

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes dated June 5, 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 –11 PRESENT, 0 ABSENT**

Roll Call was taken with the following Councilors present: George Bitzas, Cecilia Calabrese, Paul Cavallo, Thomas Hendrickson, Christopher Johnson, Dino Mercadante, Robert Rossi, Anthony Russo, Rosemary Sandlin, Gerald Smith and Anthony Suffriti. With eleven 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**

Maggie Q. of Connecticut spoke in support of three Agawam Police Officers for their kind treatment and assistance.

**Item D. Minutes**

**1. Regular Council Meeting – May 15, 2023**

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

**2. Budget Workshop #1 – May 15, 2023**

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

**3. Budget Workshop #2 – May 22, 2023**

Motion to approve made by Councilor smith and seconded by Councilor Cavallo. Voice vote unanimous.

**Item E. Declaration of Council President**

None.

**Item F. Presentation of Resolutions**

- 1. TR-2023-46 - A Resolution accepting gifts from the estate of Eleanor A. Zucco Geiger in the amount of Four Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$4,000.00) to the Town of Agawam Public Library and Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,500.00) to the Agawam Senior Center (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Motion to approve made by Councilors Smith Bitzas and Sandlin and seconded by Council Vice President Mercadante.

The vote was **11 YES, 0 NO** approving the item. Council President Johnson thanked the Geiger family for their generous gift and specifically to Eleanor.

2. **TR-2023-47 - A Resolution accepting gifts from various donors of the Adopt-A-Barrel Program administered by the Agawam Beautification Committee (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Motion to approve made by Councilors Rossi and Russo and seconded by Councilors Smith and Cavallo.

The vote was **10 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSTENTION** (Councilor Sandlin) approving the item. Council President Johnson thanked the individuals and businesses for their generous donations.

**Item G. Elections**

None.

**Item H. Public Hearings**

1. **TR-2023-45 (PH-2023-5) PUBLIC HEARING - A Resolution adopting the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Operating Budget for the Town of Agawam (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Council President Johnson opened the Public Hearing at 7:06pm and welcomed the Mayor to the podium. Mayor Sapelli greeted the City Council and noted that we have had two workshops where excellent questions were asked and answered. He thanked the City Council, the School Committee, Department Heads and his administrative staff as this was a team effort. The increase was 5.8% with only a 2.5% increase on the school side all while maintaining goods, services and staffing. Mayor looked forward to a positive vote at the next meeting. Council President Johnson asked if there were any other speakers in favor of the budget. Corinne Wingard, 194 Elm Street spoke in favor and said she was grateful for the leadership of Mayor Sapelli and what he has done for this town. Council President Johnson asked if there were any speakers in name only in favor of the budget. He then asked for speakers in opposition. Will Clark, 26 High Meadow Street spoke in opposition about reductions in special revenue funds. Council President Johnson asked for any other speakers in name only in opposition. He then declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:12pm.

Since the vote on this item would be on June 20<sup>th</sup>, Council President Johnson asked for a Motion to table which was moved and seconded all around the house.

**Item I. Old Business**

None.

**Item J. New Business**

1. **TR-2023-48 - A Resolution to appropriate Twenty Thousand and Two Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$20,200.00) 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.

2. **TR-2023-49 - A Resolution to appropriate funds for the AFL-CIO, Local 1973, Firefighters Association Agreement with the Town of Agawam (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Next Agenda.

3. **TR-2023-50 - A Resolution to exercise the right of first refusal option to meet a bona fide Offer to Purchase lands classified under M.G.L. Chapter 61A located at 497 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Next Agenda.

4. **TO-2023-12 - An Order granting a PERMIT for Weekly Amusement for the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, 128 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills (Clerk)**

Referred to Administrative Committee, next Agenda.

5. **TO-2023-13 - Budgetary Transfer of \$96,206.34 from Reserve Fund (#16605-57300) to Medicare Insurance (#16603-57040) (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Referred to Finance Committee, next Agenda.

6. **TO-2023-14 - Budgetary Transfer of \$150,000.00 from Line Items Short Term Debt Principal (#16601-57601) to Building Maintenance Electricity & Heat (#11922-52110) (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Referred to Finance Committee, next Agenda.

7. **TO-2023-15 - Budgetary Transfer of \$106,961.47 from Interfund Transfer Out (#22822-59000) to Fire Regular Permanent (#12201-51010) and Fire Holiday (#12201-51050) (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli)**

Next Agenda.

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

Councilor Suffriti congratulated the Class of 2023 noting the great turnout. Councilor Hendrickson also congratulated Class of 2023 and wished them good luck. Councilor Smith complimented everyone involved in organizing graduation. Well done. Council Vice President Mercadante also congratulated the Class of 2023. Councilor Bitzas congratulated the students, proud parents and grandparents. Councilor Russo also congratulated the Class of 2023. He also thanked the speaker for attending the meeting and speaking. He agreed the police do a great job and appreciated hearing her story. Council President Johnson wished a happy birthday to Councilor Calabrese. She thanked him and also thanked Maggie for coming in and speaking. She also congratulated the Class of 2023. Council President Johnson also congratulated the Class of 2023 noting he coached many of the graduates in Little League. He also commended Mayor Sapelli for making one of the more memorable speeches he has heard in a long time. He told the Mayor that it genuinely moved him.

**Item M. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. 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](http://www.agawam.ma.us)**

TR-2023-46

*Approved*

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS FROM THE ESTATE OF ELEANOR A. ZUCCO GEIGER IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$4,000.00) TO THE TOWN OF AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY AND TWO THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$2,500.00) TO THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER

(Sponsored by Mayor William P. Sapelli)

WHEREAS, Eleanor A. Zucco Geiger was a resident of the Town of Agawam who recently passed away; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Geiger's estate has been probated and the Attorney for Fiduciary has informed the Town of Agawam that Ms. Geiger has bequeathed \$4,000 to the Agawam Public Library; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Geiger's also bequeathed \$2,500 to the Agawam Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, checks in the said amounts have been received by the Town of Agawam; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Agawam desires to accept said bequests.

NOW THEREFORE, the Agawam City Council resolves, pursuant to G. L. c.44, §53A, to accept the gifts from the Estate of Eleanor A. Zucco Geiger to the Agawam Public Library in the amount of four thousand dollars and zero cents (\$4,000.00) and to the Agawam Public Library in the amount of two thousand and five hundred dollars and zero cents (\$2,500.00).

Dated this 05th day of June, 2023.

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

*[Signature]*  
Christopher C. Johnson, President

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

*[Signature]*  
Stephen J. Buoniconti, City Solicitor

*Orig: Clerk's office  
cc: Council  
cc: Auditor  
cc: Library  
cc: Law  
cc: Mayor  
cc: CPA*

TR-2023-47

*approved*

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFTS FROM VARIOUS DONORS OF THE ADOPT-A-BARREL PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

(Sponsored by Mayor William P. Sapelli)

WHEREAS, the Agawam Beautification Committee administers an Adopt-A-Barrel Program which is funded through CPA dollars and donors who "adopt" a barrel of plantings; and

WHEREAS, barrels are located throughout Town on roadways and public locations and improve the aesthetic appeal of the Town; and

WHEREAS, while the program has been operating for a long time, it has recently been advised that the donations are subject to G. L. c.44, §53A and need to be accepted by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, a checks in the said amounts as listed in the attached Exhibit A have been received by the Town of Agawam and the Town anticipates receiving more donations prior to final action of the resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Agawam desires to accept said gifts.

NOW THEREFORE, the Agawam City Council resolves, pursuant to G. L. c.44, §53A, to accept gifts from the various donors included in the attached Exhibit A in support of the Adopt-A-Barrel Program and administered by the Agawam Beautification Committee.

Dated this 05th day of June, 2023.

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

*[Signature]*  
Christopher C. Johnson, President

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

*[Signature]*  
Stephen J. Buoniconti, City Solicitor

*Orig: Clerk's office  
cc: Council  
cc: Auditor  
cc: Planning  
cc: Law  
cc: Mayor*