

**TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WINDSOR TOWN HALL
NOVEMBER 20, 2017
Regular Town Council Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trinks called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Jill Jenkins, Councilor Donald Jepsen, Councilor Joseph McAuliffe, Councilor Richard O'Reilly, Councilor Michael Tustin, and Councilor Kenneth Wilkos.

Absent: Deputy Mayor Jody Terranova

2) PRAYER

Councilor Wilkos led the group in prayer.

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Wilkos led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS - None

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

George Slate, 27 Ethan Drive, commented that he thought that emails directed to the council members through the generic councilor email address should be part of public record.

Mr. Slate believes the *Town Charter* presumes a budget is passed each year and there are four chances to pass an FY18 budget. He stands by a comment he made last year at this time that the Council should consider a *Town Charter* Revision Committee to do a study to see if changes are needed.

The Capital Improvement Plan's requirement for a fund balance of 20% balance plus \$350,000 does not apply to the total \$166 million proposed but only to \$9 million. Language needs to be clearer for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

6) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSION

a) Public Building Commission – None

7) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Leaf Collection

As a reminder, Windsor's leaf collection program is ongoing until December 15th. During this time, your leaves will be picked up on the same day as your trash day. All leaves should be placed in 30-40 gallon paper leaf bags. Leaves can also be placed in a trash barrel of similar size labeled with a "Leaves Only" sticker that can be easily identified by the driver. Residents may also self-haul their leaves to the transfer station at no charge during this period.

Winter Parking Rules Began November 15

A reminder for residents that from November 15th to April 15th of each year, there is no parking on Windsor streets between the hours of 1:00 AM and 6:00 AM. Also, there is no parking on any street during a snow or ice storm that has been in progress for one hour or more. Residents are asked to not leave their vehicle on the street in such a position that it impedes snowplowing operations or the free flow of traffic.

When the snow arrives this year, remember to keep outside exits, walks and stairs free of snow and ice. Don't forget there is a town ordinance that requires all property owners to clear snow from the sidewalk (and fire hydrants if there is one on or adjacent to your property) within 12 hours after a storm.

WIN-CAL

WinCal.org is Windsor's new online calendar where you can find everything there is to do in Windsor - all in one place!

Listings include school events, business happenings and town events and programs such as the holiday carol sing and dinner and movie with Santa. You'll be able to easily find the information you need by searching the calendar by date, age group, or categories such as entertainment, sports, travel or educational.

WinCal.org is a collaborative effort between the Town of Windsor, Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Education.

Town Hall Closed Thursday and Friday

Just as a reminder, town offices will be closed on both Thursday, 11/23, and Friday, 11/24, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

8) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Govoni gave thanks to the Town Manager for all the line striping that has been done in town and especially at the Rainbow Reservoir and the handicap space at that location.

Councilor Jenkins welcomed the new council members and thanked the citizens of Windsor for re-electing her.

Councilor Wilkos – None

Councilor Jepsen welcomed the new members of the council. He also congratulated the Windsor High School (WHS) swim team girls 400 Freestyle relay team. Destiny Johnson, Hailey Klase, Jade Cortman and Caleigh Smith broke the 17 year old record at the State Open last week. Destiny Johnson also set a new WHS 50 Freestyle record.

Mayor Trinks thanked the voters of Windsor and looks forward to working with the new council members.

Councilor McAuliffe thanked the voters of Windsor. He also reminded the audience of the traditional Thanksgiving WHS football game this Wednesday evening vs. Middletown.

Councilor O'Reilly thanked the citizens of Windsor for electing him to the Town Council.

Deputy Mayor Terranova - absent

Councilor Tustin - None

9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Special Projects Committee - None

Health & Safety Committee – None

Town Improvements Committee - None

Finance and Personnel Committee – None

10) ORDINANCES - None

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12) NEW BUSINESS

a) MDC Clean Water Project presentation

Scott Jellison, CEO of MDC; Brian McCarthy, MDC consultant; Rob Constable, MDC Finance Director; and Bill DiBella, Chairman of MDC, presented a power point presentation and discussed the issues facing the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC).

The representatives of MDC provided information and updates on the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Clean Water project, which includes approximately \$2.4 billion in infrastructure improvements to the MDC's wastewater system, formally addresses a

federal consent decree by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) consent order to achieve Federal Clean Water Act goals. This is an unfunded mandate.

MDC outlined their proposal to the state to develop what is being referred to as an "Integrated Plan." They also provided information on the proposed 2018 budget and water rates. There are multiple issues facing MDC, a non-profit agency. Aging infrastructure is a significant issue. Other stressors include population growth (sewer systems), lower water usage by manufacturers and homeowners (water conservation and appliances that are more efficient), increasingly complex water quality issues and other economic challenges.

The Integrated Plan approach offers an opportunity for a municipality to propose to meet multiple CWA requirements by identifying efficiencies from separate wastewater and stormwater programs and sequencing investments so that the highest priority projects come first. It is an option to help municipalities meet the CWA obligations while optimizing their infrastructure investments through the appropriate sequencing of work.

For MDC customers, Integrated Planning would allow consideration of all necessary infrastructure improvements while calculating the affordability and prioritization of these improvements within the USEPA guidelines. Conversely, under the current requirements of the CWA, only the MDC's Clean Water Project work is permitted to be considered in affordability and prioritization calculations. That still leaves all other sewer work not related to the Clean Water Project, and all water infrastructure work as well, potentially adding to the cost of necessary utility infrastructure improvements, costs which are ultimately passed onto the customers and member towns. These costs are simply not affordable for the MDC or its customers.

MDC has asked the CT DEEP to recognize and authorize proceeding with an Integrated Planning approach. To date, the CT DEEP has not done so, even as the EPA has indicated their willingness to consider this approach and its positive impact on a broad range of wastewater, stormwater, drinking water and infrastructure issues with respect to affordability and prioritization while complying with CWA regulations.

This Integrated Plan was detailed in the MDC presentation including expenditures, revenues, debt service and a time line.

b) Discussion of Proposed Fiscal Year FY 2018 Budget

The Town and Board of Education (BOE) are currently operating under the annual budget appropriation or expenditure level for FY17. In July, tax bills were issued utilizing the FY 17 expenditure level in conjunction with the FY18 proposed non-tax revenues and the adjusted October 2016 grand list. The mill rate was 32.45 mills for real estate and personal property. The mill rate of 32.00 was used for motor vehicles per the state motor vehicle mill rate cap.

A 32.45 mill rate was required as State Aid was projected to decline by \$1,044,860 compared to FY17 as well as a decrease in the taxable grand list.

It is projected that the town could receive \$166,910 more in State Aid than was estimated in the Council's May 15th proposed budget. This figure does not include Governor Malloy's "holdbacks" announced on Friday equaling approximately \$40,000.

The FY17 approved appropriation is \$1,054,090 less than the proposed FY18 expenditure level.

If the Council wishes not to issue a supplemental tax bill and the projected additional State Aid funds are incorporated as revenues, the FY18 proposed expenditures would need to be reduced by \$887,180 to achieve a balanced budget. The reduction would result in the FY18 appropriation being a 0.15% increase year over year. The decision would need to be made as to what portions of the budget will be adjusted and by how much.

The May 15th proposed appropriation was \$1,054,090 greater than the FY17 level with 22% related to the non-school portion of the budget and 78% related to the BOE budget. In response to a question, Town Manager Souza explained that it is not clear where the "holdback" is from. If it is from the BOE Alliance funds, there would be no impact on the mill rate.

Town Manager Souza also explained that the *Town Charter* is interpreted to mean that if we were to appropriate anything greater than the same amount appropriated for FY17, there would be a need for the budget to be put back out to referendum. There is some question, if the Council were to roll back the FY18 expenditure level to FY17, how to interpret the *Town Charter* as to whether or not a referendum would need to be held.

Councilor Jepsen thinks a referendum should be held with the .015% increase and the Council should look at other items being this far into the year. He is also against sending out a supplemental tax bill.

Councilor Jenkins suggested that the Finance Committee look to see if we can live within the framework that was agreed upon, using the numbers from the state.

The Council asked that the Town Attorney be asked to clarify the town's position under state law and the *Town Charter* as to whether the town needs to have a referendum and the ramifications on next year's budget.

13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Jenkins to accept the resignation of Tim O'Shea from the Hartford Area Cable Television Advisory Council.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Deputy Mayor Terranova absent)

14) MINUTES OF PRECEEDING MEETINGS

- a) Minutes of the November 6, 2017 Regular Town Council meeting

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen and seconded by Councilor Jenkins to approve the unapproved minutes of the November 6, 2017 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Deputy Mayor Terranova absent)

- b) Minutes of the November 13, 2017 Special Town Council meeting

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Jenkins to approve the unapproved minutes of the November 13, 2017 Special Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Deputy Mayor Terranova absent)

15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

George Slate, 27 Ethan Drive explained that we know when the clean water charge will end, in 2057, but we do not know when Other Post Employment Benefits will end (OPEB). The sooner it is addressed by the town, the more flexibility there will be later on. The US Post Office is in better shape since it addressed this issue 15 years ago. When will town funding for OPEB end? He believes it is intergenerational inequality and abusive to require future generations to pay for services rendered years or decades earlier.

MDC is not the only utility that responds 24 hours a day. Electric and gas utilities also respond to emergencies at all hours.

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor O'Reilly, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Deputy Mayor Terranova absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Hartmann
Recorder