

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

January 20, 2010

President Rheault – Welcome to the Agawam City Council meeting of January 20, 2010.

Item 1. Citizen's Speak Time

President Rheault – We have a citizen wishing to address the Council. For your information, if you have not addressed the Council before you have up to five minutes. State your name and address and the reason and Millie Parzychowski, is that correct?

Millie Parzychowski – I am Millie Parzychowski. My address is 55 Hastings Street and I'm here as a concerned citizen and also as President of the West Springfield/Agawam Kiwanas. Kiwanas is all about children and our concern is about what's happening in Agawam with the children. And we are here hopefully to help solve some of the problems that are going on with the children. We have, last year we created a Key Club at the Agawam High School. Kiwanas is all about volunteerism, community service and leadership. We teach the kids how to run meetings, how to identify projects and things that they can do and our next step is to begin a builder's club at the Jr. High School and possibly the Middle School. Again, the purpose is to teach them the importance of community service and so on. We did have a bump in the road at the high school in the fall. The stipend that's awarded to the teacher advisors was very minimal. We thought it was going to be greater because the amount of time and effort that the teacher advisors have to put and the two teachers that were helping with the Key Club decided to resign when they were told they had to share the \$382.00 for the annual stipend. There have been two new teachers assigned and they're willing to work...but I request that the City Council and I'll be asking the School Committee the same thing, to find somewhere in the budget to support this with a little greater stipend. There is a lot of effort put in by the teachers, time spent outside of school to get this, to really create the energy and the focus that is necessary for our children to find other avenues to divert their efforts to. In West Springfield we do the same thing. We are beginning a builder's club there and those both schools...have been delayed with finding community projects and I'm sure the builder's club will be the same. So my request to you...the children are what's important here and we need to focus the efforts necessary. We need more members...I'm appealing to you...if any of you Councilors would like to join us, I have application forms or if you're not able because the time you have to spend, if you know people in the community interested in getting involved, we're looking for more members because we need to have liaisons from our club to the schools and that's what we're looking for so – I appreciate your time and I believe I'm under my five minutes.

President Rheault – Thank you.

Item 2. Roll Call

President Rheault – Will the Clerk please call the roll?

ROLL CALL – 10 PRESENT, 1 ABSENT (Councilor Letellier)

President Rheault – Ten present, one absent, Councilor Letellier emailed me stating she had a strep throat and tonsillitis. So I hope you're getting better Gina.

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 – December 21, 2009

President Rheault – Moved by Councilor Perry, seconded by Councilor Rossi. Any discussion, corrections, additions, abstentions? If not, voice vote is sufficient, all those in favor? Opposed? Councilor Magovern abstains for the record. Passed.

(b) Regular Council Meeting – January 4, 2010

President Rheault – Moved by Councilor Perry, seconded by Councilor Rossi. Any discussion? Corrections? No? Voice vote is sufficient, all those in favor? Opposed? Unanimous.

Item 5. Declaration from Council President

President Rheault – I have a couple of quick announcements. You all received the hand out on the committee assignments and I received no phone calls back so I assume that everybody is satisfied. That's nice. It's a good start. Secondly, the Energy Commission is not a Council committee so that was not on there but I know that Councilor Messick and Councilor Rossi were previously appointed and Councilor Cichetti has graciously acknowledged that he'd like to serve as well so those three will serve. And I also have one final announcement; you've probably seen the posters all over the town on the Agawam Community Forum on Substance Use and Abuse. Forum topics are educational signs, resources and assistance, health implications of addiction, illegal drugs, alcohol abuse, law enforcement, criminal prosecution, time behind bars. We welcome everybody to come and hope the place is full because this is a very serious issue addressing the town and working together we can keep our youth and community safe. The committee and school panelists will be the Police Department, Hampden County District Attorney's Office, Hampden County Sheriff's Office, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kishore, President and Founder of the National Library of Addictions and the Medical Director of Preventive Medical Associates of Brookline. The date is Wednesday, January 27th at 7:00pm, Agawam Middle School. So we hope to see you and because of the nature of

the subject matter, I think it's gonna be an excellent forum and we hope to see the place full.

Councilor Bitzas – And Mr. President I will add that they are going to have two parents and some young adults speak about the problems and we will be closing with questions and answers from the panel. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you.

Item 6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances

None.

Item 7. Report of Council Committees

None.

Item 8. Elections

None.

Item 9. Public Hearings

None.

Item 10. Old Business

1. **TO-2009-61 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – Main Street Still, 1813 Main Street, Agawam, MA. (Clerk) (Majority of those present and voting)**

President Rheault – What is the report of the committee, Councilor Rossi?

Councilor Rossi – Yes, thank you. The committee, Councilor Simpson and myself, had gotten together prior to and I believe Councilor Cichetti is going to be next or Magovern, Councilor Magovern will be on the License Committee following tonight's meeting. Anyway, we met, we discussed the issues and there is nothing in here that would prohibit us from issuing the renewal for these licenses. We have before us, I would like to take the first four if I may and consolidate them, if the Council so wishes. I would make a motion that we consolidate Items 1, 2, 3, and 4 and I'll read them into record if the Council so pleases.

President Rheault – You want to consolidate TO-61, -62, -63 and -64? Seconded by Councilor Perry. All those in favor of moving? Ay. And you can go ahead and read the names into the record, Councilor Rossi.

Councilor Rossi – Okay, Item would be TO-2009-61 an Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) at Main Street Still, 1813 Main Street, Agawam. The second item is TO-2009-62 an Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) at Polish American Club of Agawam, Inc., 139 Southwick Street. Item 3 is TO-2009-63 Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) for F.S.F., Inc. d/b/a Riverboat Bar & Grill, 11 South End Bridge Circle. And Item 4 is TO-2009-64 an Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) at T.J. Sporthouse, 1664 Main Street in Agawam.

President Rheault – Moved by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Perry. Roll call if you are in favor of the four licenses, vote yes if not vote no. Clerk, please call the roll.

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

President Rheault – With ten yes, one absent, you have approved the four licenses.

2. **TO-2009-62 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – Polish American Club of Agawam, Inc., 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA. (Clerk) (Majority of those present and voting)**

See item 1 above.

3. **TO-2009-63 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – F.S.F., Inc. d/b/a Riverboat Bar & Grill, 11 South End Bridge Circle, Agawam, MA. (Clerk) (Majority of those present and voting)**

See item 1 above.

4. **TO-2009-64 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – T.J. Sporthouse, 1664 Main Street, Agawam, MA. (Clerk) (Majority of those present and voting)**

See item 1 above.

5. **TO-2009-65 - Order Granting or Renewing a Class II Dealer's LICENSE – Auto Kraft, 119 Walnut Street, Agawam, MA. (Clerk) (Majority of those present and voting)**

President Rheault – Moved and seconded. Any further discussion? Councilor Rossi?

Councilor Rossi – Yes, the License Committee gives a favorable recommendation for renewal.

President Rheault – Any further discussion? If not, will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

President Rheault – Ten yes, one absent, you have approved the license.

6. **TO-2009-66 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – Springfield Turnverein, 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills, MA. (Clerk) (Majority of those present and voting)**

President Rheault – Councilor Rossi? Moved by Councilor Rossi, seconded by Councilor Perry. Councilor Rossi?

Councilor Rossi – Again, the Licensing Committee gives a favorable recommendation for renewal and if it pleases the Council, I'd like to consolidate TO-2009-66 an Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) for the Springfield Turnverein, 176 Garden Street. Item TO-2009-67 an Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) for Tom-Weil Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Coach T's at 360 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

President Rheault – Motion is to move -66 and -67 together, all those in favor of that? Ay. Any opposed? Any further discussion? Clerk, please call the roll.

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

President Rheault – With ten yes, one absent, you've approved the two licenses.

7. **TO-2009-67 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – Tom-Weil Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Coach T's, 360 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. (Clerk) (Majority of those present and voting)**

See Item 6 above.

Item 11. New Business

1. **TR-2010-1 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Gary Shannon, One Monarch Place, Suite 1900, Springfield, MA 01104 to the Agawam Municipal Golf Commission for a Term Expiring December 31, 2012 (Mayor)**

President Rheault – This will appear on the next Agenda.

2. **TR-2010-2 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Anthony Pioggia, III, 20 Sharon Lane, Feeding Hills, MA. 01030 to the Agawam Municipal Golf Commission for a Term Expiring December 31, 2012 (Mayor)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

3. **TR-2010-3 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Dean Godek, 24 Cedar Knoll Drive, Feeding Hills, MA. 01030 to the Agawam**

**Municipal Golf Commission for a Term Expiring December 31, 2012
(Mayor)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

- 4. TR-2010-4 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Gerald Landry, 71 Country Road, Agawam, MA 01001 to the Whiting Street and Thomas Pyne Fund for a Term Expiring December 31, 2012 (Mayor)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

- 5. TO-2010-1 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – Ray-Mor, Inc. d/b/a The Elbow, 386 Walnut Street Ext., Agawam, MA. (Clerk)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

- 6. TO-2010-2 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – J E H, Inc. d/b/a The Headquarters Bar & Grill, 485 Springfield Street, Agawam, MA. (Clerk)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

- 7. TO-2010-3 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – Home Plate Sports Bar, 827 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. (Clerk)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

- 8. TO-2010-4 - Order Granting or Renewing a LICENSE for a Weekly Amusement Device(s) – The Quest, Inc., 1251 River Road, Agawam, MA. (Clerk)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

- 9. TO-2010-5 - Order Granting or Renewing a Class II Dealer’s LICENSE – ACE Auto Sales, 1163 Main Street, Agawam, MA. (Clerk)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda.

- 10. TO-2010-6 - Order Granting or Renewing a Class II Dealer’s LICENSE – Elias Auto, 1123 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA. (Clerk)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda. I would like all the above licenses to be referred to the License Committee.

- 11. TR-2010-5 - A Resolution Amending TR-2008-48 Authorizing the Appropriation and Loan Order in the Amount of \$3,730,000 for Phases Two and Three for the Construction of Sanitary Sewers in the Town of Agawam (Mayor)**

President Rheault – Next Agenda. I will send that to the Finance Committee with a correction, it's incorrect by stating 'majority of those present and voting'. It's a bond application and to amend it you need two thirds vote and 2 readings so next meeting it will show up as a first reading and second reading to follow. Just to remind the Council that on the first meeting in February we'll have the appointment to the Board of Appeals for the opening.

Councilor Perry – Point of privilege, Mr. President? The last item under New Business, I know you referred it to the Finance but wouldn't that also go to the Sewer Committee – a joint meeting?

President Rheault – Yes, thank you. It should also go to the Sewer, Ad Hoc Sewer Committee, to Councilor Rossi.

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

President Rheault – I will start with you, Councilor Perry?

Councilor Perry – Nothing this evening, Mr. President. Thank you.

Councilor Messick – I have nothing this evening.

President Rheault – Thank you. Councilor Cichetti?

Councilor Cichetti – Nothing.

Councilor Walsh – Nothing.

President Rheault – Nothing? All the way down, Councilor Bitzas?

Councilor Bitzas – Yes, one thing. I would like to congratulate all the voters of the Town of Agawam in this special election for the Senate, 52% that went out to vote in the rain and cold. It is unbelievable...and...the republicans, independents, democrats, it's great to have this and be part of a democratic system to have so many people out voting. Congratulations to all. It was amazing. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Councilor Simpson?

Councilor Simpson – Thank you. I just wish to, I know they don't hear this but our thoughts are with the residents of Haiti and hopefully that everyone can find it in their heart even if it's a dollar donation to make towards the fund. They had another what they called an aftershock today which was 6.1, it's quite the aftershock and I know also just locally Stop & Shop has gathered together with the Red Cross and you can easily make a donation when you go in to buy your groceries. So hopefully the community will come together and put a few funds towards that. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Councilor Magovern?

Councilor Magovern – Basically what I had to say has been said here by Councilor Simpson and Councilor Bitzas, but I'm gonna just put my two cents worth in that it's great to see a country come together behind the people of Haiti. It's a devastating need down there as to what they've got to get and we've done a great job and I think I'd like to see Agawam step forward and do something more than what's been done so far and really show that we care about people outside of our own neighborhoods. And again I think it was great that we had more people show up to vote in our special election than we did in our own town election. It showed that people care about the process, that democracy is alive and well in this town and in this state and congratulations to Senator-elect Scott Brown. My prayers go with him. Thank you.

President Rheault – Thank you. Councilor Mineo?

Councilor Mineo – Nothing tonight, thank you.

President Rheault – Anything Councilor Rossi?

Councilor Rossi – Yes, I do. If you would Barbara, would you schedule a meeting next week sometime at your convenience and maybe you could give Councilor Walsh a call to see if maybe it's convenient for him to meet and set up a meeting for the Sewer Committee Ad Hoc and if you would as well notify our civilian resident members and possibly have the joint meeting going on that? Okay? And maybe we could find out if it's convenient for all the members of the committee to meet, okay? The other thing too is on that in our haste to consolidate over here I don't know if I inadvertently left out the name of Item 5, the License Granting and Renewing for Auto Craft at 119 Walnut Street. I wanted to make sure that got into the record. Okay. I didn't know. All right. Thank you very much. And another thing I wanted to touch on and I maybe ask the Council President and ask him to check on, I noticed these items under New Business for these appointments, the first three items, ...come year, after year, after year, and a couple of them and I know at least ...golf course. Don't we get any other applicants that apply for this job or is this an automatic renewal every year? Just exactly how does that work? I would like to find out..

President Rheault – It is the prerogative of the Mayor to reappoint or to select somebody different if he is unhappy with the performance. So apparently he is happy with the performance and that's we've got them in front of us. I'd be more than happy to discuss it at my next meeting with him to see what his thoughts are on that. I've never really addressed that issue to him.

Councilor Rossi – Well, yeah, I was just concerned but if that's his prerogative and I don't want to step on that prerogative if that is, that's fine with me and why would it be necessary for us to rubber stamp these year after year?

President Rheault – The term expires that's why so we have to take an official vote to confirm his appointment. All right.

Councilor Perry – If I may, Mr. President, following on that I was gonna ask afterwards, but now that you brought it up Vice President Rossi, if you look at the first TR-2010-1 confirming the reappointment of Gary Shannon, he’s got an address in Springfield. Is it a requirement to be a resident of Agawam?

President Rheault – Is he a resident of Springfield?

Councilor Perry – Well everybody else has an Agawam address, this one says Springfield, so I don’t know if it’s a requirement but when you ask just see if that is. Thank you.

President Rheault – When we have our discussion, I will find out. That’s probably his law practice. That concludes tonight’s meeting. I’ll entertain a motion to adjourn. So moved. All those in favor? Opposed? We are now adjourned. Thank you and good evening.

Adjournment.