

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes dated September 20, 2021**

Meeting was called to order by Council President Johnson at 7:00pm at the Agawam Junior High School.

### Item A. Roll Call

#### **ROLL CALL – 10 PRESENT, 1 ABSENT**

Roll Call was taken with the following Councilors present: George Bitzas, Cecilia Calabrese, Paul Cavallo, Christopher Johnson, Gina Letellier, Dino Mercadante, Robert Rossi, Rosemary Sandlin, Gerald Smith, Anthony Suffriti and Mario Tedeschi. 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

Edward Lopez Jr. spoke about the possibility of getting a bus stop in Feeding Hills near Sacred Heart Church.

### Item D. Minutes

#### **1. Regular Council Meeting – September 7, 2021**

Next Agenda.

### Item E. Declaration of Council President

None.

### Item F. Presentation of Resolutions

#### **1. TR-2021-55 - A Resolution to enter into a five year agreement for the continued operation of railroad crossing lights with the Town of West Springfield (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli) (Referred to Administrative Committee)**

Motion to approve made by Councilor Mercadante and seconded by Councilors Sandlin, Cavallo and Rossi. As Chair of the Administrative Committee, Councilor Rossi provided the report stating that this agreement is a five year contract with West Springfield and is the second agreement between Agawam and West Springfield. This is a project that has proven to be worthwhile. The committee sent a positive recommendation to the Full Council with a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Letellier). Councilor Mercadante asked if this would cause any issues when O'Brien's Corner is being redone. Council President Johnson said they do not anticipate any issues with the project. This affects his life on a daily bases noting that this system is a motion sensor system so if the train is stuck on the tracks the flashing lights would go off as there is no motion. Councilor Smith is very much in favor of this resolution but would ask the Solicitor to look into the legality of the trains stopping in the middle of the crossing area. Council President Johnson stated that when this was first looked into, the CSX representative said they were governed by federal law which allows them to park anywhere they like. Councilor Sandlin said that you can get an app on phone where you can check if there is a train there however that is no longer available. Maybe we could get a letter sent to them to reactivate that camera which would also be helpful for public safety. Councilor Rossi noted that having a motion sensor is one of the drawbacks of motions sensors. He too thought it would be good to revisit this area with the feds to see if they could change the motion sensor however Councilor Mercadante said if we restricted the number of box cars on the train that that could result in an increase in prices.

The vote was **11 YES, 0 NO** approving the item.

- 2. TR-2021-56 - A Resolution confirming the appointment of Marc A. Leddy, 32 Ellington Street, Agawam, MA to the Agawam Veterans' Council to an unexpired term expiring April 1, 2023 (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Motion to approve made by Councilors Bitzas and Rossi and seconded by Councilors Mercadante and Sandlin. Councilor Cavallo commended Mr. Leddy on this thorough background he sent in and appreciated seeing that information and asked that this information be required. Council President Johnson said maybe we could require that information for new applicants.

The vote was **11 YES, 0 NO** approving the item. Council President Johnson said thanks go out to Mr. Leddy for his willingness to serve.

**Item G. Elections**

None.

**Item H. Public Hearings**

None.

**Item I. Old Business**

- 1. TO-2021-12 - An Order granting a Junk Dealer's PERMIT for Soul Shine Consignment Boutique LLC, 360 North Westfield Street, Unit 7, Feeding Hills, MA (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)**

Motion to approve made by Councilor Rossi and seconded by Councilors Cavallo and Sandlin. As Chair of the Administrative Committee, Councilor Rossi provided the report stating that this is a new business in town. He met with the proprietor who is very nice and excited to be starting a new business in our town.

The vote was **11 YES, 0 NO** approving the item.

- 2. TO-2021-13 - An Order granting or renewing a Junk Dealer's PERMIT for Baki's Fine Jewelry, 9 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)**

Motion to approve made by Councilor Rossi and seconded by Councilors Tedeschi and Cavallo. As Chair of the Administrative Committee, Councilor Rossi provided the report stating that Mr. Baki was requested to attend the sub-committee meeting because he is and has been repeatedly tardy submitting his application however he can still operate his jewelry license. The committee decided to table this item until Mr. Baki appears before them.

Motion to table made by Councilor Rossi and seconded by Councilors Sandlin and Smith. Voice vote approved.

**Item J. New Business**

- 1. TR-2021-57 - A Resolution accepting a grant in the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty Three Dollars and Sixty Four Cents (\$254,363.64) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the Town of Agawam Fire Department (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Referred to Finance Committee, next Agenda.

2. **TR-2021-58 - A Resolution urging the Massachusetts Trial Court, Governor, and State Legislature to immediately address health and safety concerns at the Roderick I. Ireland Courthouse (Sponsored by Councilors Sandlin, Cavallo, Rossi and Smith)**

Referred to Community Relations Committee, next Agenda.

3. **TR-2021-59 - A Resolution approving a redistricting plan for the Town of Agawam (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Referred to Community Relations Committee, next Agenda.

4. **TOR-2021-4 - An Ordinance to amend Site Plan Review requirements pursuant to Chapter 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam (Sponsored by the Planning Board) (Two Readings Required) – Refer to Planning Board to set Public Hearings**

Officially referred to the Planning Board to hold their Public Hearing and set our public hearing after theirs. Also referred to the Legislative Committee, next Agenda.

5. **TO-2021-14 - An Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's LICENSE to KLC Auto Sales, Inc., 1514 Main Street, Agawam, MA (Clerk)**

Referred to the Administrative Committee, next Agenda.

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

Councilor Smith talked about the moving Sept 11<sup>th</sup> ceremony at the Fire Station on Main Street saying he felt so much better afterwards. Agawam did a great job. Councilor Sandlin agreed the service was wonderful and commended our new Veterans Agent Lanski saying he did an outstanding job looking at the audience while speaking – it gave her chills. She also stated she will be doing her due diligence in looking into the bus stop as requested by the gentleman during Citizen's Speak Time. Council Vice President Calabrese wished her husband a Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Councilor Letellier asked to be included as a sponsor to one of the resolutions and thanked people for their support. Councilor Cavallo said the Sept 11<sup>th</sup> ceremony was great. Councilor Rossi has been receiving calls regarding street acceptances and wondered where the town was on getting that list to the City Council. Council President Johnson said the Engineering Department is updating the list and it should be this fall. Councilor Rossi understands all that but he has a problem with why new streets are not accepted upon bond release. How long can it take Engineering to come up with a list? Council President Johnson said with all due respect there is no lack of maintenance on any of those streets because the town accepted M.G. L. to maintain unaccepted streets but thinks the ball got dropped some time in the 70s. Councilor Bitzas talked about the great September 11<sup>th</sup> ceremony as well and how impressive Chris Lanski is. He also talked about how great it was to be with Senator Velis on September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Doering School where they discussed the United States constitution.

***Item M. Adjournment***

Motion to adjourn moved and seconded all around. Meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm. \*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](http://www.agawam.ma.us)

approved

TR-2021-55

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A FIVE YEAR AGREEMENT FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF RAILROAD CROSSING LIGHTS WITH THE TOWN OF WEST SPRINGFIELD

(Sponsored by Mayor William P. Sapelli)

WHEREAS, ten (10) railroad crossing detection lights were installed in the Town of Agawam and the Town of West Springfield as part of the Morgan Sullivan Bridge reconstruction project; and

WHEREAS, each municipality has five (5) active light locations which have alerted residents when the train crossing on Front Street, West Springfield is blocked by a train; and

WHEREAS, the notice system is operated by a cellular subscription service which has expired in May 2021; and

WHEREAS, the operator of the cellular subscription service provided quotes to both municipalities and each community has expressed a preference to opt in to a five (5) year plan; and

WHEREAS, joint participation with West Springfield will cost the Town of Agawam \$6,750.00 over the 5 year plan (\$11,000 plus a \$2,500 maintenance fee divided by 2); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town to enter into a five year agreement for continued operation of the rail crossing detection system.

NOW THEREFORE, the Agawam City Council hereby resolves to authorize the Town of Agawam to enter into a five year agreement along with the Town of West Springfield for operation of the rail crossing detection system.

Dated this 20th day of September 2021.

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

Christopher C. Johnson, President

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Stephen J. Buoniconti, City Solicitor

Org - TACK  
cc - Council  
cc - Law Dept  
cc - DAW/Engineering  
cc - Auditor  
cc - Treasurer

Approved

TR-2021-56

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MARC A. LEDDY, 32 ELLINGTON STREET, AGAWAM MA 01001 TO THE AGAWAM VETERANS COUNCIL TO AN UNEXPIRED TERM EXPIRING APRIL 1, 2023

WHEREAS, an opening exists on the Agawam Veterans Council; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has appointed Marc A. Leddy, 32 Ellington Street, Agawam, MA to the Agawam Veterans Council to a term expiring April 1, 2023; and

NOW THEREFORE, THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL hereby resolves to confirm the appointment of Marc A. Leddy, 32 Ellington Street, Agawam, MA to the Agawam Veterans Council to an unexpired term expiring April 1, 2023.

DATED THIS 20th DAY OF September 2021

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

Christopher C. Johnson, President, Agawam City Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Stephen J. Buoniconti, City Solicitor

Org - TACK  
cc - Council  
cc - Veterans  
cc - Mayor

Junk Dealer Permit TO-2021-12 was also approved