

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 5, 2009

President Letellier – Welcome to the Regular City Council meeting for January 5, 2009. This is our reorganizational meeting but we do have two citizens speak people that have signed up.

Item 1. Citizen's Speak Time

President Letellier – So we'll start with Ron LaRiviere. Ron?

Ron LaRiviere – Good evening. Ron LaRiviere, 79 Bradford Drive in Feeding Hills. Actually just a couple of quick things tonight. First being your first meeting of the year, I just want to say I wouldn't want to be you. I think as a Council each and every one of you are gonna face perhaps the most difficult year that you've ever experienced. I think it's one of the most difficult years the Town will experience with the financial situation today in the state many local communities are gonna have some tough times so I urge you all to remember the tax payer. And the other purpose for my coming tonight is I just wanted to come down and take a moment and support Councilor Calabrese's bid tonight for her retention of the Vice President's chair. I usually watch most of my council meetings at home. I don't come down as often as I should perhaps but when I do watch I think she's done a fine job. I think she's handled herself well as the Vice President and I would ask the Council tonight to seriously consider her re-appointment to the Vice Presidency. Thank you.

President Letellier – Thank you. Next is Paul Wakem.

Paul Wakem – Good evening, Council President, Council members and citizens of Agawam. My name is Paul Wakem and I live at 660 North Street. Again I find myself in front of you the City Council and the citizens of Agawam. As a person that has extensive interactions as a civil servant and professional dealing with other public and fellow professionals, I find it is all too often that we will criticize one another when the outcome is not what we desire. Yet too few of us take the time to make it known when we've received a positive experience. After my last appearance here in front of you and reflect upon my experience, I must say that starting with my interaction with Barbara and then you, the Council members, I have had a positive experience. My dealings with Barbara were most helpful and informative. I say this because the direction and trust that I feel that you the Council members place in Barbara to do her duties has only come from you by her performance and due diligence and dedication to the towns' people in doing her job. Additionally I'd like to thank Barbara and the Council for the respect shown to me. In closing, reading of the additional funding that has been provided by the City Council and Mayor working together for my brother, sister, brother and sister veterans show me that the Town of Agawam is not forgetting the sacrifices that has been made for this great country. Freedom has a price and a taste that the protected will never know but

you, the elected officials, have shown your concern for us veterans. Thank you. Semper fedelis.

President Letellier – Thank you Mr. Wakem. You're a Marine Corp vet if I recall from your resume. Yes. Thank you.

Item 2. Roll Call

President Letellier – Barbara, could you please call the roll?

ROLL CALL – 11 Present, 0 Absent

President Letellier – With eleven present, we again have a full quorum.

Item 3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance

President Letellier – Could you please rise for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance?

Item 4. Minutes

None

Item 5. Declaration from Council President

None

Item 6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances

President Letellier – Any resolutions are put on to the next business meeting.

Item 7. Report of Council Committees

None

Item 8. Elections

President Letellier – We'll move right to Elections, Item number 8.

1. TE-2009-1 - Election of City Council President (*Majority of those entitled to vote*)

President Letellier – That would take six votes. Do we have any nominations? Councilor Calabrese?

Councilor Calabrese – I nominate Gina Letellier for the office of President.

President Letellier – Nomination of Gina Letellier has been made. Any additional nominations? Councilor Mineo? No? Councilor Young?

Councilor Young – Ah, yes, it would be my pleasure to nominate Donald Rheault for president.

President Letellier – The name of Donald Rheault is in nomination. Any further nominations? Seeing none, do we have a motion to close the nominations? Moved by Councilor Rossi, seconded by Councilors Mineo and Cavallo. Barbara, could you call the roll? Please indicate the last name of the nominee you wish to vote for.

ROLL CALL – 6 Letellier (Councilors Bitzas, Calabrese, Letellier, Messick, Mineo, Simpson), 5 Rheault (Councilors Cavallo, Perry, Rheault, Rossi, Young)

President Letellier – With six Letellier, five Rheault, I thank you for your support and I've been re-elected as Council President.

2. TE-2009-2 - Election of City Council Vice President (Majority of those entitled to vote)

President Letellier – Do we have any nominations? Councilor Cavallo?

Councilor Cavallo – I nominate Bob Rossi.

President Letellier – Then name of Robert Rossi has been put into nomination. Councilor Bitzas?

Councilor Bitzas – Cecilia Calabrese.

President Letellier – The name of Cecilia Calabrese has been placed into nomination. Any other nominations? Move to close nominations? Moved by Councilors Bitzas and Rheault, seconded by Councilors Rossi and Cavallo. Again, Barbara, call the roll. Please indicate the last name of the person to whom you wish to vote, for whom you wish to vote.

ROLL CALL – 6 Calabrese (Councilors Bitzas, Calabrese, Letellier, Messick, Mineo, Simpson), 5 Rossi (Councilors Cavallo, Perry, Rheault, Rossi, Young)

President Letellier – With six Calabrese, five Rossi, CeCe Calabrese has been re-elected your Council Vice President.

3. TE-2008-3 - Election of City Auditor (Majority of those entitled to vote)

President Letellier – Do we have a nomination? Councilor Calabrese?

Councilor Calabrese – I'd like to nominate Cheryl St. John.

President Letellier – Cheryl St. John has been nominated. Do we have any other nominations?

Councilor Rheault – Move to close nominations.

President Letellier – Move to close nominations by Councilor Rheault, seconded by Councilors Rossi and Perry. Again, please indicate the nominee you wish to vote for. Barbara, could you call the roll?

ROLL CALL – 11 St. John

President Letellier – With eleven St. John, Cheryl St. John has been re-elected our City Auditor. Congratulations Cheryl.

4. TE-2008-4 - Election of City Council Administrative Assistant (*Majority of those entitled to vote*)

President Letellier – Nominations are open. Councilor Bitzas?

Councilor Bitzas – Yea. I'd like to nominate Barbara Bard.

President Letellier – **Barbara Bard has been nominated. Councilor Rheault?**

Councilor Rheault – **Move to close nominations.**

President Letellier – **Move to close nominations by Councilor Rheault, seconded by Councilors Perry and Rossi. Please indicate the last name of nominee you wish to vote for. Barbara, could you call the roll?**

ROLL CALL – 11 Bard

President Letellier – With eleven votes, Barbara Bard has been re-elected as our City Council Administrative Assistant. Congratulations and thank you Barbara.

Item 9. Public Hearings

None

Item 10. Old Business

None

Item 11. New Business

None

Item 12. Any other matter that may legally come before the City Council.

President Letellier – Councilor Simpson, do you wish to say anything?

Councilor Simpson – Nothing tonight, but Happy New Year.

President Letellier – Thank you. Councilor Mineo?

Councilor Mineo – Nothing this evening.

President Letellier – Thank you. Councilor Cavallo?

Councilor Cavallo – Yea, I've had a couple calls from people up in Feeding Hills regarding North Westfield Street and it's becoming bumpy again. There are a lot of holes up there and I didn't have a chance to talk with Superintendent Stone tonight but would it be possible to check and see with the DPW if in fact any plans are being made possibly to go back over that again to do something or is he waiting until the spring?

President Letellier – Do you want us to draft a memo?

Councilor Cavallo – Yes, mhmmm.

President Letellier – Okay. Barbara?

Councilor Cavallo – It's really become quite bad up there. I know they did it once before but –

President Letellier – It's the weather so we've been told. Absolutely. Councilor Rossi?

Councilor Rossi – Nothing.

President Letellier – Okay, thank you. Councilor Rheault?

Councilor Rheault – Nothing.

President Letellier – Thank you. Councilor Perry?

Councilor Perry – Just real quick. Congratulations to Gina and CeCe on your re-elections. Look forward to working for you and with you over the next year and Happy New Year to all my colleagues and to everyone at home and congratulations to Cheryl and Barbara. Thank you.

President Letellier – Thank you. Councilor Messick?

Councilor Messick – Happy New Year to everybody first and I was wondering if there was any further discussion or resolution of the Silver Lake problem? Whether that's moving forward at all or whether any work's been done to get that resolved?

President Letellier – I don't think Councilor Perry has had a chance to go on meeting yet with all the holidays.

Councilor Perry – No, I have not. I plan on it within the next week or so, there's a couple meeting I have to call.

Councilor Messick – When you recover?

Councilor Perry – Yes.

President Letellier – When he has enough voice to actually run a meeting. Councilor Bitzas?

Councilor Bitzas – Yes, I would like to wish all of you and the people of Agawam a happy and healthy new year.

President Letellier – Thank you. Councilor Calabrese?

Councilor Calabrese – Yea, I'd just like to thank everyone for their support for my re-election for Vice President and Ron, thank you so much for coming out tonight and speaking on my behalf. Happy New Year to everyone and I look forward to a very busy and productive year.

President Letellier – Thank you. I too would like to thank everyone for their support as Council President. I assure you that I have become quite an excellent balancer and I don't foresee any problems despite some people's concern, I know that I'll do it just well. We do have a busy year. I anticipate we'll be discussing some budget cuts. I'll be on the phone with the Mayor tomorrow to set up our next meeting and I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year and we'll have a hard year ahead of us but I know we'll all work together. Thank you. Do we have a motion to adjourn? All those in favor, please signify by saying Ay? Opposed? Thank you.

Adjournment.