

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

June 7, 2010

Due to technical difficulties during the evening, there are many sections of the Minutes that were inaudible. Please accept the apologies of the City Council office. Thank you.

President Rheault – Good evening to the June 7, 2010 City Council Meeting. We're starting a few moments late. It's now 7:10.

Item 1. Citizen's Speak Time

President Rheault – We have a few speakers that want to address the Council, the first one being Kathy Shepard. Microphone stand, be sure the light is on, state your name and address for the record.

Kathy Shepard – Yes, hi, good evening. I'm Kathy Shepard. I live at 184 Poplar Street in Feeding Hills and most of you know me from the Advertiser but I'm not here tonight for the paper. I'm here as a private citizen. I'm concerned about the resolution recommending that Agawam and West Springfield share an Animal Control Officer. I know that times are tight but it just seems that this is the wrong direction to go in. The Agawam Animal Control Officer has more than enough to do just to cover Agawam. We have situations now that are occurring where people move and leave their animals behind in their houses. She has to figure out if she finds out about this where to put them. She has to operate and work with non-profit organizations that can help her take in the animals and place them. That's only a small part of her job. She's doing the dog licenses. I just think our community is large enough and justifies a full-time Animal Control Officer and more if we could do it which apparently we can't and sharing her with West Springfield has another downside that I think will have a ripple affect throughout both communities. West Springfield would have to terminate their contracts with Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center and they won't take if they don't have a contract with West Springfield, once that contract is terminated the Animal Control Officer will not be able to use that facility. So for instance if somebody's dog gets lost and she picks up that dog or she comes across an animal that's hurt, she won't be able to take them to Thomas J. O'Connor any more. The other thing about, I'm not even looking at my notes here, the other thing about Thomas J. O'Connor that has made it I think more than what people pay for, it's \$2.60 per capita for people to have that over in West Springfield and they're 24/7 so for an individual to substitute that service I think would be impossible. Thomas J. O'Connor has backup people if they'll go out if there's a fire for example if they're right behind the first responders so if something happens they'll go out and they'll help get the animals out of the fire, maybe a domestic abuse situation, they'll get the animals and bring them to safety. We all remember the kitties that were dumped in Bondi's? I think everybody remembers that in the winter – that was Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center that

went out and got them, rescued them, brought them to their facility, brought them back to health, I think all three of them got adopted. I know two of them did and that's a service that can't be provided if that town doesn't have their contract with West Springfield. So to put, it's like trying to work with apples and oranges to, even if you could divide our Animal Control Officer you know her hours in half and put her in West Springfield, she's not gonna be able to reproduce those kinds of services. Just to get a cat euthanized now, if you found a cat on the side of the road and it was injured, if you personally took it, it cost \$100; it costs at least \$100. Most people don't have that kind of money. Emergency services if a cat or a dog is found injured in the street and nobody knows who owns it, it's like \$125 to go into an emergency facility in the night and the closest places are Boston Road or Deerfield so those are just some of the things that we're all facing and the bare minimum service I think we have to have for our community is just at least a full-time Animal Control Officer. There's just so many stories. I will have a story in Thursday's paper so if you all will be kind enough to read it. I can get into more detail about why I think this idea's bad. I just think there's other ways that people could save money. I think the budget could be re-worked and save and save that \$25,000.00 some other way and still have the service.

Clerk – One minute please.

Kathy Shepard - Okay. I'm all set. Thank you all very much.

President Rheault – Thank you. Aldo Mancini?

Aldo Mancini – Good evening. My name's Aldo Mancini, 482 South West Street and I am the Chairman of the Veterans' Council. In recent weeks, there's been articles in the Agawam Advertiser and they all seem to be one-sided so I figured the only place that we can rebut anything that's in there is right here. The Mayor, the Mayor was mistaken about how people have been appointed under his administration – Fran Curnow, myself, Frank Mazzei, all appointed by Mayor Cohen were appointed through the process of the Council interviewing us and being chosen by the Council and being recommended to the Mayor for appointment. The other thing is what does the Agawam Veterans' Council do? Some people seem to think that we counsel veterans but we don't, we're not qualified to counsel veterans....what we do. The primary purpose of the Agawam Veterans' Council is to work together in the best interest of and for the welfare of the veterans of the Town of Agawam which I wish the Mayor would really head, to organize and implement the Memorial Day activities in the Town of Agawam, to organize and implement the Veterans' Day activities in the Town of Agawam and to assist in other patriotic events and activities in Agawam during each year. We have stepped up and we've done even more. We do work in the cemeteries. We flag the cemeteries. We've done the street of flags. We try to get to veteran's funerals, wakes, some times it's not all of us, sometimes it's only one of us that can get there but we try. Again, we do not counsel veterans. We do have individuals that help veterans and guide them in the right direction for whatever they might need. Frank has been with the DAV for years. Ron Hamel's been the DAV for years and he's always open arms to help any veteran that walks into his store. We have a Veterans' Agent, Richie Girard, even he can only do so

much. It takes more than one person to help these people out. I'm with the Marine Corp League out of Westfield and I have been for about ten-twelve years. I've been involved in the Wounded Warriors Program, Wounded Marines Program which is Marines helping Marines, that's why I gave you this little packet tonight. I've heard an awful lot of speakers from that organization, they've come to our unit and they've talked to us. I've talked to a number of parents that their sons and daughters have had, got help, from Wounded Marines Program and they all say the same thing: after 9/11, before 9/11, the Viet Nam veterans literally come out of the wood work and a lot of these guys were sleeping giants because they went through it, they were very disgruntled because of what happened during the 60's and 70's and how they were treated by their country and they did not want to see these kids get treated the way they did and myself being one. I've called Agents over in Springfield. I tried to re-up in the Marine Corp after 9/11 and when we had veteran's Storm but I was too old. But the reason I'm telling you this and the reason I gave you that packet is we're involved in that, we help the families get to their children whatever hospital they're at, we help them financially, we can't help them by counseling them but we can help them financially and in closing if anybody has an idea of anything, we're here to help. If you want to do something on your own, that's fine. If you want me to help, I can help you. I can get service people to come, whatever idea's you guys have, we can do and the last thing real quick here, this Veterans' Day Parade, this was my first year of taking over the parade. Chris Sanchez has done it in the years past and I talked with him on many occasions. I wanted to try and do it right. I did make a few mistakes but we always have a meeting after the parade. Our first meeting is to sit down and we scrutinize ourselves. We try to figure out what we did wrong, what we can make better and hopefully we move forward and we do a better job. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Alan Griffin?

Alan Griffin – Hi. My name's Alan Griffin and I'm at 104 North Street, Agawam. The reason why I come down here to talk about the Dog Officer. We should have more dog officers that's doing a wonderful job like she is. She's out there busting her butt, taking a chance, getting ripped up, getting ripped apart, here we are we want to put her on part-time? That's definitely wrong. She needs a paycheck just like you and I do and anybody else does. We take that away from her. That's you know, really, that's not right at all, you know? So I think she needs all the help in the world, you know and I think we oughta give it to her you know cuz hey, she's a nice person. I talked to her. I think she's a wonderful person and she's doing a wonderful job and you know like I said I would recommend her to stay on full time even if we have to use her Saturdays and Sundays because hey I'll tell you what, there's plenty of dogs running loose and running around and you know she's doing the best job for our city. So why not keep her on full time? Not take it away from her. Understand what I'm saying? And so forth. She's got a family herself. She's just like you and I are. We're all working for a living. We're all trying to make a living. We're trying to do things right. So let's do things right for her, you know. Help her out you know cuz she needs it. Just like anybody else does, you know? So hey it's your heart out there if you want to turn her down, it's your heart that you got to feel guilty about, you know what I mean? And so forth so that's what I want to say about that there. But there is something else that I want to bring up about my goats

and so forth. There's a certain councilor which I did find out a lot of information and I'm very, very displeased with him. He lied to me and so forth. I'm not gonna mention his name but he was on the Police Force and I'm very, very upset about it and you don't lie to a person. You know you got a problem; you come and talk to me. Not behind my back. I mean there's other things I found out too. You know, it's all gonna come to the end. It's gonna come to the end soon. So you know about it, we all know about it so that's all I'm gonna say. Thank you very much. Have a good day.

President Rheault – Thank you. Joann McGeoghan?

Joann McGeoghan – Good evening Councilors and everyone. Joanne McGeoghan, 75 Christopher Lane, Feeding Hills. I'm here tonight to thank the Town for everything you have done. I am standing here as a proud parent of seven children that have all graduated from the Agawam school system. Everything that you have provided as a community as a whole has helped me to raise my children and to mold them into the fine, young adults they have become. My oldest son graduated in the late 90's – '97 – with George Bitzas' son and some other people and he is now coaching at the University of South Florida. He went back and got his degree from the University of Maine after being four years in the NFL. A lot of that has to do with what this town helped provide. My second, my daughter, is a traveling RN, successfully completed four years at the University of New Hampshire. Both of those children had full scholarships. My third child who graduated from WNEC has now continued on to get a second degree as an RN and he'll graduate in an accelerated nursing program next year. My fourth child, I was told in kindergarten and thank you again for Agawam in listening and caring and going outside of the box and doing things that were very unique and coming up with the whole language-based program cuz at the end of his kindergarten year I was told by his kindergarten teacher "He's a fine boy but he'll never amount to anything. He doesn't have the brain." He graduated last year from WPI with a scholarship and continued on to get his Master's and has two more courses in an accelerated graduate program from WPI. My next child graduated from STCC with honors and has continued on to UMass in an honor's program and is doing a dual major. He is in his junior year. My sixth child is on a scholarship at the University of Maine. She's entering her junior year. Again, thank you to the community for letting her succeed in her track abilities, outside of the box, outside of the high school as well. My last child graduated yesterday and now I am done with the Agawam Public Schools. He will continue on a scholarship to St. Anselm's in New Hampshire and again thank you to the schools for providing a fine athletic program. He received a football scholarship. Anything that this community has helped in any way I thank you deeply from the bottom of my heart. It is made me be able to be the mother that I have wanted and strived to be in giving my children all of the abilities to continue in their dreams and hopefully they too will come back and pay back and thank you. Thank you and have a good evening. (APPLAUSE)

President Rheault – Thank you. Frank Mazzei?

Frank Mazzei – Frankie Mazzei, 476 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills. I'd like start off by thanking all of you that came out for Memorial Day to show your honor, to show

your respect for all those that have fallen and for all those that weren't able to come home and that we all gave a chance to honorably memorialize them. I'd also like to thank all of you for your strong support throughout all the years that we have been allowed to be volunteers to put forth in our community what is so dear in our heart. The Veterans' Council it's true, has not been getting a fair shot from the paper or from the Mayor on a lot of issues that's going on and a lot of mistruths are being dispelled out there. We do span quite a few eras and years on the Veterans' Council starting from World War II, we won't mention the age because she doesn't allow us to and all the way up to the Gulf War and in between. We've had people from every era that has served on the Council but the whole time there were no barriers between anybody, any other branch of service or the time they served. What was common is we all raised our hand in the time to say "I do" to put our life on the line for our country and for our community and for our beliefs. We served our time. The majority of us were allowed to come home and live normal lives. Some of us bear physical scars for all of you to see. There are many in the past and present, more so present now, that are coming home with the invisible scars that we have to deal with. The Veterans' Council itself does not help with counseling or healing as Aldo has said but individuals within the Council through their various outside activities such as a DAV or working with the VA and with the Veterans' Agent as well help find these people the right home to get their assistance. It's not through the Veterans' Council that that happens. That's a veteran helping a veteran. That's a big difference and as a Veterans' Council or Councilor, we cannot wear that tag to say here's the helping hand, let me give you what you need. Our main goal has always been the community and nothing but the community. We were allowed the privilege to come home and serve in what we believed in and show our community our thanks and at the same time by showing respect for those in the past, the present and the future and there are no barriers among any of the individuals on that Council. In the community that I was raised in, I couldn't go back home to. They don't allow us to fly the flag there. Yea, we all know what community that is. It's right up the road. It's a college town and I was able to find a home here where I was allowed to be who I was. I was allowed – was – allowed to be a proud Veteran of our country and our community. I might have gotten fired. I might have gotten removed. He can step on my and kick me. He will never take away my pride or my beliefs and all he does is make me stronger in showing that I can fly that flag no matter where I stand or in my case where I sit but again I'd like to thank all of you especially my fellow brothers and sisters that have served that sit here on the Council and for all of you to come out and show honor and respect for all those that weren't able to come home. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Vinny Tirone?

Vinny Tirone – Vinny Tirone, 396 Meadow Street. I just wanted to applaud all the City Council members week after week continuing to vote in the way that they should. It's doing the right thing and I hope that as time goes on and perhaps the support in this room dwindles on this particular issue because it's been overplayed, I would think you guys would continue to do the right thing. And I think that the Veterans' Council is more than capable of choosing if they need additional members, choosing their leaders. They are

veterans and they are all volunteers on their own free will. So again I just wanted to applaud all the members on the City Council. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Forrest Bradford?

Forrest Bradford – Hello everyone. Forrest Bradford, 21 Oxford Street, Agawam. There's two issues I want to speak on. One does have to do with the Veterans' Council and I would say when I came here two weeks ago I wasn't really pleased with behavior that happened. An attack was done on a councilman who's sitting up here who has given a lot of himself to this town and everywhere where you go in this town you can see something that this councilman has done and that is George Bitzas. Yes, he is a friend of mine. Am I biased? Probably but I don't know anyone who is more friendly and more kind and I think that was a wrong approach. He does not have to be watched by somebody sitting next to him. Donald Rheault brought up an issue about how he was attacked and thought that that was unfair and I did too. Donald Rheault I've known for a very long time and he's absolutely honest when he says that he has an open door policy and you can go talk to him at any time. I think there's times when councilmen have to look at each other and say you are all there, you wanted to be elected, you wanted to help the community and you are and there's a time when you've got to understand there may be a need for supporting other council people and our Mayor. Our Mayor is Jewish and when I first came back from Maui I thought I was in Mississippi because I heard remarks like "Get that Jew out of our town". Some of the people that I'm friends with I don't particularly care for their behavior when they spread false rumors or misbehave and I would like to say I don't know of George really dogging people or being mean at all. I just know him to be a great person, someone who cares for this community, one of the most patriotic people I've ever met and on this issue, they're simply asking to now extend the number of people on the Veterans' Council and I think it's time for people to say "Let it happen. Let it go. Move on we've got more important issues." The second issue that I'm here for is more important in my opinion and that has to do with global warming, oil, the spill in the Gulf of Mexico and what we can do here in Agawam to make a difference on that change. Sometimes it seems hopeless when you look at the globe and you look at little Agawam, what can Agawam do? Well we have before us today an issue about adopting a Stretch Energy Code and I don't know of another better plan out there and if we don't accept this and show the community and our town, the children in this town, that we are serious about their future, I don't think there's somebody else who's gonna come up with one. So I would like to ask all of you to please support that and I would like to ask the public of Agawam to understand that we're all people, yes we have a Jewish Mayor, that doesn't make a difference. We are not a racist community. We are above that and I would like to say also that those people that do put rumors out there, understand that they don't hold up in court. So please don't bring an issue of a rumor in front of the Council and make it an attack based on a rumor because most rumors as we know are a little blown out of proportion. Thank you very much.

President Rheault – Thank you. The final speaker is Ruth Carr Bitzas.

Ruth Carr Bitzas – Is this on? Thank you. My name is Ruth Carr Bitzas as you know most of you and I reside at 93 Dogwood Lane here in Agawam, lived in Agawam for 53 years, it's been my home since I was 20 years old. I am a wartime era veteran of the United States Air Force, served three years and I'm honorable discharged. I served as Director/Agent of Western Hampden District from 1984 until April of 2000. I was named most outstanding Veterans' Agent in 1994 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by Commissioner Thomas Hudner, a Medal of Honor recipient and I was number one Agent in the State of Massachusetts in 1999. I was voted by the State Association of Veterans' Agents at their summer conference. I'm here this evening to hopefully clarify some of the information regarding the Agawam Veterans' Council and support an increase in the number of members on the Veterans' Council. On January 16, 1991, I sent a letter to Mayor Johnson as Veterans' Agents at the time; on January 16th I sent a letter to Mayor Johnson explaining our need for a Veterans' Council. I needed help. My assistant Diane and I were really carrying the load of doing the Memorial Day Parade, notifying all of you of the parade which we always tried to do. It was just a little bit, getting to be a little bit too much for us and I saw some things go on that I didn't like and I said well I don't care, I'm getting myself a Veterans' Council and I did. So I talked to the Mayor. I followed up with a visit to his office to explain the plight of not enough help for Memorial Day and other veterans' programs. He agreed with me and on February 4, 1991 the City Council approved the Resolution for a Veterans' Council in Agawam. I don't want to be too wordy but I usually am. I put an article in the Agawam Advertiser News and several veterans came forward. I had them send a letter of interest to the Mayor's office. The applicants were interviewed in the Mayor's office by Mayor Johnson and myself. I told him that I wanted members who are willing to work for our veterans. The Mayor selected four members and decided that the duly appointed Director/Agent of Western Hampden District shall be the fifth member. So the Veterans' Agent of Agawam is a member of the Veterans' Council. The Resolution reads that members shall be honorable discharged veterans appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Town Council. There was never a standard procedure that the Mayor consult with the Chairman of the Veterans' Council before making appointments. In 18 years as Director/Agent and Veterans' Council member this never happened. It's set up as Mayor appointing officer and City Council as confirming his selection – that's it. Advertiser News page 10, May 20th, indicated that Chris Sanchez had not sent the Mayor a letter advising that he wanted to continue on the Veterans' Council as a Veteran Council member and Frank Mazzei was not appointed at all as he was already involved in according to the paper, already involved in many other issues, other town committees. I spoke to Frankie Mazzei following the Memorial Day ceremonies and he explained that he only serves on the Disability Commission and they don't meet very often is what he told me. He was an asset to the Veterans' Council and I hope he'll be reappointed. Regarding Chris Sanchez he attended our Memorial Day ceremonies about 11 or 12 years ago. He came up to me to tell me how he liked the way we honored our veterans. He had recently arrived home from Iraq and he hoped he could help out. I told him I thought an opening would be coming up soon and to send a letter of interest to the Mayor indicating his interest to serve. He did and was soon appointed. Chris did a great job. He is extremely organized and he gets things done. I was glad to have him on the Council as a member and then as Chairman. He took over, organized everything, lined

up the parade, had everybody in place. I mean it was just, he's just very good at all that and I think he should have been on the Veterans' Council. I know the past year has been different for Chris and Debbie

President Rheault – Excuse me Ruth. I'm notified that your time is up.

Ruth Carr Bitzas – I'd like to finish if I could.

Councilor Letellier - Motion to extend the speaker's time.

President Rheault – That's all right. Moved by Councilor Letellier, seconded by Councilor Perry. All those in favor? Okay, you can continue. Just procedure.

Ruth Carr Bitzas – I know it's a lot but I think it's important to hear. Thank you. As I said I had a year like Chris did last year, many years ago and I know the hurt. I would like to see both Chris and Frankie on the Veterans' Council as well as Todd Crevier and Rielly Longtin, the four of them. I have the honor of being the first honorary member of the Agawam Veterans' Council confirmed by the City Council in April of 2000 when I retired. Priscilla Peterson is also an honorary member. The only difference in our positions on the Veterans' Council is that we are not voting members by law. We may speak and attend meetings and speak about the subjects concerning veterans but may not vote. One must be an appointed and confirmed member to vote. Regarding TOR-2010-2 which you'll be discussing tonight, I encourage and hope our City Council members and all the controversy going on by increasing the number of Veterans' Council members to 11, I believe this will make a great change. This would allow for the appointment of Todd Crevier, Rielly Longtin, Chris Sanchez and Frankie Mazzei. So that's it for me. I hope that you will think clearly and follow your heart. There's been a lot of things going on here. I've been watching it on the TV. I've been reading it in the paper and it's discouraging. The Mayor is the appointing authority. Chris Johnson was the appointing authority and the Veterans' Agent - never was the Chairman of the Veterans' Council interviewing everybody – that did not happen. Not in the 18 years I was there. So I would like to see you make a good decision on this tonight for your first reading and get this problem behind us. I know that there's hard feelings and everything but it's time to let go. Sometimes it's time to let go and do the right thing and get back to business. The Veterans' Council has done a wonderful job. It's one of the best things I ever did for the town, is to have a Veterans' Council and I can honestly say when I attended all their meetings when I was the Agent, we weren't fighting all the time. There's no reason for all this business. So it's all anger. Anger is not a good thing. It's a good thing to get rid of if you have it. So thank you very much and I hope you'll do that for us.

President Rheault – Thank you.

Item 2. Roll Call

President Rheault – Barbara, would you call the roll please?

ROLL CALL – 11 PRESENT

President Rheault – Eleven present, we have a quorum.

Item 3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance

President Rheault – Please rise for a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4. Minutes

(a) Regular Council Meeting – May 17, 2010

President Rheault – Moved by Councilor Perry, seconded by Councilor Letellier.

Councilor Letellier – I didn't second. I have to abstain.

President Rheault – I'm sorry, Councilor Messick seconded. Any corrections or additions? If not, voice vote is sufficient. All those in favor? Opposed? Two abstentions – Councilor Letellier and Councilor Perry.

Item 5. Declaration from Council President

None

Item 6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances

(a) Resolutions

- 1. TR-2010-29 - Reappointment of Richard Bennett representing the Historic Commission on the CPA Committee for a term expiring April 30, 2013 (Council)**

President Rheault – Moved by Councilor Bitzas, seconded by Councilor Simpson. Any discussion? Councilor Bitzas?

Councilor Bitzas – Yes, I know Richard very well and we've served on a few committees and he's been doing a great job and I hope the Council reappoints him.

President Rheault – Barbara, would you please call the roll? If you're in favor of the appointment –

ROLL CALL – 11 YES, 0 NO

President Rheault – Eleven yes, you have confirmed the reappointment.

Item 7. Report of Council Committees

None.

Item 8. Elections

None.

Item 9. Public Hearings

1. **TR-2010-24 (PH-2010-2) - A Resolution Adopting the “Stretch Energy Code” for the City of Agawam (Councilor Messick)**

President Rheault – I declare the public hearing open. Anthony, are you prepared to make a presentation somehow?

(off microphone)

President Rheault – You’ll need a microphone there.

Anthony Sylvia – Thank you for taking this hearing on the Council Agenda, I appreciate it. My name is Anthony Sylvia. I’m the Public Works Director but I’m also the Chair of the Energy Commission. Tonight we’re having a public hearing on one of five criteria where the town is pursuing becoming a green community. This particular item is an effort to adopt the Stretch Energy Code. It is a code that is optional and would enable construction to be more energy efficient in its construction. With me this evening is Catherine Ratté from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Dan Hellyer from the Town of East Longmeadow. He is the Building Official there. These good people are well versed in this Stretch Code and are here to give a presentation to the best of their ability lacking AV implements and answering questions that the Council or the public may have. Thank you.

Catherine Ratté – Is it all right if we just stay sitting? Okay. Thanks Anthony and thank you very much for having us here. As Anthony said I’m Catherine Ratté. I work at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and we’ve been providing assistance to a number of our communities in Hampden and Hampshire Counties to help them meet the five criteria to be designated a green community. Six of our municipalities achieved the designation this past May and as Anthony pointed out achieving or adopting the Stretch Code is one of five criteria that you have to achieve to be designated a green community. I’m not sure if I should go into detail of the other five but the other four but basically Agawam is well along the way in achieving those other four and those are all actions that – you have the two zoning pieces already in place and then the staff are working on the 20% reduction plan and a baseline inventory of your energy use so the difficult hurdle is adoption of the Stretch Code which obviously falls on your shoulders.

President Rheault – Excuse me, if I may, I failed to state that you’ve got ten minutes to present if that will help.

Catherine Ratté – Oh, okay, so I’ll talk quickly. So we wanted to get you through the basics of the Stretch Code. It is an optional amendment to your local building code. It’s totally optional. It’s up to you to adopt it. If you choose to adopt it, it will become your Building Code. It’s an optional amendment to the State Building Code that makes all new building, fifteen percent more energy efficient than the standard and Dan’s gonna explain all the details but I just want to emphasize that it’s optional and I have handouts – Dan’s gonna go through some of the basics and then we’re gonna come to the cost questions because that’s a big question for everybody is – how much is this gonna add to the cost for new construction. We’re in a down time obviously in our economy and that’s a burden so he’ll go through some of the details and then we’ll come back to the cost. But we have cost estimates from the state. Essentially it adds about \$3,000.00 to the upfront cost however you’re producing energy efficient buildings which is much less expensive to operate so it saves you on your utility bills and we have been in conversation with local banks in the region who are willing to loan more money to cover the extra costs of building an energy efficient home to property owners, to home owners so they can cover that extra cost and live in an energy efficient house where they can run it for less over the lifetime of that property. So, Dan?

Dan Hellyer – Good evening. My name is Dan Hellyer, East Longmeadow, Massachusetts. I’m gonna speak briefly on the Stretch Energy Code. What the Stretch Energy Code does is establish guidelines for improved building efficiency. This was approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards back in May of 2009. It’s an appendix to the Massachusetts State Building Code which requires adoption by the governing body. What it does is it takes residential and commercial and it puts it, it gives it more efficient houses and more efficient buildings. The residential are three stories or less which is considered residential and there’s a home energy rating system testing that’s required for this. This cost is approximately \$1200.00 – anywhere from \$900 to \$1200 – in which they partner up with Energy Star which reduces it down to \$250.00 for the cost of the HERS rater. A home over 3000 square feet requires a HERS index of 65 or less. That’s saying that it’s 35% better than the standard that’s set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a guideline. When you get into the smaller houses, they require a 70, which is 30%. The current, the energy code that goes into affect as of July 1st has a standard on it that’s about 82% efficient, a HERS rate of approximately 82. As far as renovations go, it really doesn’t say much different than what’s in the new code that starts as of July 1st. It does give a little more guidance than the code. It says that if you open a wall up and there’s no insulation, you have to put it into the thickness of the wall which would be an R13 for a 2x4 wall and an R19 for a 2x6 wall. The energy code that we’re using, the 2009, requires an R20 in the walls but in both aspects it really doesn’t, it doesn’t show much difference. So the remodelers and the people doing the additions, the additions are gonna see a little more increase because you have to follow the wall thickness. As of July 1st all walls have to be 2x6 walls or they can be 2x4 walls with a continuous insulation on the outside. The Stretch Energy Code requires performance testing. This is done by a HERS rater. Currently there is I believe around twenty HERS

raters in the greater Western Mass area. They all work for a certain company. There are other companies in Connecticut, New Hampshire and also in the eastern part of Massachusetts. Okay, I'll go slightly into the commercial aspect of it. Commercial is for buildings over 100,000 square feet only require performance option which says that the energy modeling is 20% below ...90.127, that's what the architect... codes. There are special cases and that's with buildings with unusual energy demands which include supermarkets, warehouses, laboratories, over 40,000 square feet once again, it's the same as over 100,000 for a standard building. There are incentives. There are rebates and there's tax credits. There's all types if people go onto the energy star website, they'll find products that you can put in your house that reduces your energy plus it gives you rebates. An example of a commercial cost savings I have here, it takes a mid-sized office building in Warwick, Rhode Island, they had additional construction costs of \$91,000.00 and annual energy savings of \$29,000.00. National Grid provided rebates of \$63,000.00 reducing the initial cost to \$28,000.00 for a one year payback in energy savings. Why are we doing this? Building operations alone, the heating, cooling, lighting, hot water, and plug load account for 43 % of the carbon dioxide emissions and 76% of the US energy consumption plus we emit green house gases which we're trying to reduce and we're saving on our national resources and the efficiency equates out to cash savings.

Catherine Ratté – So a big change obviously if you adopt the Stretch Code is that when people build new homes or new commercial construction that requires the greater level of energy efficiency, it has to be tested. So in the past when you built a home, you could say it's energy efficient and if you chose to do Energy Star, get a certification from the EPA then you knew that it was in fact energy efficient but if you didn't choose to get that certification there was no proof so you know it's like a car without a miles per gallon, you could say that it was efficient but you don't actually know that. So if you adopt the Stretch Code and you do this HERS rating – HERS stands for Home Efficiency Rating System – then you will know that you are living in an energy efficient home because it will be tested and you will actually have that evidence of the test. Now, the thing about the Stretch Code is it doesn't tell you how to achieve that level of efficiency so you can do it in different ways depending on your building. You could choose to have an extremely efficient furnace for example or an extremely efficient heating system or you could put in more insulation or you could put in really good windows so there are different ways that you can achieve the level of energy efficiency so it allows creativity and innovation on the part of the builder but it does have to achieve this level of energy efficiency. So it's not telling you exactly what to do. It gives you a range of things but you have to achieve a level of energy efficiency. Do you want to add anything else? So you want to talk about the cash flow briefly? Do you want to look at the handout? So this is a modeling cash flow analysis that was produced by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and it's done on page one is just an overview of the basics. If you go to page two, this is a baseline home of 2600 square feet and you can see that the IECC 2009 code is the code that Dan referred to as going into affect on July 1st. With the Stretch Code, the additional cost the additional improvement costs you can see in that second column is \$2049.00. You have to spend approximately \$900.00 to pay for the HERS rater and so you end up with this additional cost of \$2949.00 for total improvement costs. Now if you get the Energy Star rating, then that cost for the HERS

rater is paid back to the builder so then your additional up front costs are reduced and so you have the total improvement costs of \$1755.00 that's why you have those different up front costs and then you can see right there it's explaining how if you have your annual cash flow is improved by \$293.00 with the Stretch Code, without Energy Star and \$389.00 with Energy Star because of the savings that you're getting on your utility bills.

Dan Hellyer – As a Building Official, I'm seeing a lot of different houses being built but most of the aspects is they're building to the standard especially with the heating systems to a higher efficiency so for them to achieve this, it may not cost them as much as it shows in there. This is doing a comparison of what the minimal requirement is. We used a lot of gas furnaces in there, hot air gas furnaces, and right now I'm not seeing anything less than a 90% efficiency even though the energy code under the federal guidelines says it only has to be 78% efficient but you won't find a 78% efficient heating system anymore. Everybody goes after whatever they can save for the best for energy. So as far as the builders go, it's pretty close to, most of them are pretty close to being there. I have a builder right now that's building a 3600 square foot house, not under the Stretch Energy Code, but his HERS rating coming out of the gate with 2x4 walls was a 70. They require 65. If he had gone 2x6 walls, he would have made the 65 right off the gate with very little or no changes whatsoever.

Catherine Ratté – So finally just to wrap up the City of Springfield, the City of Holyoke, the City of East Hampton, the City of Northampton have all adopted the Stretch Code as has the Town of Palmer and the Town of Belchertown in our region as well as 29 other communities across the Commonwealth. So you would not be the only community that was taking this step. Your neighboring communities have already taken this step so if you're concerned about driving residential development away; your neighbors are already moving in this direction. We'd love to answer any questions you might have.

President Rheault – Time. Any questions from the Council?

Councilor Bitzas – I have a question. If somebody sells his home to somebody else does she or he have to make the house to a code before they sell it? Any affect to that?

Dan Hellyer - No, it's just when you first build the house that's when it first goes into affect or when you do changes to the house. Then it depends if you're going to a higher, more efficient furnace, you have to reach that area.

Councilor Bitzas – Okay.

Dan Hellyer - But no changes to an existing house.

Councilor Bitzas – Yea, some people they were concerned about what about if they sell the house and the elderly people they can't afford to make changes.

Dan Hellyer - No, no changes whatsoever.

Councilor Bitzas – Thank you.

President Rheault – Councilor Letellier?

Councilor Letellier – Yes, thank you for your presentation and for your handout. I found the handout to be very helpful. If I'm reading this handout correctly because a lot of what the Building Officer said is quite frankly over my head, even though there are additional upfront costs you're saying that within that first year of operation the reduction in energy costs pays for the upfront costs and then some, it looks like. Is that accurate?

Catherine Ratté – No, it, it's your annual cash flow because of the reduced savings that would be based on an annual mortgage payment.

Councilor Letellier – All right so you're saying that under the Stretch Code and the Stretch Code with Energy Star, you'll save \$293 on your – okay. So can you explain the chart a little better then? Okay.

Catherine Ratté – Do you want to talk it through? Okay, so, it's adding the 2949 or the total improvement costs –

Councilor Letellier – I understand that.

Catherine Ratté – Okay, then if you're getting your mortgage at 6% with 30 years, your annual incremental mortgage payment is \$214

Councilor Letellier – Right. So you're saying that it'll cost \$214.00 more a year to pay back the initial 2000 or 2900 of upfront costs.

Catherine Ratté – Right. Well, if you borrowed the extra 2949 on your 30 year mortgage, it's gonna be \$214 but your annual energy costs are reduced so it ends up you're paying less, it's not paying for itself but the payment is less because you've spread the cost out over your 30 year mortgage, if that makes sense.

Councilor Letellier – No, I understand that. I guess what I'm trying to say this annual cash flow you're saying is positive; I want the public to understand how this saves them money in the end. So how do you come out with the figure of \$293 as your annual positive cash flow is what I'm not figuring out?

Dan Hellyer – That would be the difference between the annual energy savings from the baseline less the annual incremental mortgage payment.

Councilor Letellier – So my initial assumption was correct then, you actually end up getting more money back than you're paying toward it.

Dan Hellyer -You actually end up with a positive cash flow. Exactly right.

Councilor Letellier – That’s what I said initially, okay. But let me summarize it for the public and you tell me if my summary is accurate. Does that work?

Dan Hellyer -Yes.

Councilor Letellier – So you’re saying that under this initial Stretch Code you’re projected to save energy of \$507.00 a year. So for the \$214.00 a year extra it’s gonna cost you on your mortgage, you’re still making out ahead \$293.00.

Dan Hellyer -That’s correct.

Councilor Letellier – Okay. I think the public needs to understand that. Thank you.

Dan Hellyer – And as far as that goes, this column right here, if you were to build to a standard, you’d build and partner up with Energy Star so you’d be using the far column because you would be foolish not to reap the \$1200 benefit from it.

Councilor Letellier – In that case, you’re actually making out better. I just wanted to make sure if I was understanding it so we could explain it to the public correctly. All right thank you.

(WE APOLOGIZE FOR TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES)

Councilor Walsh – Okay, I guess before we lost our voice, I guess my question was my understanding was that if somebody puts an addition on their house, this is gonna be covered by the Stretch Code. Now my concern is going to be we’ve had some tremendous winds recently supposing a tree comes down and does major damage to someone’s house now they’re not going to be putting an addition on but they want to bring it back to where it was, are they going to required to go under the Stretch Code?

Dan Hellyer – No, it would be existing, what it was at the time. If they were to put an addition on, then they would have to meet the requirements or actually they would have to meet the requirement of this Code because the Stretch Code bounces you into this Code but other than that if there was damage to the house it would fall under anyways under another law that protects people from that.

Catherine Ratté – Yea, and I just wanted to clarify for the renovation piece, the Stretch Code does not require a performance test for the renovations so there should be no additional cost. Because the Massachusetts Building Code is going up to the 2009 National Energy Conservation Code as of July 1st, the Stretch Code refers back to that code for renovations so there should be no additional cost for renovations if you adopt the Stretch Code.

Councilor Walsh – Thank you.

President Rheault – Councilor Messick?

Councilor Messick – Hi. Thank you for your presentation. I have a couple questions. The first one is you briefly covered the five requirements that Agawam has been working on to become designated a green community, what would be the reason we would want to be a green community?

Catherine Ratté – Well, you might want to be a green community because you want to be green, because you want to conserve energy and help your property owners save money in that reference of green. The Massachusetts legislature in 2008 created and passed the Green Communities Act and the staff the State Department of Energy Resources has been figuring out what that legislative act means for the last couple years and what the Commonwealth has decided to do is to take all of the money that we get by participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative which is basically it's a cap and trade program that we have in the northeastern part of the country with Canadian provinces where polluters, you pay for the right to pollute and the money goes into a fund and so that fund gives Massachusetts approximately \$10 - \$13 million a year to spend on green initiatives and the Commonwealth legislature have decided to take that money and give it out to the communities that achieve the green communities designation and so this year there's over \$8 million that has just recently been awarded to the 35 communities that have achieved the designation this first round. The City of Springfield received about \$989,000.00 and then other communities received lesser amounts. But so the benefit of achieving the green communities' designation is that you're one of the few communities in the Commonwealth that can compete for those funds and you just, you have to write a grant obviously and then you get funding to implement your energy efficiency plan or to do whatever it is that you want to do for your community to make yourselves greener or save your residents or your property owners money on their energy bills or generate, perhaps generate some power from clean renewable sources. So the big incentive is you're eligible for funding and it's not a tax, a local tax, it's money that is coming to the Commonwealth through participation in the regional green house gas initiative – the Regi Fund if you've heard of that.

President Rheault – Councilor Perry?

Councilor Perry – Yes, thank you. Through the chair to Dan, East Longmeadow, is that where you work?

Dan Hellyer – That's correct.

Councilor Perry – And you are the Building Inspector there?

Dan Hellyer – That's correct.

Councilor Perry – Okay. I guess my question is if we adopt this as a Building Inspector are you the one that's enforcing maintaining the code or if builders have brought it up to those standards or is it up to this whatever it is certification program?

Dan Hellyer – Well it doesn't take any of the responsibility away from the Building Official nor does it add any more of workload for him. The builder of the dwelling or the architect of record will be submitting that type of documentation to the Building Official. However the Building Official decides how they want to handle it, if they want to see the HERS rating contract up front or they want to wait to see the HERS rating when they do it is entirely up to the Building Official. The Building Official still has to go out and the inspection as if it was an Energy Star rated home. I do that and in fact I see that before the HERS rater actually comes in and then that's at the point I see the structural plus I see all the gaps in the outside walls which I have them seal up. The HERS rater doesn't come in until after the insulation is in and then once again they come in after the drywall is in and they do there blower door test to check to see if it meets the standard which it does, it always does because they've already done a thorough check on it.

Councilor Perry – And if it fails this test what would happen?

Dan Hellyer – That's a good question. They would have to make it up somehow by either adding additional insulation to the attic in order to, because that would change the number so the HERS rating would, if they obtained a 68 and they require a 70 and all of a sudden they didn't do very well in a blower test which the HERS raters want to make sure that they do make it anyways that's why the inspections are done prior to that but in that case they would have to maybe add some insulation to the attic or add some insulation to a floor or something or add some insulation somewhere or maybe even possibly change the efficiency of the furnace or the hot water heater.

Councilor Perry - ...limited industrial space left in our community...over to our Industrial Park off of Silver Street, the majority of the growth there would be additions to companies, if a company was to add on 10,000 square feet to their building or 100,000 square feet now would they number one I know the addition would have to be...(audio difficulties)..the rest of the building be held up to these standards?

Dan Hellyer – The only thing that could possibly change in that would be their heating system and heating and cooling system, that they would have to add on to it in order to make it, to change it out to make it a more efficient heating system or cooling system, an HVA system then possibly that would have somewhat of an affect on it.

Councilor Perry – What would the test of the heat be done on the whole building or just the renovation?

Dan Hellyer – There's no testing required on a commercial building. It would be done through the architect, he would be the one who met the standard and say it would have to be 20% better.

Councilor Perry – than the whole building?

Dan Hellyer – The whole building, they do it by modeling, they, yes –

Councilor Perry – So what I'm saying is if a company was to put an addition on their building, the whole building has to about 20% more efficient heating wise?

Dan Hellyer – No, it doesn't.

Councilor Perry – Isn't that what you just said?

Dan Hellyer – No, what I was trying to say is that the only time they would have to upgrade things to the code would be if they changed the heating system for the whole building but if they do an addition on to the building, only the addition area has to comply with the Stretch Energy Code or the energy codes. Nothing if they don't touch anything else in the rest of the building, then they don't need to.

Councilor Perry – Okay. Going back to the Building Inspector's responsibility, you were saying it doesn't add to his work, there aren't more inspections?

Dan Hellyer – No, there's no more inspections than we already have. We have a foundation footing inspection; we go up from there up into the rough frame inspection and the insulation inspection. It adds an addition layer to the contractor because the HERS rater comes out and does an addition inspection.

Councilor Perry – Is there a service agreement with a private organization or is it a state-based organization? A qualified...?

Dan Hellyer – The residential energy service network sets the standards for the HERS rater, it's a federal organization. They set the standards. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts just sets the bar on what we do the comparison in so different states have different comparisons. Massachusetts comparisons are very low, surprisingly low, it's set to 2006 International Energy Conservation Code and we're at 2009 right here, it's two code cycles, two code cycles behind.

President Rheault – Councilor Mineo?

Councilor Mineo - ...our Building Inspector?

Dan Hellyer – That's correct.

Councilor Mineo – Thank you.

Councilor Rossi – Yes, do we have any energy standards in existence right now in the state or local levels?

Dan Hellyer – Right now in effect is the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code along with the 2009. They Commonwealth of Massachusetts is required to adopt the latest energy code from the International Code Council one year after it gets published. The 2009 is published so as of January 1, 2010 the Commonwealth is required to adopt

the 2009 with a six-month concurrency variant until July 1st. We're running right now the 2006 and 2009 optional by whichever the Builder decides to use. As of July 1, 2006 this is....

Councilor Rossi – Those are the codes that are in effect right now?

Dan Hellyer – That's correct.

Councilor Rossi - Is that the responsibility of the Building Inspector also to make sure those codes are conformed?

Dan Hellyer – Yes as part of the 780 CMR which is our Code of Massachusetts Regulation of Building Codes.

Councilor Rossi – Okay now... code that's in effect right now as opposed to the relationship to this Stretch Energy Code, can you tell me what the difference between the two is? Is it significant?

Dan Hellyer – No, it's not significant. It's, most of the builders right now are building at this level, they admit to building at this level. So, there are some differences and that's in testing and then as far as the heating systems go, the Stretch Code requires a little more efficient unit for heating systems which builders are using now anyways because it's very hard to find something with that low of efficiency that they're talking about maybe down south you might because it's not used as often as up here. Up here we're always looking at the highest efficiency that we can get ...

Catherine Ratté – I wanted to add something. When the Board of Building Regulations and Standards developed the Stretch Code last year, we had the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code as our base code in Massachusetts and the difference between the 2006 and the 2009 is about 15% of energy efficiency so when we were talking about the Stretch Code a year ago, it was a big leap from the standard. It was about 30% more energy efficient. Now when you take the 2009 base code which is the standard as of July 1st and you go to the Stretch Code, you're getting about 15% more energy efficient so if your energy bill is \$100 now it's gonna be \$85. So that's the difference, so there is a change but the big thing that people were concerned about with the Stretch Code was if they were gonna have blower door testing and duct blast testing, that builders would have to be responsible for. Those are required with the 2009 so the big chance with the Stretch Code is you have to achieve this HERS rating, there's proof that your building actually is energy efficient so that's the big difference but again, it's an outside rater who's coming in, the builder has to pay for the outside rater to do that certification. You can get the cost reimbursed by EPA if you get the energy star certification so in the end it should be a wash.

Councilor Rossi – Okay, the laws or the codes that are in existence right now, the HERS rating...

Catherine Ratté – There's no requirement for a HERS rating.

Councilor Rossi – So we don't actually know –

Catherine Ratté – Know if the building is energy efficient.

Councilor Rossi – We just have to go on the builder's word.

Catherine Ratté – Correct.

Councilor Rossi – So the Stretch Code is really just adding this HERS rating?

Catherine Ratté – It's giving you proof that your building is energy efficient.

Councilor Rossi – It's giving validity to it.

Catherine Ratté – Yea.

Dan Hellyer – Can I add something to that please? What it does is the 2009 is what's called prescriptive. We follow it. This is what you have to follow. The Stretch Energy Code gives what we could almost say trade offs. If you can't achieve this here, you can achieve it over here. But you can't do that. This book right here requires an R20 for your wall insulation, the Stretch Energy Code does not require an R20 only because you can sometimes, you may be able to achieve it with an R19, it depends on what the HERS rating is. What the HERS rating does is you put your house into the computer system and the computer system does the modeling. It takes your house and compares it to a house that's at 100 which is the current energy code that is used in the system and then it lowers the number from there.

Councilor Rossi – The other question I want to ask about the pool of money ...right now there's 35 communities out of 351.

Catherine Ratté – That's correct.

Councilor Rossi – Now if there was \$8 million in the pool and say everyone in the state for example is on, everyone would have to buy into the \$8 million right?

Catherine Ratté – Right. It's an annual fund. So there was about \$13 million this year. The state spent a fair amount of the money setting up their department and division of green communities and providing assistance to help those 35 communities achieve the designation. So there ended up being \$8 million left to give in grants. As of July 1 we start a new fiscal year and there will be another approximately \$10 - \$13 million so every year there will be \$10 to \$13 million to give out in grants.

Councilor Rossi – And the more people that buy into this, the more it's going to be spread out, correct?

Catherine Ratté – The more it's gonna be spread out. The state has not said whether they will give money to the communities that already received money so there gonna have another round of funding assistance in the fall and they haven't said whether or not it will only be the newest communities that achieve the designation that will be eligible or whether the people, the 35 original one, would be able to go back. So that's still a question.

Councilor Rossi – Okay and the other thing I'm not clear on, where is the money actually coming from? Is there any kind of stimulus program?

Catherine Ratté – No, it's not, it's coming from corporations that pollute. It's, you've heard of cap and trade, the state talked about it on the federal level, we actually have a program right now in the northeastern part of the country with the Canadian provinces participating where companies that are polluting are paying into a fund and so the ones that pollute less are not and Massachusetts participates and the other New England states do and that money is sitting in a pot and the legislature decided that the way it would be spent would be to give it back to communities to be green.

Councilor Rossi – Thank you.

President Rheault – Councilor Magovern?

Councilor Magovern – I was curious, how much is this level of bureaucracy costing the state to administer all of these programs, are these programs going to mandatory so that if somebody wants to put an addition onto their house, the state is there as the mandatory agent telling them how they're going to do it, with the oversight....?

Catherine Ratté – Well, again, I haven't looked at the whole budget but I know that there was approximately \$13 million in the fund this last year with the first round of funding or maybe that may be two years of funding and they ended up giving about \$8.3 million out in grants. So the state had already spent approximately \$4 million - \$4 ½ million – setting up the program, paying for the staff, there's a Director of the Green Communities Division, there's an Assistant Director, there's a number of staff people. Jim Barry who was out here a couple weeks ago, there are six circuit writers for the state that are helping communities achieve the green communities designation so there are salaries. I don't know how many state bureaucrats are being paid out of this fund as well to help set up the program. So all of that money, the REGI money, part of it is going to administer the program and then the rest is coming out as grants to municipalities. And again, just to be clear, it's not the State telling you what to do if you want to renovate your home, it's you guys, you men and women, the City Council, who will decide whether or not you want to adopt this Code as an optional amendment to your local building code and make it possible for your property owners to live in more energy efficient properties. So again, it's not the State telling you what to do. It's your choice, absolutely, it's an optional amendment that you can take and it doesn't affect renovations. The renovations are being governed by the 2009 Energy Code. If you want to renovate

your home and you have adopted the Stretch Code it's not gonna add any cost. It's for new construction. It's for going forward new construction in Agawam if you adopt the Stretch Code will be more energy efficient than if you don't.

Councilor Magovern – Okay, so I thought you said if you put an addition on your house you have to follow the codes.

Catherine Ratté – No what the Stretch Code says is, it defers to the 2009 Code which is the standard in Massachusetts. So for renovations if you read the Stretch Code it says “see the 2009 IECC” so for renovations it's already, when we adopted the 2009 IECC which goes into effect July 1st as the bottom line, it's optional now from January 1st, if you read it it says you have to build it to this level which is the 2009. If you adopt the Stretch Code, it defers for renovations to the 2009 IECC.

Dan Hellyer – I'd like to add something to that. I'd like to use a kitchen renovation as an example. In a kitchen renovation you have to open the walls in order to get your plumbing, your electrical through there, you open up the wall, 2x4 walls with R11 insulation in there, so you don't touch the insulation. You don't have to add onto the walls to make them thicker walls to 2x6. You don't have to do anything but make sure that insulation is back in place the way it was. There's no added expense to that, just common practice and it happens all the time. Most of the time they'll take it out and increase the size of the insulation if it's R11 up to the R13 but there's no changes as far as making it more efficient.

Councilor Magovern – Did I understand you correctly when you said that all the money that is being spent by the state bureaucracy is coming out of this fund and no state tax dollars being spent whatsoever in this?

Catherine Ratté – That's correct. It's all coming from the REGI fund.

Councilor Magovern – But if you didn't have it, that money would stay within the state. If you didn't have these restrictions, this bureaucracy, the money raised by these polluters the funds would stay within the state, correct?

Catherine Ratté – Right. When the legislature adopted the Green Communities Act in 2008 they created this program and this funding, the REGI funding would go to this program. Right. If the legislature hadn't done that then they would be spending on the money, they could have decided on some other use for it.

President Rheault – Councilor Mineo?

Councilor Mineo - ...dollars awarded from the State of Massachusetts, would you just tell me, I'd like to know what, I'd like to know the amounts that were awarded to any cities or towns in Western Massachusetts?

Catherine Ratté – I don't have all the figures with me but I know that the City of Springfield received approximately \$980,000.00. The City of Northampton I think received about \$220,000.00. I think Belchertown got about \$198,000.00. I think Palmer was maybe about \$180,000.00 and I think Easthampton was a similar amount. So I'm most familiar with the communities in our region. I don't know what the amounts were around the Commonwealth.

President Rheault – Councilor Cichetti?

Councilor Cichetti – My question is for the inspector...are you increasing your...is that making your home more airtight?

Dan Hellyer – You are correct on that and that is a problem. The 2009 Energy Conservation Code does not require mechanical ventilation but the Energy Star rating which is part of the Stretch Code does require mechanical ventilation in it.

Councilor Rossi - Just one follow up on the funding. The money that we would get from that Green...we would be able to use that for anything in our community, anything that has to do with energy efficiency?

Catherine Ratté – Right. Well the way that they announced the program. They had a funding application and they had criteria. They want to look at programs that would produce energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create local jobs, so the Green Communities' criteria, one of the main criteria, is you have to have a plan to reduce your municipal energy use by 20% in five years, so they expected a lot of communities to apply for funding to help implement that production plan to reduce their municipal energies but they also, you can, I know Mr. Sylvia's been talking about trying to set up or create a fund to offset the upfront costs for homeowners if you adopt the Stretch Code. So those kinds of things are also eligible ideas. It's up to you to decide what you'd want to do with the money but the money theoretically is competitive so you know you would want to look at what the criteria are before you announce it.

President Rheault – Any other questions? Thank you very much. Great presentation and you answered some questions. Any one else who would like to come forward in support of the Resolution?

Forrest Bradford – Hello, my name again is Forrest Bradford, 21 Oxford Street, I wanted to ask several questions.

President Rheault – Excuse me. You're not up there to ask questions. It's your opportunity if you're in favor of it just to state that you support it.

Forrest Bradford – I do support this. I understand that it's just a stepping stone and just a few years ahead of what we're going to have to do anyway, then this opens us up for more grants, more money. It's a benefit to owners because it saves them money even on commercial businesses, they will save money because they are more energy efficient and

so that's what I would like to say and I think we need to show the kids in this town that we're doing things to step forward and move ahead. I don't see any other plans out there that are better and I wonder how long it would take probably forever, so any way...

President Rheault – Anyone else that would like to come forward?

Corinne Wingard – Hi. My name is Corinne Wingard. I live at 194 Elm Street and I'm speaking in favor of asking you to please adopt the Stretch Code. First because it's the right thing to do for the environment, for the sake of our planet but also because it's the right thing to do for the town. It's an opportunity for us to get in on almost the ground floor level, to bring money and savings to our community so that the money that we could get through the Green Communities Act would enable us to have other funds that we might have had to use for energy efficient things in town, we could use that money for other things that we need in our budget. I know my neighbor who built a very large house on the lot I sold him that used to be my garden, built a very energy efficient home and his heating costs are unbelievable, remarkably low. So I just think it's a win/win situation. I think it's a great thing for the town and I would greatly appreciate it if you would adopt it. Thank you.

Jay Berger – Good evening Councilors. I'm Jay Berger. I live at 10G Castle Hills in town. I'm a member of the Go Green Agawam Committee as well as on the Energy Commission and I urge you to consider very heavily the opportunity to sign on to the Stretch Code. Thanks very much forthank you.

David Morin – Good evening Councilors. My name is David G. Morin of 437 South Westfield Street. I support the adoption of the Stretch Code.

President Rheault – Anyone else?

Henry Kozloski – Henry Kozloski, 102 Meadow Street. We should have done this twenty years ago. I do want to say something. I don't think the state...that's not the case. Anything you can do to make a house more efficient is gonna save the homeowner money. Just think, go back 20 – 25 years ago, fuel was a lot cheaper. It's not gonna go down. It's gonna go up every year...not what the cost is in the future. My son did build an efficient home up in Otis and it's only 2x4...foam and that thing is airtight, he has to have...doesn't cost him practically not much to heat it....if we had done this years ago we would have saved the schools systems millions of dollars, the homeowner too. I put in thermo paned windows 15 years ago...you can buy appliances...energy star appliances saves money too. It will help the homeowner ...in the long run we will save. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Anyone else want to speak in favor? Anyone like to speak in opposition? Please step forward and state your name and address into the microphone.

Marsha Tami – Hi. My name is Marsha Tami. I live at 143 Kozak Court...as much as you can and like everybody else you try to buy appliances and things that will save

energy. However, if you sign onto this I think you're going down the road of the government being even more in our back pocket than it already is. I don't know why people are running and jumping off cliffs to have the government make decisions for you. Each individual has its own responsibility for their homes and I do understand codes as far as safety issues like with smoke detectors and things like that but when you're talking energy, it all comes down what you can pay for and if you're willing to pay for it fine. Like the lady says here that did the presentation, is it not absurd to you that the money coming from this point is done by companies who are allowed to pollute? A company can pollute hundreds of times more than an individual household can and they're paying into this fund. Great. What happens when the company says you know what? We're gonna follow these rules now too so we're not gonna be charged this money and the funds start dwindling and dwindling. I really think that it's just another way of the government's funneling us down community by community and we're like lemmings going off a cliff going sure it looks like a great thing right now. I warn you look ahead. Have you ever known anything to come out of the federal and state government that has not cost you down the line? Just think about the sewer project. How many hoops have you had to jump through? How much red tape, paperwork, years of people going in and out? You have this responsibility right now. In five or ten years, you may not be on the Council any more and you're not gonna be thanked for all of this, you're gonna be hear a lot more people going why did they do this in the first place. I think like I said in theory it sounds good but I think there's a whole lot more that needs to be answered before this and gas prices and every other prices are going up so the savings that they're talking about right now, they're not gonna happen. Thank you.

President Rheault – Anyone else who'd like to speak in opposition? Anyone like to speak in favor by name only or in opposition by name only? If not, I now declare the public hearing closed. That concludes that portion and before we get into a lot of dialogue and rhetoric, I'm gonna move that the Council table this for the reason that during my Agenda review today I overlooked that the issue of this should be I think in Ordinance form which it's not, it's in Resolution form. If you're gonna change the Code, you need to change it by Ordinance so I'm gonna send this over to the Ordinance Committee and also the Attorney did not sign the Resolution so we can't do anything anyway until we get his signature. So I'll entertain a Motion to Table. Moved by Councilor Perry, seconded by Councilor Walsh. Barbara, could you call the roll?

ROLL CALL – 10 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Councilor Letellier left)

President Rheault – Ten yes, one absent, the item is tabled and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

2. TR-2010-25 (PH-2010-3) - A Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program (Mayor)

President Rheault – I declare the public hearing open. Is there anyone here from the town side to present? Please come up and speak into the microphone.

Jeff Hulbert – Hi. Jeffrey Hulbert. I'm the IT Director and I'm here in the capacity to answer questions that any of the Councilors had regarding the phone system.

President Rheault – Councilor Rossi?

Councilor Rossi – This system that you're gonna put in, there has been some talk by the Mayor that he would like to build a new Town Hall, if we appropriate some money for this phone system, can we uproot it and put it into our new building if one should ever come?

Jeff Hulbert – Absolutely. One of the benefits of the new plan is that we've removed approximately \$160,000.00 of wiring upgrades by going rather than pure voice over IP system which uses higher capacity wire let's say, we're gonna use the existing wiring in buildings so if in fact we do build a new town hall, we'd be able to bring the phone system with us.

Councilor Rossi – The other question I have is I understand that the system is an analog system not a digital system?

Jeff Hulbert – No it's a digital system to the phones and it's going to be an IP system between town buildings.

Councilor Rossi – Could you explain that a little more?

Jeff Hulbert – Sure. Right now all the phone systems in town are digital, not that they're computer-based as some people think with digital, but they are digital sets which is your basic phone system. Between the town buildings we're gonna be utilizing the data network and we're gonna be utilizing the data network to save on costs of the phone lines.

Councilor Rossi – So this would be an automatic, automated system with voice mail and those sorts of things?

Jeff Hulbert – Absolutely.

President Rheault – Councilor Mineo?

Councilor Mineo – When would you start this project?

Jeff Hulbert – We are currently working with our consultant to put an RFP together. I guess it depends on ...put a bid out on the street.

Councilor Mineo – Would it be end of 2010? 2011?

Jeff Hulbert – I would say 2010.

Councilor Mineo – It would be complete in 2010?

Jeff Hulbert – Possibly. Yes.

Councilor Mineo – Is there a chance that the cost, the amount of the project, will change?

Jeff Hulbert – Well, that's always a possibility when you issue an RFP everything depends on ...at this point in time, the best estimates that you have in the Capital Plan are the best estimates of costs and we have included, it's a conservative estimate, have in there unforeseen wiring, additional things like that.

Councilor Mineo – Thank you.

President Rheault – Jeff, the current system that we have is the Berlin, right?

Jeff Hulbert – At the Town Hall there's a Berlin system and then the Via Spirit is throughout the town.

President Rheault – And we would be moving away from the Berlin system as I understand it...because we can't get parts anymore.

Jeff Hulbert – That's exactly correct.

President Rheault – And you're satisfied with the reduction from the original four hundred something thousand that was anticipated?

Jeff Hulbert – Yes, it was \$377,000.00 I believe down toand reduction in cost was again due to the fact that we're not gonna be making wholesale wiring...we're going to be using the wiring we have wherever possible. There will be some some wiring that's gonna be changed out...that was factored in.

President Rheault – Councilor Rossi?

Councilor Rossi – Yes, that was a question I wanted to follow up on from Councilor Mineo and Councilor Rheault, the original quote come in ...\$400,000.00 now it's....my question is ...is this going to be subject to change. I mean I know that in the past we've been asked to appropriate a certain amount of money and all of a sudden you come back to us and say whoops, we have this problem, we have that problem, this may happen, that may happen, then we're back up to \$400,000.00. Is that gonna be a possibility here?

Jeff Hulbert – Well, it's our intent to put the RFP out on the street and to go before the Council after we've made the selection and go before the Council and ...whether or not that figure differs greatly from the Capital Budget figure; we have made every effort to make sure that that doesn't happen. It is our intent that the quotes come in below that.

President Rheault – Councilor Bitzas?

Councilor Bitzas – Yes, do we have any other choices? I do have a letter here...most of the Councilors received this letter, they cc'd the Council and supposed to have ...change in the Town Hall and this comes from Roger Kupec, Deputy Director of Building Maintenance and what surprised me is that it's so old that it cannot be fixed and it cost a lot of money to fix it. Are you familiar with that, the letter?

Jeff Hulbert – Yes.

Councilor Bitzas – So we have no choice because it's so bad. This system is an antiquated system and we don't have any choice other than to get the new system and move into the 21st century, or as close as possible.

Jeff Hulbert – That's correct. The system that we've had has given us 25 years of good service and it's time to put it out to pasture.

Councilor Bitzas – Thank you.

President Rheault – Councilor Walsh?

Councilor Walsh – Yea, just a question. Once installed, how will the day to day operating costs compare with the present system? More? Less? Or not known?

Jeff Hulbert – Well, the systems that we have now don't have maintenance contracts which makes them when the break, when the fail we have increased costs. With the new phone system, we're gonna have support contracts so I would say the maintenance costs with the new system will go up because we're maintaining to a higher degree. We're looking at a service level agreement on the phone systems that will give us less down time. So I would say the operating costs would be more however, by leveraging the data connections, the network connections between the buildings and because of the fact that we're gonna be removing Centrex lines which is prevalent throughout the town we're also gonna be...so how it nets out in the end, hopefully we're gonna be in the black and not the red. The technology that we're using now is the technology if you buy the phone system...this is....

President Rheault – Any other questions? Thank you, Jeff.

Jeff Hulbert – Thank you.

President Rheault – Anyone else who would like to address the Capital Improvement Budget? For? Against? If not...If not, I now declare the public hearing closed. Council's pleasure? Moved by Councilor Bitzas and seconded by Councilor Mineo. Any further discussion on the Capital Improvement Budget? No? Barbara, would you call the roll please?

ROLL CALL – 10 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Councilor Letellier)

President Rheault – Ten yes, one absent, you’ve approved the Capital Budget Improvement Program.

Item 10. Old Business

1. **TOR-2010-1 - An Ordinance regarding Drag Racing within the Town of Agawam (2/2) (Referred to the Ordinance Committee) (Councilor Magovern)**

President Rheault – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Mineo. Councilor Magovern we already had a report, do you have any words?

Councilor Magovern – Yea, I’d like to be able to read a letter that I just received this evening from Lt. Gillis. Dear Councilor Magovern, thank you very much for your recent invitation to attend this evening’s City Council meeting. Regrettably, I will be unable to attend due to a prior family commitment. However you and the rest of your colleagues should know that I stand by my memorandum of April 5th of this year. If you will recall, I recommended that the Council adopt this Ordinance in an effort to take pre-emptive action before drag racing begins in the Town of Agawam. As I stated in my memo, most of the activity that we have experienced in our community occurs on Rt. 57 which comes under the control of the Massachusetts State Police however the adoption of the Ordinance may provide an effective deterrent to would-be drag racers. It would also arm the Agawam Police Department with an additional tool to combat this issue which has plagued the surrounding communities, should roadways other than Route 57 become hot spots for this type of activity. This Ordinance is really about enhancing the safety of the residents of our community and those who travel through it. I would urge the council to give strong consideration to enacting this Ordinance. Respectfully submitted, Lt. Gillis. Thank you.

President Rheault – Any further discussion? If you’re in favor of the second reading as attached vote yes, otherwise vote no. Barbara, could you call the roll please?

ROLL CALL – 10 YES, 1 NO (Councilor Messick), 1 ABSENT (Councilor Letellier)

President Rheault – Ten yes, one no, one absent, you’ve adopted the second and final reading.

2. **TOR-2010-2 - An Ordinance Amending Section 61-1 of the Code of the Town of Agawam Increasing the Size of the Agawam Veterans’ Council. (1/2) (Referred to Ordinance Committee) (Mayor)**

President Rheault – Moved by Councilor Rossi, seconded by Councilor Walsh. A report from the Ordinance Committee. Gina had to leave unexpectedly.

Councilor Magovern – Thank you Council President. We had quite a lengthy discussion on this Ordinance. It really is a problem for us in our discussion. We had the Chairman of the Veterans' Council, Aldo Mancini, we had Frank Mazzei, and Chris Sanchez in attendance at this meeting and listened to them and their history of the Veterans' Council work that they had done and as Ruth Bitzas has stated it's a very vital organization to the Town of Agawam. And we feel that the harmony of the Veterans' Council must be maintained. The comments that we received from the Veterans' Council is very strong, very affirmative and very much that they wanted to retain the Veterans' Council as it is at the present membership number. They feel that to add two more members would do nothing except make the problems that they have right now worse. We discussed it amongst the Council member which were Councilor Cichetti, Councilor Letellier and myself and after much discussion, the vote was taken amongst the Ordinance Committee to give a negative reference to this Ordinance and to retain what we have at the present time with the present members. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Any further discussion? Councilor Bitzas?

Councilor Bitzas – Yes, Mr. President. I am disappointed that the Ordinance Committee did not try to help all the veterans and as the first, the second Veterans' Agent and the longest serving one, Ruth Bitzas, spoke very nicely today and she said she would like to see two extra people so everybody would be happy. Let's put aside the anger, political games, power plays and think about the best interest for all the veterans. Let's increase it. What is the problem? They feel, if the Veterans' Council they feel as Councilor Magovern said they don't want it. How about you Councilors? You have the power not two or three or four veterans' members who say they don't want it and I'm disappointed to see that they don't want it. They should be very happy to have their brothers and sisters to serve. More the merrier. I don't see any problem to increase. The Mayor said two, we should say two more, I would say four more. Let Mr. Donovan and Mr. McLean and even Mr. Tirone to come and serve as a member. We have the Council on Aging, excellent organization, have almost 20 members, 22 members, 23 members I don't know. The Friends of the Senior Center more members the better. They're not a legislative body. They don't make laws to be a problem. What they are are volunteers. We'd be happy to have every veterans, let's not separate them, let's bring them together because all the sticks together they're stronger than one stick itself. I don't understand yes as former Veterans' Agent Ruth Bitzas which is my sister-in-law not my wife, said before we have to call the votes from our heart not be anger and who you support...I hope the Council do the right thing and I hope the majority of the Council supports all the veterans. I was so happy to see in parade with them the Memorial Day. It was fantastic. I give them credit to all the Veterans' Council and all the veterans that volunteered to participate. They did fantastic. The weather was great. I would like to see more participation with everybody in Agawam but everybody have a business...a families so we did very well and congratulations to the Veterans' Council but let's do it the right thing why don't you say no to a veteran who fought in Afghanistan almost killed, get killed, he came alive and he came back. Why don't you say no to the other two veterans who want to serve one is Mr. Donovan and the other Mr. McLean that put in letters. I don't see any problem to make the number of the Veterans' at two more. Let's put a

ceiling of no more than fifteen. I'll make a motion. It's our choice as legislative body. If the Mayor said two we could say four, we can say six. I don't want to - Ruth spoke very well. I think we do disservice to the veterans if we don't allow them to serve. It's a volunteers and before the President said we do work than just put flags in the graves. Excellent. We have the Massachusetts Veterans' Cemetery there, a lot more graves there, we need more people to do it, the flags and everything. Why don't you deny them the right to serve? Let's increase it. It's no problem. Doesn't cost the Town one single dollar for them to serve there. They're volunteers and we should honor them all and thank them for their services. Thank you.

President Rheault – Councilor Rossi?

Councilor Rossi – Thank you. I once heard a phrase coined that more is not always better sometimes it's just more and I think that that could very well apply to this situation here. I don't know that if it's necessarily gonna solve all our problems but I certainly think in this case here it's just making it not better but just more. The way this system has been working over the years and I think quite well is that there are a certain number of members who have been permanently put on if you will or installed or appointed or whatever and the rest of the Veterans' Council has been made up of volunteer members. I think that's a system that's worked pretty well over the years and I think that's a system that the Veterans' Council' members projected in their comments at meetings here and at Citizens' Speak Time and others. I don't really understand why this is creating such rhubarb about increasing the number of people. If the two people or the three or four people who wish to join the Veterans' Council can very easily join as a volunteer member of that committee and if they had done that they probably would be working on the Council right now and take their turn whenever that is. Now I can remember not too very long ago when this Council was entertaining the idea of forming an Energy Commission.....and there was some comments made that more is not better it was simply more and it was by one of the proponents of this event here....so I don't really feel as though that more in a situation like this would be better and I don't see how it would really improve the status of our Veterans' Council. I think its' working quite well. I think what we should do is get rid of this situation once and for all, let the Veterans' Council go back and do what they do. I think they do a good job and I respect and my good friend Ruth Bitzas who I have a great deal of admiration for her and I think she created a wonderful thing here. I know it was one of desperation on your part however but it turned out to be a very good thing and I commend you for doing that. I think what you did, I think you created a good system but I think adding more permanent members is not the way to go. I know that our previous mayor added two additional people. I don't remember that every coming before the City Council but it was done apparently, I didn't know that it was increased from 7 to 9. My personal belief is I think it's an adequate number and I would like to see a hundred people join the Veterans' Council as volunteers. I would like to see a little more autonomy in the Veterans' Council where they have more of a say in what they do and how they operate and how their inner by-laws...I would like to see more of that and becoming less political than it is now. I think that's what we really need to see here and I don't think we need more political in the Veterans' Council I think we need a little less and so without being redundant I think, my

opinion, is that I would like to see it remain as it is and I would like to see the Veterans' Council be very active in recruiting volunteer members ...and maybe their by-laws can be structured to give these volunteer workers a little bit more authority, maybe make some of them voting members if they feel that might be the way to go or however they choose to operate ...but they have to decide for themselves. So my opinion is I would have to say no to increase the number and to keep it as it is. I think it's working just fine. I don't think more is better.

Councilor Simpson – Move the question.

Councilor Bitzas – Second.

President Rheault – First, there was a light on to speak. Councilor Perry?

Councilor Perry – If I may, I appreciate it. I'll be as brief as possible. This is an issue that has been coming before us for weeks now and my question to the Council at this point in time is where do we go from here? Let's be honest. We have hurt Veterans' Council that have two members that the Mayor did not nominate to this Council. The ones that he did nominate we turned down twice. Where do we go from here? Is he gonna nominate those two again? The ones that are getting hurt are the veterans on this Council. There's a question in regards to how the nominations come forward and that's been questioned in regards to how the Mayor makes that selection. Was the Veterans' Committee involved in that selection? I feel they should be myself or the Chairman should not simply the Mayor. As Ruth said in 1991 the original one he didn't but after that it was really up to the Mayor. There was a Resolution back in 1991 that created this Veterans' Council. We as a Council can look at that Resolution and change it to where nominations should be in conjunction with the Chairman of the Veterans' Council and the Mayor and approved by the whole Council because right now we're in deadlock and the only ones that are getting hurt are these guys over here. So we can always amend this again next year or look at it but I think in the best interest of the Veterans' Council is we should pass this this evening, allow the people who work on this committee work on this committee and then as a Council correct the wrongs so this does not come up again. That's my opinion.

Councilor Bitzas – Mr. President?

President Rheault – Councilor Bitzas?

Councilor Bitzas – Thank you. I agree with Councilor Perry. This ain't right. It became political and only we hurt ...without evening knowing those people they hurt themselves. Ruth Bitzas said before the first veteran only the Veteran Agent they have a talk with the Mayor, Veteran Agent, not ever ever any of the Veterans' Council, the Chair or anybody else. She make it very clear so why don't we as Councilor Perry said amend this and I make a move to amend it and I hope you, somebody can second it, and increase more because you have two more veterans that are going to serve – Mr. Donovan that came from Iraq I believe or Afghanistan I think Afghanistan and I Mr. McLean I think he

shows interest and you have Mr. Mazzei two makes fifteen or two more if they want to be – God bless them all and as Councilor Rossi said less is more, less is more only when it is a legislative body and making votes. The Veterans’ Council not vote to make the laws but the Green Commission they have influence everybody taxpayers’ money. They’re volunteers so I hope and I make a Motion to increase to include the other two veterans that want to serve to no more than fifteen members and if Mr. Smith or Mr. Jones wants to move up there are two empty seats so I will make a Motion to go above the Mayor so you don’t give the Mayor credit we’re not giving the Mayor credit, let’s us do it up to fifteen and I hope we have a vote for it. So I make a Motion to increase the Veterans’ Council no more than fifteen.

Councilor Perry – I’ll second that.

Councilor Bitzas – Thank you.

President Rheault – Motion is now on the floor to amend the Ordinance. We need specific wording...we’ll have to put it in writing...you’re gonna change the whole contents of the Ordinance. It says it shall consist of eleven members, there shall be ten residents of Agawam who are honorably discharge veterans.

Councilor Bitzas – Just change it to 11 – 15.

President Rheault – It doesn’t read....we will stand in recess for two minutes in the chairs.

Councilor Bitzas – Thank you.

President Rheault – All right. We’re back in session. Councilor Rossi has the language.

Councilor Rossi – Okay. Barbara this is just the wording that has to change in the event that it should pass. The second whereas would be changed from eleven to fifteen members. The third whereas would go from eleven to fifteen members and in the last now therefore...the first sentence Agawam Veterans’ Council consists of fifteen members there shall be fourteen rather than ten residents of Agawam, then go down to the third sentence the fifteenth member of the Veterans’ Council shall be the duly appointed Director/Agent of the Western Hampden District Department of Veterans Services. Okay, so we have all of them, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 more changes. That’s it. That’s correct.

Councilor Bitzas – Thank you Councilor Rossi.

President Rheault – All right. That’s the amendment in front of the Council. Any further discussion on the amendment? I’m sorry. Move the amendment. Barbara, will you call the roll on the amendment?

ROLL CALL – 2 YES (Councilors Bitzas and Messick), 8 YES, 1 ABSENT (Councilor Letellier)

President Rheault – Two yes, eight no, one absent, you’ve defeated the amendment. Back to the –

Councilor Simpson – Move the question.

President Rheault – And seconded. The question has been moved. Barbara, the first reading as attached.

ROLL CALL – 3 YES (Councilors Bitzas, Messick and Perry), 7 YES, 1 ABSENT (Councilor Letellier)

President Rheault – Three yes, seven no, one absent, you’ve defeated the first reading and the Ordinance.

3. **REMINDER: (TR-2010-28) - Public Hearing Date set for June 21, 2010 for a Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Operating Budget for the Town of Agawam (Mayor)**

President Rheault – That public hearing is set for the next meeting which is the Budget.

4. **TO-2010-15 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for an Automatic Amusement Device(s) – Six Flags New England, 1623 Main Street, Agawam, MA. (Referred to License Committee) (Clerk)**

President Rheault – Councilor Rossi, will you move it?

Councilor Rossi – Yes, I will move it.

President Rheault – Councilor Rossi moves the question. Second? Seconded by Councilor Perry and Councilor Rossi’s report.

Councilor Rossi – The Licensing Committee moved and voted unanimously to send a positive recommendation for the Automatic Amusement Devices as listed...at Six Flags New England at 1623 Main Street.

President Rheault – Positive recommendation from the License Committee. Any further discussion? If not, Barbara, call the roll please?

ROLL CALL – 9 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT (Councilors Letellier and Simpson)

President Rheault – Nine yes, two absent, you’ve approved the license.

Item 11. New Business

1. **TR-2010-30 - A Resolution Accepting a Grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A to be Utilized by the Agawam Fire Department for the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. (Mayor)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

2. **TR-2010-31 - A Resolution Accepting an Easement for Storm Drains by Roman A. Radkovets pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 14 for the Town of Agawam (Mayor)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

3. **TO-2010-16 - Order Granting or Renewing a Junk Dealer’s LICENSE – T’s Jewelers, Zinovy Tokman, 559 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. (Clerk)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

4. **TO-2010-17 - Order Granting or Renewing a Junk Dealer’s LICENSE – John Rosati d/b/a John’s Trucking of Agawam, Inc., 415 Silver Street, Agawam, MA. (Clerk)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda and those should go both and the next one to the License Committee.

5. **TO-2010-18 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for an Amusement Devise(s) for an Additional Game – Polish American Club of Agawam, Inc., 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA. (Clerk)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

6. **TR-2010-32 - A Resolution Approving an Intermunicipal Agreement for Animal Control Services between the Town of Agawam and the Town of West Springfield. (Mayor)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

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

President Rheault – Councilor Perry, do you want to start?

Councilor Perry – I just want to say congratulations to the graduating Class of 2010 from Agawam High School. They graduated yesterday and it was a great ceremony and I just wanted to say congratulations to all.

President Rheault – Thank you. Councilor Messick?

Councilor Messick – I'd like to say congratulations to all the graduates...how the Agawam School system has worked out for her and hopefully everybody is having that great of an experience. I did want to very, very briefly remind everyone of the Annual Tournament of Rosie Golf Benefit for Rosie Robotics is on Saturday, June 19th. You still have time to enter foursomes and you may want to contact them for more information, contact Dana Henry at 789-0684 or Charlene Cameron at 786-8032. That's Saturday, June 19th. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Councilor Cichetti?

Councilor Cichetti – Yes, I'd like to just congratulate all the 2010 grads from Agawam High School and also to thank all the veterans for putting on a fantastic parade on Memorial Day. It was a great day and great effort. Thank you.

President Rheault – Councilor Walsh?

Councilor Walsh – Congratulations to the Class of 2010. The music was absolutely fantastic. I don't know if it was just my position on the stage but it was outstanding. I've just never heard music of that quality coming from a high school group before so congratulations to them and yes the Memorial Day Parade was quite an event, a somber event but nonetheless we paid tribute to those people that gave their lives. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Councilor Rossi?

Councilor Rossi – Nothing, thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Councilor Mineo?

Councilor Mineo – Just congratulations to the 2010 graduates.

President Rheault – Councilor Magovern?

Councilor Magovern – Just very quickly again congratulations to the graduates of the Class of 2010. I'll second what Councilor Walsh said about the wonderful music. The Glee Club was absolutely spectacular. The soloists were beautiful. Again with the positioning on the stage it was a wonderful afternoon and the band as well. The Memorial Day celebration was wonderful. I want to thank everybody for what they've done and also thank you...outside of Agawam...much appreciated. And for those of you the 6th was V-Day and I think that V-Day was overlooked by a lot of people this year. I didn't hear much about it on the news but again remembering the invasion of Normandy and the beginning of the end of the World War II/German/European...we mustn't forget June 6th. Thank you.

President Rheault – Councilor Bitzas?

Councilor Bitzas – Yes, I would like to wish all the graduates best wishes, aim high, do the best you can and work hard and you will succeed. Second, I'd like thank Berkshire Power. I sent them the DVD from the Drug Forum and they were so moved, they offered to make 5,000 – I suggested to them to give some money and donations and they do the whole thing and make 5000 DVD's for every student in Middle School, Jr. High and High School also every household in Agawam will be able to have one copy for open discussion with their families in their own privacy. The other thing is if you go to the Senior Center in the front of the sign, it's landscaped and was donated by Cascio Landscaping in memory of Matt Blackak's wife, Lu, and they're all free of charge. It didn't cost the taxpayers a single dime. They did all of the landscaping, the planning and everything so I'd like to thank Cascio Landscaping publicly. Thank you.

President Rheault – Barbara if you would I think that was very generous of Berkshire Power and on behalf of the Council to draft a thank you letter to them and I'd be happy to sign it with my name on behalf of the rest of the Council.

Councilor Bitzas – That is very nice. Thank you.

President Rheault – And I will echo the sentiments of Councilor Walsh. It wasn't our position on the stage, it was just outstanding music. I was quite impressed as well and I'm sure that everyone in attendance was too and I had the pleasure of handing a diploma to a very special person – our Administrative Assistant's daughter – that was a highlight for me at the graduation and as far as the veterans if their hearts are open and they want to serve the Town of Agawam, there is nothing to stop them from volunteering just like many of the other veterans did, so whatever we did tonight as far as the vote, does not stop them and does not affect the Veterans' Council one way or the other. If they really want to serve, all they have to do is show up and I'm sure they'll be welcome with open arms by the existing members. They just won't be able to vote and as former Councilor Bitzas said everybody doesn't have a vote so it's that simple. So in lieu of that I will entertain a motion to adjourn. Moved by the Council to adjourn, seconded by the Council. All those in favor? Ay? We are now adjourned. Thank you and good evening.

Adjournment.