

REGULAR MEETING OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

Minutes dated January 3, 2023

Because this was an Organizational Meeting, the meeting was called to order by Councilor Smith because he is the most senior councilor. It was declared open at 7:00pm at the Agawam Senior Center Veterans Hall.

Item A. Roll Call

ROLL CALL – 11 PRESENT, 0 ABSENT

Roll Call was taken with the following Councilors present: George Bitzas, Cecilia Calabrese, Paul Cavallo, Thomas Hendrickson, Christopher Johnson, Dino Mercadante, Robert Rossi, Anthony Russo, Rosemary Sandlin, Gerald Smith, and Anthony Suffriti. With eleven present, there was a quorum.

Item B. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item C. Citizen's Speak Time

None.

Item D. Elections

1. TE-2023-1 - Election of City Council President

Councilor Smith opened the floor to nominations. Councilor Mercadante placed the name of Christopher Johnson into nomination and was seconded by Councilor Sandlin. Councilor Smith closed nominations which was moved and seconded.

The vote was **11 YES, 0 NO** for **Christopher Johnson** re-electing him as Council President for another term. Council President Johnson thanked everyone for the continued support. Councilor Smith then handed over the gavel to Council President Johnson.

2. TE-2023-2 - Election of City Council Vice President

Council President Johnson opened the floor to nominations. Council Vice President Calabrese placed the name of Dino Mercadante into nomination and was seconded by Councilor Cavallo. Motion to close nominations made by Councilor Sandlin and seconded by Councilor Suffriti.

The vote was **11 YES, 0 NO** for **Dino Mercadante** electing him as Council Vice President. Council President Johnson congratulated him.

3. TE-2023-3 - Election of City Auditor

Councilor Sandlin placed the name of Cheryl St. John into nomination and Councilor Cavallo seconded it. Motion to close nominations made by Councilor Suffriti and seconded by Councilor Sandlin.

The vote was **11 YES, 0 NO** for **Cheryl St. John** reelecting her as Auditor. Council President Johnson congratulated her.

4. TE-2023-4 - Election of city Council Administrative Assistant

Councilor Russo placed the name of Barbara Bard into nomination and seconded by Councilors Cavallo and Sandlin. Motion to close nominations made by Councilor Suffriti and seconded by Councilor Smith.

The vote was **11 YES, 0 NO** for **Barbara Bard** reelecting her as Administrative Assistant to the City Council. Council President Johnson thanked the Council Mom for all she does for them as Council “Mom”.

Item E. New Business

1. **TR-2023-1** - A Resolution confirming the reappointment of **Charles Elfman**, 46 Barden Street, Agawam to the Planning Board to a term expiring January 1, 2028 (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)

Next Agenda.

2. **TR-2023-2** - A Resolution confirming the reappointment of **Frank DeStefano**, 917 Shoemaker Lane, Feeding Hills to the Planning Board to a term expiring January 1, 2028 (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)

Next Agenda.

3. **TR-2023-3** - A Resolution confirming the appointment of **Julie Warzecka**, 59 Reed Street, Agawam to the Agawam Housing Committee to a term expiring October 1, 2026 (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)

Next Agenda.

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

Councilor Suffriti congratulated everyone and looked forward to working with everyone in the New Year hoping to stay united and move forward. Councilor Sandlin wished everyone a Happy New Year. Councilor Hendrickson also wished everyone a Happy New Year. Councilor Rossi congratulated everyone and anticipates a very busy year. Councilor Smith looked forward to working together in harmony. Council Vice President Mercadante said it is truly an honor to have everyone’s support and plans to work very hard. He also wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Councilor Cavallo congratulated all and said there is a good gang up here and is optimistic about the future. Councilor Bitzas congratulated everyone elected and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Councilor Russo congratulated everyone and looked forward to working together wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Councilor Calabrese also congratulated everyone and said it will be nice sitting on the end and look into everyone’s faces for a change. She also wished everyone a Happy New Year. Council President Johnson decided against reassigning seats and noted there will be slight adjustments to the committee members. He noted that Councilor Calabrese had to step down because she had taken a new job conflicting with the Vice President role. He said she did an incredible job and will sincerely miss her counsel and advice. Council President Johnson told Council Vice President Mercadante that he had big shoes to fill. He again congratulated everyone and wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Item G. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved and seconded all around. Meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm. *Please note that this meeting was live-streamed on Channel 15 as well as being able to view on the town’s website* www.agawam.ma.us