

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2023

President Letterie calls meeting to order at 7:00 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilor Honan, Councilor Fucillo Councilor Munson (7:15) Councilor Belcher, Councilor DeMarco Councilor Aiello, President Letterie
Absent: Vice President Ruggiero, Councilor Flockhart

TOWN COUNCIL TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION Pursuant to G.L. c.30A, §21(a) (6)—
To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.
Town Council will return to Open Session

Motion by Councilor Belcher to go into Ex. Session
2nd by Councilor Munson

Yes: Councilor Fucillo, Councilor Belcher, Councilor Aiello, President Letterie
Absent: Vice President Ruggiero, Councilor Honan, Councilor Munson, Councilor Flockhart
Motion Passes

Town Council is back in Open Session 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Aiello

MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Belcher to Approval of Minutes, June 6 and June 13th, 2023 as circulated
2nd by Councilor Fucillo
Passed Unanimously-Councilor DeMarco Abstained

GENERAL INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Berry Dunn
Phil Ronan, Veterans Agent

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Suzanne Swope P4- Can Parks & Rec look into more funding?

Karin Chavis P1-Parks & Rec, Sean Driscoll does a wonderful job and he has been working out of a building that has been in need of updating for years. His summer program is \$400 and that is \$50 a week, that seems a fair amount of money for 8 weeks. He has done a great job, we need a new fire station, police station and Sean needs a new home...

Town Council President agrees and he is also reviewing with the Town Manager a new home for Parks & Rec.

Bill Schmidt P5-Why did the report put fall and spring together?

Town Council President feels it's because it's during the school year

He is an avid tennis player and pays \$10 for a key...maybe a User Fee could be charged to help maintain the courts.

Public process, old Middle School, Fire Station....what is public process for their input in these decisions
He urges the Town Council to include the public

Town Council President states nothing will be done without public input

Jack Dowd P1-Questioned the microphones on WCAT

He considers Town Hall politics since 2014 to be in the dark ages...

In the CBD 48' in height....this will be a problem

He would like the Town Council to do a better job on the committee minutes....

After the microphones not picking up the comments....could not see people who were talking...

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

Town Council President could not attend, they voted on their budget, it was an informal vote as the School has already voted on but agreed with the Town Council budget vote.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Ferry update: MBTA taking over on July 5th

Revere St. Tips Projects concerns with night work.. this will be the last week and after the holiday will be switching to days.

July 5th to August 31st will be closed. Blue line is free, Ferry and parking reduced rate.

Councilor Aiello thanks the Town Manager for his hard work on the Ferry with the MBTA Lease and taking over.

Get the word out and have this used. We are on a trial period for 2 years and we need this to be used.

Town Manager working on a M Ticket...allows transfers into Boston

Councilor Aiello discusses transportation funding:

TSAC recommend to study of intersection Pleasant, Winthrop and Washington-Town Manager states this was identified on our Complete Street Project, we will be requesting funding.

Short term solution to the curve at Pleasant St.-DPW has flashing signs for the corner and two blinking signs.

Working on quote for guard rail. Paving being offered Mass DOT

Next tips project is Pleasant St. to Main St.

Councilor DeMarco-Revere St. has lost several parking spaces from 7-5pm Is there a way this can be shortened, can we make 9 -5 pm. Can parking be increased?

DPW Calla-This is very difficult , gas main being installed, cabled being installed, curbing, sidewalk and street work going on. If we restrict it will prolong the project.

Councilor Belcher-Shirley St. needs attention. Delby Corner to Deer Island has a speed problem.

Have the Crest Ave. businesses been informed on parking during Tips Project

Town Manager, yes, they have been informed and working to make more accommodating for these businesses.

Councilor Munson, thanks the Town Manager for contributing in all the towns activities.

As part of the inclusion, he would like the agenda's of all BOA, Planning Board and Licensing be part of the Town Manager Blog.

As far as getting word out on Ferry, is there something we can do as a town?

Town Manager states the MBTA is working on this advertising .

Question on Public Pathways...what is the responsibility to clean these?

DPW is a homeowners shrubs, tree is over a public walkway, they are responsible

CDICR Meeting

Town Manager reports on the current town activities...discussion of a couple of school issues. Membership issues and discussing new ones.

OLD BUSINESS

Winthrop Beach Access- Still awaiting DCR response. We notified them that if not done soon, we will take upon ourselves and build stairs.

MBTA-Have signs on Hermon St. directing new routes

Public Walkways is still in committee and will be discussed in priorities

Middle School still in process....hopefully information by our July 18th meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Town Council President refers to the Finance Committee that the Town Council appropriate from the Water Sewer Capital Stabilization Fund the amount of \$174,062

Air BnB- Town Manager and Town Counsel drafts several preliminary reports on the Air BnB Ordinances and what the Town Council would like to address.

Discussion on concerns, entire house rental, too many vehicles, impacted neighborhood. Ability as of 7-2019 Community can now get another 3% of tax in lieu of hotel tax of 6%

Town Counsel, Jim Cipoletta discusses the impact these have on our community. The community impact fee is that the Town Council accepted the state statute of 6% of room tax, but we have no rooms with the Air BnB, we are limited. Parking is an enormous problem, Winthrop is overstressed. This impact fee may help with sidewalks and trees. There is affirmative action to be taken by the Town. Chapter 63 Section 3A must be accepted by the Town Council, which we have not to accept the 3%.

Short term rentals should be accepted in our Ordinance, the State Statute includes this. Our Ordinance is drafted as to approve no taxes. Without short term rental, we cannot tax these Air BnB's. This is preventing us from enforcement.

Town Council President states we have about 15 permitted but over 100 in our town.

Attorney Cipoletta states that in the statute, these be owner occupied units. This is inconsistent with what Air BnB really should allow. It is supposed to promote tourism, living with a family is not something that interests most.

This will be sent to the Rules and Ordinance for review

Councilor Aiello-The Town Council must be clear on what they want, public responsibility and safety, we need to be able to track these units being rented. Whatever we do we need to have the resources we can monitor and enforce.

Councilor Belcher has question on owner occupied, does this mean the owner must live in the unit
Town Counsel, yes if you have a 2 family you cannot rent out the 1st floor .

Councilor Munson, agrees with Councilor Aiello, no point talking about this if safety is an issue. Not just about revenue. Safety is number 1 priority. Need to monitor this and the laws have to be complied with. This will help with Inspectional Services.

He does not think that we have to have loyalty to the present Ordinance. We need to improve.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Schmidt-Comments on Christine Reilly being appointed to the BOH and looks forward to working with her and the EB Newton Tower Ceremony was a very nice dedication.

Jack Dowd P1-Discusses the Ferry, many people were opposed to this, he has commented and stated we may need a Ferry one day and this day has come. Maybe looking into a 2nd Ferry...if MBTA passing out funds, maybe MBTA would utilize this Ferry. A committee should be put together for a new Ferry.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Councilor Aiello states that citizens are getting upset with this Trash Ordinance and taking it out on Town Employees, if you have a problem, please contact the Town Council

June 29th Mary Ellen Greenway ride (Please see website)

Congratulations to Scott Mahoney Wright, on Pride Ride

August 26th Friends on Winthrop Beach will be showing Miracle on Ice

Councilor DeMarco-Soccer night by Harbor City Church...free of charge, food, games, dancing...a lot of fun
Discussed raising revenue, fees, ...with inflation the way it is, he would like to see people lives easier not harder.

Councilor Belcher –Fireworks July 4th accepting donations...

Council Munson-Thankful to be in this town. Great events and our progress in in the right direction.

Councilor Fucillo-Happy safe, 4th for all.

Councilor Honan-Congratulate Phil Ronan, great tribute.

Town Council President states that we have allowed citizens to throw more trash out. It is a 5 year contract and for the past 3 we have been more open, it is now time to follow the contract. We are doing the best we can.

Winthrop is Special and the 4th of July and Horribles Parade is one way...Enjoy!!

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor DeMarco to adjourn at 9:10 PM

2nd by Councilor MFucillo

Passed Unanimously

Public Documents used in the meeting are available at Town Managers Office.

Documents Used in this Meeting: Handwritten Notes / Committee Openings Documents Roll Call Log

Written Motions / Verbal Motion

Respectfully submitted

Denise Quist

Town Clerk

Council Clerk

