

METHUEN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

GREAT HALL, SEARLES BUILDING

Organizational Business

Update of the Audio System

Update of the Digital Law Library Project

TR 23- 75 Resolution To Set First Regular Meeting Of 2024 Of The Methuen City Council On Thursday, January 4, 2024, At 7:00 Pm Sponsored By Chair Zeigler and Councilor DiZoglio Charter Objected Clr. Saba, Clr. McCarty

2024 Methuen City Council Meeting Schedule Charter Objected Clr. McCarty

Reading and Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

November 9th, 2023 Regular Meeting Approve d8 to 1 and November 20th, 2023 Regular Meeting Approved 8 to 1 (Clr. Finocchiaro)

Consideration of Appointments:

Gina LaGreca - Retirement Board Approved Unanimous

Ken Doherty - Historical Commission Approved unanimous

Paul O'Neil - Assistant City Solicitor Approved unanimous

David Mambro- Promotion from Police Officer to Sergeant withdrawn

Public Service:

1. Whether the City will authorize a residential exemption of up to 34% of the average assessed valuation of residential property UPON ROLL CALL Unanimous no
2. Whether the City will authorize an open space exemption of up to 25% for all property that may be classified as Class II-Open Space not to authorize UPON ROLL CALL VOTE 8 no 1 yes Clr. McCarty)
3. To determine the residential factor to be used in allocating the Fiscal Year 2024 property tax burden between residential properties and commercial/ industrial/personal property classes to accept max shift of the res away full shift more towards commercial side UPON ROLL CALL VOTE Unanimous yes

Grants: None

Licenses: General Application Billiards Parlor – Renewal Barbara Vinciguerra, 689 Prospect Street, Methuen, MA Approved Unanimous yes

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Contract(s):

C-24-31 Eastern Minerals, Inc. Highway Rock Salt \$57.00 per ton. Approved
Unanimous yes

C-24-32 Musco Sports Lighting, LLC -\$512,355.00 CIP FY24 field light replacement to
LED lights. Approved Unanimous

Unfinished Business

TR-23-61 Resolution for the Methuen City Council to Accept M.G.L. Ch. 33 Section 59:
Effect of Military Service on Salary, Seniority and Leave Allowances of Public
Employees (Request of Clr. Finocchiaro, co-sponsors Clr. Simard and Clr. Saffie)
Approved Unanimous yes

TR-23-62 Resolution for the Methuen City Council to Accept M.G.L. Ch. 59 Section 5,
Clause 56: National Guardsmen and Military Reservists Property Tax Exemption (Req.
of Clr. Finocchiaro, co-sponsors Clr. Simard, Clr. Saba, and Clr. DiZoglio) Approved
Unanimous yes

TR-23-63 Resolution for the Methuen City Council to Accept M.G.L. Ch. 59 Section 5N:
Reduction of Property Tax Obligation of Veteran in Exchange for Volunteer Services
(Req. of Clr. Finocchiaro, Clr. Simard, and Clr. Faretra) Approved Unanimous yes

TR-23-64 Resolution Declaring Surplus Equipment and Authorizing Surplus Equipment
(Request of Mayor Perry and Police Chief McNamara)
Approved Unanimous yes

TR-23-65 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a \$48,387.88 Commonwealth of
Massachusetts Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Municipal Road Safety Grant (Request of Mayor Perry
and Police Chief McNamara)
Approved Unanimous yes

TR-23-66 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Fiscal Year 2023 Crisis Intervention
Team Grant Award of \$394,800 (Request of Mayor Perry and Police Chief McNamara)
Approved Unanimous yes
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Ordinances: None

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New Business

Resolutions:

TR-23-67 Resolution for the Methuen City Council to Amend “Rule XI: Public Participation” of the “Methuen City Council Rules and Procedures” to Ensure That All Methuen Residents Voices are Heard at the Beginning of Meetings Prior to Council Votes (Request of Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro, Co-Sponsors: Councilors Nicholas DiZoglio, DJ Beauregard, and Eunice Zeigler)

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE 6 yes 3 no (Clr. Saba, Simard, Faretra)

TR-23-68 Resolution to Support Transparent Documentation for All Boards and Commissions in the City of Methuen: All Available Packet Documentation is Recommended to be Provided on the City Website When the Meeting is Posted (Request of Councilor Finocchiaro, Co-Sponsors Councilors Allison Saffie, Michael Simard and Eunice Zeigler)

Approved 8 yes (Clr. Simard out of room)

TR-23-69 Resolution Prohibiting any Methuen City Council Votes to Transfer Funds to Pay for Expenditures That Have Not Yet Been Voted on or Approved to Occur First (Request of Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro, Co-Sponsors Councilors Steven Saba, Nicholas DiZoglio, and DJ Beauregard) Approved 8 yes (Clr Simard out of room)

TR-23-70 Resolution to Protect Methuen’s Trees for Future Generations: For Every Tree on City Owned Property that is Removed the Methuen City Council Supports That two Trees be Planted by the City, and All Tree Stumps on City Owned Property Shall be Removed, Both Within One Calendar Year (Request of Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro, Co-Sponsors Councilors Steven Saba, DJ Beauregard, and Joel Faretra)

Approved unanimous

TR-23-71 Resolution Supporting Providing Voter District Maps, Financial Campaign Reports, and Other Relevant Data on City Clerk’s Webpage to Promote Accessibility for First Time Candidates Considering Running for Office (Request of Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro, Co-Sponsors: Councilors Allison Saffie, Michael Simard, and Joel Faretra) Approved Unanimous yes

TR-23-72 Resolution to Require Financial Information Regarding City Employee Full-Time-Equivalents, Funding Sources, and Anticipated Funding Completion Provided by the Chief Administrative Financial Officer (CAFO) as Part of the Annual Budget Process for the City of Methuen (Request of Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro, Co-Sponsors: Councilors Steven Saba, Nicholas DiZoglio, and Joel Faretra)

Approved unanimous

TR-23-73 Resolution for the Methuen City Council to Accept M.G.L. Ch. 59, Section 5C1/2: “Additional Exemption...” That Certain Residents Qualified for Certain Exemptions for Veterans and Survivors, Older Residents, and Blind Persons, Shall Increase to an Additional

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100% Exemption (Request of Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro, Co-Sponsors: Councilor Allison Saffie and Councilor Michael Simard) Approved unanimous

TR-23-74 Resolution to Increase, From 4% to 6%, the Current Local Excise Tax Rate for Lodging Rooms in Methuen Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64G, Section 3A, and to Support Using Resulting Revenue to Assist Homeless Methuen Residents and to Defray Public Safety and Public Health Costs Associated with Transient Room Occupancy in Methuen (Request of Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro, Co-Sponsors: Councilors Allison Saffie, Steven Saba, and Michael Simard)

Approved Unanimous

TR 23- 76 A Resolution To Encourage Increased Civic Participation In Elections (Sponsored By Chair Zeigler, Councilors Saffie, and Beauregard

Amended for just municipal elections unanimous

Approved unanimous

TR- 23- 77 Resolution To Adopt A Job Description For A City Councilor Sponsored By Chair Eunice Zeigler and Councilor DiZoglio Charter Objected Clr. Saba

TR 23- 78 Resolution To Establish A Job Description For The Mayor Sponsored By Chair Eunice Zeigler and Councilor DiZoglio ND no second Motion failed due to lack of second

TR 23- 79 Resolution To Establish A City Councilor Orientation Program Sponsored By Vice-Chair Faretra, Councilors Saffie, and Beauregard Approved 7 yes, 2 no (Clr. Saba, Clr. Simard)

TR 23- 80 Resolution To Establish a Protocol For the Creation And Review Of Financial Policies To Maintain The Fiscal Stability Of City Of Methuen Sponsored By Chair Eunice Zeigler

TABLED ROLL CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Ordinances: None