

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

**November 4, 2009**

**President Letellier** – Welcome to the Agawam City Council meeting for Wednesday, November 4, 2009. Just so the public knows, we are having some microphone issues so I'll ask that the councilors don't turn their microphone on until they are actually called on because if we have more than one microphone on at a time, we may not record. So just be patient and I will get to everybody if you have something to say on a topic.

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

**President Letellier** – We have two speakers, reminder, I'm sorry three speakers, reminder that you are to state your name, your address. That you are to stick to a topic that's in front of the Council and we will start with Peter Boadry.

**Peter Boadry** – Thank you Gina. I'd like to congratulate the City Council for winning their election and on a positive note. A lot of things were positive like seven mayors ran at one time and we became famous for Agawam and there was like five just in Westfield, four in Holyoke, two in Springfield and we had the most mayors that ever ran. So I'd like to congratulate everybody that ran and the best person won in my opinion and that was Mayor Cohen and thanks for the sandwiches Joe. Thank you.

**President Letellier** – Thank you Mr. Boadry. Next we have Alan Griffen.

**Alan Griffen** – Hello, hey how you doing? Hey, I want to congratulate everybody for winning and so forth. I think you all did a good job out there and you did a fine job and I thought you handled it pretty well. Like I said I just want to stop in and congratulate you and I wish you all good luck and so forth the ones that won even the ones that lost, I feel sorry for you but I want to wish you good luck cuz hey I'll tell you what you're all beautiful people up here and I want you all to know that so thank you very much. Have a nice day and God bless.

**President Letellier** – Thank you very much, Mr. Griffen. Next we have Jay Berger.

**Jay Berger** – Good evening Councilors. My name is Jay Berger. I live at 10G Castle Hills in Agawam. Thank you and Mayor Dawson for the nomination to serve Agawam on the Energy Commission. It is my hope that you will vote favorable on my appointment. During my tenure on the Go Green Agawam Committee, it was our goal to reduce energy use in Agawam by 20% and we began a lengthy series of articles in both community newspapers as well as the Springfield Republican. We set up displays at the Harvest Festival and other venues and put together materials for what we hoped would be a series on community TV. Now with the formation of the Energy Commission, we can begin applying for state, federal and foundation grants to work on larger projects such as schools, office buildings, town hall and other large consumers of energy. There is much to be done. We were successful in harvesting the low hanging fruit. It is now time to go

for the rest of the trees. Again, thank you and I look forward to working on the Agawam Energy Commission.

**President Letellier** – Thank you Mr. Berger. That is the end of Citizens’ Speak Time.

**Item 2. Roll Call**

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

**ROLL CALL – 10 PRESENT, ONE ABSENT (Councilor Cavallo)**

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Councilor Cavallo called, he has a family commitment and we also have Councilor-elect James Cichetti with us so welcome Jimmy for the first of many meetings.

**Item 3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Item 4. Minutes**

**Regular Council Meeting – October 19, 2009**

**President Letellier** – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Perry. Any discussion, corrections or amendments? No? Seeing none, Barbara, could you call the roll?

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

**President Letellier** – With ten yes, one absent, you’ve approved the minutes.

**Item 5. Declaration from Council President**

**President Letellier** – I have no declarations from Council President. I’ll save my remarks for the end.

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

**(a) Resolutions**

1. **TR-2009-39 - A Resolution in Support of Updating the Massachusetts Bottle Bill (Councilors Cavallo, Letellier, Mineo, Messick, Rheault, Rossi, Simpson and Young) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Do we have a motion? Moved by Councilor Rheault, seconded by Councilor Rossi. Is there any discussion? Councilor Messick?

**Councilor Messick** – I think it's just a little, it would be good to explain a little bit what this is. The current Bottle Bill was enacted in 1982 and it encompasses generally mostly beer bottles. This would add bottled water, sports drinks and teas which are generally not recycled in as high of a ratio as glass containers are and so it's been show that litter decreases in states with bottle bills an average of 70% to 85% and this would actually help quite a bit to decrease our amount of litter. In addition to that the town earns money for recycling. So the more recycling that we do, the more money we earn. Thank you.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Any other comments? No? Oh, Councilor Perry?

**Councilor Perry** – I guess I do have a little bit of a thought in regards to the retailers, the stores and things of that nature that have to collect these bottles if they're added to the recycling. What affect that's gonna have on them and as Councilor Messick has said I know the town gets reimbursed for recycling. My family drinks bottled water all the time. We recycle and it's my knowledge that the more that citizens recycle the better off the town benefits from so this is gonna take away from that to a certain degree and I'm not saying it's not a good thing it's just some thoughts I have in regards to it, you know what affect it's gonna have on the retailers having to have that many more bottles. The water bottles in my house are huge compared to the beer bottles and different things like that so I just have some thoughts in regards to – if anybody else can give me some input in regards to the affect it will have on retailers and the affect it will have on the town in regards to the amount of recycling that we'll be taking away from the town if these bottles have to go back to retailers.

**President Letellier** – Councilor Rheault?

**Councilor Rheault** – Yes. Unless I missed something, do we not only return them if there's a fee involved, a returnable fee?

**President Letellier** – Yes, I think what Councilor Perry is saying if you have more people doing returns, you'll have less people doing recycles. Is that the point you're trying to make? Yes. From my years as a teenager working at place that had the bottles, you only have to take back whatever brands that you sell. So if they're already selling these items, they would hold the responsibility to take them back. I don't know, Deb Dachos is here, do you know anything else more about the Bottle Bill? No. If you want to table it to get more information you can, that's certainly up to you.

**Councilor Perry** – No, and again, it was just concerns that I wanted to throw out onto the floor. I know it will reduce the amount of recycling weight that's going back, that the town gets reimbursed for because now the people aren't putting them in the blue bins, they're taking them back to the stores and I just didn't know if anybody got any feed back from retailers on this or anything of that nature, that's all.

**President Letellier** – Oh, Councilor Calabrese does not have a light. You're welcome to use mine.

**Councilor Calabrese** – Um, yea, I know what, I share your concerns Dennis and I can just sort of tell you from an anecdotal point of view as a property owner, my husband’s company and I owned a property down the street from a convenience store and I can tell you that there is a significant amount of litter that we see from sports drinks and water bottles. I was initially thinking that I might vote against supporting this resolution. I did have an opportunity to read the legislation and I’m comfortable with the language and it is going to be some people who are arguing against it saying well it’s just another way of taxing, this is again one of those classic balancing act but upon further reflection and the potential to reduce the litter on our streets, this is actually something I’m going to support. Thank you.

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

**Councilor Simpson** – Thank you. The only thing I can add and this is only my interpretation on that when you look at bottled water and sports drinks, I’m not sure so much about the teas but I think a lot of that probably right now doesn’t even get recycled because if you go to like even just say in town the soccer fields or whatever people just have their bottled water and toss that in the trash and it probably doesn’t get pulled out for any type of recycling. At least and then that makes more litter like Councilor Calabrese was saying, at least at this point sometimes when people think oh, I’m gonna get my nickel back on it, they might tend to hold onto it and at least return it. So I see Councilor Perry’s idea on the town losing revenue but I think on the flip side it might help with the waste and people might think twice as opposed to throwing it in the trash and throwing it at least in their bin to bring back to the stores. So that was just my interpretation on it.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Any other discussion? No? Barbara, could you call the roll? Six votes are needed.

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

**President Letellier** – Thank you. With ten yes, one absent, you’ve passed a resolution to support the Massachusetts Bottle Bill.

2. **TR-2009-40 - A Resolution Establishing the School Street Barn Gift Account Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 §53A for the Maintenance and Improvement of the School Street Barn (Mayor) (Referred to the Ordinance Committee) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – May I have a motion? Moved by Councilor Simpson and Councilor Perry, seconded by Councilor Bitzas. Do we have a report from the Ordinance Committee?

**Councilor Rheault** – Yes, I spoke with the Chairman of the Finance Committee and he had felt that this was approved by his committee and I spoke with members of our committee and we feel the same – that the language is proper in front of us.

**President Letellier** – Thank you very much. Any discussion? Councilor Rossi?

**Councilor Rossi** – I originally, I went to the meeting, I attended the Finance meeting concerning this and I am in favor of it and I think I voted in favor of it at the sub-committee meeting however some things just came into my mind that kind of bother me just a little bit here and that is that Section 3 of the Now Therefore that the Mayor shall authorize and expend the funds to the Barn Account? I don't have any problems with the Mayor or anyone else overseeing that account but I would like to see that account come to the City Council for approval before those funds are expended and I'll tell you why. Recently I was at the DPW garage and I noticed that there was a greenhouse that's sitting on the lawn out there and was put up by the Beautification Committee and I noticed that that cost some \$7000.00 or probably even more to put that thing out there in the middle of our lawn. And I looked into our budget and I found out that we only budget \$1000.00 for beautification and my question was where do we get the money? Well, reading the minutes of their meetings, I find that some of the money was taken from DPW areas and some was donated by grants and other miscellaneous funds and this City Council was not made aware of any of those expenditures. Now, I don't think that that's the right thing to do. I think the correct thing to do is that we are the legislative branch and I think that we should be at least aware of the money that comes in and money that goes out and for what purpose that it goes to. I'm not opposed to the Revolving Fund. I'm not opposed to any of that stuff but I think we need to have a little bit more direct accountability as to who's authorizing these funds. I mean we just don't have a pit somewhere that somebody can just drop some money into and go back there and feel free to spend this money at any time and again, I hate to go back to the Beautification Committee but I know that there are monies that come in every year from Berkshire Power. I think they fund the amount, if I am not correct, is about \$10,000.00 that we get every year. And I'll be perfectly honest with you. I don't think I know where any of that money ever went to and I just started to recently become aware of this thing and it started to bother me when I saw this thing. And not that I don't agree with the greenhouse and if we want to go into the planting business and grow geraniums and stuff I guess that's okay. I think I probably would have chosen a different location. I don't think I would have chose the front lawn of the DPW garage but the thing that bothered me most of all is that no one seems to know how it got there and why it got there, who authorized it to be there, where the funds came from or any of that stuff and I think if we're ever gonna move forward and some of the directions that we talked about at these forums and such and that I hear written in the newspapers by several councilors and others, I think maybe we ought to start getting a little more direct accountability. And I know this might be a little small bite out of the apple and some of you may say that you're nitpicking but we gotta start somewhere. All I would like to see and I'm just spit balling here and I'd like to throw this out now and see what the other councilors feel about this thing and I don't think it would take much just to amend this to say "subject to Council approval" or something to that effect would be fine with me but just to have some one person say we can spend this money any time, any where, under any conditions and for any purpose without coming through the legislative branch I think is inappropriate in my view and I just want to throw that out to the committee and I'm not comfortable with that Section 3 of this Article.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Councilor Bitzas and then Councilor Messick.

**Councilor Bitzas** – Thank you. I'm just going to clarify something by the Beautification Committee. I was many, many years a member and to the Council and to the people and to Councilor Rossi, the Beautification Committee was started almost twenty years ago with \$300 budget but the money we got now was an agreement with the first Mayor Johnson with the Berkshire Power when they were allowed to come to town and we were able and the committee myself and some of the members then requested to have 10% of the \$100,000.00 that goes to the town extra above the money they pay to go to the beautification of the town plus \$5000.00 to go to industrial beautification. So every year now we have \$10,000.00 to that account of the \$100,000.00 so this is a very good money just we don't take any other money for any other accounts so just to clarify that and I have no problem with the Resolution. I think it's a good thing to have that – a gift account – and if we want to more teeth to it we can but I think the state law 44 – 53A clarifies what we do. I don't think anybody can have just one person one say but I think when the barn they had to do some repairs, it must be done by a committee so that request goes to the Mayor and I think we should be more involved also, I have no problem with that, but it's not only just one person, it would not allow just one person to make decisions. I think it should be more scrutinized and if we appropriate the money for a good cause then I have no problem with that. And I think it's a good thing to have people to donate money for that purpose. I think it's a plus and I will support the Resolution.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Councilor Messick and then Councilor Rheault.

**Councilor Messick** – I do just want to point out that the first paragraph says the 'funds from the School Street Barn Gift Account shall be expended for the sole purpose of maintenance and improvement of the School Street Barn' so it's not as if the funds under this Resolution could be used for anything else and two I don't know if Councilor Rossi is speaking about having Council approval or just having the Council know what's going on. I have no problem with the Council knowing what's going on. I think that's a very good thing but as far as Council approval goes, expenditures on the Barn in some cases may be, it may be an emergency situation and I think that was the thought behind having the Mayor be authorized to expend funds since I'm not sure whether this will be, obviously we'll have a line in the budget that will show us how much the funds are going to be and frankly if the funds ever exceed \$1000.00, I'll be very happy about it. We're not expecting to get huge major donations all at once. So just to point out the first paragraph does say for the sole purpose of maintenance and improvement of the Barn.

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

**Councilor Rheault** – I believe in check and balance. I think that makes sense and Berkshire Power certainly has been generous to the town in their contributions and so have many others but I would just offer to the Council a small amendment and see where we go from there that the Mayor should be authorized to expend funds with the addition

being 'with the approval of City Council and go on with the sentence so that would take care of what the Council's feeling might be or might not be.

**President Letellier** – As a point of information, to the best of my knowledge the Mayor has the sole authority to spend monies in gift and revolving fund accounts so before we amend this, let's make sure we have the legal authority to do so. So if the Council's idea is to amend it, we can just really quickly with the Solicitor. I can give him a quick email or a fax, but to the best of my knowledge, the Mayor has sole authority over gifts and revolving funds. So if the Council's pleasure is to amend it, why don't we take a motion to table and I can check into that. That would be my recommendation. Councilor Bitzas?

**Councilor Bitzas** – Thank you. I think you're right. I think the Mayor by statute has the right to approve like they did in beautification projects we get the okay. We can propose expenditures on the project but if Mayor said no then we'd have to find different ways and I think the Council should be involved if we can suggest, recommend or go to the meetings when they have some repairs, we should know about it too – more transparency so and if there's something we see that we didn't like so we can speak out but I think by state law as Councilor Letellier said, the Mayor has to authorize that. I believe but I have no problem to table but I think you're right, Councilor.

**President Letellier** – One way to do it would be to send a letter or a resolution to the current and the future mayor and indicate that whenever any gifts or revolving are spent to cc the Council so that we know how the gifts and our revolving funds are being spent and I would think that in the spirit of transparency I would hope that that would be not even an issue. So we can certainly draft a letter and have the new council and the old council sign on to that letter but I'm almost positive that under state law the mayor has sole authority over gifts and revolving funds. So we can take the two weeks to table it but I don't think the answer is gonna change but if people want certainty I'm certainly not going to object to that. Councilor Rossi, your light is working now.

**Councilor Rossi** – Isn't that something? Again, I don't really want to cause too much confusion with this thing. All I wanted to do is get some accountability here. And I think with this fund we're probably not gonna have as much problems as we have with the other ones and I understand the intent of the Berkshire Power and the whole other thing and what it was designed to do and all that stuff. My thing is we do not know where that money goes. And \$10,000.00 a year is a sizeable amount and I think that somewhere, some place, it should be documented as to what comes in, what goes out and who gets it. Now I think if we're gonna set up this gift fund, it's gonna be set up through the Treasurer's office and I think that would probably be okay because there would be some accountability as to what comes in and what goes out but the only thing I had was that I just didn't, I wanted to see more direct accountability. Not that I'm opposed to it. I don't care what they do with the monies as long as we know what it is and that's all I care about. I don't have any problems with this. I know with the revolving funds before, I know that the mayor had to come back here and ask for approval on revolving funds because we did it with the ambulance revolving fund. He needed to change the wording

in order for us, for him to be allowed to take salaries and other expenditures from that account. This Council gave him approval to do that. Mass statute did not. So –

**President Letellier** – Correct but we don't have to approve it every time the money is spent.

**Councilor Rossi** - Probably not.

**President Letellier** – We've changed the City Ordinance but we don't then every time a check gets made out get pre-authority or pre-knowledge.

**Councilor Rossi** - Correct but this account as I understand is gonna be in the Treasurer's office, right? Okay. All right.

**President Letellier** – And also our Auditor can let us know how funds are used as well but I think a letter perhaps asking the mayor-elect to let us know when these expenditures are made and a double check to have Cheryl make sure she let's us know as well I think would probably be useful. Yes, Councilor Bitzas?

**Councilor Bitzas** – I believe, I think we should vote tonight and vote in favor or not in favor and I believe we'll all vote in favor. It's a good thing so we can have the money coming in the sooner the better so and we can request with a letter to have any expenditures, any project, we should know about so there'll be transparency. Thank you.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Any other discussion? Last round. Councilor Messick?

**Councilor Messick** – A simple way to do it would be just to put on our calendar every six months and possibly have Barbara just request from the Treasurer's Office a report on the gift accounts so that we know what's been done.

**President Letellier** – Or add it to the quarterly reports we get from Cheryl, that's probably the best way to do it. We don't even need to, we can let the mayor know that we're gonna have Cheryl add that to our quarterly reports. Yup. Any other discussion? No? Thank you everybody. Barbara, could you call the roll? I'm sorry. Councilor Rheault?

**Councilor Rheault** – How's the Auditor gonna know unless somebody –

**President Letellier** – I'll let her know. We're not gonna assume she's gonna know. All right. So six votes are needed. Barbara, could you call the roll?

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

**President Letellier** – With ten yes, one absent you've approved the gift account.

3. **TR-2009-41 - A Resolution Authorizing the Posting of the Warrant for the Primary Election on December 8, 2009 and the Election on January 19, 2010 for the United States Senate (Mayor) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Moved by Councilor Rheault, seconded by Councilor Simpson. Any discussion? As we had heard from the City Clerk at the last meeting, the state's gonna be reimbursing the town's costs of this election. Barbara, could you call the roll? Again, six votes are needed.

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

**President Letellier** – Thank you. With ten yes, one absent, we have approved the resolution.

4. **TR-2009-42 - A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Grant Updated and Expanded Easements over Two Town Parcels to Western Massachusetts Electric Company (Mayor) (Referred to Utilities and Street Acceptance Committee) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Do we have a motion? Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Rheault. Councilor Mineo, do we have a report?

**Councilor Mineo** – Yea we did have a meeting on this tonight and we are sending a positive recommendation of 3-0. This is to improve the reliability of the electric transmission system and they need two easements – Western Mass Electric needs two easements – for property on the roads on South Westfield or the property on South Westfield Street and on Cooper Street also. The town has negotiated with WMECO and they will be paying for the updated and expanded easements over the properties. So again it's pretty cut and dry.

**President Letellier** – Thank you Councilor Mineo. Any other questions or discussion? No? Thank you. Barbara, could you call the roll? Again, six votes are needed.

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

**President Letellier** – With ten votes, you approve the two easements.

5. **TR-2009-43 - A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Jay Berger, 10G Castle Hill Road, Agawam, MA. to the Agawam Energy Commission to the Term Expiring November 30, 2010 (Mayor) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Do we have a motion? Moved by Councilors Calabrese and Rheault and I think Simpson and seconded by Councilor Bitzas. We've heard from Mr. Berger. Any comments or discussion? No? Okay, seeing none, six votes are needed. Barbara, could you call the roll?

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

**President Letellier** – With ten yes, one absent, we've unanimously approved Mr. Berger. We thank you for your *energy* and your participation. Sorry, I had to say that.

6. **TR-2009-44 - A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Howard Safford, 92 Juniper Ridge Drive, Feeding Hills, MA. to the Agawam Energy Commission to the Term Expiring November 30, 2010 (Mayor) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Do we have a motion? Moved by Councilor Calabrese, seconded by Councilor Bitzas. Mr. Safford, did you wish to say anything?

(off microphone)

**President Letellier** – Thank you. I'm not sure if that was received by the microphone. Mr. Safford said he wanted to thank the Council and that was essentially what he said. Barbara, could you call the roll? Six votes are needed.

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

**President Letellier** – Ten yes, one absent, we've approved Mr. Safford, again, thank you very much.

7. **TR-2009-45 - A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Joel Cummings, 118 Meadowbrook Road, Agawam, MA. to the Agawam Energy Commission to the Term Expiring November 30, 2010 (Mayor) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Moved by Councilor Calabrese, seconded by Councilor Messick. I received two emails from Mr. Cummings. He cannot come this evening. He's traveling but both of the emails were very detailed about the things that he, the ideas that he has, his knowledge of the natural gas law and ...plan so I indicated to him that I would let the Council know, that I would summarize the emails that we had received from him. So based on his emails, it's clear that he has some knowledge that he can share with the town and I would ask that you guys vote for him. Any other discussion? No? Barbara, could you call the roll?

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

**President Letellier** – With ten yes, one absent, you've unanimously approved Mr. Cummings.

8. **TR-2009-46 - A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Todd Bard, 316 Regency Park Drive, Agawam, MA. to the Agawam Energy Commission to the Term Expiring November 30, 2010 (Mayor) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Moved by Councilor Calabrese, seconded by Councilors Rheault and Bitzas. Mr. Bard is coaching a basketball team and cannot be here. Any discussion on his appointment? No? Barbara, could you call the roll?

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

**President Letellier** – With ten yes, one absent, we've unanimously approved Mr. Bard's appointment and thank you all for your time and efforts in volunteering.

**Item 7. Report of Council Committees**

None.

**Item 8. Elections**

None.

**Item 9. Public Hearings**

None.

**Item 10. Old Business**

1. **TO-2009-32 - Transfer - \$9,000.00 from Line Items – Reserve Fund (16605-57300) to City Clerk – Regular Temporary (11611-51020) (Mayor) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – That was for the elections and again, we're supposed to be reimbursed for. Do we have a motion? Moved by Councilor Rheault, seconded by Councilor Bitzas and Councilor Perry. Any discussion? Councilor Perry?

**Councilor Perry** – oops!

**President Letellier** – No? That's fine. All right, Barbara, could you call the roll? Again, six votes are needed.

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

**President Letellier** – Ten yes, one absent, we have approved the transfer.

**Item 11. New Business**

1. **TR-2009-47 - A Resolution Confirming the Original Authorization of the Use of Free Cash and Retained Earnings in the Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Operating Budget (Mayor) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – I’m gonna have this double checked by the Finance Committee again if that’s okay just to make sure the numbers are the same and the discussion is the same as it was before. That’ll be next agenda.

2. **TO-2009-33 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – KD Realty – Take Five Restaurant, 944 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. 01030 (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – We can have the License Committee take a look at that, next agenda.

3. **TO-2009-34 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Class II Dealer’s – Agawam Auto Mall, Inc, 825 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. 01030 (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Again, License Committee, next agenda. And all of these licenses I’m just gonna say License Committee. I’m not gonna repeat after each one.

4. **TO-2009-35 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Class II Dealer’s – Falcor Auto Sales, Inc, 373 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. 01030 (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Next agenda.

5. **TO-2009-36 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Class II Dealer’s – Parrotta’s Auto Service, Inc., 357 Main Street, Feeding Hills, MA. 01030 (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Next agenda.

6. **TO-2009-37 - (PH-2009-6) Suggest a Public Hearing on December 7, 2009 for GAS STORAGE LICENSE Application for Speedy Co., Daya Singh, 332 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA. 01001 (Clerk) (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Next agenda. I’m going to refer this to the Public Safety Committee and Public Hearing is suggesting December 7<sup>th</sup>. Is that sufficient for everyone? That gives us time to publish it Barbara?

**Barbara** - Yes.

**President Letellier** – Okay. December 7<sup>th</sup> will be the public hearing.

7. **TO-2009-38 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Class II Dealer’s – Dina Carando d/b/a Euro Imports , 175 Main Street, Agawam, MA. 01001 (Majority of those present and voting)**

**President Letellier** – Next agenda.

8. **TO-2009-39 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Class II Dealer's – Langonet, Inc., 61 Ramah Circle South, Agawam, MA. 01001**  
*(Majority of those present and voting)*

**President Letellier** – Next agenda.

9. **TO-2009-40 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Class II Dealer's – Zielinski Brothers, II, 218 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, MA. 01001**  
*(Majority of those present and voting)*

**President Letellier** – Next agenda.

10. **TOR-2009-6 - An Ordinance to Amend Certain Fees in the Building Department (Councilor Rossi) (2 readings)**

**President Letellier** – Next agenda. We'll have the Ordinance Committee take a look at that. And that's all we have for this agenda.

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

**President Letellier** – We will start with Councilor Perry.

**Councilor Perry** – Thank you Madam President. Real quick. First of all I just want to congratulate all the candidates that participated in yesterday's election. Win or lose, it's not easy to put your name out there in the public spotlight and I congratulate each and every one of them. I also want to thank the voters who went out and exercised their right to vote yesterday – 53% - in a local election, that's a pretty good turn out. I also want to thank the people who supported me. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. I want to thank the people that allowed me to put signs on their lawns and I really want to thank people who held signs all day yesterday for me. It was pretty nice in the morning but it got pretty cold in the evening, believe me. No question about it but I want to thank them. I also want to thank my family for supporting me and putting up with me during the campaign. My daughters – Jessica, Elisabeth and Samantha – my granddaughters, my son-in-law and especially I just want to thank my wife, thank you.

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

**Councilor Messick** – I could just say ditto. No, yesterday was a very exciting day and again, the voter turn out was tremendous. It was very gratifying to see that many people come out to voice their opinions. I want to thank my committee, the people who stood outside for me, my friend who was bringing around hot coffee which came in very handy late in the day, again anybody who made a donation or allowed me to put a sign up. All these people just, every little bit helps and made it just a wonderful day. About the election, there was so much enthusiasm yesterday with the signs and more people than I've ever seen out just rooting for their candidate. What would be wonderful if people who became engaged during this election would continue to be engaged and would

become a little more involved in the process of the government of the town. That would be wonderful if we could pick up a few more people. Also too congratulations of the appointees of the Energy Commission. Energy Commission actually has started doing work in a way. We went to Greening Your Community seminar that was held up in Amherst. We did some networking. We heard from some other towns, what they've been doing, got some very good information, ideas and resources, so thank you very much to Anthony and to Debbie Dachos. Anthony Sylvia from DPW and Debbie Dachos and Jay Berger and I all went and it was quite informative so it's very exciting to be getting this off the ground. And again thank you to the voters and I am proud to be serving on the Council for a second term. Thank you.

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

**Councilor Bitzas** – Two items. Thank you, Madam President. First of all I'd like to thank all the people that went out to vote and a special thanks to those people they vote for me and those people that put signs on their lawns. I'd like to congratulate you all and the other people that lost, in another two years, they can try again. That's democracy. Let the people speak for their votes and it was very much – 53% is excellent as Councilor Perry said. And the other thing is everybody knows, the last time we had the forum here and the people I'd like to apologize, the equipment we have here to broadcast our meetings and the special very important, the candidates nights, the people they like to see us, it was a very, very disappointing, very disaster what we have here. My wife taped it and I watched it and I was embarrassed and there's no way in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to have kinds of equipments from 19<sup>th</sup> century. So it is, and probably you saw the email I sent you, I am prepared to have a resolution. I went to Solicitor to try to draft it. Very simple. To ask to appropriate that's already there in the Cable Account and we must do it as soon as possible. Even tonight, we have problems with the microphone. It's not the right thing to be broadcasting here every meeting and the sounds being cut off and I asked you if you'd like to co-sponsor the resolution you can talk to our Clerk, our Assistant actually, Barbara, and I prepare a very simple resolution just ask for the money and also we'd like to get involved the Cable Committee, one of them, Ray, who operates the camera, Marge there up top and Tony Albro, we must do it as soon as possible. We have the equipment, we have the money there appropriated for us. We should not be embarrassed to be that proud, to have the audience to watch us. Thank you.

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

**Councilor Young** – Yes. Just I would like to congratulate all the candidates. Also, I guess I was informed, it must have been the bad equipment because I guess I failed to thank my family for all their help at the forum so I'll take the opportunity to thank my wife and family, all my friends who've helped me through the last twelve years, seven campaigns and six elections and again a lot of hard work for all. Good luck to those of you continuing on and the new councilors and returning councilors because you'll need it and thank you very much.

**President Letellier** – Councilor Simpson?

**Councilor Simpson** – Thank you. Same as everyone else I just want to thank all the voters who cast their ballot for myself yesterday. I appreciate all the votes and look forward to serving in the next two years. I didn't have any signs or anything so I can't thank anybody for holding anything but I thank my family for at least being there so that's it and congratulations to everybody and to CeCe and Bob and Paul, he's probably not watching, you can relax on Monday nights now come January. It'll be nice in the cold evenings. Thank you.

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

**Councilor Mineo** – Yea, I would also like to thank all the voters who went out to vote. I'd like to thank the people that voted for me. I want to thank the folks up in Feeding Hills where I thought that this would maybe be my last term because I didn't think I would do as well as I did at the Junior High School. It kind of shocked me but I'd like to thank everybody who ran, I'd like to thank everybody who held signs, put signs up for me, a special thanks to Gil Fortunato who was going around all morning, all afternoon, all night, providing sandwiches and water and coffee and chips and cookies. He did a great job all day. I'd like to thank all my family and friends that supported me and came out and helped me. They do it every year. I want to thank my son Luca who came home from college to help me out. I want to thank my son Carmino for taking the day off because he just started working for the state about four months ago so he doesn't get too much time but he did it for me. I'd like to thank my wife and my daughter Joanna, especially my wife, for putting up with me during election time because this was probably, I struggled with this election but I'm glad I came through and again I just want to thank everybody and good luck to everybody.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Councilor-elect Cichetti? Do you wish to say anything?

**Councilor-elect Cichetti** – I'd like to first thank everybody for having me here tonight. It's great to sit down at a meeting. First one obviously and hopefully more to come. I'd like to thank everybody that was involved in my election as well as the voters and I hope I can serve you the way that you'd like to see me help the town and thank you very much.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Welcome aboard. Councilor Rossi?

**Councilor Rossi** – Thank you. Yes, I'd like to thank everyone out there who exhibited their trust and faith in me and confidence in my ability to serve them. It was most gratifying to me. I would especially like to thank my family and friends. I didn't really have a big campaign. I don't have fund raisers or anything like that. I pretty much try to get it done with family and friends and without them I probably wouldn't get it done. They work very, very hard. I probably would have to give a very special thanks to Lois, my sister Marie and my sister-in-law Rose who keep the thing moving for me all the time and try to coordinate sign holders at the polls which is a very difficult job especially last night. I had to send a few home with frostbite but it was a very interesting election. It

was interesting to participate in it. It took a lot of different directions I thought from the very beginning and I'm just grateful to escape without too much injury here. So, again, I'd like to thank everyone out there from the bottom of my heart. I really enjoy working for you and I hope to serve you for another two years and that's it I guess. Thanks.

**President Letellier** – Councilor Rheault?

**Councilor Rheault** – Well, first let me give you a little bit of history of these relics that are now in front of us. We put these in way back when we were in the library. I don't remember specifically the day but at the time it was state of the art and they worked absolutely fabulous and they've served us well up until as the aging process takes place just recently. Well, it's been a little more than that really because I've gotten some complaints at times that sound is off and they're watching just a picture so I think the time has come to say goodbye to these little trouble makers and get new ones. Thank you very much for voting for me again. Interesting enough, I believe this is going to be my silver anniversary serving the Town of Agawam in a Council capacity. This is going to be my 25<sup>th</sup> year which is a long time to survive number one so I've attended a few meetings and seen a lot of cross sections of opinion and it's been enjoyable. I can't thank enough my family first. As you probably noticed in the paper today, my two grandsons were holding my signs and thank God he officially took the time off from the town because it would have been a little embarrassing to have his picture in the paper to have him holding my sign when he's supposed to be working. I have a small skeleton crew. I only had a few people holding signs and it's a tremendous chore as you all know to get people to volunteer to come out and stand there because it's tiring as heck first of all and you've got to pray the weather's good. And last night about 4:00 it got cold. With a top coat and a soft hat, I was freezing. So I too want to thank everybody and I wish the Council good luck. If I can be of any assistance with anything at all I'd be more than happy to share my experiences with the new Council as far as voting and how to vote and so forth. So I'm available and I wish you all good luck. And Bob and CeCe and absentee Mr. Cavallo, I'm sure we'll see more of you in the time to come. Thank you very much.

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

**Councilor Calabrese** – Thank you. Thank you to my husband Michael and my two children, Charlie and Michayla, and my family and my friends, my neighbors, everyone that came together to help me in the campaign this year. Congratulations to everyone who ran, those who were victorious in the polls and those who weren't because it does take an awful lot to put yourself out there and to be in the public eye and to be under scrutiny and congratulations to the newcomers that are going to be coming on board. I'm very encouraged by the caliber of talent that we're gonna be having sworn in in January on not only those returning but those new people. Bob, you and I we're gonna have some free time on our hands but of course, if I know you you're gonna remain as engaged as I will be going forward. And I just want to thank everyone. It's really been a wonderful experience and you know good luck to everyone. Thank you.

**President Letellier** – Thank you. Before I get into my thank you's there is one thing I wanted to note. I got a call from a very proud grandmother who let me know that the Agawam High Model Congress team had submitted a proposed Bottle Bill which is very similar to the one that the Governor is proposing so she was very proud that her grandson was involved and so I promised that I would give a high five to the Agawam Model Congress Team for proposing that and also apparently the team had been disbanded until these young folks were interested and Dr. Czajkowski made sure that the team was put back in place. So I'm glad to see that and I didn't even know that it had been disbanded. So congratulations to the Agawam High Model Congress team. I also want to thank everyone that supported me and just in general everybody that was out there supporting people. It was so exciting to see families out there – parents, kids holding signs. People getting re-engaged, a lot of new people running for Council and School Committee and I think that's exciting and I think that's important for the town that we have people that want to serve and so to everybody who ran whether you won or you lost, stay involved. Your talents can be used even if you didn't win the election, you can still be involved in boards and commissions. You can come to Citizens' Speak Time and tell us your thoughts. So congratulations to everyone who ran and I mean that sincerely and thank you to all my family and friends for their support. And you're right. It's hard to get people to hold signs and the weather at 4:00 became quite nasty. I in fact gave up at 4:20. I will freely admit it. So thanks to my friends who took over for me and we'll save our tributes for our non-returning comrades for the December meeting. All right? So thank you. Do we have a motion to adjourn? All in favor? Ay? Opposed? Thank you.

**Adjournment.**