



MAYOR MICHAEL O'BRIEN
Mayor@winooski.com
DEPUTY MICHAEL MAHONEY

27 WEST ALLEN STREET
WINOOSKI, VERMONT 05404

(802) 655-6428
(802) 655-6414 (fax)

CITY OF WINOOSKI

CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILOR ERIK HEIKEL
COUNCILOR JODI HARRINGTON
COUNCILOR SALLY TIPSON

AGENDA

Monday, January 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
Claire Burke Chamber

- I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. Important Announcements and Good News**
- III. Public Comment Period – Non agenda items (3 minute limit please)**
- IV. Consent Agenda:**
Minutes of January 11, 2010 Motion
- V. Action Agenda**
 - a. Appointment of Building Inspector and Deputy Building Inspectors: Dave Bergeron – Building Inspector I move to appoint
Erika Bailey – Deputy Building Inspector
Jim Trzepacz – Deputy Building Inspector
Steve McQueen- Deputy Building Inspector
 - b. Certificate of Highway Mileage – Steve Palmer
- VI. Discussion Agenda:**
 - a. Route 15 Project – Steve Palmer Discussion
 - b. Organizational Chart – City Manager
 - c. Building Permit Flow Chart – Steve McQueen
 - d. Budge Update – City Manager
- VII. City Manager Update**
- VIII. Executive Session**
If Posted

IX. Adjourn

MINUTES:

Meeting called to order by the Mayor at 6:05 p.m.

Members Present:

Mayor Michael O'Brien

Council Members: Michael Mahoney, Erik Heikel, Jodi Harrington, Sally Tipson.

Officers Present:

Katherine Decarreau, City Manager; Carol J. Barrett, City Clerk; Steven Palmer, City Engineer; Stephen McQueen, Police Chief; James Trzepakz, City Assessor.

Other Present:

James Read, Erica Gadbois, Tammy Cusson-Ducharme, Liz Dallas, Cathy Resmer, Marc Bouffard, Colin and Sarah Robinson, Petie Shea-Gamache, Anne Linton Elston, Nan Spence, Maralee Sanders, Winooski Coalition for a Safe & Peaceful Comm., Eileen Andreoli, Kim Hier, Alana Shaw, Bridget Ahrens, Jean Szilva, Liz Kilcoyne, Penny Miller, Elise Chasse, Lea Belair, David Bowers, Clement Bissonnette, Michael Decarreau, David & Marie Trainque, James & Margaret Ticehurst, Janet Farrell, Cathy Resmer.

I. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Important Announcements and Good News

The City Manager said we had a retirement party for Pauline Schmoll last Thursday night. Family, friends and former co-workers, Leo Clark and Peter Clavelle.

The City Manager said the City of Winooski received a Freedom Salute Commendation for Michael Cram who is serving in Afghanistan. This is an appreciation for the employer.

Mayor O'Brien said you can go online to see the study of the MPO western corridor. He also said the MPO plan is being developed.

III. Public Comment

Liz Dallas is a tenant in the Champlain Mill. She is working and willing to come up with a new parking solution. Lisa Kilcoyne, also a tenant in the Champlain Mill. We are also willing to work with you to be business friendly. The City Manager said we are collecting information and are willing to work together on a plan.

Cathy Resmer, of Seven Days said that they are tweeting live at tonight's meeting.

Anne Elston said given the recent layoffs and given the current budget crisis she supports the City Manager for her decision. Eileen Andreoli also supported the City Manager for the hard choice she had to make.

IV. Consent Agenda

MINUTES:

MOTION by Councilor Harrington seconded by Councilor Tipson to approve the consent agenda "minutes of 1/11/2010" as presented. Voted and passed 4-0.

V. Action Agenda

The City Manager briefed the Council on the reorganization of positions. The following appointments of the Building Inspector and Deputy Building Inspectors:

David Bergeron – Building Inspector

Erika Bailey- Deputy Building Inspector

Jim Trzepacz- Deputy Building Inspector

Steve McQueen- Deputy Building Inspector

MOTION by Councilor Harrington seconded by Councilor Mahoney to approve the following appointments as presented. Voted and presented 4-0.

Certificate of Highway Mileage.

MOTION by Councilor Heikel seconded by Councilor Harrington to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage as presented. Voted and passed 4-0. See attached marked V.

VI. Discussion Agenda

Mr. Palmer briefed the Council on the Rt 15 project. He said this is an introduction tonight and there will be a formal meeting on February 1, 2010. See attached marked VI Rt 15 project.

The City Manger handed out a revised Organizational Chart. See attached marked VI Organizational Chart. Mayor O'Brien commended the City Manager on a great job getting organized. Thank you for all your hard work.

Jim Trzepacz and Steven McQueen presented the Winooski Permit Process. We want to create a system that is user friendly. See attached marked VI. Winooski Permit Process.

The Manager updated the Council on the budget. She is proposing a budget for FY011 in the amount of \$5480349. This is assuming using the same tax rate. The City Manager went through each department's expense side of the budget.

Mayor and Council – level funded

Legal – level funded

Finance-Records – Part time treasury person

General Services – Health Insurance Broker fee

Salary Reduction

Planning/Zoning- Salary position was cut

Bldg Regulations- merged into Fire Marshall expense.

Rental Registry – cut back on phones, savings in travel

Fire Protection – benefit savings

Police Dept – moving salaries between full time and part time.

Engineering Services – consulting fee one time savings

Contingency line in City Managers budget allows us to have flexibility

Public Works/Street – save money in health ins. and includes step

Ground Facility- all utility cost is going into General Services. Move will pay off.

The challenge tonight is the following. See current deficit.

Councilor Harrington said we have a very expensive Police Budget. 38% of our budget is the Police Dept. More cuts not tax increase.

Councilor Mahoney said no tax increase. If we were to do a tax increase it would be 1 to 2 cents to be allocated to the deficit. If need be reduction in salary and or increase benefits.

Councilor Tipson said to ask the employees to contribute more to health insurance. Also 1 to 2 cents to be allocated to the deficit. She also said the City Manager and Finance committee have done a wonderful job.

Councilor Heikel said to level fund for a year and carry additional 2 cents. 3% salary cut across the board. If budget doesn't pass we will need to make additional cuts.

Mayor O'Brien said we will look at all the different options that you have pointed out.

The City Manager said the tax base doesn't grow here in this City. No natural growth in revenue. It will take 2 years to get it under control.

Ms. Szilva stated we have the highest municipal tax in Chittenden County. This is really hardship if you raise taxes.

Mr. Ticehurst said we have 65% under poverty level. We need to get back on course and move forward.

Ms. Andreoli suggested putting a for sale sign in the library window.

Ms. Ahren suggested a new idea about having a smart pass and charging 25 cents entering the City.

Mrs. Robinson said we need to communicate this information to the community.

Ms. Szilva stated that we appreciate all of the hard work that the City Manager has done.

The City Manager said she was touched by all of the support.

TAB meeting for parking in the downtown to be held January 28, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The City Manager stated that we are accepting petitions and the deadline for petitions is February 1, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. There are 2 seats for City Council. 1 School board 2 year term and 1 School Board 3 year term.

MOTION by Councilor Tipson seconded by Councilor Heikel to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Voted and passed 4-0.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

