

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2024

President Letterie calls meeting to order at 7:00PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Munson, Councilor Costigan, Councilor Demarco Councilor Aiello, Councilor Swope, Councilor DaRos, Vice President Belcher, President Letterie

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Belcher

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Jay Guthro

Barbara Flavin

Town Council President welcomes Councilor Costigan to his first Town Council meeting

MINUTES

Motion by Vice President Belcher to Approve Minutes May 7, 2024, as circulated.

2nd by Councilor DaRos

Councilor DeMarco abstains.

Motion Passed

GENERAL INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Council President Introduces Winthrop Police Officer Samantha Ferrino as she is being honored as a new Sergeant to the Winthrop Police Department

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karina Campobasso, Christin Kinski, Tracey Honan and Maryellen Sharkey of Mothers out front discusses the climate – working for a livable planet-strong support of a creation of a citizen’s advisory of climate.

Cheryl Howard P2-Opposes 3A...asks Council to have a meeting with our dept. heads.... please consider if you are considering 3A...let us know where you live...if you don’t want next store to you, you shouldn’t want it. It should be a big no and the law should be repealed.

Vasili Mallios-It has been a week, have we received an answer from Sec. Augustus

Town Council President answers no, not at this time. Explains if guidelines change in MBTA 3A Zoning, we will have to abide by them, we do not have local control?

Paper compliance includes CBD...this would enable developers to put as many bedrooms as there is no restrictions on bedrooms or occupants.

Celeste Ribeiro Hewitt-Has a lot of thought on MBTA Zoning 3A.... there are good and bad on yes and no.... what is missing is the intention of the Town Council

Would like a community advisory council with a cross section of people....

Jack Dowd P1-Attended Planning Board meeting and anticipating having 6-8 weeks of dealing with the consultants...he does not think this is necessary. He suggests we revisit our Planners original areas and have the WPB review these areas.

Reflects on our sea walls and the coastal erosion that is currently happening. DEP wants the town to take down the berms due to the Plovers...this will affect these homeowners. A sea walls life span is 30-50 years but if not maintained could begin to fail in 20 years, ours have not been maintained.

Bill Schmidt P5-Appreciated last week's zoning meeting with the Towns consultant. Communities are skirting these requirements. What is town going to do if State Wins or Loses...what will we do. Asks the Town Council to think about what best interest of the town is.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Cassie Pratt-In favor of MBTA 3A Zoning

Kaitlin Burroughs-In favor of MBTA 3A Zoning

Todd Sacco-Sent information to Town Council to review a flag policy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Councilor DaRos reviews the Finance Committee meeting on the schools potential Solar Panels

There was no recommendation from the Finance Committee

Rules & Ordinance

Vice President Belcher reports a Short-Term Rental Policy by the Rules & Ordinance has come out with a positive recommendation and will be presented to the Town Council.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT REPORT

Budget Discussion

Last meeting prior to graduation on May 31, 2024

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Miller Field June 1, for public access 6-8 am 5 on wed and Thursday...more hours after kids out of school.

Memorial Day Celebration May 27th...

Revere St. Tips project updates on Town Manager Blog every two weeks.

Working with businesses on deliveries

Attended Winthrop Planning Board Meeting and there is a joint meeting on June 4th with Town Council on Floodplain Zoning. Minor Changes that must be adopted

Also, on 3A Zoning... Winthrop Planning Board Meeting June 10th & July 16th with RKG Consulting

Congratulates Sargeant Ferrino

Also named our new Deputy Police Chief Steve Rogers

School Override- He is. actively speaking with Superintendent Howard...school has a 1.7 million shortfall.

We have not had an override since 2009, it is necessary, most towns do it every 5-7 years.

We will be educating the public on this override.

He drove around with DPW Director Calla and reviewed the sea walls and there is work needed both with Winthrop and the DCR. We have funding in our Capital Plan to finish our sea wall on Shirley St.

We are planning on meeting with environmental scientist on June 8th at the Point Shirley Assoc. Building in reference to Yirrel Beach

Councilor Swope-Questions can we build on a floodplain with 3A zoning.
The Town Manager answers it depends on the zone where and how the project should be completed.
Yes, you can build on a flood zone but there are limitations and could be costly.
She thanks Town Manager for bringing up Prop 2 ½ for the schools. We have a serious issue with this shortfall and the schools need help.

Councilor Munson asks that the 3A is compared to other communities....we are a green community...
We must adopt every stretch code. If we adopt 3A yes, we will have to comply
New version of the stretch code (Jan.) this has to be adopted but homework must be done

Has there been an update on the Proposed Fire Station

Councilor Tassinari thanks Councilor Swope for bringing up the shortfall of our schools.
Could we enact a School Stabilization Fund before the end of FY?
1.7 million shortfalls on level service budget.

Free Cash will be used for the FY25 capital plan.

VP Belcher asks if the town has, we gotten votes from the AG office on charter.
No not as of yet....

Requests that all MBTA 3A Zoning information be on website.

Councilor Aiello couple.... Have the consultants yet calculated the number of units that we currently have?
With our updated projects?

There are a lot of speculations on what 3A.

The Financial Impact Analysis has not been done for the town. Can we get our consultants to review?

The Town Manager reports the MBTA have contacted the town about Bus Shelters to review.

Climate Committee...deadline in early June in CZM for municipal vulnerability

UPDATE CDICR COMMITTEE

June 15th Pride Potluck at Ingleside
Planning a few events on tree planting
Beach Clean Up Day

Tobacco appeals
Revised letter grading of restaurants

OLD BUSINESS

Elementary Schools Potential Roof & Solar Project
Review Gorman & Cummings Solar Power Purchase Agreements (PPA's) and Lease Agreement
Remain on Agenda for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Flood Plain Maps

Proclamation-Juneteenth

Motion by Vice President Belcher for the Juneteenth Proclamation
2nd by Councilor DaRos
Passed Unanimously

Proclamation-Pride Month

Motion by Councilor DaRos for the Pride Month Proclamation

2nd by Councilor DaRos

Discussion

LGBTQIA2S+ is an acronym that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and trans, queer and questioning, intersex, asexual or agender, and two-spirit and Councilor DaRos would like it known that this month is for all!

Councilor DeMarco knows this means a lot and does support this but brings up his support for antisemitism and therefore uses his Council privilege to table this proclamation.

Motion by Councilor DaRos that the Town Council have a Citizens Advisory Commission on Climate

2nd by Vice President Belcher

Discussion

Motion Passes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Celeste Ribeiro Hewitt- Her family is very diversified and believes Councilor DeMarco should not have used his Council Privilege on the Pride Flag in reference to his anti Semitism on this proclamation.

Jack Dowd P1-Believes a few months ago there was an Intergovernmental Affairs Committee Meeting and is urgent to get out information together with MassPort and MWRA Pilot agreements....

He believes there should be a consultant or mitigator hired by the town.

Would like meeting minutes on the last meeting. When is the next meeting since it is so urgent?

Corinna Campobasso P3 Thanks the Town Council for committee on climate

Kathleen Cappuccio-Asks about the WPB meetings at the DeLeo Center...how much would zoom be to install there?

Bill Schmidt P5- The MassPort Board of Directors have to finalist for position.

PUBLIC RELATIONS / UPCOMING EVENTS-

- 6-27-24-Winthrop Public Library Celebrates it's 125th Anniversary from 5-9 pm
- Winthrop Farmers Market Dates: June 16th & 30th / July 14th & 28th / August 11th & 25th / Sept. 8th & 22nd and Oct. 6th Ingleside Park 9Am – 1PM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Vice President Belcher at 8:37 pm

2nd by Councilor Swope

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
