

MINUTES
Special Town Meeting
February 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. and asked for nominations for a Moderator. The Clerk recognized Ronald Eleveld, who made a motion to nominate Everett B. Dowe, III, as Moderator - seconded by Joe McAuliffe. Hearing no other nominations, the Town Clerk declared nominations closed. The motion in favor of Everett B. Dowe, III, as Moderator passed unanimously.

Moderator Dowe appointed the Town Clerk, Anna M. Posniak, as Secretary to take the minutes of the meeting and Attorney Kevin Deneen as Parliamentarian. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting and stated that said call had been posted on the signpost on February 10, 2022 and published in the Journal Inquirer, a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the Town, in its issue of February 10, 2022.

The Moderator stated that any person who is an elector of the Town of Windsor or a United States citizen of the age of 18 years or more who jointly or severally is liable to the town for taxes assessed against him/her based on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the last completed grand list of the town, or would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person or as a veteran or as a veteran's surviving spouse or parent, is entitled to vote at this meeting.

The Moderator proposed the following rules be adopted to govern tonight's meeting.

1. Any designated member of town staff will be allowed to address the assembly for a period of no longer than 5 minutes each.
2. Only eligible voters may speak.
3. Others who are not eligible voters may be invited to respond to questions.
4. Each speaker on any motion or question shall be limited to three (3) minutes.
5. No one shall be recognized for a second opportunity to speak on any motion until all others who desire to speak on that question shall have been recognized, and no one shall be recognized for a third opportunity to speak.
6. There shall be no voting or speaking by proxy.
7. Voting on any motion will be by voice vote - if there is any doubt about a vote, there will be a standing vote.
8. No motion to adjourn shall be recognized before 15 minutes of debate has expired or until debate has been completed, as decided by unanimous consent.
9. To the extent they are not inconsistent with the foregoing rules, Town Charter and State statutes, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of this meeting.

Ronald Eleveld moved to adopt the rules as read by the Moderator, seconded by Joe McAuliffe. The motion in favor of adopting the rules as read by the Moderator passed unanimously.

Moderator Dowe recognized Jody Terranova for the purpose of introducing and moving an ordinance for an appropriation to fund costs in connection with Milo Peck Child Development and Montessori School HVAC improvements project.

Jody Terranova made a resolution to accept **“AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,790,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MILO PECK CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MONTESSORI SCHOOL HVAC IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$2,790,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION”**

Ron Eleveld seconded the motion.

Moderator Dowe asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor or against the motion.

Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager, provided background information regarding the project. Mr. Colby stated the current HVAC system, at 50 years old, had reached its average life expectancy. The building's sole source of air conditioning is from individual window air conditioning units. The scope of the project also included the abatement of hazardous material. The contractor did investigate the possibility of installing a geothermal HVAC system. The contractor's report indicated that 30 wells were needed for the geothermal system. The field in the rear of the building was identified as the only viable location for the wells. The use of the back field would increase project costs and potentially impact the efficiency of the system due to distance the pipes would need to travel to building.

Susan Miller, 130 Palisado Avenue, spoke against the motion for the bond ordinance. Ms. Miller stated that natural gas was a fossil fuel composed methane that would add to the greenhouse emissions. Ms. Miller encouraged the meeting to take meaning action by making a choice for clean, sustainable HVAC system for the project.

Patrick Hatcher, 7 Pheasant Run, spoke against the motion for the bond ordinance. Mr. Patrick stated that the cost of natural gas HVAC may be less expensive to install, but the operating cost of the system over the years will be far greater. He further stated that there was no urgency with this project and urged the meeting to vote no.

George Slate, 74 Ethan Drive, spoke against the motion for the bond ordinance. Mr. Slate stated that the natural gas HVAC system, while not the only suitable option for the project, was not his primary concern. His expressed concern related to further subsidizing a failing enterprise fund.

Beth Caruso, 147 Pleasant Street spoke against the bond ordinance. Ms. Caruso stated that the initial costs may be greater for the geothermal HVAC system, but the town will benefit from future cost savings on energy. She added that the Milo Peck Center is for children and we need to protect their future.

Charles Button, 147 Pleasant Street, spoke against the bond ordinance. Professor Button provided his credentials as a professor of Climatology and provided facts relating to natural gas and methane gas in the atmosphere. Prof. Button stated the life expectancy cycle of the natural gas system is 30 years, although, the town may save money up front, the town will receive a far greater return on investment in the long run with geothermal HVAC system.

When no additional speakers stepped forward to speak to the pending motion, the Moderator declared the debate close.

After first calling a voice vote the Moderator was in doubt of the vote, and consequently, called for a standing vote. The Moderator declared, by visual confirmation, the motion failed.

At 7:19 p.m. Ron Eleveld moved to adjourn the Special Town Meeting, seconded by Joe McAuliffe. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna M. Posniak
Town Clerk