

REGULAR MEETING OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

Minutes dated March 6, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Council President Johnson at 7:00pm at the Agawam Senior Center Veterans Hall.

Item A. Roll Call

ROLL CALL – 10 PRESENT, 1 ABSENT

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

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

There was a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item C. Citizen's Speak Time

The following citizens spoke:

Susan Grossberg – 131 Moore Street spoke about mail-in voting

Corinne Wingard – 194 Elm Street spoke about mail-in voting

Will Clark – 26 High Meadow Road spoke about forming a residential infrastructure commission

Item D. Minutes

1. Regular Council Meeting – February 21, 2023

Motion to approve made by Councilors Rossi and Smith and seconded by Councilor Cavallo. Voice vote unanimous.

Item E. Declaration of Council President

None.

Item F. Presentation of Resolutions

1. TR-2023-16 - A Resolution to appropriate Fifty Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Seven Dollars and Zero Cents (\$50,627.00) for the Agreement between the Agawam Department of Public Works Employees' Association with the Town of Agawam (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)

Motion to approve made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilors Sandlin and Russo. Council President Johnson stated that this item was to help fund the first year contract.

The vote was **10 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT** (Councilor Calabrese) approving the item.

2. TR-2023-17 - A Resolution to opt out of early voting by mail for the Fall 2023 Municipal Fall Preliminary and General elections pursuant to Section 10 of Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022 (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli and Council Christopher C. Johnson)

The Solicitor informed us that this item will need a public hearing which will be set for April 3rd. We will need to table this item in order to advertise for the public hearing. Motion to table made by Councilor Sandlin and seconded by Councilors Rossi and Cavallo. Voice vote approved.

Item G. Elections

None.

Item H. Public Hearings

- TOR-2023-3 (PH-2023-1) - An Ordinance to amend Chapter 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam regarding permitted uses in Business A Districts (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli) (1 of 2 Readings) (Referred to Legislative Committee) – Public Hearing set for March 20, 2023**

The Public Hearing is set for our next meeting on March 20th.

Item I. Old Business

- TO-2023-7 - A Budgetary Transfer of \$50,627.00 as follows:**

From:		Title of Account		Amount
Account				
16605	57300	Line Items Reserve	\$	32,256.00
22541	57350	Wastewater Salary Reserve	\$	4,493.00
60141	57350	Water Salary Reserve	\$	12,708.00
65261	57350	Golf Salary Reserve	\$	1,170.00
			\$	50,627.00

To:		Title of Account		Amount
Account				
14001	51010	DPW Regular Permanent	\$	1,571.00
14101	51010	Engineering Regular Permanent	\$	4,341.00
14201	51010	Highway Regular Permanent	\$	24,140.00
14901	51010	Motor Vehicle Regular Permanent	\$	2,204.00
22541	51010	Wastewater Regular Permanent	\$	4,493.00
60141	51010	Water Regular Permanent	\$	12,708.00
65261	51010	Golf Regular Permanent	\$	1,170.00
			\$	50,627.00

Motion to approve made by Councilors Rossi and Smith and seconded by Councilor Suffriti.

The vote was **10 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT** (Councilor Calabrese) approving the item.

Item J. New Business

- TR-2023-18 - A Resolution confirming the reappointment of Teresa M. Kozloski, 102 Meadow Street, Agawam to the Historical Commission to a term expiring January 1, 2026 (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Next Agenda.

- TR-2023-19 - A Resolution to appropriate Eighty Six Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$86,000.00) from the Agawam Golf Course Retained Earnings Account to fund the Agawam Municipal Golf Course Operations Accounts (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Referred to Finance Committee, next Agenda.

- TR-2023-20 - A Resolution accepting a Donation in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,000.00) from the Town of Agawam Police Special Division to the Whiting Street/Thomas Pyne Funds (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Next Agenda. Council President Johnson noted that a representative from these funds will be at our next meeting to provide an explanation of what the Whiting Street & Thomas Pyne Funds are all about.

4. **TR-2023-21 - A Resolution accepting a Gift in the amount of Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Seven Dollars and Thirty Three Cents (\$4,327.33) from the Estate of Richard Fearn to the Town of Agawam Fire Department for Firefighting Equipment (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Next Agenda.

5. **TR-2023-22 - A Resolution to authorize Community Choice Energy Aggregation (Sponsored by Councilors Hendrickson, Russo and Sandlin)**

Referred to Finance Committee, next Agenda.

6. **TR-2023-23 - A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Lease Agreement between the Town of Agawam and Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless regarding a monopole tower at 1000 Suffield Street, Agawam (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Referred to Legislative Committee, next Agenda.

7. **TR-2023-24 - A Resolution confirming the appointment of Bryan Riley, 206 Corey Street, Agawam to the Agawam Housing Authority to a term expiring the second Monday in January, 2028 (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Next Agenda.

8. **TOR-2023-4 - An Ordinance to amend Section 94 of Chapter 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam regarding the Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli) – Two Readings Required – Suggest a Public Hearing Date and Refer to the Planning Board**

Council President Johnson officially referred this item to the Planning Board to hold its Public Hearing and referred it to the Legislative Committee, next Agenda.

9. **TO-2023-8 - An Order granting or renewing a PERMIT for Weekly Amusement for Six Flags New England, 1623 Main Street, Agawam (Clerk)**

Referred to Administrative Committee, next Agenda.

10. **TO-2023-9 - An Order granting or renewing a LICENSE for Automatic Amusement Devices for Six Flags New England, 1623 Main Street, Agawam (Clerk)**

Referred to Administrative Committee, next Agenda.

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

Councilor Sandlin expressed condolences to the fire victims. Councilor Rossi wanted to get moving on reorganizing the License Committee. Council President Johnson explained that we are in the interview process of hiring a law intern and the Law Department will have a draft of the ordinance that will be referred to Councilor Rossi and his committee. Councilor Smith said he received several calls of damaged mail boxes after this last storm and called the Town Hall to inquire if they handle reimbursement to which he was told “maybe” – it is evaluated on a case by case basis and only on town roads – not the state roads within town. Councilor Bitzas was very pleased to see the DPW union had settled but noted there were still two not settled and wondered what was happening with the teachers and firefighters noting that although the City Council takes no part in any of the negotiations, we are appreciative of the job they do. Councilor Bitzas hopes there is a fair solution found and appreciates the job they do.

Item M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved and seconded. Voice vote approved. Meeting adjourned.

Motion to adjourn was moved by Councilor Suffriti and seconded by Councilor Calabrese. Meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

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

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FIFTY THOUSAND AND SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVEN DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$50,627.00) FOR THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AGAWAM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION WITH THE TOWN OF AGAWAM

(Sponsored by Mayor William P. Sapelli)

WHEREAS, the Town of Agawam has negotiated a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Agawam Department of Public Works Employees' Association; and

WHEREAS, the Settlement Agreement has been ratified by the Union; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Union have executed the Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Settlement Agreement is a three year agreement for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 that provides for a yearly 2%, 2% and 3% increase in salaries as outlined in the Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to G. L. c. 150E, § 7, the Agawam City Council is required to appropriate the necessary funds; and

WHEREAS, funding for the agreements shall come from a transfer from the salary reserve accounts included in TO-2023-7 to multiple individual line items; and

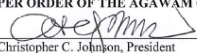
WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town of Agawam to appropriate the necessary funding.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL that fifty thousand and six hundred and twenty seven dollars and zero cents (\$50,627.00) shall be appropriated from the salary reserve accounts 16605-57300, 22541-57350, 60141-57350 and 65261-57350 to fund the agreement between the Agawam Department of Public Works Employees' Association and the Town of Agawam.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2023.

*Original - Clerks
CC - Auditing
CC - Treasurer/Collector
CC - Council
CC - law
CC - Mayor
CC - DPW*

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL


Christopher C. Johnson, President

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY


Stephen J. Buoniconti, City Solicitor

BUDGETARY TRANSFER FORM


Department Line Items/Water/Sewer/Golf 2/13/2023
Amount \$50,627.00

From:	Account	Title of Account	Amount
	16605 57300	Line Items Reserve	\$ 32,256.00
	22541 57350	Wastewater Salary Reserve	\$ 4,493.00
	60141 57350	Water Salary Reserve	\$ 12,708.00
	65261 57350	Golf Salary Reserve	\$ 1,170.00
			\$ 50,627.00

To:	Account	Title of Account	Amount
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	22541 51010	Wastewater Regular Permanent	\$ 4,493.00
	60141 51010	Water Regular Permanent	\$ 12,708.00
	65261 51010	Golf Regular Permanent	\$ 1,170.00
			\$ 50,627.00


Reason for Transfer:
To fund newly ratified DPW Collective Bargaining Agreement.

  
Line Items Department Head DPW Department Head Golf Department Head

I hereby certify that funds are available to make the above-stated transfer.
Date 2/13/23 
Cheryl St. John, Auditor

Approved as to form and legality
Date 2/11/23 
Stephen Buoniconti, Solicitor

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL - APPROVED ON MARCH 10, 2023.
Date 3/16/23 
Christopher Johnson, President

APPROVAL OF LEGISLATION: Pursuant to Section 3-6 of the Agawam House Rule Charter, I hereby approve the Council passage of the above stated-transfer.
Date 2/16/23 
William Sapelli, Mayor

*Original - Clerks
CC - Auditing
CC - Treasurer/Collector
CC - Council
CC - law
CC - Mayor
CC - DPW*