

**METHUEN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
GREAT HALL, SEARLES BUILDING
June 2, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.**

Chairman Lahey called the Regular meeting of the Methuen City Council, scheduled for June 2, 2008 to order at with eight members present. Councilor Zanni was absent.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano seconded by Councilor Willette, to accept the June 2, 2008 agenda as presented.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Father Waters gave the Invocation. Everyone remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

MOTION BY: Councilor Giordano seconded by Councilor Pappalardo to waive the reading and accept the minutes of May 19, 2008 –regular meeting.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

CORRESPONDENCE/PROCLAMATIONS

The Methuen City Council presented a proclamation to the Methuen High School Ranger Band honoring them for being one of thirty bands from across the country to march in the National Memorial Day Parade, representing Methuen, in Washington D.C, on May 26,2008. Band Director Tom Walsh accepted the proclamation on behalf of the High School Band, the Ranger Band Parents Association and the Administration.

MOTION BY: Councilor Cronin seconded by Councilor Giordano to proclaim.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The City Council on behalf of the Citizens of Methuen acknowledged that Rev McLaughlin celebrated his last Mass on Sunday June 1st as pastor of Saint Monica's Parish and proclaimed Sunday June 1,2008 as "Rev. John McLaughlin Day". The Council and the Mayor extended best wishes and success in his new job as national vocations director of the Archdiocese of the Military, USA.

MOTION BY: Councilor Cronin seconded by Councilor Quinn to proclaim

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pat Uliano, 22 Haymeadow Road Methuen. Ms. Uliano spoke of Methuen's first Home Rule Charter initiated back in 1973. Put in effect and written by the first Home Rule Charter Commission. January 1st 1978 the seconded Home Rule Charter became effective replacing the original with changes. On May 4th 1993 in a special town election, citizens accepted a Mayoral form of Government and term limits was the last big Charter change the Home Rule charter had. Ms Uliano is representing the group "citizens for a better government" a volunteer non-profit group who have joined together to initiate a process that will regularly review and update the Home Rule Charter. Any citizen is free to join and is welcome to input any opinion or ideas with the group and its forum. Ms. Uliano stated that a group petition in excess of 150 signatures requesting that four non-binding questions be added via special ballot for the November presidential election will be submitted (in a weeks time) to the City Clerk to certify all the signatures. The petition will then be submitted by the City Clerk to the City Council Chair to schedule a public hearing for questions presented on the (groups) petition. The "citizens for a better government" is asking that City Council support the petition and include the four non-binding questions in the November election. These questions will be a strong indicator as to what the citizens are looking for in their city government. The group also feels that this is the springboard that will be useful towards the main goal, which is on the strength of 4500 certified signatures and that it be placed on the 2009 municipal election ballot asking the citizens of the city if they want to elect a "charter commission study group" consisting of members they (citizens) voted in. "Citizens for a better government" is looking to the City Council for their support for the short term goal to reach out to the citizens and supporting the inclusion of the non-binding questions on the ballot in November including supporting the long term goal with a positive vote to elect a charter commission study group on the 09 municipal ballot. Ms. Uliano thanked the council for their time.

PUBLIC SERVICE

GRANTS: None

LICENSES: Special Excavation: 4 Russell Street (water/sewer/gas lines)

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

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Livery License: (new) Teambuild Inc Nursecare Transportation 75 Swan Street Methuen MA (remove from the table)

MOTION BY: (remove) Councilor Leone seconded by Councilor Kannan.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

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

UPON VOTE:

CONTRACTS: None

OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS None

ORDINANCES None

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

Membership of the School Building Committee (names attached)

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

UPON VOTE: 7 – yes 1 – no (Clr Giordano)

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

1.TR-08-40 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a 2008 Essex National Heritage Commission Partnership Grant (EPA).

MOTION BY: (EPA) Councilor Giordano seconded by Councilor Leone.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION BY: (main motion with EPA) Councilor Cronin seconded by Councilor Quinn to adopt.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2 TR-08-41 Resolution Authorizing Expenditure from the Castle Fund (EPA).

MOTION BY: (EPA) Councilor Quinn seconded by Councilor Pappalardo

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION BY: (main motion with EPA) Councilor Quinn seconded by Councilor Pappalardo to adopt.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

ORDINANCES None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY
REQUEST OF COUNCIL

Councilor Giordano asked the City Auditor how much money is in the Castle fund?
Thomas Kelly said it is a trust fund and they use the interest from that fund. \$129,000 dollars remains in the account. They earn \$61,000 in revenue. To date we have spent \$25,474 plus \$44,934.00 voted tonight. The city controls the interest on the money and city council votes on the interest they spend.

Councilor Pappalardo thanked the Mayor, Ray DiFiore and the DPW for helping a woman on Cherry Hill Circle who had a problem with water. It was promptly taken care of and she appreciates everyone's efforts. Councilor Pappalardo had requested more police presence in the west end of the city and she thanked the acting Police Chief for her support with that issue. Councilor Pappalardo has received many calls praising the police presence in the west end of the city.

Councilor Leone asked Auditor Thomas Kelly for the Historic Data for 2008 Revenue

1. List of expenditures that were not part of the last budget appropriation
2. General fund and water/sewer enterprises for 2008
3. Contracts (not collective bargaining) done during the year that were not part of the budget.
4. Expenditures not part of the original 2008 appropriation.
5. Based on the budget submitted, what is the revenue requirement on the tax base? Are we looking at a tax rate increase or a tax levy increase?

Mr. Kelly said he would get that information to council before the June 4th workshop.
Mr. Kelly said no tax rate increase. We are looking at a levy increase that will result in a zero tax increase to the taxpayer.

Councilor Willette inquired about the Municipal charge backs. They were excluded from the previous budget water/sewer and school dept.

Mr. Kelly stated those were never put in the budget. He will do it for council. When the charge backs were done this year for the school department (in order to have a working number) he did not change what the number was from last year with the exception of retirement and Medicare tax. He will put something together including all the charge backs from last year for the budget workshop.

Councilor Willette also asked for identification line by line in the water and sewer enterprise account. Position, expenses, supplies.

Mr. Kelly stated that information is in the FY 09 budget.

ADJOURN

MOTION BY: Councilor Leone seconded by Councilor Quinn to adjourn

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

Diane Lasonde/Council Secretary

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