

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

## *Minutes dated August 8, 2018*

The Special Meeting was called to order by Council President Johnson at 7:00pm in the Community Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam.

### **Item A. Roll Call**

#### **ROLL CALL – 7 PRESENT, 4 ABSENT**

Roll Call was taken with the following councilors present: George Bitzas, Council President Christopher Johnson, Robert Magovern, Dino Mercadante, Robert Rossi, Rosemary Sandlin and Anthony Suffriti. Absent were Paul Cavallo, Cecilia Calabrese, Gina Letellier and Joseph Mineo

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

Council President Johnson asked for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Item C.**

#### **1. TR-2018-51 - A Resolution authorizing the posting of the warrant for the state primary election on September 4, 2018 and the state election on November 6, 2018 (Clerk)**

Motion to approve made by Councilors Mercadante and Magovern and seconded by Councilors Sandlin and Bitzas.

The vote was **7 YES** (Councilors Bitzas, Johnson, Magovern Mercadante, Rossi Sandlin and Suffriti), **0 NO**, **4 ABSENT** (Councilors Cavallo, Calabrese, Letellier and Mineo) approving the item.

#### **2. TR-2018-52 - A Resolution authorizing the adoption of Orders of Taking for the Feeding Hills Right of Way Project under the authority of Section 14 of Chapter 40 and Chapter 79 and Chapter 84 of the General Laws for the construction and maintenance of project (Mayor Sapelli)**

Prior to any motion or discussion, Council President Johnson declared his conflict of interest in this item. He filed a notice of disclosure of this conflict with the City Clerk's Office. Because of the absence of the Vice President as well as the more senior member of the Council, he will conduct the administrative part of this item i.e. calling for the motion etc however he will NOT be participating in any discussion or vote on this item. Councilor Bitzas made a Motion to go into Committee as a Whole which was seconded by Councilor Sandlin. Voice vote approved noting the abstention of Council President Christopher Johnson. Councilor Bitzas asked when is this expected to start and how many will be affected by this. He asked Mayor to provide a summary. Mayor stated as everyone knows there are a lot of issues with the Feeding Hills intersection – it is not lined up straight, there is so much traffic coming from the Southwick area. We will be taking land from the corners to make three lanes coming from Southwick. We need to do a better job for pedestrians and their safety. This will be done entirely with Chapter 90 money and funds from the Complete Streets Project. Councilor Bitzas was happy to hear it and stated it was better late than never. Councilor Sandlin how far up will it go – will it get to Sunset Terrace? Mayor said it won't be going too far and we will be making multi-use sidewalks. Councilor Mercadante mentioned that by Southwick High School there are solar powered lights – will we be able to include those? Mayor stated those are not part of this plan and noted those are very expensive however moving forward, who knows what will happen but they are not part of this project. Councilor Sandlin asked about the timing and the fixing of Rt 187 and Mayor stated it is coming right behind it and is fully funded. Councilor Magovern was very pleased to see this coming to fruition and hope it gets moved along quickly. Mayor stated it should be starting this spring and will take two construction cycles. Councilor Mercadante asked if they will be working with the area business owners so they are not to affected by these construction issues. Mayor commented that that was a great question and we are doing that all over town and mentioned CSX getting a signal to let people know a train is coming and things like that. People will be inconvenienced however we will get through this. Councilor Mercadante wanted him to remember to consider the businesses in that area. Councilor Rossi agreed

that that intersection is a nightmare. He blames it mainly on the curb cuts especially in the Pride Station. He urged the Mayor to reconsider those curb cuts to which Mayor agreed to look into it. Motion to come out of Committee as a Whole made by Councilor Bitzas and seconded by Councilor Mercadante. Voice vote approved noting the abstention of Council President Johnson.

The final dollar figure for these land takings was not included on the resolution. The Mayor informed everyone that the amount of \$143,360.00. Councilor Mercadante made a Motion to insert \$143,360.00 into the third Whereas clause which was seconded by Councilors Suffriti and Bitzas. Voice vote approved noting the abstention of Council President Johnson.

The vote was **6 YES** (Councilors Bitzas, Magovern Mercadante, Rossi Sandlin and Suffriti), **0 NO**, **4 ABSENT** (Councilors Cavallo, Calabrese, Letellier and Mineo), **1 ABSTENTION** (Councilor Johnson) approving the item *as amended*.

**Item D. Declaration of President - Introduction to Tenaska and new officers**

Council President Johnson stated that Barbara was approached by Tenaska back in June to come and introduce themselves to the City Council however we were in the middle of budget season. Knowing we had this Special Meeting with a small agenda, he thought it made sense to have them attend this evening. He then turned the floor over to the following members who introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of what the town can expect.

- **Jason Behrens, Vice President, Strategic Development & Acquisitions**
- **Buck Hunt, Director, Plant Operations**
- **Max Greig, Plant Manager**
- **Timberly Ross, Director, Communications & Public Relation**

Councilors asked questions. Councilor Suffriti noted that the plant is about 18 years old and asked if they were planning on making any improvements. Mr. Behrens stated that they were not looking to expand but will make enhancements to further the life expectancy to get it back to reliable performance. Councilor Suffriti also asked where the power goes – there is a substation right near the plant and from there it goes over the transmission lines to be distributed. ISO determines who gets the power. Councilor Suffriti asked if we could get a tour which they said they had planned to offer one in the middle to end of September. Councilor Mercadante asked what the longevity of the plant was and Mr. Behrens said this is a long-term investment and expects 30-40 years of operation. Councilor Sandlin asked if improvements would be made to be as environmentally conscious as possible which was addressed. Councilor Bitzas asked if they will be considering donations to local charities and school programs. They want to be a good neighbor and will have a tool for applying for donations which will be part of the yearly budgeting process for community projects. Council President thanked them for coming. He also stated that personally he can say that the former owners were good community participants in schools and we hope that Tenaska will continue to be a good neighbor.

**Item E. Adjournment.**

The Motion to adjourn was moved by Councilor Sandlin and seconded by Councilor Mercadante. Meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.

Approved

TR-2018-51

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE POSTING OF THE WARRANT FOR THE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 AND THE STATE ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 6, 2018

WHEREAS, approval has been requested by the City Clerk for posting of the warrant for the State Primary Election on September 4, 2018 and the State Election on November 6, 2018 by the Board of Registrars; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town of Agawam to properly post said warrant election for said elections;

NOW THEREFORE, THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL hereby resolves, that authorization is given for posting of the Warrant for the State Primary Election on September 4, 2018 and the State Election on November 6, 2018.

DATED THIS 8th OF August, 2018.

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

[Signature] Christopher C. Johnson, President

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

[Signature] Stephen Buoniconti, Solicitor

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Approved

TR - 2018 - 52

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF ORDERS OF TAKING FOR THE FEEDING HILLS RIGHT OF WAY PROJECT UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SECTION 14 OF CHAPTER 40 AND CHAPTER 79 AND CHAPTER 84 OF THE GENERAL LAWS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF MASSDOT PROJECT #604203: IMPROVEMENTS AT THE FEEDING HILLS INTERSECTION PROJECT

(Sponsored by Mayor William P. Sapelli)

WHEREAS, authorizing the taking of interests in land necessary to allow for the construction maintenance and improvements for the MassDOT Project #604203: Improvements at the Feeding Hills Intersection Project; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to take, by eminent domain, certain real estate not owned by the Town of Agawam in both fee and easement (Exhibit 1-20) as more fully described herein pursuant to Section 14 of Chapter 40, Chapter 79, and Chapter 84 of the General Laws in order to construct and maintain the MassDOT Project #604203: Improvements at the Feeding Hills Intersection Project;

WHEREAS, the interests in fee and easement being taken by the Town of Agawam for the MassDOT Project #604203: Improvements at the Feeding Hills Intersection Project will result in damages being assessed to the owners of the parcels so taken in the amount of \$ 143,360.00 ;

WHEREAS, M.G.L. c. 90 allows the Department of Public Works Director to authorize the funding for said takings of easements and in fee;

WHEREAS, the temporary and permanent easements described herein below and further in Exhibits 1-20 are:

- 1. Exhibit 1 pertains to an area on property at 44 Southwick Street, Agawam, Massachusetts shown in Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 4198 Page 224.
a. It is the intention to take a temporary easement in this property, designated as TE-1 and which is said to be owned by John A. Kieffer. Temporary Easement shall be in effect for a period of no more than four years from the date of this recording.
b. A parcel of land owned by John A. Kieffer, located on Southwick Street in the City of Agawam, in Hampden County, Massachusetts, described as follows:

org cc - Clerk's cc - Council cc - Law cc - Mayor