



**TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 9, 2021 6:00 PM
REMOTE-VIA ZOOM MEETING**

Open Session

Council President Calls the Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM

Roll Call

Councilor Stephen Ruggiero-	Present
Councilor Barbara Flockhart-	Present
Councilor Rob Demarco-	Present
Councilor Peter Letterie-	Present
Councilor Tracey Honan-	Present
Councilor LoConte-	Present
Councilor Ferrino-	Present
Vice President Christopher-	Present
President Boncore-	Present

Town Manager Faison is also Present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Honan

Motion by Councilor DeMarco to enter Executive Session.

Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(2)—To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel: Town Manager.

2nd by Councilor Letterie

Approve: Councilor Ruggiero, Councilor Flockhart, Councilor Demarco, Councilor Letterie, Councilor Honan, Councilor LoConte, Councilor Ferrino, Vice President Christopher, President Boncore
Motion Passes 9-0

All attendees are removed from meeting and if anyone during this meeting enters, they will be removed.

Council President Boncore discusses the reasoning for this Executive Session, which is to discuss the Town Manager's current contract. Per this contract, the Town Manager must be notified 6 mos. prior to renewal (8-20-21) of the Town Council's decision on whether to renew his contract.

Council President was under the false assumption that the Council President would be the individual that would deliver a letter to the Town Manager of the decision made, but it is the entire Town Council that must vote on this decision.

Council President has met with Town Manager Faison several times on this item and with our Legal Labor Counsel as for the procedures.

A vote must be taken by Town Council as for the decision made on the current Town Manager Contract.

The Town Manager begins that if there is nothing done, his contract automatically renews for One Year. Currently, he discusses first entering the office of Town Manager for the Town of Winthrop. He was under the impression the departments were more advanced than they were and has worked to improve this. He has worked very hard to be transparent with the entire community and Town Council. He has worked with professional services with each department to work in a more efficient manner, especially with the public. Goes on to discuss Town Manager's compensation of other communities. His job is to perform and facilitate, run the municipal government, and have a level of productivity. He has tried very hard with these matters. With the increase of the public participation and the new Planner it will be very beneficial to the town and gives the town something to look forward. There were several projects that when he entered this position were not moving, since his involvement, he feels he has begun to get these projects on tract- (CBD, Middle School, Tennis Courts, Dog Park, Maintenance Shed) He would like to continue his employment here to continue with these projects.

Council President reiterates what steps can be done on the Town Managers Current Contract

- 1- Renew Contract
- 2- Nothing and contract automatically extend for 1 year.
- 3- Vote to give a different contract.

A decision must be made by the Town Council.
Floor is open to the Town Council for discussion

Councilor Honan agrees with the Town Manager, it is not an easy job, she believes he does not shy away from decisions and some are very hard and unpopular. She believes it would be a bad idea, during a middle of a pandemic and projects that are going on to let him go. He has a good r with report with the department heads and works well with them. Not living in this town helps with his decision making in a positive manner. His focus is on the job and not personalities. He is making real changes and repairing problems from previous office holder(s). He may not make everyone happy but doing what must be done.

Councilor DeMarco asks the Town Manager if he would like another 3-year term or a year to complete his current work.

Town Manager states this is difficult question, whatever is voted for 3 years or 1, is a vote of confidence for him. In reality not sure if 3 years makes sense, he can only make progress on things for so long. Sometimes people just wear out their welcome. Personally, would like a vote of confidence in his work.

Councilor DeMarco opinion coming from an HR background, feels that the Town Manager believes 1 year makes sense. In looking at this contract, he feels new opportunities will be reviewed.

Councilor Flockhart would like to renew the Town Managers contract for another 3 years. Has found it very easy to work with him and has done a good job during his time here.

Councilor Letterie discusses the Town Managers discussion on being vested in Massachusetts. He also reiterates that we need to do what is best for our community. The pandemic has caused confusion in the current government and job is difficult but felt that the Town Manager only wanted his initial 3 years here in Winthrop. Believes many projects have been delayed, slow in making decisions. Totally respects the Town Manager but believes it is time to move on, with new leadership.

**Motion by Councilor DeMarco not to renew 3-year contract with Town Manager Faison
2nd by Councilor Letterie**

Discussion

Councilor Ruggiero is not comfortable, if this passes then what about current situation of extending? Our community needs consistency and extending 1 year would make sense.

Councilor Ferrino states that we must notify the Town Manager in writing 6 mos. prior to his current contract renewal or it automatically renews for 1 year.

Councilor Flockhart thinks it would be very disruptive to not at least extend for 6 mos.

President Boncore agrees that 1 year extension makes sense, allowing the Town Manager to continue his work and finish the current projects he has been working on, not only in his office but with his department heads and their departments.

Roll Call

Councilor Stephen Ruggiero-	No
Councilor Barbara Flockhart-	No
Councilor Rob Demarco-	Yes
Councilor Jim Letterie-	Yes
Councilor Tracey Honan-	No
Councilor LoConte-	Yes
Councilor Ferrino-	No
Vice President Christopher-	No
President Boncore-	No
Motion Does Not Pass 6-3	

Motion by Councilor Ferrino to Extend Current Contract for One Year until August 20, 2022

2nd by Councilor Flockhart

Roll Call

Councilor Stephen Ruggiero-	Yes
Councilor Barbara Flockhart-	Yes
Councilor Rob Demarco-	No
Councilor Jim Letterie-	No
Councilor Tracey Honan-	Yes
Councilor LoConte-	No
Councilor Ferrino-	Yes
Vice President Christopher-	Yes
President Boncore-	Yes
Motion Passes 6-3	

Motion by Councilor DeMarco to Adjourn Executive Session at 7:23PM

2nd by Councilor Honan

Roll Call

Councilor Stephen Ruggiero-	Yes
Councilor Barbara Flockhart-	Yes
Councilor Rob Demarco-	Yes
Councilor Jim Letterie-	Yes
Councilor Tracey Honan-	Yes
Councilor LoConte-	Yes
Councilor Ferrino-	Yes
Vice President Christopher-	Yes
President Boncore-	Yes

Return to Open Session

Meeting is Open to Public Session

Council President requests recommendation from the Town Council on Town Manager Contract Vote

Councilor DeMarco requests that motions reflected in Ex. Session be announced in public session.

Council Presidents states it is not necessary as final vote approved will be recorded in open session.

Councilor DeMarco requests that for the record he made a motion not to renew the Town Managers Contract for 3 years and Councilor Letterie and Councilor LoConte also voted for this.

Councilor Boncore reports that a motion coming out of Executive Session to extend the Town Managers Current Contract for One Year has been accepted.

All in Favor of offering Austin Faison, Town Manager a One Year Extension on his current contract.

Roll Call

Councilor Stephen Ruggiero-	Yes
Councilor Barbara Flockhart-	Yes
Councilor Rob Demarco-	No
Councilor Jim Letterie-	No
Councilor Tracey Honan-	Yes
Councilor LoConte-	No
Councilor Ferrino-	Yes
Vice President Christopher-	Yes
President Boncore-	Yes

Motion Passes 6-3

A letter will be drafted with our legal counsel and signed this week.

Motion by Councilor DeMarco to cancel scheduled Town Council Special Meeting on February 10, 2021
2nd by Councilor Ferrino

Roll Call

Councilor Stephen Ruggiero-	Yes
Councilor Barbara Flockhart-	Yes
Councilor Rob Demarco-	Yes
Councilor Jim Letterie-	Yes
Councilor Tracey Honan-	Yes
Councilor LoConte-	Yes
Councilor Ferrino-	Yes
Vice President Christopher-	Yes
President Boncore-	Yes

Motion by Councilor Ferrino to Adjourn Open Session
2nd by Councilor DeMarco

Roll Call

Councilor Stephen Ruggiero-	Yes
Councilor Barbara Flockhart-	Yes
Councilor Rob Demarco-	Yes
Councilor Jim Letterie-	Yes
Councilor Tracey Honan-	Yes
Councilor LoConte-	Yes
Councilor Ferrino-	Yes
Vice President Christopher-	Yes
President Boncore-	Yes