

President Letterie calls meeting to order at 6:30 PM

ROLL CALL

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

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-address 245 Rear Winthrop St.
Town Council will return to Open Session

Motion by Councilor Belcher to go into Ex. Session

2nd by Councilor DeMarco

Yes: Councilor Honan, Councilor Fucillo Councilor Munson, Councilor Belcher, Councilor DeMarco, Councilor Aiello, Councilor Flockhart, President Letterie
Councilor Ruggiero-Absent (Late)

Motion Passes

Town Council Enters into Executive Session

Motion by Councilor Belcher to adjourn Ex. Session

2nd by Councilor DeMarco

Yes: Councilor Honan, Councilor Fucillo Councilor Munson, Councilor Belcher, Councilor DeMarco, Councilor Aiello, Councilor Flockhart, President Letterie
Councilor Ruggiero-Abstain

Motion Passes

Town Council is back in Open Session 7:00 PM

Council President Calls Open Meeting to Order

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Honan

MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Belcher to Approval of Minutes, November 28, 2023, as circulated.

2nd by Councilor Fucillo

Councilor Aiello Abstain

Councilor Honan Abstain

Motion Passed

GENERAL INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING

Tax Classification FY 24

Nate Cramer from the Assessor Office reviews and presents a Power Point on the Winthrop FY24 Tax Rate Classifications....Please see Presentation on the Town of Winthrop Web Site-
<https://www.town.winthrop.ma.us/assessing-department>

Board of Assessor Member Peter Gill states Board of Assessors agrees with current tax classification.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nellie Kurtz P5-Discusses the accusations of anti semitism. Disagrees with the accusations against the Town Council stating they are anti semitism. She does not think the Israeli Flag should be flown; she believes just our USA Flag should be flown.

Annie Mahoney P2-Discusses her opposition to the Israeli Flag being flown in our Town.

Corinna Campobasso P3-Discusses that no other nation other than the USA Flag should be flown.

P6-Agrees with Nelly Kurtz and believes the Town Council should be easing all the tension that is happening now. Wants to see people brought together more in our town.

Jack Dowd P3-Discusses other than the USA Flag, POW Flag should be flown. Our opinions are causing more problems.

Marcy Hamilton P2-Thanks everybody for coming together as a team and wants to see more interaction with all our citizens.

Todd Sacco-P5-Discusses that we should just be flying the USA, POW and State Flag. He also discusses how other proclamations have been passed and now this problem with flying the Israeli Flag is causing a problem within the policy of the current Flag Policy.

CORRESPONDENCE- John Tranfaglia, Scott Mahoney Wright, Corinna Campobasso all commented on the Flag Policy

John Vitagliano and Diana Veins commented on the Town Council going into Executive Session

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair of the Finance Committee Councilor Fucillo discusses the FY24 Tax Rate Classification, and the Finance Committee voted with a Positive Recommendation to approve this.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT REPORT

There was no meeting.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Reminds All that next Tuesday on Dec. 12, 2023, is an Open Public Hearing with Comcast to begin at 6 PM in the Harvey Hearing Room

Comments on the MBTA Zoning of which the town needs to have in place by 2024. We've also received a grant to hire a consultant to review this zoning and it will be reviewed and updated.

Councilor Munson asks about the Air BnB ordinance.

The Town Manager replies it has gone to counsel for review and the ordinance is being reviewed.

Councilor Aiello asks about when the Capital Liability Report will be ready for review.

The Town Manager replies that the Water Structure should be done by weeks end and the remainder should be available by the end of year.

He would like to have the 2nd meeting in January to discuss this in detail.

Discusses the \$2.2 Million of Free Cash and would like a meeting as to where these funds will be used appropriately. Discusses the CHA Process at Mass Highway opening up feels a consultant is needed to get a clear understanding of schedule for this project.

He received correspondence on a youth soccer program that was supposed to start and at the last minute was postponed due to filming being done. When will this program run?

Town Manager replies that this email was incorrect and there was a problem with the soccer program not correctly working out a contract with Parks and Rec with renting the gym this email stating that there was filming being done and this was incorrect.

Discusses the town 's and if there is an inventory of repairs and maintenance?

The Town Manager replies there is not an official list, but the Parks and Rec Director is aware of this. His office is also aware of what equipment is in need of repairs.

He would like to see this information in the Capital Plan and would like to see it in January with the Capital Plan The Town Manager will not guarantee this will be done in January but is continuing to work on it as with most Departments they are understaffed and do the best we can do to keep everything up to date.

Update on Revere St and Crest Ave: The paving has been raised on the streets but not completed until the Spring. There is no work to begin until the Spring.

There was no CDICR Meeting this week, the next is Dec. 13, 2023

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by the Finance Committee with a Positive Recommendation that the Town Council maintains a Uniform Tax rate for all classes of Property for FY2024, authorize Town Manager Marino to sign and electronically submit the LA-5 to the Department of Revenue and the Town Council approves Electronic Signature to this document on behalf of the Town Councilors.

2nd by Councilor Belcher

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Councilor Honan, Councilor Fucillo Councilor Munson, Councilor Belcher, Councilor DeMarco, Councilor Aiello, Councilor Flockhart, Vice President Ruggiero, President Letterie

Motion Passes

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Councilor DeMarco that the Town Council accept his Flag Proclamation (See Attached)

Councilor DeMarco continues to read the proclamation but at the end in lieu of raising the Israeli flag as he does not feel he has the community nor the Town Council's support; he is amending this proclamation that the Jewish Community understand that the Town Council is behind them. He requests the Town Council to offer a Roll Call Vote to stand behind the Jewish Community....

Discussion

Council President reiterates that he is not making a flag proclamation. Councilor DeMarco agrees that he is changing this proclamation for the Town Council to stand behind the Jewish Community

2nd by Councilor Aiello

Discussion

Councilor Flockhart does not believe this proclamation includes the pain and suffering the Palestinians are going through and will not support this

Councilor Honan agrees with Councilor Flockhart and has a statement.... (See Attached)

Councilor Fucillo states that he feels the Town Council supports everybody in our community equally. He also states that he will abstain from this vote and all further votes on any flag policy issue.

Councilor Munson feels the support of all citizens in this community and reflects on what people have to offer our community with unity.

Discussion Continues

Councilor Belcher applauds Councilor DeMarco for his input and feels that our flag policy should be reviewed at this time.

Councilor Aiello thanks all for the community input. He has Israeli Friends as well as Palestine Friends. Hate has no Home in Winthrop. He believes any proclamation should include ALL...

Vice President Ruggiero recognizes that it is great to hear from so many different members of the community. He reflects that this is a difficult decision to discuss. We have not flown a flag on any international crisis, Town Councilors were told that a statement could be made also told Proclamations cannot be amended. There is not a question on the Town councils unwavering support of this community. Town Council President reflects on everyone's points. He does not find it difficult to support the Jewish Community as well as every other community.

Motion by Councilor Flockhart amends original proclamation that we support the Jewish and the Palestine Community and hope for peace.

2nd by Councilor Aiello
Discussion

Councilor Belcher uses her Council Privilege to table this motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack Dowd P3-Comments on the Town Council's procedure of Executive Session

Marci Hamilton P6-Thanks all for their patience and procedural knowledge

Kathleen Cappuccio-Discusses the Flag Policy and the comments during this meeting and reiterates that the council voted for the Flag Policy and now the Town Council would like to review this policy. She disagrees as she believes the Town Council is responsible for the current happenings with this Flag Policy and wants something to be done.

Vasili Malios P5-Asks about the Planning Board research regarding the MBTA Housing and Zoning. He has reached out and would like to know if the Planning Board will be updating the town. He agrees with several people on the Flag Policy. The Town Council voted for this policy, and this is something that should have been thought of when the policy voted on. We have opened a can of worms...

The Town Council needs to suspend Flag Policy.

Diana Viens P2-Discusses Ex. Session and feels this is not following the Open Meeting Laws. She feels any major development is a concern for the entire town. We should all be informed of what is being negotiated in certain areas and this is one of them. Why is discussing this particular parcel of land being discussed in an Ex. Session.?

Town Council President reiterates that we did follow the Open Meeting Rules with the Ex. Session

Todd Sacco P5-Discusses the Flag Policy and spending too much time on this ...he stated he knew when the Flag Policy was being discussed in the past he did not agree with. He agrees with suspending the Flag Policy.

Rabbi Benjamin Flax of the Temple Tifereth , but from Revere....

Council my Councilor Belcher to suspend Council rules and allow the Rabbi to speak.
2nd by Councilor Munson
Passed

Rabbi Flax discusses the issues that these Jewish outbreaks are happening here...not outside our community but happening here in front of us....*

*Rabbi Flax is referring to the end of the meeting which was disrupted by a Zoom bomber using antisemitic epithets

The Town Council immediately ended the meeting due to this interruption.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Aiello to adjourn at 8P:45PM

2nd by Councilor Flockhart

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