant for \$100,000.

Adjourn.

Suggested Motion: Move to adjourn meeting at 9:16 pm

Motion: Peters

Second: Burns

Vote: 6-0