

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2026

President Letterie calls the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the Harvey Hearing Room

ROLL CALL

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie
Zoom: Councilor Finn

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-Councilor Romano

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Joseph Clark, Mary Alice Sharkey and Sandra Hurley

MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Dimes to Approve the Minutes of June 30, 2026, as circulated.
2nd by Councilor Romano
Discussion-Correction on a spelling of a public comment resident

ROLL CALL

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie
Zoom: Councilor Finn,
Motion Passes

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN

Town Council Appropriate \$1,666,000 Cost of Sewer Main Rehabilitation on Winthrop St. & Others Identified
Discussion

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Motion by Councilor Romano to suspend Town Council Rules and take this motion out of order.

2nd by Councilor Dimes

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie
Zoom: Councilor Finn,

Motion Passes

Motion by the Finance Committee with a Positive Recommendation that Town Council Appropriate \$1,666,000 Cost of Sewer Main Rehabilitation on Winthrop St. & Others Identified....

No 2nd Needed

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie
Abstain: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Finn

Motion Passes

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Town Council Appropriate \$1,500,000 Cost of Water Main Replacement at Winthrop St.
Discussion

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Motion by Councilor Romano to suspend Town Council Rules and take this motion out of order.

2nd by Councilor Dimes

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Zoom: Councilor Finn,

Motion Passes

Motion by Councilor Romano to waive the reading.

2nd by Councilor Dimes

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Abstain: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Finn

Motion Passes

Motion by the Finance Committee with a Positive Recommendation that the Town Council Appropriate \$1,500,000 Cost of Water Main Replacement at Winthrop St.....

No 2nd Needed

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Abstain: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Finn

Motion Passes

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Electric Bike and Motorized Scooters Ordinance

Discussion

Councilor Millar reports this was a recommendation from the Charter Review Committee which was referred to Rules & Ordinance who had been in discussion with the WPD in determining particulars in this ordinance.

Surface Trails, Parkland and Sidewalk protection and are in conjunction with MGL. Safety Risks are being considered.

It does not prohibit any ADA Compliant being issued.

Public Comment

Mark Sennot P2-Remarks that the State House is currently reviewing a MGL to this effect and if the new laws may affect our vote?

Motion by Councilor Romano to suspend Town Council Rules and take this motion out of order.

2nd by Councilor Dimes

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Zoom: Councilor Finn

Motion Passes

Motion by Councilor Romano to suspend Town Council Rules and take this motion out of order

2nd by Councilor Dimes

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Zoom: Councilor Finn,

Motion Passes

Motion by the Rules & Ordinance with a positive recommendation that the Town Council adopt the following policy (See Ordinance in Full)

Discussion

Councilor Romano discusses the fees as set by this ordinance and who will set them, who will be responsible for signage and when and what the effective date would be?

The fees would eventually be set and not sure when the signs could be ordered?

DPW Director states signs depend on locations, needs idea for exact language, how many...

Council President believe Oct. 1st could be an effective date.

Parks & Rec will decide where signs will be posted.

Considering time frames and also the state does have guidance on fees.

Signs would be considered included in the sign ordinances.

Motion by Councilor Romano to amend motion to include the effective date of September 1, 2026.

2nd by Councilor Tassinari

Discussion

Councilor Tassinari thinks this date may be too early if we still have to decide on language for signs....

Councilor Finn asks if this includes Ingleside Park?

Yes, it does include all parks.

Councilor Dimes is concerned about the 9-1-126 deadline; feels it is too soon prior to signs.

Council President agrees with the effective date of 9-1-16.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDMENT

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Zoom: Councilor Finn

Motion Passes

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Zoom: Councilor Finn

Motion Passes

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Taxi Fares

Motion by Councilor Romano to continue public hearing.

2nd by Councilor Dimes

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Zoom: Councilor Finn

Motion Passes

PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marci Hamilton P2-Thanks for the presentation of the flooding for Tileston and Girdlestone and wants to remind the Town Council of their promise and Climate Change is real.... would like our town's infrastructure to move forward due to this climate change. Please reinstate the Climate Commission

Mark Sennot P2-Noticed a water line on the construction on the new Fire House, who is paying for this water? Why is it not on their own meter? Has complaint about the sidewalks and the trees that are causing problems with their roots, he believes there will be several lawsuits, these have to be addressed.
Discusses the Rules & Ordinance Meeting and recording of a meeting.

Celeste Hewitt P1-Do we have a mechanism that people can report these sidewalk problems? Yet. See Clix Fix is available for use by the residents.

Jack Dowd P1-Reflects that Pennyworth's is having a clearance sale. Discusses Ingleside Park and open space. Money received from the state years ago was to build passive parkland. It is anything but that now. What about all the activity at the park, you can not only get hurt by a motorized bike, but you can also get hit by a ball. Continues to discuss open space and by building the Fire House on parkland something should be done with this open space.

Ask if the Fire House is on schedule and on budget.

Erin Barcello P5-Discusses she was present at the Rules & Ordinance meeting that is being discussed as for a recording prior to the beginning of the meeting. Prior to the meeting beginning she was conversing with another member of the audience, Councilor Millar and Councilor Dimes were setting up the meeting and she was in a private conversation. Someone noticed another audience member was recording private conversations. When this was noticed, something was said to this person. The outcome was not good. Asks, where is the maintaining of people engaging in a civic meeting in a safe manner. No one is standing up when someone is out of line. Do not see any Councilors commenting when this happens. Are we just supposed to watch this, what will be done, it is not OK...people must be held responsible for their actions.

Rob DeMarco P4-Comments on the Councilors abstaining from the MWRA Motions, thank you....
He does not like the electric scooters and is completely happy with new ordinance.

Tom Derderian P3-Comments on meeting addressing the problems with the tree roots causing problems. This has been reviewed and it is very complicated. If this was a design from the beginning our sidewalk would ab 8' wide...The Winthrop Foundation has given the town a grant to buy trees and plant. He urges our Town Council to vote to be in compliance with 3A so we will not be deprived of any grants. We are losing funding and it is hurting us.

Karin Chavis P2-The FHBC last meeting was July 7th, and next meeting is on August 10th. The committee is meeting regularly as scheduled.

CORRESPONDENCE

Names reported on who is opposed to a motion on the agenda to delete the Rules & Ordinance Committee
Also comments on issues currently facing town to be reviewed and dealt with

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Councilor Tassinari reports on meetings and reviews of motion that were all voted on with a positive recommendation. The Taxi Fares were continued.

Rules & Ordinance

Councilor Millar reports on the meeting that included the Ordinance of the Scooters and Electric Bikes that was voted on with a positive recommendation. Continuing progress on reviewing the Town Council Rules & Procedures

FHBC

Next meeting Aug. 10th. Project is on budget and on schedule. Suitable material has been placed and compacted strategically.

PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY & WORKS COMMITTEE

Vice President Swope reports that the tree problem with the sidewalks were discussed. It did compare ordinances with other communities as for the approaches of this problem. Costs, replacements...etc... A policy on private trees was discussed. Financial constraints that would be included in these expenses. This is an item that will have to be considered in our future budget.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Council President reports it was a short “summer” meeting. Warrants signed.

UP TO DATE POLICY MAKING COMMITTEES- (See attached)

TOWN MANAGER REPORT- (See Attached)

Council thanks all for everyone’s hard work during our celebration of July 4th and the Tall Ships, great success.

Councilor Romano comments on the trash fee and asks the Town Manager to explain.

Town Manager reports that there has been an increase in trash removal. Our trash invoices will be increasing by \$20.

All information will be sent with the increase.

Comments on the window program.

Town Manager reports 7 houses done this year. Total will be 26 houses. Mass Port will be at the August 4th Meeting.

Vice President Swope has a question about a grant and is wondering if it was received?

Assistant Town Manager will inform us of this grant information.

Council President thanks all for the wonderful holiday celebrations that took place in our town. The Horrible parades is a memory of almost a 100 years back.

OLD BUSINESS

Resident Parking Stickers-Councilor Millar reports this is currently being reviewed.

Town Council Rules & Procedures are currently being reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Council Appropriate \$1,100,000 Water Meter & Valve Replacement Project -Year 3-**Councilor President refers to the Finance Committee**

Town Council Vote to Adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan-**Council President refers to Public Health Safety & Works**

Town Council vote to move Election Polling Locations

Motion by Councilor Romano to discuss this motion as new business.

2nd by Councilor Tassinari

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Zoom: Councilor Finn

Motion Passes

Motion by Town Council vote to relocated polling locations (See Attached Motion)

2nd by Councilor Romano

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Zoom: Councilor Finn

Motion Passes

Town Council requests the Town Manager to seek proposals and funding opportunities for a comprehensive parking study of the Town of Winthrop and to report back to the Council with recommendations for implementation.

Town Manager will review and report back to the Town Council on progress.

Vice President Swope discusses her review of the parking.

Town Council Discuss Town Council Meeting Calendar (Summer/Fall)

Council President discusses summer schedule of Town Council and the election in September.

Motion by Councilor Romano to suspend council rules and re-schedule Town Council Meetings in September from September 1st and 15th, 2026 to September 8th and 22nd, 2026.

2nd by Councilor Dimes

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Millar, Councilor Dimes, Councilor Romano, Councilor Reardon, Vice President Swope, President Letterie

Zoom: Councilor Finn

Motion Passes

Town Council President Requesting a Public Comment Answer Period to Previous Public Comments/Questions

Council President discusses that he would like to be able to answer resident inquires at the next Town Council Meetings

Council President refers to Rules & Ordinance

Town Council discuss Deletion of the Rules & Ordinance Sub Committee

Council President declares Council Privilege to table this motion until the next Town Council Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Sennot P2-He has asked that the Town Council can answer questions, the resident's questions should be answered by whoever is asked...

Jack Dowd P4-Discusses the Rules & Ordinance Meetings seem to be getting more complex. Part of the meeting that was video taped was very controversial, very intimidating, and now when will this end? Comments on the sub committee meetings being shown on YouTube. When will these be on for view?

Celseste Hewitt P1-Wants to hear more information on discussing the Rules & Ordinance Sub Committee, does not want this to involve town losing transparency.

Joe Romano P3-He is a proponent of deleting the Rules & Ordinance Sub Committee and would like to pass out information for review prior to next meeting.

Erin Barcellos P5-Reads email she sent to the Town Council in reference to procedural disputes, ongoing drama during meetings, what is going to happen. How can this be resolved to not happen in our meetings. Economic Development is needed, infrastructure, flooding, tax increases, long term financial plan, climate resilience, grant funding, strategy, involving the public in committees with transparency. How can the residents help? Winthrop Works best when we all work together.

Vice President Swope wanted to mention Robin's Nest and how much her business has meant to this community and wishes her the best of luck in the future.

PUBLIC RELATIONS / UPCOMING EVENTS

8-11-26 5:30 PM—Public Meeting-Girdlestone/Tileston Drainage Project

8-29-26 Deer Island 12-3PM -Accessible Adventures-Commission on Disabilities

ADJOURNMENT

With no Further business for the Town Council, the Town Council President Adjourns Meeting at 8:15 PM

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

