

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL**

**February 7, 2011**

**President Rheault** – Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the February 7<sup>th</sup> and continuation of January 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting which was postponed due to unsafe weather conditions.

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

**President Rheault** – We do not have any citizens wishing to address the Council.

**Item 2. Roll Call**

**President Rheault** – I'll ask Barbara to please call the roll.

**ROLL CALL – 9 PRESENT, 2 ABSENT (Councilors Magovern and Perry)**

**President Rheault** – Nine present, two absent. We have a quorum. Councilor Perry called and he's detained at work and will not be at tonight's Council meeting.

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

**President Rheault** – Please rise for a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item 4. Minutes**

**(a) Regular Council Meeting – January 3, 2011**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Walsh. Any corrections or additions? If not, voice vote is sufficient. All those in favor? Opposed? Unanimous.

**Item 5. Declaration from Council President**

None

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

**(a) Resolutions**

- 1. TR-2011-1 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Jay Berger, 10G Castle Hill Road, Agawam, MA. to the Agawam Energy Commission to a Term Expiring on November 30, 2014 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilors Bitzas and Rossi. I see Mr. Berger in the office, heh in the office, I see him in the office too. Is there anything you'd like to say regarding your appointment? If you do, you gotta pay the price of getting on camera. State your name and address for the record if you would please.

**Mr. Berger** – I'm Jay Berger, 10G Castle Hill, Agawam. I want to thank the Council for their confidence and assure them that this year, I'll work diligently to get Agawam declared a green community as we've been working so diligently in the past. I'll work with all the members of the Energy Commission as well as any chairman that's appointed. Thanks.

**President Rheault** – Thank you. Any comments from the Council? Councilor Mineo, you've got your light on? No? The name of Jay Berger is in front of the Council. If you are in favor, say yes. If not, no for confirmation. Barbara, please call the roll.

**ROLL CALL – 9 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT (Councilors Magovern and Perry)**

**President Rheault** – Nine yes and two absent, you've approved. Congratulations Jay.

2. **TR-2011-2 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Todd Bard, 316 Regency Park Drive, Agawam, MA. to the Agawam Energy Commission to a Term Expiring on November 30, 2014 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Bitzas. Any discussion? Councilor Messick?

**Councilor Messick** – Oh, yes, I just wanted to mention that I've been working with Jay and Todd and Joel Cummings and Howard Safford who we are looking at tonight. They've all just done a fantastic job on the Energy Commission.

**President Rheault** – Thank you. Anyone else? If not, Barbara, please call the roll.

**ROLL CALL – 10 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Councilor Perry) (Councilor Magovern arrived)**

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you've approved the confirmation.

3. **TR-2011-3 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Joel Cummings, 118 Meadowbrook Road, Agawam, MA. to the Agawam Energy Commission to a Term Expiring on November 30, 2014 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Messick. Any discussion? If not, Councilor Mineo, your light is on? No? Barbara, please call the roll.

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

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you’ve approved the confirmation.

4. **TR-2011-4 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Howard Safford, 92 Juniper Ridge, Feeding Hills, MA. to the Agawam Energy Commission to a Term Expiring on November 30, 2014 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Messick. Any discussion? If not, Barbara, please call the roll.

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

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you’ve approved the confirmation.

5. **TR-2011-5 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Mario Tedeschi, 150 Juniper Ridge, Feeding Hills, MA. to the Municipal Golf Commission to a Term Expiring December 31, 2012. (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Messick. Any discussion? If not, Barbara? I’m sorry, is he here? Do you wish to - ? No, I’m sorry, Barbara, please call the roll.

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

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you’ve approved and congratulations Mario.

6. **TR-2011-6 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Joseph F. Fitzpatrick, 142 Glendale Street, Agawam, MA. to the Housing Authority to a Term Expiring January 1, 2014 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Walsh. Any discussion? If not, Barbara, I’m sorry, Councilor Letellier?

**Councilor Letellier** – Thank you, yes, I had seen Mr. Fitzpatrick. He can’t come here this evening but he was asking to be reappointed and he said that the Housing Authority really has been working well together and has a lot of plans he wants to move forward on.

**President Rheault** – Thank you.

**Councilor Letellier** – You’re welcome.

**President Rheault** – The reason I didn’t see your light was that it was hidden behind the pitcher of water. Barbara, would you please call the roll?

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

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you’ve approved the confirmation.

**Item 7. Report of Council Committees**

None.

**Item 8. Elections**

None.

**Item 9. Public Hearings**

1. **PH-2011-1 (TR-2010-48) A Resolution in the Matter of a Petition of Western Massachusetts Electric Company (Referred to the Utilities and Street Acceptance Committee) (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – I now declare the public hearing open. A representative of WMECO, please state your name and address for the record if you would please and you have up to ten minutes to present.

**Jerry Fortier** – Thank you Mr. President and Council members. My name's Jerry Fortier. I'm representing Western Mass Electric Company this evening and I am from 13 North Ledge Rock Road, Niantic, CT. This evening I'm here to present a briefing on the petition before the Council requesting that the City Council grant its location for and permission and consent to construct maintain and operate transmission and distribution lines, related lines for the Greater Springfield Reliability Project. That project will install or replace over 90 miles of transmission circuits along the approximate 38 miles of existing right of way corridors in the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts. It adverstes three towns in Connecticut, five municipalities in the State of Massachusetts including Agawam, West Springfield, Chicopee, Springfield and Ludlow. It is a reliability project that completes a 345 Kb loop in the region as well as strengthens the existing 115 Kb transmission system. The petition is for existing right of ways, most of the work on the Greater Springfield Reliability Project all of the work is actually included in the existing right of ways and again in the Town of Agawam, there are three areas of work for GSRP and again it's between the Connecticut and Mass border in South Agawam switching station, north of Shoemaker Lane and between South Agawam and Agawam sub-station north of Springfield Street and lastly between Agawam sub-station and the Westfield River crossing and I'm here again to answer any questions that the Council might have on this petition before them.

**President Rheault** – Any questions from the Council? Was it Mr. Fortier?

**Jerry Fortier** – Yes it is sir.

**President Rheault** – No questions? No questions. Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to speak on behalf of the granting of the Resolution? Anyone who would like to speak in opposition? Anyone who would like to come forward and state their name and address in record only? Anyone who would like to come forward and state their

name and address in opposition? One last time, any further questions from the Council? Councilor Bitzas?

**Councilor Bitzas** – Just a question, curiosity for us and the people that are watching us. How much would be the project, 90 miles you said? And is that going to be have effects in the rates, electricity rates, and can you tell us how much? Can you bring the rates down? Or keep and maintain, you our economy is pretty bad, I know for the residents of Agawam they are talking about and the others too, can you enlighten us a little bit more what to be expecting? Will it be a lot more because of this expense to your company? Thank you.

**Jerry Fortier** – Sir, I actually do not have the exact rate information but I can tell you again that this is a reliability project that gets if you will socialized over all of New England. It's a transmission reliability project and therefore again gets socialized. What that means it goes into regional rates both in all of the ...folks and all of New England are .. I can tell you that it will also have a large impact on local economies with regard to creating jobs and additional tax revenue as a result of the infra-structure that will be placed in service as a result of the project.

**Councilor Bitzas** – Thank you very much and I will support the project no problem.

**President Rheault** – Thank you very much Mr. Fortier. I now declare the public hearing closed. What's the Council's pleasure? Moved by Councilor Bitzas, seconded by Councilor Rossi. A report from the Street Acceptance Committee? Councilor Mineo?

**Councilor Mineo** – Yes, we did meet. Yes, we met I think it was a month or a month and a half ago and it was my committee, Councilor Bitzas and Councilor Simpson, we did not have any problem with this. This is just something that, and actually Jill Messick was there also, we had no problems with this. This is just something that's just been ongoing over the last couple of years. We did have another public hearing. We've had power point presentations on this. It's just an upgrading of the grid so that the folks from Ludlow to Connecticut. It's really just to improve service. So there is no problems, actually it was a very quick meeting because it really wasn't anything new.

**President Rheault** – Thank you. Any other discussion from the Council? If not, Barbara, would you please call the roll?

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

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you've approved. Thank you very much, gentlemen, for coming.

2. ***TOR-2011-1 - (PH-2011-1) PETITION WITHDRAWN – VOTE OFF AGENDA Public Hearing Date Set for February 22, 2011 for an Ordinance to Amend the Code of the Town of Agawam Article XIV, Chapter 180§ 94 Entitled “Personal Wireless Services Facilities and Towers” (Referred to Zoning and Ordinance Committees) (City Council)***

**President Rheault** – This has been withdrawn by the Petitioner but we need a vote to take it off the Agenda and I'll entertain that motion. So moved by Councilors Magovern, Rossi and Walsh to take it off, seconded by the same. All those in favor? Opposed? It's officially off the Agenda.

**Item 10. Old Business**

1. **TO-2011-1 - An Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for an Automatic Amusement Device(s) – Ray-Mor, Inc. d/b/a The Elbow, 186 Walnut Street Ext., Agawam, MA (Referred to License Committee) (Clerk)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Rossi, seconded by Councilor Messick. Councilor Rossi do you have a report?

**Councilor Rossi** – Yes, the Licensing Committee sends a positive recommendation to the Council for approval.

**President Rheault** – All right. Anything else? Any discussion? If not, Barbara, please call the roll.

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

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you've approved the granting of the license.

2. **TO-2011-2 - An Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for an Automatic Amusement Device(s) – Springfield Turnverein, Inc., 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills, MA (Clerk)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Walsh, seconded by Councilor Rossi and Councilor Simpson. Also a report from Councilor Rossi on this.

**Councilor Rossi** – Thank you. Again, the Licensing Committee sends a positive recommendation to the Full Council for approval.

**President Rheault** – Thank you. Any other discussion from the Council? If not, Barbara, please call the roll.

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

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you've approved the renewing of the license.

3. **TO-2011-3 - An Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – Crestview Country Club, 280 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, MA (Referred to License Committee) (Clerk)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Walsh. A report from Councilor Rossi?

**Councilor Rossi** – Thank you. The Licensing Committee sends a positive recommendation for approval.

**President Rheault** – Recommended. Any discussion? If not, Barbara, please call the roll.

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

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you’ve approved the renewing of the license.

4. **TO-2011-4 - An Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Class I or II Dealer – Bear Auto Sales, 517 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA (Referred to License Committee) (Clerk)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Rossi, seconded by Councilor Walsh. A report by Councilor Rossi?

**Councilor Rossi** – Yes, thank you. The Licensing Committee sends a positive recommendation for approval of this license however it will be noted for the record that there will be a change or amendment, if you will, to the license itself and the license will be changed to ‘up to six (6) unregistered vehicles not to include personal passenger vehicles’. The license has been restricted to commercial and construction vehicles only for sale and it was left open with the owner of Bear Auto that should he desire to sell passenger cars in the future, he will conform with the requirements of the City of Agawam and the State of Massachusetts. Based on that we send a recommendation for approval from the Licensing Committee.

**President Rheault** – Thank you. Any other discussion? If not, Barbara, please call the roll.

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

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you’ve approved subject to the conditions mentioned by Councilor Rossi.

5. **TO-2011-5 - An Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Class I or II Dealer – Paul J. LaPointe d/b/a The Car Connection, 820 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA (Referred to License Committee) (Clerk)**

**President Rheault** – Moved by Councilor Rossi, seconded by Councilor Walsh. Report, Councilor Rossi?

**Councilor Rossi** – Yes, the Licensing Committee sends a positive recommendation for approval.

**President Rheault** – Any other discussion? If not, Barbara, please call the roll.

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

**President Rheault** – Ten yes, one absent, you’ve approved renewing the license.

**Item 11. New Business**

1. **TO-2011-6 - An Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for an Automatic Amusement Device(s) – Friendly’s, 19 Springfield Street, Agawam, MA (Clerk)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda and over to the Licensing Committee.

2. **TO-2011-7 - An Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – Siana, Inc. d/b/a Take Five, 944 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA (Clerk)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda and referred to the Licensing Committee.

3. **TR-2011-8 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Aldo Mancini, 482 South West Street, Feeding Hills, MA to the Agawam Veterans Council to a Term Expiring April 1, 2013 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda.

4. **TR-2011-9 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Frank Pignatare, 685 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA to the Agawam Veterans Council to a Term Expiring April 1, 2013 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda.

5. **TR-2011-10 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Richard Karam, 132 Robin Ridge Drive, Feeding Hills, MA to the Agawam Veterans Council to a Term Expiring April 1, 2013 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda.

6. **TR-2011-11 A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Beverly Sanford-Follis, 92 Anvil Street, Feeding Hills, MA to the Agawam Veterans Council to a Term Expiring April 1, 2013 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda.

7. **TR-2011-12 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Francis Curnow, 115 Forest Hill Road, Feeding Hills, MA to the Agawam Veterans Council to a Term Expiring April 1, 2013 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda.

8. **TR-2011-13 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Frank Mazzei, 476 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA to the Agawam Veterans Council to a Term Expiring April 1, 2013 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda.

9. **TR-2011-14 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Christopher Sanchez, 36 Hemlock Ridge, Feeding Hills, MA to the Agawam Veterans Council to a Term Expiring April 1, 2013 (Mayor)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda and I do thank the Mayor for putting all of these back and I think it's in the best interest of the town and it will work out well.

10. **TR-2011-15 - A Resolution to Support Senate Docket #82 and House Docket #474 an "Act to Sustain Community Preservation" (Councilor Bitzas)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda. He's asked if anybody wants to co-sign. I don't see the attorney's signature on there George, Councilor Bitzas, I'm sorry.

**Councilor Bitzas** – Yes, the attorney signed but by the time it came, our packets were gone so I think Barbara has the signed copy so next time it will be in your packets and if anybody likes you can tell me or tell Barbara so we can add your names there also. Thank you.

11. **TR-2011-16 - A Resolution Pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 31D of Massachusetts General Law which Authorizes the City of Agawam to Incur Charges in Excess of Appropriation for Snow and Ice Removal (Mayor Cohen)**

**President Rheault** – Next Agenda which by law the Council has to approve and in an emergency.

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

**President Rheault** – I'll start to my furthest right, Councilor Bitzas?

**Councilor Bitzas** – Just about the Resolution we have in front of us. We did it last year and the Full Council supported it. Hopefully what we're looking now and I hope we will pass it this year, they tried to make the Act a little bit better for the towns so instead we

have...they start with 100% matching funds and now we're down to almost 30% or 27%. We're trying here to go up to guarantee 75% to go to the town. Also we'd like to see this Act to be more improved and have less strings attached so we can use the money for the well, everybody knows that the High School track is in disrepair so maybe we can use some CPA money to have a new track and other projects that are good for the town. So again, if you wanted to when your turn it is to speak, let me know so we can put your name co-sponsor of the Resolution. Thank you.

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

**Councilor Simpson** – Thank you. Just, George, could you add my name please as one of the co-sponsors? Thank you.

**President Rheault** – Councilor Magovern?

**Councilor Magovern** – George, you can add my name also and again Council President, I'd like to apologize for being late. I was unavoidably detained.

**President Rheault** – No problem. The main thing is you are here.

**Councilor Magovern** – Well it's the first time I've been late in all the years I've been on the City Council. I'm sorry that I broke my record for being on time.

**President Rheault** – There's a first time for everything.

**Councilor Magovern** – And I'm sorry I didn't get to vote for Jay Berger who is a very, very good worker on their and on the commission. Thank you. That's all I have.

**President Rheault** – And he's already gone home and he didn't hear it. Councilor Mineo?

**Councilor Mineo** – George, you can add my name also. I want to bring up something and really want to bring up something for the last time. It's got to do with the cell phones and with the School Department. The School Department, some School Department administrator contacted Cheryl about a cell phone bill, okay? I requested information. I gave you all a packet tonight which is what I received from the Auditor, okay? There were two articles that were, there was one in the Reminder News and there was one on Sunday in the Republican. I think the one that was in the Reminder was more accurate from the Director of Finance, Patti Cavanaugh, which states that they were reimbursed \$9,173.00 out of the \$20,000.00 and Superintendent Czajkowski had another figure of I believe it was \$8,700.00 However, what they didn't let you know, if you look on the bottom of page 3 of what I gave you. There's a processing fee. If you look at the very bottom and again, I got this from Cheryl, okay, of \$3,336.34 which brings that total up to about \$14,000.00 and I had no idea that this, again, was in the School Budget. Again I want to work with everybody and I've been a friend to the school. Some of these cell phones, I'm gonna be honest with you and I've talked to a few of the other councilors, I

don't agree with everything that's on here, I'm gonna be quite honest with you. I think you know these are things that are in the budget from last year. What's done is done, I mean there's really not much we can do about it other than we're gonna be meeting, Dr. Czajkowski mentioned that she wanted to meet with the Council about next year's budget because there's gonna be severe cuts. Again, and I just said one thing about putting something in writing – I don't have a problem putting anything in writing to Dr. Czajkowski and I said I'm only one councilor, maybe somebody else feels different. I don't have a problem with it. When the bill came to the Auditor, the bill didn't come to her, when she was contacted okay and I found out about it, I asked her about it. I felt and still feel that I did not have to contact the Superintendent, okay? If I had found out about this from somebody else, I would have contacted Dr. Czajkowski. I've always had a great relationship with her. This came to the Auditor. The Auditor works for the City Council. She works for us. So I believe that I followed the proper procedure. I know I've had the support from the President and Vice President Rossi. I appreciate your support. I know that Bobby had wrote a memo to Don and again I appreciate it. I was just asking a question. I didn't mean to step on anybody's toes or ruffle any feathers it's just I wanted some information and I think under our Charter I had every right to do that and again I am completely done with this tonight. I'm not gonna talk about it again but I just wanted to make sure that I clarified myself with my colleagues of why I asked this. I gave you the information that I received from the Auditor. I would appreciate it if you would take a look at this. I don't think out of I mean there's \$30,000.00 that's budgeted in their budget for cell phones. I mean I'm just looking at this, I don't think everybody needs a cell phone. I'm not saying everybody, but I'm saying there's people on this list that I don't think need to have cell phones and Patti Cavanaugh said that they're using these phones not just for work related but for personal use too. Well I don't agree with that and again, I'm one councilor out of eleven but that's just my opinion.

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

**Councilor Rossi** – Yes, I just want to clarify a little position that I have on this matter. Several months ago I happened to be in the Auditor's Office and the question came by her desk as to what authority that these cell phones were gonna be paid from. They had previously been paid from a certain account and the DOR had told or instructed our Auditor to close that account that it was no longer able to be paid from the account and it's come to be some back and forth between the School Department and our Auditor as to how these things were going to be paid. Up to that point, I never even realized that principals, vice principals, people in the Guidance Department, Administrative Assistants all have cell phones and that tallied several thousands of dollars. My thought is and like Councilor Mineo, I actually question the need to spend that kind of money for cell phones for that number of people in the school systems and the second question is why can't these principals, vice principals, guidance councilors, and everybody else document their phone calls to students, parents and other persons interested in school affairs by regular channels? By city telephones and those kinds of things where things can be recorded and be legitimate. Why would it be necessary for these people to have cell phones to be talking to students, parents and other people concerned with school matters after hours or outside of the school area? I just don't see the need for that and I think that opens up a

genuine concern as to problems that may exist in the future. In light of everything that's happening now with this media that we have in existence today, this electronic media, I think all kinds of problems are starting to emerge and if I read correctly, School Committee Galarneau in her presentation, wanted to create some policy in the School Department that would eliminate that sort of thing and would document and legitimize the staffers of the School Department when it came to contacting students and parents and to make it more legitimate and I think the cell phone kind of detracts from that and that's just my personal opinion and the second thing I wanted to touch on and I know that Councilor Mineo said that there was \$30,000.00 earmarked – the School Department doesn't have a line item budgeting and I have absolutely no idea where that \$30,000.00 was and here I am I'm passing a budget allowing almost \$34million earmarked for the school systems here and never realized that \$20,000.00 or \$30,000.00 was going for cell phones that I personally don't agree with and I certainly would have taken issue if I had known at the time. So I think that, I'm hoping, that at the School, the Superintendent is calling for more transparency, I'm hoping that that will come into being and that this coming budget, we will be able to sit down and talk about some of these things and be a little bit more open so we don't have any kind of surprises. And again, this isn't about assigning any blame here. This is a simple matter of finding out something that we never knew existed and we're legislators of this community and when you get surprises like this, I think it's incumbent upon us to ask these kinds of questions. I don't think it's permissible to ask these questions, it's our responsibility to ask these questions and I'm sorry that it offends certain people that we have to ask these questions, but that's just the way that the system is supposed to work. So again, I don't agree with the cell phones, like Councilor Mineo does not agree, and I'll leave everybody else to their opinion but I don't think there's a need for that many cell phones. I don't see them as an emergency situation where any member or any staffer of our school systems would be in a position where they would actually have to have a cell phone because there was some kind of emergency situation, I certainly would like to discuss that issue. Thank you.

**President Rheault** – Councilor Walsh?

**Councilor Walsh** – Nothing tonight, thank you.

**President Rheault** – Councilor Cichetti?

**Councilor Cichetti** – Yes, thank you. I'd like to just also, Councilor Bitzas, co-sponsor on that, also and I'd also like to tell Anthony Sylvia good luck in his further ventures as he is resigning as DPW Superintendent. Thank you.

**President Rheault** – Councilor Messick?

**Councilor Messick** – I'd also like to be sponsored on your bill and we've set the date for our Third Annual Earth Day what we hope is our third annual Earth Day that doesn't get cancelled and that will be April 30<sup>th</sup> so if you have an interest in participating as a vendor, you can give Barbara a call at the Council Office and she will give me your number and we will contact you. Thank you.

**President Rheault** – Councilor Letellier?

**Councilor Letellier** – Yes, I too, would like to be a co-sponsor on the CPA Resolution and I also want to thank Anthony Sylvia. He was a stranger in a strange land and I'm sure there was some resistance for someone from out of town and out of state getting the job and I think Anthony did a really nice job and I want to thank you very much and with regard to this cell phone stuff. I think the first thing we need to look into is which of these cell phones is part of a contract because if it's part of a contract as you know, there's not a whole lot we can do. So I think we need to figure out which persons, which job positions are contractually have to have a cell phone under their contract because if their contract says we have to give them a cell phone, we can say what we want but we don't sign those contracts so I guess we need to look into asking which persons or which departments get cell phones. But I also think that Joe did the right process – the Auditor is an employee of the City Council. Any bill that comes into that office, we as a City Council have the right to ask. We don't have to go to the Department Heads, we go right to the Auditor and say what's this bill for? That's the end of the discussion. So I think Joe did the right thing.

**Councilor Mineo** – Would it be possible if I said one more thing if it's okay?

**President Rheault** – Well, I'm not gonna stop you.

**Councilor Mineo** – Okay, just what you were saying about contracts. I spoke with Dr. Czajkowski, she never mentioned anything that it was part of a negotiated contract. I mean I think if it was part of a contract, I think when we had our conversation, I think that would have been the appropriate time to bring it up so if she didn't bring it up that it was contractual then I don't think it's contractual because if it was contractual, you know, I would have said okay. I mean it's part of negotiating but –

**Councilor Letellier** – I agree and if you look I think there's plenty of people on the non-school side too that may not need cell phones. We're not living in an era where having a cell phone is this big, scary, unusual thing.

**Councilor Mineo** – I totally agree.

**Councilor Letellier** – If you need to be reached after hours, come into the office do your job and use the phone at the office.

**Councilor Mineo** – When it comes to Police, Fire, Emergency Management, I have to agree with you. I do.

**Councilor Letellier** – I remember when my dad was a cop, you get called into duty, you get called into duty, you don't need a cell phone, you can call on your personal line like they used to so I think there's a lot of cell phones out there that we don't need to pay for. I agree with Joe. Good job.

**President Rheault** – Well I have a couple things to say. First of all I supported Joe because as Gina just alluded to, I think that the Town Auditor works for us and answers to us and if we ask a question that's legitimate, it's town business and she's directed basically to reply to us. My disagreement at the time with Dr. Czajkowski was the fact that she wanted us to put this in writing before we asked and I felt that's improper and wasn't necessary. There's certain things that we may have, like your request now, as to where these cell phones are being used, and are they contractual. That may be an appropriate question to put in writing to her but when Joe acted I had no problem defending him because I felt he was 100% correct and I would stand up for any member of the Council the same way. I'd like to just take this moment, if I could, to deviate a little bit, Anthony is here and I know he's leaving on Friday and I'm sure that he wants to say a few words to the Council so I'm gonna allow him to come up and no tears, just –

**Anthony Sylvia** – Thank you Mr. President for the opportunity to speak. This is my last week here with the Town of Agawam as our Superintendent of Public Works. I've found an opportunity to work in this field and relocate back to the area that I came from being closer to Rhode Island, to be close to my children, to be close to my family and again, to continue in this same line of work. I'm going to be actually going to work for Tighe & Bond Engineering Consulting which most of you are probably familiar with as a Project Manager. They have an office in south eastern Mass. and that's where I'm looking to continue working so instead of doing what I do for one community, albeit a very good community, I've enjoyed my time here in Agawam, I'm looking forward to doing what I do for many communities. It's been a pleasure working with all of you. I've greatly appreciated your support in my time here and if you have any questions of me, I'm at your disposal. Thank you.

**President Rheault** – Anthony, I'm sure I speak on behalf of all of the Council that we're gonna miss you and for your short term here, I thought you did an outstanding job and you were a gentleman at all times. You were there when we needed you and you responded in a timely fashion, I haven't anyways, in many a year so good luck to you and hopefully we'll stay in touch and George you can add me to that list by the way. Councilor Rossi?

**Councilor Rossi** – Anthony, before you go, I just want to say on behalf of myself as a City Council and more importantly as Chairman of the Sewer Committee, to let you know what a great pleasure it was to be able to work with you on this project, to get it off the ground and running as it has and as I'm hoping it will continue to. Your cooperation has been just tremendous. I can't tell you what a pleasure it was to work with you and your staff and I want to commend you for those efforts because without your help, we probably would have gotten through this thing as quickly and as smoothly as we did. So I would just like to say thank you for that and thank you for always being there at a time when I, in particular, have ever asked you for any particular considerations and you've always been there and willing to come forward and I wish you well and my very best to you in the future.

**Anthony Sylvia** – Thank you very much. It's been my pleasure.

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

**Councilor Bitzas** – Mr. President? Thank you. I would like to take an opportunity if I may, I'd like to echo both councilors, Anthony, and also my personal feelings. You did a great job for us for a very short time and your office was also very accessible to everybody. Residents called me for complaints and I give you phone number, they were always pleased to talk with you and your office door was always open and I wish you the best luck to you and for the last thing for the town, next week, please make sure you do the Springfield Street potholes special! Good luck to you!

**President Rheault** – Actually you're going out on a blast!

**Anthony Sylvia** – I'll say! Mother Nature definitely wasn't going to make me forget Agawam. For the success that I've enjoyed here in less than a couple years that I've been here it's not without a ton of credit to everybody that works in Public Works. I appreciate all the hard work of everyone in Public Works and they're very dedicated so I've been lucky to have them and the town is very lucky to have them. As I leave, the good work that has been going on will continue so I'd like to reassure the Council of the momentum of what's been going on there will be continuing. Under Mayor Cohen, under whomever the next Superintendent will be, the nuts and bolts, the machine that is Public Works, is in place and to a large extent, the good things that are going on will continue. Thank you.

**President Rheault** – Thank you.

**Anthony Sylvia** – You're welcome.

**President Rheault** – Final item. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn. Moved by the Council, seconded by the Council. All those in favor? We are now adjourned. Thank you and good evening.

**Adjournment.**