

METHUEN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.
GREAT HALL, SEARLES BUILDING

Reading and Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meetings: September 16, 2024, Regular Meeting **Approved Vote: 6 yes, 1 abstention, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

Public Service:

- A) Grants: None
- B) Licenses: Bmore Transportation, Inc., 166a Merrimack Street – Vehicle for Hire Company License Application (new) **Approved Unanimous Vote**

C) Contract(s):

C-25-34 – Methuen Police Patrolmen’s Association’s agreement with the City of Methuen from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 (2nd Read) **Vote to table 7 yes, absent**

C-25-38 Water Safety Service, Inc., 6 Walnut Hill Park, Woburn, MA 01801 for Backflow Prevention Device Testing & Cross Connection Program in the Amount of \$42,003.00 **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

C-25-39 Neptune Uniforms & Equipment, Inc., 630 Washington Street, Haverhill, MA 01832 for Police Uniforms in the Amount of FY’25 Up to \$133,086.39 – budgeted amount (FY-26-27 subject to budgeted appropriation approved per year) (This is a three-year contract with 2 one-year option to renew) **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

C-25-40 Agreement Between the City of Methuen and Methuen Middle Management Association July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 (FY25-27) (first read) **Approved: Vote 6 yes, 1 no (Clr. Faretra) Clr. Valley was absent**

- D) Order Calling for State Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**
- E) Order Calling for Municipal Election Tuesday, December 10, 2024 **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

Unfinished Business

Resolutions:

TR-24-46 Resolution Accepting and Establishing the Water and Sewer Rates Analysis (remove from table) as amended 9/4/24 **Approved: Vote 6 yes, 1 no (Clr. Marsan) 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

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TR-24-54 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of \$1,754,541 for Fiscal Year 2025-2027
Massachusetts Department of Public Health Shared Public Health Services Grant (Requested by the Mayor and Director of HHSI) **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TR-24-55 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of \$156,707.36 for Fiscal Year 2025
Commonwealth of Massachusetts State 911 Department Training grant (Requested by the Mayor and Chief of Police) **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TR-24-56 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of \$16,232.86 for Fiscal Year 2024
Commonwealth of Massachusetts State 911 Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Grant
Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)

TR-24-57 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment of Order No.5646 Borrowing to Pay Costs for the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Improvement Plan (remove from the table) **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TR-24-58 - Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Fiscal Year 2023 U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant of \$66,545.45 (Requested by the Mayor and Fire Chief)
Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)

TR-24-59 Resolution Authorizing Expenditures of \$500 from the Edwin J. Castle Fund for the Nevins Library (Requested by the Commission on Trust Funds) **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TR-24-60 Resolution Authorizing Transfer \$1,551,714.35 from the General Fund Employee Benefits other expenses budget line, to various General Fund Personal Services budget to fund the various agreed upon Collective Bargaining Agreements (Requested by the Mayor and CAFO) (Remove from the table) **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TR-24-61 Resolution Authorizing Transfer \$140,000 from the Enterprise Fund Employee Benefits budget line, to the Enterprise Fund Personal Services budget line to fund the agreed upon Department of Public Works Employee Association, Superintendents Local 123 and AFSCME A Collective Bargaining Agreements (Requested by the Mayor and CAFO) (Remove from the table) **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

Ordinance(s):

TO-24-6 An Ordinance Amending the Wage and Salary Classification Plan, AFSCME A, to add the new position of Community Outreach Coordinator (*Requested by the Mayor and Director of Human Resources*) (remove from table) **Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

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TO-24-7 An Ordinance Establishing Section 16-15.1 of the Methuen Municipal Code to Authorize Civil Sanctions for Failure to Restore Excavated Land in Public Rights of Way
(Requested by Chair Faretra, Councilors Saffie, Beauregard, and DiZoglio, and Mayor Perry)

Vote to Table 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)

TO-24-8 An Ordinance Amending Section 16-9(A) of the Methuen Municipal Code to Formally Establish a Minimum Indemnity Bond Amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) Relative to the Excavation of Public Streets *(Requested by Chair Faretra, Councilors Saffie, Beauregard, and DiZoglio, and Mayor Perry)* (remove from table) **Vote to Table 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TO-24-9 An Ordinance Accepting M.G.L. c. 90 § 17C to Reduce the Statutory Speed Limit from 30 mph to 25 mph in Thickly Settled or Business Districts *(Requested by Chair Faretra, Councilor Saffie, and Councilor Beauregard)* (remove from table) **Amended to read July 1st Approved: Vote 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TO-24-10 An Ordinance Amending the Wage and Salary Classification Plan, Unaffiliated, to add the new position of Social Worker *(Requested by the Mayor and Director of Elder Services)* (remove from table) **Vote to Table 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TO-24-11 An Ordinance Amending the Wage and Salary Classification Plan, Unaffiliated, to add the new position of HR Generalist *(Requested by the Mayor and Director of Human Resources)* (remove from table) **Vote to Table 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TO-24-12 An Ordinance Authorizing the Establishment of the Searles Estate Commission *(Sponsored by Councilor Soto, Co-Sponsored by Councilor Valley and Councilor Marsan)* (remove from table) **Vote to Table 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TO-24-13 Ordinance Authorizing the Establishment of the Searle Estate Revolving Fund *(Sponsored by Councilor Soto, Co-Sponsored by Councilor Valley and Councilor Marsan)* (remove from table) **No action**

TO-24-14 – Commissioners of the Searles Estate herein incorporated with Ordinance #XXX Ordinance Authorizing the Establishment of The Searles Estate Commission and Ordinance # XXX Ordinance Authorizing the Establishment of The Searles Estate Revolving Fund Composition, Mode of Appointment, Term of Office *(Sponsored by Councilor Soto, Co-Sponsored by Councilor Valley and Councilor Marsan)* (remove from table) **No action**

TO-24-15 An Ordinance Establishing Section 9-98 of the Methuen Municipal Code to Bar Those Convicted of Threats Against City Buildings from Post-Conviction Access *(Sponsored by Councilor Beauregard, DiZoglio, Saffie, Chair Faretra and Mayor Perry)* (remove from table) **Vote to Table 5 yes, 2 no (Clr. DiZoglio, Clr. Saffie) 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

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New Business:

Resolutions:

TR-24-63 Resolution Declaring Surplus Equipment and Authorizing Auctioning of Surplus Equipment (Request of Acting Mayor and CAFO) **Vote to Table 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TR-24-64 Order Authorizing an Amendment of Order No.5831 Borrowing to Pay Costs for the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Improvement Plan (Acting Mayor, CAFO, and Recreation Department) **Approved Vote: 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)**

TR-24-65 A Resolution Providing for the Submission of a Home Rule Petition, though the Governor's Bill process or otherwise, for Special Legislation Allowing the City Council and the City Clerk to Prepare for and Conduct a Special Election for Mayor in Full Compliance with State Law (Request of Chair Faretra and City Clerk) (EPA REQUESTED)

Approved Vote: 5 yes, 2 no (Clr. Soto, Clr. Marsan) 1 absent (Clr. Valley) Approved Vote for EPA: 7 yes, 1 absent (Clr. Valley)

AN ACT AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF METHUEN TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF MAYOR (Request of City Clerk)

Ordinances: None