

Agenda

Williamstown City Council

07/05/16

7:30 PM

City Council Chambers

Type of meeting: Regular Meeting

Attendees: Mayor and City Council Members, City Attorney, and City Clerk

Agenda topics

****Swearing in of New Council****

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Call Roll
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Pay Bills
6. Discuss Williamstown Auto

Other Items Which May Be Discussed:

1. Administrative Issues
2. Community Swimming Pool
3. Park Committee
4. Planning Commission
5. Board of Zoning Appeals
6. Tree Committee
7. Water Dept.
8. Sanitary / Storm Water Board
9. Sidewalk Plan

****Please state your name and address when addressing City Council**

WILLIAMSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 5, 2016

The Williamstown City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 7:30pm. Those in attendance were Mayor Jean Ford, Councilpersons Marty Seufer, Jim Stage, Barbara Lewis, and Ron Erb, City Attorney Blaine Myers, and City Clerk/Treasurer Susan Knopp.

Mayor Ford called the meeting to order and Sgt.at Arms Jerry Ruble led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

****Newly elected Mayor Jean Ford and Councilmembers Barbara Lewis and Jim Stage were sworn in by City Clerk Knopp.****

On a motion by Lewis and second by Erb to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, all voted yes.

On a motion by Erb and second by Stage to approve the current bills for payment, all voted yes.

Mayor Ford said Council needed to discuss Williamstown Auto. She said she had been asked by many people what the City was going to do about the 'junkyard' in the middle of town. She said she had spoken with Mr. Knuckles before and he always agrees to clean up the business, but nothing ever gets done.

Atty. Myers stated that since legal action is an option, it was in Council's best interest to go into executive session.

On a motion by Lewis and second by Seufer to go into executive session to discuss this matter, all voted yes.

Council went into executive session at 7:37pm. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:02pm. Mayor Ford said the executive session was closed and no decisions were made.

Councilman Erb stated that it was hard to discuss this without the other party being here.

Scott Starkey, Williamstown Auto Representative, said this has been going on forever. He said the business has the correct licenses, which have recently been renewed. He said the business has a DUC and WDR License, and although we are allowed to sell parts, we do not sell parts. The business is doing nothing wrong.

Councilwoman Lewis asked if it was necessary to have so many cars.

Starkey said they have parts cars in order to fix other cars. He said often it is cheaper to buy a whole car than a part.

Front Street resident Ellen Fraser asked if they could put up a fence.

Starkey said it was not feasible. He said the EPA was sent to the business, but they didn't find anything wrong.

After further discussion, on a motion by Stage and second by Lewis to authorize the City Attorney to take legal action against Williamstown Auto, all voted yes.

Scott Starkey asked what legal action was being taken.

Atty. Myers stated the business was not in conformity with the Williamstown Zoning Ordinances. The City's position is this is not a motor repair shop, it is a junkyard.

Mayor Ford made the following appointments for her new term:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Dept. of Public Safety and Affairs- **Mayor Ford**

Dept. of Accounts and Finance and Park Commission- **Marty Seufer**

Dept. of Waterworks and Planning Commission- **Jim Stage**

Dept. of Sewers- **Ron Erb**

Dept. of Streets and Sidewalks and Tree Commission- **Barbara Lewis**

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

City Clerk & Treasurer- **Susan Knopp**

City Attorney- **Blaine Myers**

City Engineer- **Jim Hildreth**

Chief of Fire Dept. - **J.L. Dean**

Building Commissioner- **David VanHorn**

City Judge- **George Chandler**

Director of Public Works for Water and Sewer- **Alan Gates**

Chief of Police- **Shawn Graham**

On a motion by Seufer and second by Erb to approve these appointments, all voted yes.

Councilman Seufer asked about the procedure for changing the condemnation process.

After some discussion, Atty. Myers said he would draft new procedures for Council to review based on the State Code.

Councilman Seufer said David Garcia, 201 Front Street, has a petition to present to Council.

David Garcia presented a petition signed by Front Street residents. He said he got together with his neighbors on Front Street, and they feel there are trees on the boat ramp that need trimmed or removed. Some of the residents have pledged money to help fund the improvements. He said this would make this a very nice park and allow people to enjoy the festivals more. He said he spoke with Kramer Tree Service, who has looked at the trees and they would be available to do the work this week before the River Roar this weekend.

Ellen Fraser, 209 Front Street, said there are a lot of elderly who have no place to sit currently and this would enhance the park.

Councilman Seufer thanked Garcia for bringing this to Council's attention. He said the money is not the issue, since the City has a healthy park fund. He said he would like to have a landscape

architect look at this park and develop a long range plan. He said he actually has a meeting set up next week with a landscape architect from Scots Landscaping. Seufer said Garcia has some great ideas, but he would like to have a long term solution that would make everyone happy. Seufer said hopefully by the next meeting, he would have a recommendation for Council.

Councilwoman Lewis said she spoke with the DOH about the Sidewalk Grants, and they are preparing paperwork for the additional funds needed and hope to have them ready by the first of next week.

Mayor Ford said we are going to get this done before the 18th, so we don't lose the bids.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Jean Ford Mayor
Susan Knapp