

**METHUEN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
GREAT HALL, SEARLES BUILDING**

Chairman Zanni called the regular meeting of the Methuen City Council to order with all members present, with the exception of Councilor Lahey.

Chairman Zanni announced that the Special City Council meeting previously scheduled for this evening, immediately following the regular meeting, has been cancelled based upon the advice of the City Solicitor.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano, seconded by Councilor Corey Rahme to accept the agenda.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Reverend Dan Trepanier gave the Invocation for the evening. Everyone remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, lead by Scout Brendan Sprague.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

MOTION BY: Councilor Cronin, seconded by Councilor Andrew to waive the reading and accept the minutes of March 5, 2007, regular meeting.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

CORRESPONDENCE/PROCLAMATION

Councilor Cronin read a Proclamation honoring the Greater Lawrence Vocational High School Wrestling Team and coaches for their recent Division 2 - State Championship, (first vocational school in the history of Massachusetts ever to win a State Championship) with 25-0 record.

Councilor Cronin read a Proclamation honoring Head Coach Anthony Sarkis for his dedication and efforts and for being designated “Coach of the Year”.

Councilor Cronin, Mayor Manzi, and Chairman Zanni presented the proclamations. Coach Sarkis thanked the City of Methuen for taking the time for recognizing the wrestling team’s effort and hard work.

MOTION BY: Councilor Cronin, seconded by Councilor Leone to proclaim.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Karen Hayden Executive Director of Community Television, spoke in support of TR-07-27 and asked the City Council for their support increasing the membership of the Community Advisory Board for the Cable television in Methuen. Copy of prepared statement attached.

Michael Buote, Captain with the Methuen Fire Department, 24 Lowell Street, spoke regarding the health and welfare of the citizens of Methuen with regard to the emergency services provided in the city by the police and fire department. He spoke of the importance of house numbering, which is required by local ordinance. It is important because seconds in emergencies can make the difference in someone's situation, in their health, well being, and potentially their lives. This problem is worse than it was a few years ago, when he spoke on this issue. The building department, inspectional services, enforces this ordinance by virtue of their Certificate of Occupancy permits that they sign when people build new houses. Unfortunately there are many, many houses, in fact there are many, many streets without numbers, which makes it very difficult for our emergency services to provide the services that we would like to and are required to provide to the citizens of Methuen. The Fire Department follows up on enforcing the requirement for house numbers by virtue of a Certificate of Compliance that they issue in regards to smoke detectors, CO detectors, and house numbering at the closing of the sale of a house. Its become such an issue that the Senior Center has actually sponsored in conjunction with the Essex County Sheriff's Department, the Mayor's office, the local police and fire and the Senior Center a program called "Is your number up?" in order to get the message out to the public that we need to put these numbers up there. The Senior Center has solicited some local businesses that have provided no cost numbers and the Senior Center also has volunteers to put these numbers up. If anyone who needs to put a number up says they can't afford, can't get out and get them; there are people out there who will do it for you. The ultimate goal is to get the numbers on every single house. Something needs to be done because it is very frustrating as an emergency service to respond to a house and be there seconds, sometimes minutes too late, because numbers weren't up. In the past when there were no house numbers, emergency response could use a baseline number and they pretty much have a good idea that the number was close to that house if the number in fact was approximate to that number. Now, he's gone out and sees whole streets without numbers. The Fire Department is in the process of working with Karen Hayden of MCTV to come up with a public service commercial on MCTV called "Is your number up?" To get the message out any way they can. Another public message that they are offering is the "yellow dot". It was mainly meant for the elder and seniors in town, but its also meant for anyone with medical conditions. Its affixed to the rear windshield of a vehicle and this tells them that there is information in the glove compartment as far as medications, medical problems, contact numbers, any special treatment that they require. This is mainly in the case where someone can't communicate, is unconscious and can't speak with them. That's just another thing that the Senior Center offers and is provided at no cost. House numbering is a local ordinance in town but the reason is for the benefit of the citizens, aiding in services provided to the citizens. If anyone has any questions they can contact him and the Senior Center.

Chairman Zanni suggested working with the local newspaper and cable access channel to continually get something out to the public.

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Michael Buote said they plan to definitely get the word out because he is sure that this problem exists in all surrounding communities also. Communities have expressed an interest in the showing the commercial in their town, once it is completed. It may even get on some Boston news stations.

Councilor Willette suggested including a message in our billing statements that are issued on a quarterly basis, perhaps include it as a dual message along with the information regarding the carbon monoxide detectors

Michael Buote said there are printed handouts at the Fire Station of exactly where the carbon monoxide detectors are to be put, where the smoke detectors are to be put and exactly where the numbers are to go on the houses. It is important that the house numbers are placed in accordance with the ordinance because there was a recent incident and the house numbers located under the doors were not visible due to snow blocking it. Also, some people put their house numbers right on the door. During the holidays, people put decorations up, sometimes people waiting for our services keep the door open to keep an eye out for us and we can't see that number because the door is open so there is a reason why they need to be put in specific locations, which is the top or the sides of the door. That's where the department looks for them, not on the garage, not on the mailbox, not on the concrete curbing, but they look right on the house. That's what they specifically tell residents, this is where we're going to look this is where we need you to have them, on top of the door, on the side of the door, preferably if you an outside light, put the light out and it will light up the numbers. They prefer obviously it has to be in contrast to the color of the house and they prefer reflective so at night when they shine their spotlight the number is visible. Common sense will tell you, the best thing you can do to provide the department with information on finding your house as quick as possible is the best for your own welfare.

Councilor Willette said this sounds like a great project for the scouts to work with the fire department is to help seniors and others install the numbering system during the summer.

Michael Buote said the Senior Center is working with the High School through an "adopt a senior program". They've volunteered to go out and put these numbers up. The problem is getting people to call up to get the house numbers up. He is working with the building department now and they're going to try to formulate a list. Officers and personnel in the fire department are keeping their eye out for houses that do not have them. It's not to punish anybody, but to help them for their own benefit.

Brendan Sprague, 140 Hampshire Road, member Boy Scouts of America, Troop 53 in Methuen; out of the First Baptist Church said he is currently a life scout and working toward becoming an eagle scout. Through scouting he's had many, many great experiences that have greatly impacted him and have honestly changed most of his life. With the help of Councilor Corey Rahme, his eagle project came together. He plans to clean up and restore the cemetery at St. Anthony's, noting the veteran memorial plaques are beginning to become overgrown. Part of his project will be to edge them and clean out all around them and on top of them, raise up the sunken ones so that the names are visible. He also plans to clean up the grounds to remove litter and trash and hopes to install trash receptacles in order to encourage people to throw away their trash instead of just leaving it or throwing it over the fence.

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Councilor Corey Rahme acknowledged Mr. Veilleux, Brendan's scout leader, and how important it is for leadership in scouting and our community that we have volunteers such as Mr. Veilleux and people like Brendan Sprague who will become future adult citizens in our community.

Mr. Veilleux said he is helping Brendan finish up his final requirements, the more important merit badges, citizenship in the community, which is part of his being here this evening. Part of it is to come to a City Council meeting and see what it is all about and understand what community involvement is. As the scouts progress through the ranks, they have to do several hours of community service. Listening and observing tonight, helping out with the fire department would be a great thing for some of these kids to participate and really help out with the community.

Jack Burke, 49 Canobieola Road, spoke against TR-07-22, Resolution Authorizing the Transfer by Executive Order, from General Government Department Budgetary Accounts and Other Available Funds to Satisfy Budgetary Requirements. He spoke of the separation of powers in the city government and that assumes that the Mayor, who has executive power, is allowed to direct the operation of executive officers and to clarify the law. But its not the Mayor's prerogative to expend funds beyond what Council has already given him statutorily. His concern with granting the Mayor this power is that we're just taking and allowing the Mayor to do whatever he wants moving monies around and he doesn't have to come before Council. By proxy, when a Mayor comes before Council, he also comes before the citizens of Methuen to explain what he is doing with the money, how he's moving it from one account to another, why he's moving it from one account to another. If this is allowed to become an administrative function where the Mayor moves money back and forth and then sends Council a little notice, the citizens of Methuen lose some of the visibility that the Council gives through these meetings, to see what is really happening with the money in the accounts in our city. He opposes this resolution simply because the Council should retain that power.

Mr. Burke also spoke regarding TR-07-27 Resolution Increasing the membership of the Community Advisory Board – CATV- increasing the membership of the Community Advisory Board for Cable Television. He fully supports any activity that encourages citizens in Methuen to become more involved with their government. However, he's been coming to this meeting for a couple of years now and what he hears is we are having problems getting citizens actively involved in our government and so we've done away with term limits. People on the same boards for years and years, almost for generations because we claim we can't get enough people to get involved with our city and what do we do? We want to now increase one of our boards by adding more slots that may or may not be filled. He doesn't necessarily oppose increasing it, he questions how over a period of time we can't get anyone involved; but then we want to increase the number of people on some of our boards.

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PUBLIC SERVICE:

Grants: P.S. Grant #650 Pearl Court – Place one (1) Pole

MOTION BY: Councilor Cronin, seconded by Councilor Corey Rahme to approve. UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Licenses: None

Contracts: C-07-15 George S. Coyne Chemical Co., Inc., 3015 State Road, Corydon, PA 19021-6997 for Corrosion Inhibitor in the amount of \$73,920.00

MOTION BY: Councilor Leone, seconded by Councilor Corey Rahme to award. UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

OTHER CITY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolutions:

TR-07-13 Resolution Amending Traffic Rules and Regulations of the City of Methuen – Lawrence Street at St. Monica’s School (remove from the table)

MOTION BY: Councilor Cronin, seconded by Councilor Andrew to remove from the table. UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

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

Councilor Corey Rahme said it was her understanding that Officer Havey was going to come back to Council with additional information because the prohibiting buses from taking a left onto Lawrence Street in the afternoon would cause a problem with the route.

Councilor Leone said he thought the officer was going to work with St. Monica’s to come up with solution agreeable to everyone.

Chairman Zanni said Officer Havey was to give Council a plan.

Mayor Manzi – point of clarification – He asked if Council requested something beyond the resolution that was asked for, as a suggestion.

Councilor Corey Rahme said she understood that the principal was looking for something in the morning to relieve some of the bottlenecks in front of the Pollard Funeral Home. There is a sign that was placed at the exit onto Lawrence Street that said “Do Not Block the Intersection” which was absolutely ignored, many people were blocking the road, and emergency vehicles were not able to have free flow down Lawrence Street heading toward the hospital. The principal was looking toward a morning prohibition turning left, which would not interfere with the buses. In the afternoon from about 2:00 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. the buses regularly turn left onto Lawrence Street. If this ordinance were to pass without time constraints it would cause a re-routing of the buses. They would be forced to take a right and find their way through the Brown Street and up East Street neighborhoods to go where ever they’re going, including westward.

Mayor Manzi said Sgt. Michael Havey did indicate that he work with St. Monica’s and come back. Under those conditions, he would recommend a tabling until they do come back. As of this moment, they have not forwarded anything to him.

MOTION BY: Councilor Andrew, seconded by Councilor Quinn to table until receipt of additional information. UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

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ORDINANCES: None

Consideration of Appointments:

MOTION BY: Councilor Andrew, seconded by Councilor Leone to approve the following appointments as presented by Mayor Manzi.

<u>Board of Assessors</u> *Arthur Fyfe, 60 Bumpy Lane, Methuen, MA	<u>Term to Expire</u> 03/01/09
<u>Constable</u> * Joseph Giarrusso, 52 Newport St., Methuen, MA	<u>Term to Expire</u> 03/01/09
<u>Commission of Trust Funds</u> Jill Stackelin, 72 Hampshire St., Methuen, MA	<u>Term to Expire</u> 12/31/10
<u>Historic District Commission</u> * Joseph Bella, 77 Ford Street, Unit E, Methuen, MA	<u>Term to Expire</u> 09/17/09

Councilor Giordano asked who is leaving the Commission of Trust Funds.
Mayor Manzi stated Kay DiFiore is stepping down.

Councilor Cronin said he received a couple of calls from people that are interested in serving on one these boards and commissions but were unaware of openings. He asked what kind of effort is put forth to notify residents of openings on boards and commissions prior to making appointments.

Mayor Manzi said both the Board of Assessors and Historic District Commission is a reappointment and he didn't consider it to be a vacancy there. He didn't put an ad out for the Commission of Trust Funds. People express interest primarily through the website and dropping off talent bank applications.

Councilor Cronin asked if there is anyway to make an announcement at some point in time during the year, or at the beginning of the year, that would let people know what boards and commissions we have and see who is interested in serving.

Mayor Manzi said every board and commission and their expiration dates are posted on the website. We are trying to make that as transparent as possible. In the cases where people ask for re-appointment, it is taken on a case-by-case basis. In the case of the trust funds, there was an opening and an interest was expressed through the talent bank process.

Councilor Cronin said he has no problem with the appointment presented. That happened to be the position the individual he spoke with expressed an interest in serving.

Councilor Andrew said once in a while that the City of Lawrence puts an advertisement in the Tribune that the Mayor is looking to fill a position or re-fill a position on a certain board and anyone interested in doing so, please apply to Human Resources. That might be one way of letting people know there is a vacant position.

Chairman Zanni said he's noticed it on MCTV for employment positions and suggested posting boards and commissions in the same fashion.

Mayor Manzi said he would put up information regarding the boards and commissions as well on the website, cable TV, and publicize it as much as we can.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

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NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions:

TR-07-21 Resolution Providing that All City Positions in Labor Service shall be subject to Civil Service Law (Req. of Clr. Giordano)

MOTION BY: Councilor Cronin, seconded by Councilor Andrew to adopt for first read and set a Workshop. UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

TR-07-22 Resolution Authorizing Transfer by Executive Order from General Government Department Budgetary Accounts and Other Available Funds to Satisfy Budgetary Requirements.

Mayor Manzi said this item is an item that administrations have asked for and received from the City Council for the past fifteen/twenty years. It allows and gives the auditor the tool to be able to make transfers as outlined in the resolution. As a city Councilor, he sponsored the addendum to it, he wrote – that is that the Mayor would have to give the City Council a report by noon every Friday of every transfer made. It's simply an effort to make the bookkeeping process a little easier for the auditor. Its fully transparent in that every single transfer would be sent down. The authority would be revoked if that report were not forthcoming by noontime on a Friday. Council has the ability to ask about any transfer.

Councilor Quinn asked if Council receives all the information on all the transactions.

Mayor Manzi responded yes and noted that this request the year is actually later than last year's request. It's an attempt to facilitate bookkeeping, as the fiscal year gets closer to an end. As that happens Council would receive each and every transfer, some small and there will be a few transfers that are substantive.

Councilor Andrew asked if this is basically the same request that had a cap on it for the previous two Mayors. When Mayor DiZoglio was in there was a transfer of funds to purchase a hutch.

Mayor Manzi responded, no, that was contractual authority, not omnibus authority.

Councilor Cronin said he could remember this happening all the time but it usually doesn't happen until June to balance the accounts for the new fiscal year.

Mayor Manzi said that is exactly what its for. The Auditor relayed to him that last year the City Council approved it earlier. He said he is guided in terms of when the Auditor recommends it to him; he brings it forward to Council.

Councilor Cronin asked if some accounts are already overspent.

Thomas Kelly, City Auditor, said the Snow and Ice account are. There is money set aside in the Reserve Fund for that on the overtime Snow and Ice. The danger in that is he can't let the appropriation go negative. The reason it is before Council now is because there are cost of livings being negotiated right now. If they do settle their contracts, each line will start to go in the red and that's all he really uses it for. Last year, he only put up three big transfers toward the end of the year. He put it up now because it has to go first read, second read, and then thirty days, which brings us into May.

Chairman Zanni asked for an explanation of the weekly report.

Mayor Manzi said the report would consists of each and every transfer that would occur, no matter how large or how small, transmitted to the City Council office weekly.

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MOTION BY: Councilor Corey Rahme, seconded by Councilor Leone to adopt TR-07-27 for first read.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

TR-07-23 Resolution Authorizing Expenditure from the Edwin J. Castle Fund

MOTION BY: Councilor Willette, seconded by Councilor Andrew to adopt for first read. (\$2900) UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

TR-07-24 Resolution Accepting Strawberry Lane

MOTION BY: Councilor Corey Rahme, seconded by Councilor Leone to adopt for first read. UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

TR-07-25 Resolution Requiring the Review and Re-Codification of the Methuen Municipal Code (Req. of Clr. Leone, Clr. Corey Rahme)

Councilor Leone said the Charter requires the Municipal Code be reviewed every five years and he believes it hasn't been done for seven years. His resolutions asks that the Chairman appoint a sub-committee or multiple sub-committees to review the Municipal Code in its entirety except for the two Chapters that are referenced in the following resolution.

Chairman Zanni suggested changing the membership to four members, not five.

Councilor Leone also suggested two sub-committees and takes the code and split it in half to reduce the workload somewhat. Four members could work on one half of the code and four members for the other half. It's a mammoth job and everyone should participate to some degree.

Councilor Corey Rahme recalled a conversation she had with Councilor Leone when he first took office regarding sump pumps and legislation. Existing language had to do with reading about pieces of oysters' shells and lobster shells falling from the old trucks and things like that. Some of the ordinances that are in existence actually don't reflect the lifestyles of the people that currently live in the city and that is an extreme example.

Councilor Leone said he would like to form two sub-committees and divide the workload.

Councilor Giordano asked if the City Solicitor would be part of the review committee.

Councilor Leone said the sub-committees should interface with the Solicitor so they don't make recommendations that are counter to our constitutional convention.

Councilor Giordano asked if there would be a public hearing after the committee makes a recommendation to the full Council.

Chairman Zanni said there would have to be if you are changing an ordinance. He would think the Solicitor would sit in from a legal perspective.

Attorney McQuillan noted that a provision of the Charter states that it shall be prepared under his supervision.

Mayor Manzi said he was involved with the last review and it was prepared under the supervision of the then Solicitor. It took a few months.

Councilor Leone said the Municipal Code has grown in size over the years. Maybe we can make a lot smaller, simpler, and easier to comply.

Chairman Zanni said he was asked if the Council was looking at other communities. His response was "no", we are just looking at our own, streamlining our

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own. He asked Councilors interested in serving on these committees to let him know after the meeting.

MOTION BY: Councilor Andrew, seconded by Councilor Corey Rahme to amend to have four members and adopt TR-07-25 for first read.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

TR-07-26 Resolution requesting the review, re-codification or re-enactment of certain sections of the Methuen Municipal Code (Req. of Clr. Leone, Clr. Quinn)

Councilor Quinn said that she, Councilor Leone, Councilor Corey Rahme met with the Mayor and some of the members of the Historic District Commission to straighten out some matters that happened before. They were all in favor of preserving historic value but also we want to protect the rights of the homeowners in Methuen. The general consensus was that we need a sub-committee to go over all the things that are pertaining to historical commissions, historical preservation, encompass them in one so we can preserve and protect. That is their ultimate goal.

Councilor Leone said TR-07-25 excludes Chapter 24 and 25 because they're going to be handled separately in this resolution. He suggested because of the fall out and the reaction from Council's action a couple of weeks ago; the historical community has asked Councilors to take a look at the entire situation. This resolution asks the Chairman to appoint three members of the Council and two members from names submitted by the historical community to a committee to discuss and establish a common ground that protects the buildings that need protection and doesn't infringe upon property rights of those who do not own or reside in historical buildings. Maybe right now we have a mishmash of Chapter 24 and 25 and Sections 22 and 22A of Chapter 3 and could result in a streamline version of all those things.

Chairman Zanni said Councilor Leone, Councilor Quinn, and Councilor Andrew have asked to be on this committee. His understanding is the Historic District commission will choose their two candidates that they would like to serve on that board.

Councilor Leone said he doesn't feel he has to be on the committee if there is another Councilor that is interested. Chairman Zanni asked if anybody else is interested.

Councilor Cronin said he thinks Councilor Leone, as the proponent, should be on the committee. He also feels a Councilor from the Central District should be represented on this committee because most of the historic preservation in the community is in the central district. Any decisions made by a committee or this Council should definitely include a Councilor from the central district.

Chairman Zanni asked Councilor Cronin if he is interested in serving.

Councilor Cronin said he would like to serve on the committee.

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano, seconded by Councilor Corey Rahme to amend to have four members of the City Council and three members of the Historic District Commission and adopt for first read. UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

TR-07-27 Resolution Increasing the Membership of the Community Advisory board.

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

Councilor Giordano asked if these two positions would be posted.

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Mayor Manzi said filling of these position would be done in-house. The MCTV Board asked for this. The genesis of it is that there is a membership community that volunteers and gives of its time. It has a non-voting membership on the current board. It was their thought and he agreed with them that this should be converted into a voting membership. The resolution was submitted on that basis. The whole idea was that the people who are giving their time and giving their effort inside the studio and part of the group that essentially run the station through their volunteer efforts ought not to be restricted to a non-voting membership by the board. He would strongly endorse it, noting it would come from the membership community, Methuen residents.

Councilor Giordano said he received positive comments regarding cable television and the volunteers. They are doing a wonderful job.

Mayor Manzi said the Executive Director is still here and she will take the message back to the membership. He further stated he is very proud of the work they are doing there. He further explained that he attended a board meeting, during which they made their case to him directly and he is in full agreement.

Mayor Manzi said the MCTV members have been very helpful to the Mayor's office with an issue not directly related to the legislation. They've helped devise the city strategy with regard to semi-advanced negotiations with Verizon and have been involved in all of our interactions with Verizon from an input perspective

Chairman Zanni said having the opportunity to be part of "Council Agenda", the camera people and others are all volunteering their services and doing a great job. He is supportive of the request because it is voluntary and there should be somebody representing their group on that board.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

TR-07-28 Resolution Providing Clause in City Contracts Prohibiting the Use of Un-documented Workers on City Contracts (Req. of Clr. Willette)

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

Councilor Willette said this is a result of what transpired in New Bedford with the raid on a factory that was making items for the military, part of a federal contract and also Governor Deval Patrick. This issue comes to the forefront in terms of having a certification process whereby businesses that do business with the City of Methuen, utilizing taxpayers' dollars, would have to attest that they do not knowingly or purposely hire illegal aliens to do work for them. Every city and town in Massachusetts should adopt this in some fashion. Taxpayers' dollars should not be spent rewarding businesses that hire illegal aliens. The resolution transpired out of the discussion about the raid in New Bedford and many discussions with City Councilors.

Councilor Corey Rahme wondered if Council needs some sort of assistance in advance of voting for this for second read. She has been very curiously interested in what's been going on in Hazelton PA regarding similar issues and illegal immigrants. She asked the Solicitor if it would be prudent for Council to have a Workshop to make sure Council is willing, able, and capable of handling this without opening the community up to a lawsuit.

Attorney McQuillan responded that the situation in Hazelton is a dire picture and this is not something that falls within that extreme. There is an Immigration Act that's enacted by the Federal Government and the Executive Order upon which this is predicated, it emanated from that. Its very general in its terms in the natural flow of the

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Immigration Act by its terms being as they are, are not on its face discriminatory. That's why he suggested at the very end of the legislation that "prior to any official language be adopted by this Council for the purposes of being incorporated into our ordinances for required clauses in contracts doing business with the city that he look at it very carefully in concert with the Council to make sure that the language is safe and sound language and has a reason and rationale behind it. A Workshop is always a good idea but that's at the pleasure of the Council. The way this is worded and from way it is naturally flowed, as a result of the immigration act, that on its face the intent, the rationale is sound and the reasoning is sound behind it.

Councilor Leone asked if the Governor's Executive Order has any real enforcement provisions and if this certification needs to be done in advance.

Councilor Willette said it's a certification process that if someone reports that a person in question is hiring illegal aliens and it can be proven, it provides a provision to any contract that creates a "null and void" statute within those contracts.

Councilor Leone said, in advance of the contract being awarded, the contractor has to certify that he's complying with the Executive Order. If the contractor is found to be in non-compliance during the term of the contract, we can end the contract.

Attorney McQuillan said the contract would be terminated.

Councilor Willette said we do the same thing for licenses and other contracts that people have to sign under oath of perjury - that they complied fully with the tax laws, that they paid in full all taxes. We are talking about the taxpayers' dollars and we should know that the companies we do business with do not purposely hire illegal aliens. The company raided in New Bedford was purposely hiring illegal aliens. There should be a threshold for companies that do business with the City of Methuen, that they do not purposely hire illegal aliens.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Ordinances: None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY

REQUEST OF COUNCILORS

Councilor Giordano announced that our Veterans' Director, Ed Curran, is hosting his 8th annual Veterans' Night, Wednesday, April 18th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Methuen Senior Citizen Center. There are several excellent guest speakers.

Councilor Leone commended Mr. Kelly for obtaining the 1.2 million dollars from Malden Mills, noting he did a great job.

Chairman Zanni thanked the Mayor as well.

Councilor Rahme said that on Saturday, March 31st there is the 9th annual music festival happening at the High School. The Texas Road House is a big sponsor of this event. The tickets are reasonable. Tickets for diner and the theater for \$20.00, \$16.00 for children under twelve and the seniors. Seating for diner at 5:00 p.m. and the concert is at 7:00 p.m. If someone just wants to go to the concert, the tickets are \$8.00 and \$6.00 respectively. Councilor Corey Rahme also announced that Luther McIlwain is scheduled to receive the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor Award, our own local Tuskegee

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Airman, on Thursday, March 29th at 1:00 p.m. in the Rotunda. She congratulated Luther McIlwain.

Councilor Andrew asked the Mayor if he wanted to elaborate on his recent appointment of a grant administrator.

Mayor Manzi said at this point we are going to be looking to centralize some aspects of grant administration within the auditor's office. The larger goal will be across all departments to make the grant process more transparent. It would be a little bit easier to provide accountability for it through the Auditor's office and through the Mayor's office as a larger goal. The Council has the specifics in front of them in The Executive Order that he issued today. But the overall goal will be to provide some additional level of transparency and accountability to the grant process.

Councilor Quinn recognized Councilor Giordano and asked him to explain the award he is receiving Tuesday night from the "Quota Club".

Councilor Giordano said he is the recipient of the annual Dr. Scarito Award that the "Quota Club" gives out every year. The City Council congratulated Councilor Giordano for this honorable award.

Chairman Zanni asked the Mayor to keep in mind the first week of May for the budget because he would like to set an earlier timetable this year.

Mayor Manzi said he would be happy to comply with that.

Mayor Manzi reported to the Council that Attorney Herb Weinberg did a wonderful job with the complex Malden Mills issue. He was outstanding.

ADJOURN

MOTION BY: Councilor Cronin, seconded by Councilor Giordano to adjourn. UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

COUNCIL CLERK