

# **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL**

**JUNE 2, 2008**

**President Letellier** – Good evening and welcome to the June 2, 2008 regular meeting of the Agawam City Council.

## **Item 1. Citizen's Speak Time**

**President Letellier** - Our first item of agenda is Citizen's Speak Time. We have two speakers. Our first is Helen Chester. Welcome to the microphone. For those of you who may not have spoken before, there is a five minute time period and the Council Clerk will let you know. Please state your name and address for the record.

**Helen Chester** – Helen Chester, 320 Barry Street. Last week I read in the paper many observances for Memorial Day, one of which was at the Springfield Street Cemetery. There are two I don't know if everybody is aware of that, one of them being the Old Feeding Hills Cemetery circa around 1700. Some years ago that was taken care of by the DPW although it was their obligation to do so. I visited there and it's in very disrepair, it's very shameful. I don't know if the DPW or the Community Preservation or some department could do something to sort of you know fix it up a little. It wouldn't take much. It's a very small cemetery. Maybe the Beautification Committee or somebody and I would be hopeful that the Council could look into that. Thank you.

**President Letellier** – Thank you Mrs. Chester. We have a couple of CPA Committee members here and we have the Beautification Committee here so hopefully we'll follow up on that. Thank you. Next we have Gary Suffriti.

**Gary Suffriti** – Hi. Gary Suffriti. I live at 228 Adams Street and I'm here in response to an article I seen yesterday in the Springfield paper about Six Flags and about this Board making the height requirements different to 200 feet instead of 75 feet and I gotta tell you, I had a hard time working today because in my mind I'm saying to myself, it absolutely had nothing at all to do with the height requirement why that ride or Six Flags was held up. It was held up because of Six Flags and I'm gonna tell you I talked to the Chairman this afternoon of the Board of Appeals. She was rather shocked that she did not know anything about it until the newspaper gentleman called her up to ask her her input on it. I don't understand why this Board did not inquire or ask us to come to the meeting as a Board of Appeal member to find out exactly what took place. I take real issue with that because this was a serious situation what took place and it seemed like they wanted to put the ax on the Board of Appeals saying we did not our jobs in a timely fashion. We were holding them up. We asked them from the time they submitted their paperwork for a set of drawings. We did not have a complete set of drawings for four months – a complete set. And also, and I didn't really prepare nothing, but I'm just gonna hit on a few items. One is name one other time Six Flags ever was inconvenienced. Ever! Not once. As a matter of fact, this Board had two Special Meetings. I had to leave my job during the day to go meet there just so they could continue or to go forward in this process which was no problem. I'd do it for them. You know what I mean but to come back and say we were holding them up. This was a unique ride. It was a building. It just wasn't a ride. And I will tell you right now, thank God Joe Conte brought this up and our Building Inspector looked into it to find out to make sure that the egresses were proper. And they weren't, he wouldn't give them the Building Permit, they went to the

State to Safety Regulation Committee. I'm gonna read, this was the Final Report on it and they actually shot them down, Six Flags, saying it was not adequate. It says Board Members rule that an additional stair needs to be designed and installed to satisfy means of egress requirements as established by 780 CMR. They were concerned that, this is the Board now; they were concerned that patrons may be trapped at high elevations without means of escaping the building during an emergency event. It says patterns of device measure only about 24 inches in width which would make it difficult for patrons and others to successfully exit the device and building in a timely manner particularly with smoking and air conditioning. They voted unanimous against this ride. And I applaud Joe Conte, Board Member of the Board of Appeals and our Building Inspector, Nick Urbinati, 'cuz he stuck his neck out on this, all for the safety of the people not only of Agawam but in surrounding communities that use this. The point I'm making is the Board and the height had nothing at all to do with the hold up of this ride, it was Six Flags, and I don't mean to beat up Six Flags, but their poor planning made it, they try constituting an emergency on the Boards and that absolutely was wrong. We did everything they could. And lastly, I got a, we all, before one meeting, we got an envelope from a State Representative and I opened it up and what was read in there basically said what is the problem with you guys? Pass this thing. I took issue with that. I called him up after that meeting and I explained to him exactly what was going on because I said why wouldn't you call me and ask or a board member and ask what is going on here? Why is there a problem with them getting the permit? So when I explained everything to him when I was done he actually apologized and he says I did not know and shame on me for not asking you or any other board members. I'm saying here tonight I hope that this Council would at least have another meeting with the members of the Board of Appeals to find out exactly what happened and the time frames of everything that took place because this Board worked hard. You guys nominate us, you guys elect us and we've worked hard for this Town to make sure everything was right.

**Clerk** – One minute please.

**Gary Suffriti** - And also for the business. We weren't trying to hold them up. We did everything we could to pass this for them. So I hope that this Board would before you present this for vote, at least have another meeting and bring us together here. Thank you.

**President Letellier** – Thank you Mr. Suffriti.

### **Item 2. Roll Call**

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

**ROLL CALL** – 9 Present, 2 Absent (Councilors Simpson and Young)

**President Letellier** – With nine present and two absent, we have a quorum. Councilor Simpson had previously indicated she would be out of town and Councilor Young had emailed me to say he'd be running a little late but he will be here as soon as he can.

### **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**

**Regular Council Meeting – May 19, 2008**

**President Letellier** – Do I have a motion? Moved by Councilor Calabrese, seconded by Councilor Rossi. Any discussion? Corrections? Amendments? No? Seeing none, a voice vote will suffice. All those in favor please signify by saying Ay? Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you.

**Item 5. Declaration from Council President**

**President Letellier** – At the end of the meeting during any other business, I'm going to ask each of the Councilors to indicate if they can be here on our July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. That's the official because the Monday is the official holiday, if we're not gonna have sufficient numbers I would think about rescheduling that meeting to July 13<sup>th</sup> so that we have sufficient numbers to pass some important items. So wait until we get to the last item and let me know. Thank you.

**Item 6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances**

**(a) Resolutions**

**1. TR-2008-20 - A Resolution Requesting the Mayor to Appropriate Funds for the Board of Appeals to Employ Outside Counsel for the Appeal of the Special Permit Granted to Six Flags New England. (Council) (Majority of those present and voting) (Tabled 5/19/08)**

**President Letellier** – Do we have a motion? Moved to leave on the table by Councilor Rheault, seconded by Councilor Perry and Councilor Cavallo. Barbara, could you please call the roll?

**ROLL CALL** – 7 Yes, 2 No (Councilors Bitzas and Calabrese), 2 Absent (Councilors Simpson and Young)

**President Letellier** – With 7 yes, 2 no, the item remains on the table and Councilor Young has just come in.

**2. TR-2008-27 - A Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2009 – 2013 Capital Improvement Program (Set Public Hearing Date – June 16, 2008) (Mayor) (Referred to the Finance Committee) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – That public hearing has been set to June 16<sup>th</sup> and the item will remain on the agenda until June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**3. TR-2008-28 - A Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Operating Budget for the Town of Agawam (Set Public Hearing Date - June 16, 2008) (Mayor) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Again, that public hearing has been set for June 16, 2008 and we'll hear the item then.

**4. TR-2008-29 - A Resolution Approving Sewer Use Rates Fixed by the Department of Public Works) (Mayor) (Referred to the Public Safety Committee and the Finance Committee) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – That item was referred to the Public Safety Committee and the Finance Committee which is not meeting on this until June 4<sup>th</sup> which is Thursday so I believe a tabling motion will be in order unless there's any discussion tonight. Moved by Councilor Cavallo, seconded by Councilor Rossi. Barbara, could you please call the roll? A yes vote is to table the item until June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**ROLL CALL** – 10 Yes, 1 Absent (Councilor Simpson)

**President Letellier** – With ten yes, one absent, we've tabled the item. I did double check with the Mayor's office to have them call DPW to make sure that Mr. Stone would be here for the Council to ask questions at the next meeting.

**Item 7. Report of Council Committees**

(a) **Rules & Regulations** – Councilor Calabrese

**Councilor Calabrese** – Yes. The Rules and Regulations Committee did not meet this last quarter. That's the version of my report.

(b) **Utilities & Street Acceptance** – Councilor Mineo

**Councilor Mineo** – No matters came before our sub-committee. Thank you.

(c) **Licenses** – Councilor Rossi

**Councilor Rossi** – Thank you. We've had no real major issues come before the Licensing Board other than the rather routine permits and licenses. So there really isn't anything to report.

(d) **Public Safety** – Councilor Perry

**Councilor Perry** – Yes, thank you Madam President. We had one issue that was brought before us this past quarter. That was TR-2008-22 A Resolution to Establish a No Parking Zone on Westview Lane and Burlington Drive which my committee met on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Rheault was present at the meeting with myself and Councilor Rossi was on vacation at the time. The following meeting that was tabled. We did not have a formal meeting after that but our committee members did discuss it and made a recommendation to the Council and the no parking was passed. Thank you.

(e) **Ordinances** – Councilor Rheault

**Councilor Rheault** – Yes. The Ordinance Committee met in May at least once and perhaps twice. I have minutes from the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Myself as chair, Councilor Calabrese and Councilor Cavallo as members were there as well as Council President Letellier and Councilor Jill Messick. We discussed the sign ordinance and not to create problems for small businesses that arose as a result of the ordinance. We worked on some language. Currently it is in front of the Town's Attorney for drafting and we have a meeting I believe on the 11<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the language the Town Attorney came up

with. The intention is certainly not to hurt any small business. We're trying to get by that and we're not sure of the final outcome of that yet. We also discussed parking near Six Flags and we will be further discussing that as well. I met with the Town Attorney and we looked at some suggestions from Councilor Rossi and a few others regarding that. Councilor Messick also has provided some input as well as Council President. That's not finalized and hopefully at that meeting we'll come to some kind of a conclusion as well. The third item that we also discussed was the height limitations of Six Flags and I with respect to Gary Suffriti, I think he misread into that article totally what the whole concept of our discussion was with Six Flags.

**Gary Suffriti** – If we were at the meeting, we'd know.

**Councilor Rheault** – Well, you're welcome to come to the next one which is the 11<sup>th</sup> so we hadn't come to any conclusion or brought anything in front of the council. But what we did it was just to talk about the 45 feet that's all. It didn't have nothing to do with what they admitted and if you read the paper carefully, I said they were at fault for not coming and nothing is gonna change as far as the restrictions coming for permits. The only thing that we addressed was one simple thing, was the height issue which they felt comfortable and so did we. But you're welcome to come to that meeting and have your input. I met with Attorney Johnson on that as well and he thought maybe an entire zoning ordinance for amusements parks might be in order and I disagree with that. I think we can simplify the footage and the reason ...and he's drafting language in that respect as well. And that concludes the remarks from the Committee.

(f) **Zoning Review** – Councilor Messick

**Councilor Messick** – Nothing was referred to the Zoning Sub-Committee officially. However as Councilor Rheault had indicated I have been involved in meetings with the Ordinance Committee and we do have a joint Zoning and Ordinance Meeting coming up on June 11<sup>th</sup> in which we'll discuss the things that he just mentioned. So, hopefully we can move forward on some of these issues. Thank you.

(g) **Finance** – Councilor Young

**Councilor Young** – Yes, thank you. Finance Committee has been very busy the first part of this year, including. So busy in fact and now with the budget upon us, I'm going to ask if I could move my report to next meeting. Like I said there's so much to accumulate and report out on that I haven't had the time to put that together. So if we could do that next week I would appreciate it.

**President Letellier** – We don't need a formal tabling vote but we'll have you speak prior to the budget deliberations. Thank you.

(h) **Industrial Relations** – Councilor Perry

**Councilor Perry** – Nothing was referred to our committee this quarter. Thank you.

(i) **Ad Hoc Sewers** – Councilor Mineo

**Councilor Mineo** – We did meet in January and February and we were looking at setting up an Enterprise Fund which did pass. We looked at the Sewer District which did not pass. I will be setting a meeting up shortly after speaking with Jack Stone and I'm sure everybody saw in the newspaper that only 7% of folks that live in the affected areas have responded to the brochure/questionnaire which is very weak. We were hoping for a bigger response. And we'll be meeting shortly. That's all. Thank you.

(j) **Ad Hoc Recreation** – Councilor Bitzas

**Councilor Bitzas** – Nothing this quarter.

(k) **Ad Hoc CPA** – Councilor Simpson

**President Letellier** – And Councilor Simpson is not here so we will reserve the CPA Committee review for that next meeting.

**Item 8. Elections**

None

**Item 9. Public Hearings**

None

**Item 10. Old Business**

**1. TO-2008-20 - Voucher List (\$3,350.00) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – That is for legal fees to Bacon & Wilson. Do we have a motion? Moved by Councilor Rossi, seconded by Councilor Perry and I'll send that out right now. Barbara, could you please call the roll?

**ROLL CALL** – 10 Yes, 1 Absent (Councilor Simpson)

**President Letellier** – Thank you. I'm sorry here I just mixed up my notes. Forgive me for a second. Here we go.

**2. TO-2008-21 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for Junk Dealers – T's Jewelers, Zinovy Tokman, 559 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. (Clerk) (Referred to the License Committee) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Do we have a motion? Moved by Councilor Rossi, seconded by Councilor Rheault. Do we have a report from the Licensing Committee?

**Councilor Rossi** – Yes. I find that there is nothing unusual with the application and I made a

recommendation to the Board that it move forward.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Any further discussion on the junk dealer license? No? Seeing none, Barbara, could you please call the roll?

**ROLL CALL** – 10 Yes, 1 Absent (Councilor Simpson)

**President Letellier** – With ten yes, one absent, we've approved the junk dealer's license.

**Item 11. New Business**

**President Letellier** – We have quite a full meeting next meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Just a reminder, we have a budget public hearing, we have the capital improvement public hearing, we have the water and sewer rate public hearing and we also have...

**1. TE-2008-4 - Election of a member of the Community Preservation Act Committee, also being a representative from the Housing Authority, to complete an Unexpired Term Expiring April 30, 2010. (Council) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – That's next agenda.

**2. TR-2008-30 - A Resolution Authorizing the Declaration of Robinson Park Day (Councilor Rossi) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Next agenda.

**3. TR-2008-31 - A Resolution Appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and Authorizing the Expenditure of Community Preservation Funds for the Preservation of Land for Recreational use for Property owned by the Town of Agawam which is located at Benjamin Phelps School. (CPA) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – That's to replace the burned down Playscape. Next agenda.

**4. TR-2008-32 - A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Joan Caney, 886 Main Street, Apt. #37, Agawam, MA, to the Agawam Housing Authority for an Unexpired Term Expiring the Second Monday in January, 2010. (Mayor) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – That's next agenda.

**5. TR-2008-33 - A Resolution Authorizing the Posting of the Warrant for the State Primary Election of September 16, 2008 and the State and Presidential Election of November 4, 2008. (Mayor) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Next agenda.

**6. TR-2008-34 - A Resolution Appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and Authorizing the Expenditure of Community Preservation Funds in the Amount of \$5,000 for the Preservation, Rehabilitation and Restoration**

**of Historic Resources, Namely the School Street Barn as Provided for Under the Historic Resources Section of the Community Preservation Act. (CPA) (Majority of those present and voting)**

President Letellier – Next agenda.

**7. TOR-2008-1 - Ordinance Amending Section 49-7 of the Code of the Town of Agawam to change the Title of “Council Clerk” to “Administrative Assistant to the City Council” (Council) (1/3) (Majority of those present and voting)**

President Letellier – Again, next agenda.

**8. TO-2008-22 - Transfer - \$53,680.42 from Reserve Fund (16605-57300) to Court Judgments (11512-52194) (Mayor) (Majority of Full Council – 6 votes)**

President Letellier – That’s next agenda. And I’m sorry those prior CPA Resolutions, I’m going to refer to the CPA Ad Hoc Committee all in one. Thank you.

**9. TR-2008-36 - A Resolution Amending the Agawam City Council Rules and Regulations to Change the Title of “Council Clerk” to “Administrative Assistant to the City Council” (Council) (Majority of those present and voting)**

President Letellier – Next agenda.

**10. TR-2008-37 - A Resolution Authorizing the Reservation of Funds from the Community Preservation Fund (CPA) (Majority of those present and voting)**

President Letellier – Again, we’ll refer to the CPA Ad Hoc Committee. That’s next agenda.

**11. TR-2008-38 - A Resolution Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the Community Preservation Fund (CPA) (Majority of those present and voting)**

President Letellier – Again, we’ll refer to the CPA Ad Hoc Committee. That’s next agenda.

**12. TR-2008-39 - A Resolution Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the Community Preservation Fund (CPA) (Majority of those present and voting)**

President Letellier – Again, we’ll refer to the CPA Ad Hoc Committee. That’s next agenda.

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

President Letellier – So we’ll be in for a nice meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. And we have any other matter that may come before the Council, just as a reminder. Again, please indicate whether or not you can be present on July 7<sup>th</sup>. If not, we’ll think about moving it to July 13<sup>th</sup>. We’ll start with Councilor Mineo.

Councilor Mineo – Nothing tonight but I should be around for the meeting.

President Letellier – Okay, thank you. Councilor Cavallo?

Councilor Cavallo – I’m not sure. I’ll have to double check, but the 13<sup>th</sup> you said?

**President Letellier** – Would be the next week, the next following Monday.

**Councilor Cavallo** – July 13<sup>th</sup> is on a Sunday.

**President Letellier** – Oh, I'm sorry then it would be the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilor Cavallo** – That I could make but I'll call you and let you know.

**President Letellier** – So could you double check that calendar? Did I do the math wrong? But the legal holiday is July 7<sup>th</sup>? So I'm sorry we'll be meeting July 8<sup>th</sup> Tuesday cuz the legal holiday would be the 7<sup>th</sup>. So it would be July 8<sup>th</sup> Tuesday OR July 13<sup>th</sup>?

**Councilor Cavallo** – I'll let you know.

**President Letellier** – Okay, so we have one yes and one maybe.

**Councilor Calabrese** – Are you sure that that's a holiday? Cuz Independence Day falls on a Friday.

**President Letellier** – Oh, I'm sorry. So it would be the 7<sup>th</sup>. Maybe some people are still away on vacation that week. So one yes for the 7<sup>th</sup> and one maybe. Councilor Rossi?

**Councilor Rossi** – Thank you. Yes, I should be around for the meeting. I don't foresee a schedule problem. Can we get a letter off to Jack Stone and find out what the status is of that cemetery up in Feeding Hills and find out whose responsibility it is to maintain it. And if they are maintaining it and if not, they need to make arrangements to find somebody to maintain it? Can we get that off Madam President?

**President Letellier** – Yes. Absolutely. Councilor Rheault?

**Councilor Rheault** – I had something I wanted to ask. Oh, regarding that TR-2008-31. I believe that was vandalized and I wondered if we had ever apprehended the...

**President Letellier** – Yes. My understanding is that the Town has sought restitution in addition to fixing what was on fire if you look at your notes in the packet, they also want to fix the surface and do some more updates as well. Yes, definitely the Town did seek restitution but I'm sure it's still in the process of Juvenile Court. But I can ask the Mayor for an update on that. Barbara could you just... Thank you.

**Councilor Rheault** – I had something else but I can't figure out what it was.

**President Letellier** – We can come back to you. Okay, we'll come back to you. Will you be here for the meeting?

**Councilor Rheault** – I intent to be.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Councilor Perry?

**Councilor Perry** – The 7<sup>th</sup> is fine for me. And just a couple quick things. We did receive a couple letters in our packets. One in regards to and I'm glad that Councilor Rheault in his reports

on the Ordinance are looking into the transient parking. We did get that letter with pictures accompanying it so I wanted to bring that up but he addressed that so I'm glad you're looking into that. We also got a letter in regards to Dova Estates projects off of Silver Street and I will look into that and if need be call a meeting with the Public Safety Committee in regards to it. I think everybody did receive that.

**President Letellier** – Thank you Councilor Perry.

**Councilor Perry** – Also I just wanted to address, I got a call last week I believe it was on a Wednesday from some people up on Wagon Wheel Drive in regards to a water notice shut off due to some work being done on that street. The notice was delivered at 4:00 in the afternoon stating that 8:00am the following day that their water would be shut off until 5:00pm. I really have a problem with that type of notice. Fortunately that day, that next day, the work was cancelled. I got a call just before the meeting that another notice was delivered today at 4:00 and water will be shut off at 7:30am tomorrow until 5:00pm the following, that afternoon. So it's gonna go off tomorrow at 7:30am and not come back on until 5:00pm tomorrow afternoon. That is inexcusable as far as I'm concerned and we need to address that. I will personally write a letter to Jack Stone in regards to this. Is this common practice? I mean, you have to have at least forty-eight hours notice as far as I'm concerned to prepare for something like that. You know most of us, I normally don't get home from work until 6 – 6:30 at night and to have a notice delivered at 4 is ridiculous. I think we really need to and I will write a letter and you know, it just blows my mind that they would do something like that. To treat residents like that, the taxpayers, is ridiculous. And lastly, to touch on ZBA member Gary Suffriti's comments tonight. I...also, I know we've talked and I think we need to look at and I'm glad that the Ordinance Committee hopefully along with the Zoning Committee will look into regulations. I mean we're a unique community in Massachusetts to have an amusement park in our town. They are a good neighbor. I know this past late spring, late winter, early spring, with the ride being postponed and pushed back, you know and eventually not coming out, that hopefully we can come together as Boards – the City Council, the ZBA, Planning, Six Flags – to come up with some ordinances that we can work together on so the park can continue to grow but also abide by the laws and ordinances that we put forth. As I say, we're unique because we're looking to state law to try and follow on some of things, there's nothing there. You know like the coaster, the indoor coaster they wanted to put up, there's nothing in our state laws that regulate that so we're in no-mans land here and I think we need to work together, all the boards, to come up with solutions. Thank you.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Councilor Messick?

**Councilor Messick** – I should be able to make the July meeting. And just a little bit of additional information in regards to what Councilor Perry just said. Six Flags is very unique. Agawam is unique in having an amusement park right here. Actually Councilor Calabrese had spoken to me and to Larry about looking into other towns in Connecticut who do have amusement parks similar types of things and what kind of zoning they have and looking at maybe adopting that, not wholesale but parts of it that might fit our circumstances here. And the goal is to continue to have a very good working relationship with Six Flags going forward. So you'll be hearing more about that in the future. Thank you.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Councilor Bitzas?

**Councilor Bitzas** – The seventh meeting is fine with me. Nothing tonight.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Councilor Young?

**Councilor Young** – Also, the meeting, either date in July is fine, nothing else, thank you.

**President Letellier** – Okay, thank you. Councilor Rheault, did you remember what you wanted to add?

**Councilor Rheault** – Yes. Actually it's not really related to Council business but I had the opportunity to watch the championship of the Agawam High School baseball this afternoon. And they played East Longmeadow at East Longmeadow. They faced East Longmeadow's ace and East Longmeadow's ace had a one hitter going into the top of the seventh and was ahead of Agawam 7 – 0. Believe it or not, Agawam came back with nine runs and beat 9-7. So it was the most exciting baseball, high school baseball game I've seen and I've seen as you well know,

**President Letellier** – You've seen a few?

**Councilor Rheault** - Quite a few! The second thing I have, during last week's budget meeting I asked a very simple question and for some reason when you ask simple questions of department heads, they take it personal. I think our job is to ask questions about the budgetary process. We are check and balance and I take offense when they come back with their remarks or what have you. But I know that you have a lot to do on your plate, Councilor Young, but I would like you to check into one thing at this point. I for the life of me don't understand and maybe I'm wrong, but how does the department head status go from five steps or five tiers to eight? ...mayor or anybody else. We used to have these in ordinances and those have been removed somehow and I don't know where they are. And they called because of the labor board and they don't have to answer to us. Well, I still don't understand that because if you had a friend and well, there's some other personal stuff I'm not gonna mention but if you call to find out, when and how, that became a reality because those salaries have now climbed significantly and I'd like to, big time is right, but I just don't see how that can happen without this Board taking a role in it. I'm not saying we wouldn't agree to it, but just do it and then say okay you gotta fund it. I don't, I'm not so sure that's right so if in your spare time, you'd look that up I'd appreciate it.

**President Letellier** – I have a partial response to that but I'll wait until Councilor Calabrese speaks. Councilor Calabrese?

**Councilor Calabrese** – Yes. First of all, thank you for the heads up on the water shut off. I happen to live in that area and it would be great to know that. I'm so glad you mentioned that. Also, in response to what you've done for, with Six Flags. They are a good neighbor here in town and Gary, I appreciate your comments and I do feel you took a meaning from our actions that was never intended. I just wanted to say that and finally I know we have a lot on our plate and, but congratulations to our graduates! This is graduation weekend...I'm looking forward to seeing those who are graduating I wish wonderful things and coming back to this community to raise your families. Have a nice evening. Thank you.

**President Letellier** – One of the things that the Mayor and I had talked about this morning in our regular meeting was the raises for department heads. And what she indicated to me was the prior mayor had placed an ordinance and we approved an additional tier because a certain department head had gone out and received another advanced degree. Then that was our intent was to reward someone for getting an advanced degree. Then the mayor – Cohen – then used this as an opportunity to give raises to other people who did not in fact have the advanced degree that the additional tier was supposed to compensate.

**Councilor Rheault** – There were three additional tiers.

**President Letellier** – Yes. And so that is what we're looking into because we did talk about that this morning and she did remind me that in the fall we did pass one new tier. We certainly did not pass three new tiers. So I can also, Councilor Young I know you're looking into that, but I'll try to follow up with the Mayor and the Solicitor on that as well.

**Councilor Rossi** – Madam President?

**President Letellier** – Yes?

**Councilor Rossi** – If I may, those tiers have been removed the Code books for some reason, they are no where to be found.

**President Letellier** – Right. I know there are no ordinances that match those new tiers.

**Councilor Rossi** – I've looked all around and they're not in there. Well, how come there wasn't any -?

**President Letellier** – Right. Well because I don't think we passed them!

**Councilor Rossi** – Even the work tiers aren't in there. Are the old tiers in there?

**Councilor Rheault** – They're gone.

**Councilor Rossi** – Any information pertaining to department head salaries has been removed from the Code Book.

**President Letellier** – All right. I'll see what I can find out tomorrow. We've got two weeks but I'll get started on it. Yes, Councilor Cavallo?

**Councilor Cavallo** – I'm very, very puzzled by that because financially that someone could have an advanced degree and therefore we created a tier?

**President Letellier** – That was the rationale that was given to us last fall.

**Councilor Cavallo** - I mean the only way a tier ...is in the...where they have steps and degree levels and so forth...say that you have a fifth tier if you have a Bachelor's Degree or you have a sixth tier if you have a Master's Degree, I mean how do you just arbitrarily just say you want more money because they have advanced degree and yet you don't have any criteria for all department heads. Some department heads may not have a degree some may have gotten them, I don't know. But to me it seems like, it just doesn't make any sense to me.

**President Letellier** – I think we probably all on the same page in that but these contracts were signed when the old mayor was in office and we have to honor them or we're breaking people's contracts.

**Councilor Cavallo** - It's unfortunate.

**President Letellier** – It is very unfortunate and like I said my recollection is that we did pass an additional tier and it was to put this person more in line with persons with similar degrees that

were on the School Department that were at similar tiers. The additional department heads that got raises do not have that same level of education and again it was a contractual item that the Council doesn't sign contracts. The Mayor signs contracts.

**Councilor Cavallo** - Aren't they a union? Like the teachers? Are they a union or are they an association?

**President Letellier** – They're in the department head union. I will do my best to get to the bottom of this as soon as possible. But we did talk about it this morning and I'll try to get more information. Anything else? Do we have a motion to adjourn? Moved by Councilor Rossi and seconded by Councilor Rheault. All those in favor please signify by saying Ay. All opposed? Thank you.

**Adjournment**