

**METHUEN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
GREAT HALL, SEARLES BUILDING
October 6, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.**

Chairman Lahey called the Regular meeting of the Methuen City Council, scheduled for October 6, 2008 to order at 7:00 pm. Councilor Cronin was absent.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: Councilor Quinn to amend the agenda and take out of order TO-08-08 and place it next under contracts, seconded by Councilor Zanni.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION BY: Councilor Zanni seconded by Councilor Leone to accept the amended agenda.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. Joseph Wilkes of St. Andrew Church gave the Invocation. Everyone remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

MOTION BY: Councilor Zanni seconded by Councilor Quinn to waive the reading and accept the minutes of previous meetings: September 15,2008

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

CORRESPONDENCE/PROCLAMATIONS None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION None

PUBLIC SERVICE

GRANTS: None

LICENSES:

Special Excavation – 254 Pelham Street (sewer)

MOTION BY: Councilor Zanni seconded by Councilor Quinn to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

CONTRACTS

C-09-08 Progressive Roofing Inc. Haverhill MA – for Methuen Water Shop Garage Roof Replacement. Amount \$144,800.00

MOTION BY: Councilor Pappalardo seconded by Councilor Zanni to approve.

Councilor Giordano asked if this was the only bid.

Mayor Manzi stated this was the only bid.

Councilor Pappalardo said that she did drive by the site and it is a safety hazard and in desperate need of repair. It's a certain section and is guarantee for ten years. There was only one bid but she would like to see more Methuen people bid on these jobs.

Councilor Leone asked where the money was coming from?

City Auditor Thomas Kelly said it would come from the \$200,000 enterprise fund (for roof repair). (Water Shop Capital Project Account).

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

(Out of order) (Councilor Giordano left the room)

TO-08-08 Ordinance Amending the Wage and Salary Classification Plan AFSCME Schedule.

MOTION BY: Councilor Leone seconded by Councilor Kannan to approve

Councilor Willette stated that this position is complex and he would like to see as part of the required background that the applicants have a college bachelor degree. The threshold should be set higher and this job should require more than a high school diploma given the salary that is being proposed.

Mayor Manzi stated that the language of the contract was worked out with AFSCME.

Councilor Pappalardo stated she would not vote for this reclassification. There are people at the senior center that work very hard and should be reclassified but have not.

Given the hard economic crunch we are in she will not vote this. This is a sizeable increase (\$11,000). Her decision has nothing to do with the people involved and it is not personal. Councilor Pappalardo will not support this.

Councilor Kannan asked if the added positions (health and sanitary inspectors) are equal?

Mayor Manzi stated they are interchangeable. If one is out the other can do the job.

Each one can do both jobs. Mayor Manzi stated that the salaries have been budgeted.

Councilor Leone suggested that the language in the ordinance regarding a college degree requirement be added. It would not apply to these two individuals but would be a requirement in the future.

Mayor Manzi stated that he could work with the union to do that but it would not apply to these two individuals, maybe for the next contract to negotiate with AFSCME.

Councilor Kannan noted that the ordinance does state that the applicant shall have a high school diploma, bachelor's degree preferred. The language is there.

Brian LaGrasse Public Health director stated there is training involve and there are certification training classes with regard to state, local and federal regulations regarding public health, sanitation and environmental codes with all rules, regulations and city ordinances concerning the public and environmental health.

Councilor Willette stated he stands by his position that (given all of those requirements) it should necessitate an advance degree. There should be a higher threshold and given the salary (more than some teachers with a degree) it should require a bachelor degree.

Chairman Lahey stated that he considers background to include fieldwork, hands on experience to be part of the job requirements. This week we (departments heads) were asked to cut budgets by 10 and 5 % across the board for each department. This is a significant pay increase and given the cuts that will have to be made he is voting no on this.

UPON ROLL CALL: **Motion Failed.** 3 yes - 3 no (Clrs. Pappalardo,Quinn, Lahey)
1 present (Clr Willette) (Clr Giordano was out of the room)

ORDER CALLING FOR STATE ELECTION – NOVEMBER 4,2008

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano seconded by Councilor Zanni to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS : None

ORDINANCES

TO-08-06 Ordinance Amending the Methuen Municipal Code, Dog Regulations – Chapter 23 Section 23-28C Advisory Committee (Req of Clr Lahey).

MOTION BY: Councilor Zanni seconded by Councilor Kannan to adopt.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

Disability Commission - Term to expire 7/1/11

Mary Ellen Beshara, 9 Marshall Street Methuen MA

James Beagan 57 Olive Street Methuen MA

MOTION BY: Councilor Kannan seconded by Councilor Leone to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

NEW BUSINESS
RESOLUTIONS

1. TR-08-68 Resolution Amending Traffic Rules and Regulations of the City of Methuen – Medford Avenue

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano seconded by Councilor Willette to table for a public hearing.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2 TR-08-69 Resolution Amending Traffic Rules and Regulations of the City of Methuen – Tenney Street – Limited Parking

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano seconded by Councilor Quinn to table for a public hearing.

UPON VOTE UNANIMOUS

3. TR-08-70 Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds to the Unpaid Bills Account – Workers Compensation

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

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

ORDINANCES

1. TO-08-07 Ordinance Amending Chapter 9 Section 9-92 of the Methuen Municipal code – Prohibiting the Operation of Dirt Bikes.

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

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY

REQUEST OF COUNCIL

ADJOURN

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano seconded by Councilor Zanni to adjourn.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm

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 October 20, 2008.

Diane Lasonde/Council Secretary