

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

## **Minutes dated September 19, 2022**

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 – 10 PRESENT, 1 ABSENT**

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

None.

### **Item D. Minutes**

#### **1. Regular Council Meeting – September 7, 2022**

Motion to approve made by Councilor Mercadante and seconded by Councilors Smith and Sandlin. Voice vote approved.

### **Item E. Declaration of Council President**

#### **1. Introduction of new employees by Mayor Sapelli**

Council President Johnson welcomed Mayor Sapelli to the floor to introduce the two new employees. Mayor Sapelli thanked the Council and was happy to introduce two new employees to the Town of Agawam. Mayor Sapelli introduced his new Chief of Staff, Jennifer Gannett, and asked her to say a few words.

#### **Chief of Staff – Jennifer Gannett**

Jennifer Gannett stated she was happy to be here and excited to have this opportunity. She was the former Assistant Town Administrator for Deerfield and lives in Granby, MA. She said she is glad to be working for the Mayor and serving the Town of Agawam.

Mayor Sapelli introduced his new Building Inspector, Kevin Duquette, and asked her to say a few words.

#### **Building Inspector – Kevin Duquette**

Kevin Duquette said he was happy to be here and his background as a Building official dates back eleven years. He comes from East Longmeadow and spent seven years working in the same capacity for the City of Springfield.

On behalf of the City Council, Council President Johnson welcomed both of them and looked forward to working together.

**Item F. Presentation of Resolutions**

- TR-2022-59 - A Resolution accepting a grant in the amount of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$400,000.00) from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to the Town of Agawam. (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli) (Referred to Finance Committee)**

Motion to approve made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilors Sandlin and Suffriti. As Chair of the Finance Committee, Councilor Mercadante gave his report stating that he explained the grant coming from DOT for O'Brien's Corner and that the town must spend to get reimbursed. The project is currently underway and the City Council needs to accept this. There was some confusion in 2018 when it was originally authorized and the town appropriated the money. There was an extension from the State based on design complexities. The confusion existed based on whether or not the town needed to accept the grant and indeed the City Council does need to accept this. Councilor Sandlin expressed concern about the poor design. The Committee made a Motion to send a positive recommendation to the Full Council which was made by Councilor Sandlin and seconded by Councilor Suffriti. The vote was 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Calabrese). Councilor Bitzas stated he was happy to see this grant.

The vote was **10 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT** (Councilor Rossi) approving the item.

**Item G. Elections**

None.

**Item H. Public Hearings**

None.

**Item I. Old Business**

None.

**Item J. New Business**

- TR-2022-60 - A Resolution accepting a grant in the amount of \$400,000.00 from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to the Town of Agawam. (Sponsored by Mayor Sapelli) (Referred to Finance Committee)**

Referred to Finance Committee, next Agenda.

- TO-2022-17 - Budgetary Resolution for the Town of Agawam for the year 2023. (Sponsored by Councilor Rossi) (Referred to Finance Committee)**

From:		
Account	Title of Account	Amount
16605 57350	Line Items Salary Reserve	\$ 80,281.00
65261 57350	Golf Salary Reserve	\$ 806.49
		<u>\$ 81,087.49</u>
To:		
Account	Title of Account	Amount
11211 51010	Mayor Regular Permanent	\$ 2,195.87
11341 51010	Auditor Regular Permanent	\$ 1,846.97
11371 51010	Assessor Regular Permanent	\$ 1,969.91
11381 51010	Treasurer/Collector Regular Permanent	\$ 7,260.80
11611 51010	Clerk Regular Permanent	\$ 2,170.79
11801 51010	Community Development Regular Permanent	\$ 2,150.91
11921 51010	Building Maintenance Regular Permanent	\$ 3,609.73
12101 51010	Police Regular Permanent	\$ 18,715.43
12201 51010	Fire Regular Permanent	\$ 2,774.64
12501 51010	Inspection Regular Permanent	\$ 2,081.76
14001 51010	DPW Regular Permanent	\$ 1,759.40
15101 51010	Health Regular Permanent	\$ 1,045.59
15411 51010	COA Regular Permanent	\$ 7,857.37
16101 51010	Library Regular Permanent	\$ 22,067.19
16201 51010	Park & Recreation Regular Permanent	\$ 2,774.64
65261 51010	Golf Regular Permanent	\$ 806.49
		<u>\$ 81,087.49</u>

Referred to Finance Committee, next Agenda.

**3. TO-2022-18 - An Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's LICENSE to Euro Imports, 325 Main Street, Agawam (Clerk)**

Referred to Administrative Committee, next Agenda.

**4. TOR-2022-10 - ଅଫି ଠାକୁରାଣୀ ଓ ଅଫିସ୍ ଉପରେ ଥାନା ଓ ଶୁଳ୍କ ଓ ସର୍ବସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ**

Referred to Legislative Committee, next Agenda.

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

Councilor Suffriti stated that he has been approached by many residents thanking the Administrative for sidewalks in the Feeding Hills area being replaced. Councilor Mercadante was concerned about painting lines on the streets including bike lanes especially along Suffield Street. Council President Johnson provided some administrative reminders and then asked for a Motion to adjourn.

**Item M. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was moved and seconded all around the house. Meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.

**\*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-2022-59

*approved*

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$400,000.00) FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO THE TOWN OF AGAWAM**

(Sponsored by Mayor William P. Sapelli)

**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) awarded a grant to the Town of Agawam in 2017 through the Complete Streets Program for improvements to O'Brien's Corner; and

**WHEREAS**, the Complete Streets grant is in the amount of up to four hundred thousand dollars and zero cents (\$400,000.00) to construct bicycle, pedestrian and transit improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town is now in the middle of the renovation of O'Brien's Corner and has contracted with a vendor to perform the work under the Complete Streets Program; and

**WHEREAS**, during the process where the City Council authorized the appropriation of municipal funds (TR-2018-15) to pay for the costs of the project, the Complete Streets grant was not accepted by the Town; and


**WHEREAS**, the Town Auditor and Treasurer have advised that the Complete Streets grant in 2017 needs to be accepted by the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the Town of Agawam to accept said grant and the Town desires to accept said grant.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Agawam City Council pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44 §53A accepts a grant up to the amount of four hundred thousand dollars and zero cents (\$400,000.00) from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Complete Streets Program.

DATED THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF September, 2022.

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

  
Christopher C. Johnson, President

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY  
  
Stephen J. Buoniconti, Solicitor

- O - Town Clerk
- CC - Council
- CC - Auditor
- CC - DPL
- CC - Procurement
- CC - Law
- CC - Mayor's office
- CC - Engineer