

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2025

President Letterie calls the meeting with the Town Council to order at 6:30 PM at the DeLeo Sr. Center

ROLL CALL TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Councilor DeMarco, Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Swope, Councilor DaRos
Vice President Belcher, President Letterie

Absent: Councilor Aiello, Councilor Munson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Tassinari

MINUTES

Motion by Vice President Belcher to Approve the Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2025, as circulated.

2nd by Councilor DeMarco

Motion Passed

GENERAL INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CITATIONS:

Director of Public Health Meredith Hurley & Winthrop Police Lt. Sarko Gergerian

POST ELECTION COMMENTS ON ELECTION AND RESULTS

Fire Chief Scott Wiley

Superintendent, Lisa Howard

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing Opened

Town Manager Present the Town Council with FY 26 Budget

Discussion

The Town Manager presents the FY26 Budget to the Town Council for Review

Public Hearing Closed

Public Hearing Opened

Winthrop Taxi Fee Increase

Discussion

Taxi Rates Increased Approved will be discussed in Old Business

Public Hearing Closed

Public Hearing Opened

Amend Town Fees to Include Fee for Utility Company Projects

Discussion

Amend Town Fees to Include Fee for Utility Company Projects approved will be discussed in Old Business

Public Hearing Closed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Celeste Ribeiro Hewitt P1-Comments positively on the election. As a committee member of the CDICR would like to formally request a Proclamation for Juneteenth and Pride Day

Shannon Poulos P3-Comments that the state should not be holding any funding as our town is currently in compliance. We should not let the narrative that the State is holding us hostage...this is a false statement.

We should hold ourselves to a higher standard when working on the FY26 Budget...

Cassie Witthaus P6-Comments that the regulations for the MBTA 3A zoning laws have been finalized and the due date for deadline is mid-July...at this time, we will not be in compliance. It is important to relate all facts and hope the Town Council reconsiders its original vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Commission

Town Council President discusses the importance of budget season, and it is imperative that Town Councilors also include themselves in these meetings to review the town budget.

Finance Committee

Councilor DaRos discusses the meeting and items that were both voted with a positive recommendation and will be voted on in Old Business

Public Health & Safety

Councilor Swope comments on the item on the agenda and the positive recommendation that will be voted on in Old Business

Rules & Ordinance

Vice President Belcher reports they are continuing discussion on the Town Council Rules & Procedures and did vote with a positive recommendation on the Taxi Fair Increase which will be voted on in Old Business

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT REPORT

Town Council President reports meeting was an abbreviated meeting. Discussion on continuation of budget season and 4th quarter and school vacation is next week and then will be discussing graduation. Amazing how quickly this school year is going.

UPDATE POLICY MAKING COMMITTEES

Please see the attached report.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager Marino comments that the Town Manager report will be discussed at the Spring Forum but does comment that Director Calla and himself are working on specific materials needed for Yirrell Beach to continue on this progress. Also, some reached out about concerns on odor at Pt. Shirley, he did reach out to MWRA for clarification as they did have trucks running in this location and found out source of this odor.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by the Finance Committee with a Positive Recommendation that the Town Council approve a new Fee Cost to our current Fee Schedule to include Utility Public Hearing(s)

No 2nd Needed

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Councilor DeMarco, Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Swope, Councilor DaRos

Vice President Belcher, President Letterie

Motion Passes

Motion by Public Health and Safety Committee with a positive recommendation that National Grid-WR #30940804-Shirley St.be granted

No 2nd Needed

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Councilor DeMarco, Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Swope, Councilor DaRos

Vice President Belcher, President Letterie

Motion Passes

Motion by the Rules & Ordinance with a positive recommendation that Winthrop Taxi Request Increase on Fares are granted to \$9 Regular Fares / Sr. Rate \$8 Winthrop to Winthrop

No 2nd Needed

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Swope, Councilor DaRos

Vice President Belcher, President Letterie

No: Councilor DeMarco

Motion Passes

Up to Date Information on Short Term Rentals- Will continue review and hope to vote in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Manager Present the Town Council with FY 26 Budget-**Will continue for review.**

New Fire House Process

Town Council President reviews the process of the new Fire House.

Fire Station-Re-Use Committee-**Please email an application if you have any interest.**

Motion by Council President Letterie for the Town Council to accept the appointment of Katherine O'Malley to the Affordable Housing Committee with a term expiration date of June 30, 2028 2nd by Vice President Belcher

Motion Passes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack Dowd P1-Discusses the odor problem in Pt. Shirley. This has happened before and was investigated, and the problem was corrected but the latest problem involves the question of the MWRA Truck Route. There was obviously something different of this truck. He is suggesting identifying the truck with the town cameras.

Scott Mahoney Wright P3-Thanks all that worked on campaigns for elections. Comments on demographics of Winthrop. Our second population seems to be Latino's. He does not feel this community engages in this. Believe it.

would be beneficial if we had a person that works with this language gap for all town information.

Tom Derderian P3-Discusses that our trees need help during a draught and asks citizens to consider watering trees at any time.

PUBLIC RELATIONS / UPCOMING EVENTS

4-15-25 Town Spring Forum-Sr. Center

4-17-25 33rd Annual Winthrop Chamber of Commerce Awards Ceremony 6:00 – 8:00 pm

4-14-25 Street Sweeping Begins-Calendar on Town Website

4-26-25 Annual Rabies Clinic-Please call Town Clerks Office to pre-register 617-846-1852.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Vice President Belcher at 6:55 pm

2nd by Councilor DeMarco

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4-15-25

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE HAS HAD TWO MEETINGS TO REVIEW TOWN CHARTER

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO WORK ON JUST THE CHARTER TO PREPARE FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION IF QUESTIONS ARE TO BE ADDED FOR OUR RESIDENTS TO DECIDE UPON WITH A VOTE.

THE TOWN ORDINANCES WILL BE REVIEWED FOLLOWING OUR NOVEMBER ELECTION

BOARD OF APPEALS SPECIAL MEETING:

386 Revere-Relief granted

54 Wilshire-Motion to Continue -Approved to 5/15/25

67 Woodside- Motion to Continue -Approved to 5/15/25

63-69 Putnam-Relief granted

25 Pleasant St.-Motion to Continue -Approved to 5/15/25

PLANNING BOARD

50 Somerset Ave.-Motion to Continue-Approved-TBD

181 Winthrop St.-Motion to Continue-Approved-TBD