

METHUEN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.  
GREAT HALL, SEARLES BUILDING

Oath of Office administered by City Clerk Christine Touma Conway – Methuen City Council members

Chairman Pro Temp Cronin called the regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with all members present.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano, seconded by Councilor Quinn to accept the agenda as posted. UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Reverend Wilkes from St. Andrews Church gave the Invocation for the evening. Everyone remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Council Chairman

Chairman pro temp Cronin opened nominations for the election of Council Chairman

Councilor Willette nominated Councilor Cronin, seconded by Councilor Giordano.

Councilor Quinn nominated Councilor Lahey, seconded by Councilor Leone.

Chairman pro temp Cronin closed nominations.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 votes for Councilor Lahey and 4 votes Councilor Cronin. Councilor Lahey elected Chairman of the City Council for 2008.

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Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman Lahey opened nominations for the election of the Vice Chairman

Councilor Leone nominated Councilor Quinn, seconded by Councilor Lahey.

Nominations closed.

Councilor Quinn elected Vice Chairman of the City Council for 2008.

Chairman Lahey thanked the Council for the opportunity to be Chairman. He said his goal is to have nine separate Councilors who are working in the best interest of Methuen. He doesn't believe the Chairman should be considered the voice of nine Councilors. He does hope that he will get of all the Councilors help and support and welcomes correction of any mistakes he might make along the way.

Adoption of Council Rules

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano, seconded by Councilor Willette to adopt the Council Rules.

Chairman Lahey passed the gavel. The Council should have received a proposal to change the rules of debate. The reason he is asking to have it added or amended is because he's noticed for many years, based on the Council Rules, whenever the Chairman speaks, he's suppose to pass the gavel and for many years that hasn't been the case. Basically what he is doing is proposing this to legally continue what's been done right along. Currently, it is written that the Chairman of the City Council may call the Vice Chair or other member who he/she may appoint to the Chair who may preside during the meeting; and when out of he Chair may participate in any debate, but shall not resume the Chair while the same question is pending, provided the same is taken previous to adjournment.

Attorney McQuillan said in order to entertain the measure to amend the Rules and Regulations that they first should be adopted, as they exist now. Then when this matter comes up during the course of the agenda, that's when the amendment should take place. The adoption of the rules is the format under which the Council conducts their business and should be adopted formally for the purposes of conducting business. Any amendment should be taken up during the normal course of business.

Chairman Lahey said it is not on the agenda and would be placed on the next meeting agenda.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

MOTION BY: Councilor Zanni, seconded by Councilor Quinn to waive the reading and accept the minutes of December 11, 2007, special meeting.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

CORRESPONDENCE/PROCLAMATION – None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Lahey announced the parameters he would follow regarding Public Participation, noting residents are encouraged to speak on any issues within these guidelines established.

Patricia Uliano, 22 Haymeadow Road, congratulated the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair of the City Council along with the returning and newly elected Councilors. She then read the following prepared statement: “I am here this evening to comment on the actions of the Mayor’s veto to dissolve the Sewer and Water Task Force and prevent the Council from creating a Water Registrar’s position. I am convinced that one is never too old to learn and since I am one of those people who loves to learn about new and exciting things, I respectfully ask how it is possible or allowable that a committee who are Council appointees can be dissolved by the Mayor. Now let me address the quote made by the Mayor in the December 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the Eagle Tribune, the Mayor states I don’t need to continue a committee that has become politicized. Let me ask again who appointed the Sewer and Water Task Force? Unless I was on a different planet and at times I have been, I specifically heard a resolution proposed by this city Council to establish a nine member task force with non other than an EPA attached. Both were passed by the City Council. Now its my turn to supply some information that will not only dispel but challenge the Mayor’s remark about our committee becoming politicized. This committee was made up of a diverse group of people, some of which never met before, some labeled activists, some as outspoken, past City Councilors, a past City Manager, and a couple who have a nasty history of verbal exchanges over the years. And I’m sure you know who those two people are. So far I can’t imagine or see how anyone could call us collectively a political force. The night of our fist meeting as a committee, I believe we all felt a bit apprehensive wondering if we could come together as a group to accomplish what was given to us by the Council Chair as a primary goal and that goal was to select a water and sewer rate that will close a two million dollar deficit in the water and sewer enterprise fund. That letter I have and I have all documentations to back up what I am saying here this evening. If I weren’t there to experience and witness the following chain of events as a member of this task force, I would have not believed we could have accomplished what we did in such a short period of time. Something magical and mystical happened that night. We came together as a committee, intent on not only reaching the goal given to us by the appointing Council but making sure the impact would be minimal to both residents of Methuen and to the City itself. I believe we did that with even a little bit of wiggle room included. Is that when we, the Task Force, became a politicized committee? Or was it when some inside information given to the Task Force by a city councilor suggesting we look at expenditures out of the indirect costs, stipends, and side letters that forced this Council appointed Task Force to include additional recommendations that would ensure more transparency and accountability within the City government. Is that when we became politicized as a committee? Was it the night our Chairman presented all of our recommendations to the Council as directed by said Council and received a call from the Mayor who was absent from the meeting that night on his cell accusing this committee of carpet-bombing him? Is that when the

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Task Force became a political committee or politicized committee? Was it the same night the Mayor called a city councilor twice and blamed that Councilor for Chairman LeBlanc's recommendations and demanded that appointing Councilor remove Mr. LeBlanc as Chair of the Task Force immediately? I want to know when we became politicized. This entire experience comes under the heading of "You learn something every day" and I certainly have. As disappointed and as frustrated as I ended up feeling, as well as the majority of our sewer and water Task members did at the successful completion of our goal, I think there isn't one of us, well maybe, that wouldn't volunteer to do this all over again because we did it for all the residents of Methuen, not just for a few. There is one more remark I will make, you can gavel me out of order, but I have to tell you there is a city councilor that put in an email that we were a lunatic fringe that the Chairman allowed to "wag the dog". I take exception to an appointed Task Force of the citizens that a council member would refer to this group as a lunatic fringe. I have every right to say that. This is defense of this group. City Councilors, I thank you for the opportunity you gave me, all of us on this Task Force, to be part of your decision making process and to the Mayor who isn't here this evening, he once told me that I would never make a good politician because I didn't know how to play the game. No true words were ever spoken and the best compliment I ever received and I need to thank him for that."

Councilor Cronin asked Chairman Lahey to research the minutes when the Task Force was established and whether or not it was set up under an emergency.

Chairman Lahey directed the Council Clerk to check the minutes.

Dorothy Kalil, 8 Oakridge, asked what is going on with the veto. Councilors have not received a copy of that veto. The Mayor previously stated he would veto the recommendation made relative to the transfer of the position of Water Registrar to the accountant's office. The Mayor has the power to do that. She challenged his power to veto a legislative action on an advisory board. According to the Charter, the Mayor can veto practically anything - veto every order, ordinance, resolution, or vote adopted or passed by the City Council relative to the affairs of the city. And these things should be presented to the Mayor for his approval. But an advisory board, appointed by the Council, has absolutely nothing to do with the affairs of the city. They have no authority, no legal standing, and can't take a vote as far as impacting the city. There is a separation between the Executive branch and the Legislative branch. Council appointed a Task Force to advise them. The Mayor cannot dismantle that Task Force.

Jack Burke, 49 Canobieola Road, spoke on TR-07-107 a Resolution Amending the City Council Rules and Regulations of the City Council. (He asked that the Council Rules be posted on the website.) He is opposed to annual elections and the basic premise that the Charter states in Section 2 the composition, eligibility, election and term. It talks about the Council should be elected for two years, beginning on the first secular day in January, which happens to be today and then it goes on in Section 2-2 to talk about organization and it says after the Councilors Elect have been sworn in, the Council shall be called together by the oldest member who shall preside and they shall elect from the members a Chairman and a Vice Chairman to serve at the pleasure of the Town Council. The implication, from his reading of this document would be that the Chairman and Vice

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Chairman are elected for a two-year term because there is an election only once every two years. Council would probably want continuity to keep a Chairman and a Vice Chairman for the full length of their legislature. It should remain as the Charter describes it, regardless of how people may have seen it in the past. The second issue has to do with the Chairman and his ability to debate. The proposed change is that the Chairman doesn't have to pass the gavel. The Council rules state that Council is using Roberts Rules of Order. Under Article 10, Officers and Minutes, Section 58 in Roberts Rules and it says that the Chairman sometimes calls a member to the Chair and takes part in the debate. There are two ways that a Chairman can debate in Council. The first one is that the Chair can call a member and then take part in a debate. This should rarely be done and nothing can justify it in cases where much feeling is shown and there is a liability to difficulty in preserving order. If the Chairman has even the appearance of being a partisan, he loses much of his ability to control those who are on the opposite side of the question. There is nothing to justify the unfortunate habits some Chairman have of constantly speaking on questions before the assembly, even interrupting a member who has the floor. One who expects to take an active part in debate should never accept the Chair or at least should not resume the Chair after having made his speech until after the pending question is disposed of. The presiding officer of a large assembly should never be chosen for any reason except his ability to preside. That is a direct quote from Roberts Rules. Its pretty clear that a Chairman can debate on the floor, but once he gives up the gavel he cannot receive the gavel back until the issue before the Council is resolved. It's his opinion that if Council follows Roberts Rules, which are in the Council rules, then it would avoid having to make these changes.

Councilor Giordano asked the Solicitor if City Council should receive a copy of the Mayoral vetoes.

Attorney McQuillan responded yes, and said, under the Charter, the Mayor has to designate in writing his objections to the measure within ten days of the measure being presented to him for his signature. The measures were submitted to him on Friday. He has ten days from Friday to submit back to Council, either the measures unsigned which means he exercises his veto and reasons for that veto.

Councilor Giordano asked if the Council has the power to override the veto.

Attorney McQuillan said Council has a right to override the veto by a 2/3 vote.

Chairman Lahey asked if there is a time limit imposed on the Council.

Attorney McQuillan said there is no time lime specified in the Charter.

Chairman Lahey said Council could bring it up for the next Council meeting once Council receives a veto.

Attorney McQuillan agreed.

Councilor Cronin said he thought he received a legal opinion on this, that if it is an emergency measure, it cannot be vetoed. "Is that correct?"

Attorney McQuillan responded, if it satisfies the definition of an emergency, yes.

Councilor Cronin said what they are saying here is Council adopted an emergency preamble on that particular measure.

Attorney McQuillan said he would review the documents. He hasn't seen them. It has to satisfy the definition of an emergency under Section 2-9 of the Charter. If it

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doesn't, it's going to be handled as a regular matter, as a matter of course. If in fact the Mayor does not submit, within ten days an unsigned measure without his objections, it is valid and in full force. And if he does not sign and submits his objections to it or the reasons for the veto, then the Council has the right to reconsider under the Charter.

Chairman Lahey said, in any event, by the next meeting this will all be worked out and we'll know whether or not we want to put it on the agenda, if he's vetoed it.

Attorney McQuillan said the time frame says Council will.

Councilor Willette asked if an override entails a first read, a second read, going through that whole process again or is the Council just voting to override that veto?

Attorney McQuillan said he would suggest that the override itself be a one reading measure.

Councilor Giordano asked the Solicitor to check on the emergency item.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Grants: None

Licenses: None

Contracts: None

OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

OLD BUSINESS

TR-07-107 Resolution Amending the Rules and Procedures of the City Council of the City of Methuen (Req. of Clr. Lahey)

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano, seconded by Councilor Pappalardo to adopt.

Chairman Lahey passed the gavel. Basically, the Council Rules do not show the election of Chairman as an annual election. He is firm believer in rotating the Chair on a yearly basis. In the past Council has held elections annually

Councilor Willette asked the Solicitor if what Mr. Burke indicated through the Charter, is correct as he interpreted the process that every two years as the Councilors elect form a body that they at that stage elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

Attorney McQuillan said he agrees with the reading, not with Mr. Burke's interpretation. The Charter provides that Councilors are elected as the representatives of their respective districts in the City for two years. Council determines anything regarding the inner workings or construction of the City Council itself on a local basis. The Charter has nothing to do with the election of officers or anybody that's designated by this council to administer or assist in the transaction of business. The charter says that their respective citizens and constituents elect Councilors for two years. It has no ramifications and or application to the inner workings of this council for the purposes of selecting its own officers under its own discretion. Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure do apply but only in instances where the rules and procedures adopted by this Council do not. Council has specific provisions in the Rules and Procedures providing for the election of an officer and the conduct of a Chairman. Council already covered that locally by their rule. Again, Council has adopted Roberts Rules for the purposes of addressing those matters, which are not specifically addressed by the rules and procedures. Those matters have been addressed.

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Councilor Willette said, if Council votes on this resolution, Council would not be superseding the Charter itself.

Attorney McQuillan said, in his opinion, Council would not be superseding the Charter.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

The Vice Chair passed the gavel back to the Chairman.

TR-07-108 Resolution Accepting 2006 Citizens Corps Program Competitive Equipment Grant, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

MOTION BY: Councilor Cronin, seconded by Councilor Willette to adopt.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Ordinances: None

Consideration of Appointments: None

NEW BUSINESS

TR-08-1 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Donations to the Methuen Fire Department and Appropriation Thereof (William and Camille Hemsworth and Angeline Pappalardo)

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano, seconded by Councilor Willette to adopt for first read.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

TR-08-2 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

MOTION BY: Councilor Willette, seconded by Councilor Quinn to adopt for first read.

Councilor Quinn read the resolution for the edification of the public.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

TR-08-3 Resolution Providing for the Annual Inspection of Public Buildings and Grounds (Req. of Clr. Pappalardo, Clr. Zanni, and Clr. Quinn)

Councilor Quinn read the resolution.

MOTION BY: Councilor Quinn, seconded by Councilor Zanni to adopt.

Councilor Giordano asked if the Council is overstepping their bounds and if this item is already in place.

Attorney McQuillan said it is a directive of request to the Mayor who under the Charter generally has jurisdiction over buildings and maintenance and conditions. It is a communication from the Council to the Executive, very appropriate.

Councilor Quinn read the resolution for the edification of the public.

Councilor Pappalardo said this is something that has touched her heart very deeply, as well as the hearts of this community. It is the tragedy that occurred this past Labor Day at the Tenney Grammar School yard. After this horrific accident that took place she made a promise during her campaign that if she won the election she would try and bring forth some type of legislation to try and prevent something like this from happening again. It's a step in the right direction. One of her campaign bullet points was

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accountability, which she feels we've lost sight of. This legislation will bring back some accountability. All of us have to be accountable for our actions to the citizens of this community. She welcomed Councilor Zanni and Councilor Quinn for signing onto this piece of legislation and knows that the Mayor will diligently implement this piece of legislation, this resolution to take place on a yearly basis starting this year on or before May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor and the City Council will receive a full written report of the findings and we can review it and can address any safety or maintenance issues that come about. She was surprised that the City didn't have in place a policy for any type of inspection of our school buildings or our municipal buildings. Again, it's a step in the right direction to ensure the safety first and foremost of our children, our citizens using these public buildings and the grounds and our employees of these buildings. She asked the Council to adopt this resolution for the safety of our community.

MOTION BY: Councilor Pappalardo, seconded by Councilor Cronin to adopt an EPA for the good and welfare of the community.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Councilor Leone said it is a good idea to pass this. It doesn't go nearly far enough to accomplish what Councilor Pappalardo wants to accomplish. The problem we have in Methuen which is not, we don't have much in common with other, our sister communities here, is that our building ownership is pretty fragmented and the unfortunate incident that Councilor Pappalardo was referring to was a School department issue. It happened on School department property. We need to start taking steps to consolidate the ownership of all these buildings, maintenance, custodial services, fuel, utilities, trash pickup, snow plowing. Right now these things are all suffering from a duplication of effort. We're spending a lot more money that we should be spending, money that we need to educate kids, and money that we need to plow streets. He fully intends to support this and is glad the councilor suggested the emergency preamble. In the not to distant future, he is going to file legislation to at least get the Mayor and the Superintendent of Schools talking about consolidating these things. There are a lot of issues where the School Department and the city act in a pretty autonomous nature without much communication without much sharing of ideas, without much of anything in common and we can save a lot of money if we could start consolidating some of these services. The intent of his future legislation is to put the control of all city buildings under one mast head, with one group of people responsible and accountable for what happens or doesn't happen.

UPON VOTE: (main motion TR-08-3) UNANIMOUS.

TR-08-4 Resolution to Rescind TR-07-57 (Order #4728) Resolution Establishing Fiscal Year 2008 Water Charges as Proposed by the Department of Public Works (Req. of Clr. Cronin)

MOTION BY: Councilor Cronin, seconded by Councilor Giordano to adopt for first read.

Councilor Cronin said of all the items that were brought forward during the recent discussion on the water bills, there was one item everybody agreed on and it was the flat rate was not the way to go. From what he heard from the City Councilors, the flat rate wasn't good. What he heard from the Mayor's office and DPW, they weren't

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recommending the flat rate. They recommended the tiered rate system. The Task Force recommended a tiered system and this why he brought this forward. He doesn't think anyone believes that the flat rate is the proper rate that we should be charging the citizens. He believes that the flat rate has a sunset clause of February. When it was adopted, the flat rate was supposed to be over with by February. That is the way it was adopted. Therefore where everybody seems to agree that the flat rate is not the way, he brought this forward to eliminate it and get it off the books once and for all.

Chairman Lahey asked Mr. Kelly what the implication is of passing this.

Mr. Kelly explained that if this is passed we no longer have a rate in existence.

Councilor Cronin said it would go back to the rate that was in existence before that.

Attorney McQuillan said technically the elimination of the current rate and bringing in a new rate, which is the old rate, Council would simply be adopting a new rate again and have to go through the whole procedure. Even though it is a prior used rate, it will be for the purposes of legislation a new rate and might have to go through public hearing and time frame all over again.

Councilor Cronin said his intent is to do away with the flat rate right now because it is going to be all done in February anyway. It will be too late to send out new bills. Council will be in a process the Solicitor just mentioned establishing another rate in February. His feeling is that it is better to start the process now.

Councilor Quinn asked Mr. Kelly what happens if Council rescinds the rates.

Attorney McQuillan said the community doesn't have any rate.

Mr. Kelly said there's no rate in existence. If Council takes action to rescind the rate, they have to start the entire process over, with a public hearing because there would be no rate in effect, not the old one, nothing. It would be rescinded.

Councilor Quinn do asked the Solicitor if this would be in the best interest of Methuen to do that right now.

Attorney McQuillan indicated that is a decision the Council will have to make.

Councilor Willette said if a rescission vote passed, Council has to go through the whole process. Attorney McQuillan said that's correct. A rescission requires a 2/3 vote.

Councilor Zanni said he agrees with what Councilor Cronin is saying, that everyone is in agreement with the five-tier rate. Everyone wants to do what would be in the best interest of our community. If Council rescinds this rate now, there is no rate on the books at all. Councilor Cronin is correct. February is the date Council established that they would have something in place whether it be tiered rate or whatever. Councilor Zanni said it is important that Council waits, gets some options before they deliberate and come up with an answer.

Chairman Lahey said according to the Council rules, members are allowed to speak a second time, if you are ready to contribute something new and are not allowed to speak a third time.

Councilor Willette said he advocates what the Task Force recommended. The original five-tiered rate that the administration proposed penalized the high end users. Then it was manifested into the three-tiered rate, which penalized the high end user, and again the flat rate penalized the high end user. His basic premise is this, as you are expanding capacity, 10 million gallons up to 15 million gallons, the city should not be penalizing the high end users who in essence will reduce consumption and we'll be back

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to square one. He will advocate for a five-tiered rate, which we always had originally with uniform increases. He will vote to override that veto regarding the Task Force because he believes it is an important to have the Task Force. The only thing that makes some semblance of fairness and sense to him is the Task Force proposal. There should be uniform increases (five tiered system) based on the system we already know.

Councilor Zanni said he agreed with Councilor Willette. Everyone talked about proportion and if you recall it was brought forth through the Auditor that it was a 14% increase and if we only had the 14% increase there would be a deficit of \$351,000. If Council can increase the rate proportionally with the right percentage, across the board, he would agree with that (on a five tiered rate) providing it meets the requirements to close the deficit.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 no, 4 yes (Clr. Cronin, Clr. Giordano, Clr. Pappalardo, Clr. Willette) Item failed

Gerry McCall came to the podium and expressed concern regarding the inspections of buildings and urged Council to recommend close inspection of the science labs looking for chemicals, that might be mislabeled or science sections in disarray. They should really scrutinize the science sections of the schools to look for chemicals that could be hazardous to the children. There is an agency in DEP that will help the community with audits and planning, etc. to address some of these issues in the science labs.

Ordinances:

TO-08-1 Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Methuen –  
386 Merrimack Street

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano, seconded by Councilor Zanni to table to a  
Joint Public Hearing (scheduled for January 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.)

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

ANY OTHER BUSIENSS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE  
COMMUNITY

REQUEST OF COUNCILORS

Councilor Giordano noted that he did not receive his meeting packet. He indicated he would be out of the country for the next Council meeting.

Councilor Zanni said Councilor Kannan did not receive her packet for the last meeting. In trying to track down, no one knew who the officer is. He suggested that when the packets go out, have the officer sign, in case someone needs to track it down.

Chairman Lahey directed the Clerk to have the police officers sign when they pick up meeting packets for delivery

Councilor Quinn thanked the Council for their support and confidence electing her as Vice Chair.

Councilor Quinn reported that many people have contacted her regarding the post office situation. There's no parking, accidents in front, fights breaking out, and the line inside could be an hour long. The Council and administration should address the post

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office and the issue that there isn't enough mail boxes in the community. She also noted residents would like a satellite on the west side.

Councilor Giordano suggested contacting the post office to see if anyone is interested in doing this.

Councilor Pappalardo mentioned that she had a constituent that had a real problem on Elm and Haverhill Street. She thanked the acting chief and the police department for their quick response to that problem. They did a lot of ticketing and patrolling around the Haverhill Street Plaza area and more police presence is in the west end.

Councilor Cronin said over the last few weeks he's had numerous calls from residents complaining about the rubbish trucks and garbage left all over the streets. Today he had to call DPW. DPW responded immediately, great guys on the truck. The problem is it shouldn't be DPW. They are not the ones that are supposed to be going around picking up after these trucks. They should have to do it themselves. This has been going on in his neighborhood and to other constituents for the last three or four weeks. He doesn't know what the problem is. They pick up a bag and half way throw it in the truck. If it doesn't all make it to the truck, the rest of the garbage is on the road and it doesn't get picked up. When the contract is up, it is an automatic "no" vote from him. He's received too many calls complaining about the rubbish pickup.

Councilor Willette suggested inviting the newly elected congresswoman to any meetings regarding the post office and our two United State Senators. We are trying to redevelop the downtown area that would be the catalyst for business development, for residents if we want to increase the level of housing in that area. The current facility is so out of date and there is a need to involve federal action and hold them accountable. He suggested sending letters and making phone calls. Council is going to have another rezoning issue before them, he hopes that Council receives the same packet of information as the Community Development Board receives. If not, he'll have an automatic "no" on that rezoning issue. During the last session he proposed legislation requesting all of the information regarding the intended purpose of the rezoning.

Chairman Lahey thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the Council Chairman.

ADJOURN

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano, seconded by Councilor Quinn to adjourn.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

I do hereby certify that at a meeting of which a quorum was present, the foregoing minutes were approved by the Methuen City Council by a unanimous vote on January 22, 2008.

COUNCIL CLERK