

1. **Roll Call – All members present – Clr. Pesce, Clr. Santos, Clr. Simard, Clr. Valley, Clr. DiZoglio, Clr. Drew, Clr. MacLaren, Clr. Marsan and Chair Soto**
2. **Acceptance of the Agenda** – Motion to accept by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley – Clr. Santos made a motion to amend, seconded by Clr. Pesce to move agenda item 7 to after agenda item 3 – unanimously approved.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation/Moment of Silence** – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Pesce, “In the words of the late, great Martin Luther King, Jr., darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Santos, “I want to read Psalm 127. It's a very beautiful verse that says, unless the Lord builds a house, the builder's table is in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guard stands watch in vain. This means that no human effort can be made alone to create lasting success. Everything ultimately depends on God's blessings and guidance. Thank you.” Clr. Pesce said, “Recently, we lost two very giving members of the Methuen community, Bob Lefebvre and Norman Jones. We were also asked by a resident for a moment to add to the moment of silence in the name of Keith Porter, Renee Good, Silveria Villegas Gonzalez. Thank you.”
4. **Proclamations/Correspondence:**
 - **Citation for Wally Correa and E&W Auto Body** – Clr. Santos said, “Thank you, Madam Chair. So today I'm very happy and honored to present a citation to Wally Correa. He's the owner of E&W Body Shop. For more than 15 years, Wally has been serving the Central District of Methuen with commitment and his entrepreneurship spirit. He has built trust in local business and strength in our city and served as an important source of employment for members of the community. Wally, I just want to say that he has gone for the last four months. He has had a hardship because the street where his business is located has been worked on. So, this has been affecting his business for the last four months. And he has endured this with no complaints and has also worked with the community to make sure that that neighborhood is safe. So, I am honored to present this to Wally Correa.”
 - **Citation for Maryvelisse Nunez and Glamour Nails** – Clr. Santos said, “Also, I have a citation for Mary Nunez. She's the owner of Glamour Nails, a beauty & spa business. She's been serving our community for the last 15 years with excellent service and her hard work. She's also a dedicated business owner that has impacted the small business owners in our community, economy, and neighborhood life. Mary, congratulations.”
 - **Outstanding Service Recognition - Ann Lloyd-Zaralidis** – Chair Soto said, “The next item that we have on the agenda, it is Outstanding Service Award. This is something new I had circulated to the Council through our Clerk, and I wanted to give some reference to what it is moving forward. And so, the premise of the Outstanding Service Award was established to be recognized by the Methuen City Council, any city employee, vendor or constituent, who in the course of their professional duties or contractual engagement has been identified to the Mayor or the City Council as having provided exceptional service to a resident of Methuen, Massachusetts. This award acknowledges conduct that exceeds standard expectation, demonstrates professionalism, responsiveness, and care, and reflects a commitment to serving the residents of the city of Methuen with distinction. So, for the first citation ever, this Outstanding Service Award is accompanied by a living plant, which you'll see near our Police Chief, as a symbol of public service. Like this plant, your work has taken root through reliability, care, and professionalism. Your daily efforts, often behind the scenes, have

strengthened our city operations and improved the lives of our residents. As this plant continues to grow, it reflects the lasting impact of your service to our community. May this serve as a reminder that your work continues to grow and make a difference well beyond today. And so that first recognition is to Anne Lloyd-Zaralides, and I'll read the recognition as well. This is presented in recognition of exemplary dedication, professionalism, and sustained service to the city. The accompanying living plant symbolizes the care, stewardship, and lasting impact of your contributions to municipal service and the community we serve.

- **Outstanding Service Recognition** - Amy Priante-Walkowicz – Chair Soto said, “The next is a citation on behalf of Councilor Valley for Amy Priante-Walkowicz. Now, Councilor, if you wouldn't mind sharing the story behind the citation so that the public and the Councilors can understand how this came about.” Clr. Valley said, “I nominated Amy after receiving positive messages from residents praising her professionalism, kindness, and timely communication. It's important that we take the time to highlight and celebrate the great work that the city's employees do, and Amy truly represents outstanding service to our community. Congratulations, and thank you for your service.”
 - Chair Soto said, “Thank you. I wanted to also commend the Mayor. He has an in-office recognition for his employees. So, the first recognition that was given today was because of the Mayor. Mayor, if you'd like to share that story, please do so.” Mayor Beauregard said, “Thank you, Madam Chair. So one of the things that we've started to do is put out a weekly internal newsletter to everybody here in the building, and any time a resident, anybody reaches out to share kudos for a job well done, any time, say, a member of a departmental team recognizes a co-worker for going above and beyond, the goal is to recognize that. I think it's something that's important for us to do in terms of our culture, and so I thank Madam Chair for bringing this into the public square so that our residents can see the tremendous work that folks are doing and realize that there's a lot of good that is done. It's often unseen, unrecognized, and this changes that. I'm very grateful for your recognition. Thank you.”
5. **Organizational Business** - Adoption of City Council Rules and Procedures (as amended January 5th) – **Motion to accept the Council Rules as amended by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio – Discussion** – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, “Madam Chair, I just, I have a few questions on some of these. Is there a way to just go through each of them, just by line item, just to, I know it's not a ton of them, but I just want to attach them as we go through, because I know there are some questions that I know other Councilors may have.” Chair Soto agreed. Clr. Drew continued, “As I look through this, we had taken out a line item for the Financial Analyst, and that was put in our Charter, so it is part of our home rule petition. So, I don't think we can delete it, and I would ask the Solicitor if that were something we can actually delete out of this.” Solicitor O'Neill said, “You can delete it out of your rules. It hasn't been filled for quite a while. So, I think the Charter Commission is recommending an aligning change, whether that ultimately makes it through this Council and through the Legislature. I don't know, but originally the Charter referred to the City Auditor, which became a Fiscal Analyst after that, but you can remove it from your rules if you wish.” Clr. Drew said, “OK, and it's just line items currently in our budget as a \$1 line item, correct?” Chair Soto agreed. Clr. Drew said, “Right. That's all. I just wanted to make sure it was clarified to the public that we were deleting that for that. And then I just, I would honestly like to do a vote on the public participation again about addressing people's addresses fully. I feel like it might hinder people from feeling they can't come up to the microphone because of their affiliation with things. So, I just would like to address that.”

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Chair Soto said, "So for clarification, Councilor, you're asking that the amended item on, is this in pertaining to the full address?" Clr. Drew said, "Yes." Chair Soto said, "That that be brought back to the original that it was in there as is. Okay. So, you're making a motion?" Clr. Drew said, "Yes. Making a motion to bring back to the original." Chair Soto said, "Let's read the original wording Councilor." Clr. Drew said, "So the line item that was struck is 'all citizens wishing to speak shall notify the Council Clerk's office in person, by mail or by telephone of their name, address and subject such information shall be listed in the journal kept in the Council Clerk's office. For this purpose, this journal shall be available in the Council office prior to the Council meeting. The speaker shall be heard in order of their names to appear in the journal. In addition, a counselor can recognize a person in the audience who has the same expertise on the subject to speak.'" Clr. Drew then read the new language, "The news line-item reads 'citizens wishing to speak in person may sign up at the scheduled meeting by providing their name, full address on the sheet provided of said meeting speaker shall be heard in the order in which they are listened, listed on the group. A citizen may also be recognized by the Council Chair or any member of the City Council through the Chair. Additionally, a citizen wishing to have a statement read into the record at a City Council meeting may submit their statement along with the request for the same and a full name and address to the Council Clerk's office by 4 p.m. of the day of the Council meeting for which they would be like the statement read. Such statements shall be limited to two single paragraph pages, double spaced, and at least 12-point font for easier reading. As everybody can tell, I can't read that. Any statement that does not comply with the requirements may not be admissible in the meeting. The Clerk shall make reasonable efforts to notify the sender or notify the sender of corrections needed. However, each correction will not extend the submission deadline. So, I guess my concern is really the full address component of that." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Pesce, "So normally they don't write it. Do they write it on the participation sheet?" Clr. Pesce was told they do write their address on the Public Participation sign-in sheet. Clr. Pesce said, "I know they say it verbally. So, what part do you want changed from the new, just the full address part?" Clr. Drew said, "I just don't like the full address component. It was brought to (my attention) from people that they feel as though it's going to hinder people's willingness to walk up to the microphone and speak." Clr. Pesce said, "So, is there an alternative? Would you prefer a city? I'm just thinking from my standpoint, sometimes it's helpful to know if someone is a resident or not, or where they're from." Clr. Drew said, "I guess I don't disagree with that. I know in previous times I've had to go to Council meetings in other municipalities. And I feel as though when I have said my address, they just don't really pay much attention to me. And I have had people ask me that question. Will they feel less if they come up and say they're not from Methuen? Will their comments not be held with the same weight?" Clr. Pesce said, "So, I understand what you're saying. I guess for me, it does weigh differently sometimes. Not to say that someone outside of the city could have more of a vested interest than a resident on a particular matter. So, to me, it wouldn't necessarily sway me. But if we're talking about something that directly impacts Methuen residents. Let's just say, for the sake of argument, I get six of my friends who have no skin in the game to speak on my matter without knowing where they're from, seemingly involved with the issue, then I would have a problem blindly listening to that. It kind of creates a false sense of support or a force against something. So, I guess I like the address, but I thought more where you were going is I would be open to maybe at least stating the city or the state, or again, their interest in the matter, right? Because sometimes their city or state, you're still going to wonder, but they might be a corporation who's doing business, again, speaking on something. I just want to know their interest in the matter, right?" Clr. Drew said, "I agree with that. That you do

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want to know what their interest is, but at the same time, like you said, there are people who may be in business or have other affiliations and other groups that care about something, and their concerns may be just as valid for the way Methuen is going to move forward. So, it just sits funny with me, and I'm just asking to just to strike the full address component. When I asked it at the last meeting, you know, I stated my full address with the zip code and everything, and that's the full address. I think that's a little overkill when it comes to that.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. DiZoglio, “So, pointing to Councilor Drew, I kind of thought that was kind of over(board). If I say I'm at 16 Central Street, Methuen, Mass, 01844, everybody knows I'm from Massachusetts, and my zip code. My suggestion is maybe we strike the MA and 01844. I don't think we're going to say to them, oh, you didn't say the zip code or the state, so you can't talk, but I also think it's kind of an overkill. We're asking them Massachusetts 01844. So, if we just say 16 Central Street, Methuen, that should be the end of it. That's my suggestion.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Simard, “Thank you, Madam Chair. I think we're getting too complicated. I think you put a sheet up there that says name and address, and then it becomes your discretion as to whether or not the information they provided would suffice. But I agree with Councilor Pesce. If we got an unaccepted way, and there's a resident up there talking about Nelson, I want to know that because there's a special interest. But as far as a zip code and, you know, from Ottumwa, Iowa, you know, I don't think it's, it's relevant, you know, so. Thank you. My two cents.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Marsan, “I think we should just keep it to Methuen residents. Write your address. You don't have to go into detail. Just write your address. And we want Methuen residents or Methuen business. If you're a business here, we're going to listen to you. If you have a point of interest is pertinent to what we're talking about. So, I just think we need to keep it to residents. So, thank you.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Pesce, “I would defer to the Solicitor. If Clr. Drew was happy with that middle ground, how to, instead of full address, Solicitor, something sufficient or somewhere that would give discretion to make for an identifiable address, something. Do you have a better word?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “No. It's totally at your discretion. Public participation is not required under the open meeting law. It's completely at your discretion, what terms you set, as long as they're not content based in terms with what people are saying. If you feel it's relevant for people to give their address. And I would just point out we're on the New Hampshire border. We do have a lot of interaction with New Hampshire residents. They file claims and other things. Sometimes it's relevant to know that they're from New Hampshire. Perhaps I leave that to totally to the Council's discretion as to why whether or not you want address, full address, zip code. I have no opinion on that.” Clr. Pesce said, “So maybe a friendly amendment, Clr. Drew? Maybe we strike “full” and just put address.” **Clr. Drew said, “Yes. From that line to strike “full” address as the friendly amendment. So, I make a motion to amend.” Motion to amend by Clr. Drew, seconded by Clr. Simard – unanimously approved.** Chair Soto asked if there are any more amendments to the City Council Rules and Procedures. She then passed the gavel and said, “I have one. I circulated it and it's clarifying language that is highlighted in green. And so, I wanted to point out. Page four under rule two, section E. So, this just happened this past week. Where we had a holiday yesterday and our meeting was moved to Tuesday. And when I went back to the rules to understand if I could extend the deadline to the Mayor's office and the Council (to submit items for the Council Agenda.) I was really confused. So, in essence, it's just clarifying the language. So, it gives the extension clearly of the day to the body to extend for Department Heads to provide what they have to bring to the table (for the next Council agenda). Instead of it being the usual Tuesday by noon. They would have had a grace period until Wednesday by noon. And so that's what that is. So, if you didn't have a minute to read it and see if it's okay with you. In essence, it says the same as when we did it

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last time. The examples were not as clear. This language really specifies the dates. I'll take a motion. I guess I'll give this to the Vice Chair. I'd like to make a motion for that amendment to happen." **Motion to amend Methuen City Council Rules and Procedures, Rule II – Agenda – Section e – by Clr. Soto, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio – Discussion** – Vice Chair Pesce recognized Clr. Drew, "Question for this, and this is purely because I'm still new at this, trying to figure this all out. If we have a special meeting, this will go into effect with it. Also, typically, we have to have everything posted within a certain amount of time for the public. This won't affect any of that and shouldn't have any overlap with any of those items?" Chair Soto said, "Councilor, it spells out for when Monday is a legal holiday. If you look at the top --- where it says agenda and backup submission deadlines for holidays and closures. So, if the Mayor said that there was a storm. And he needed to extend this deadline because of the storm. This allows us to do that for him or me as the Chair. But everything else would remain. Because we'd have to meet the deadlines." **UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.** Chair Soto recognized Solicitor O'Neill, "So I just want to point out that this is a new amendment. You're going to have to vote twice on this one." Chair Soto called for a vote on the **Methuen City Council Rules and Procedures as amended on January 5, 2026 - -- Motion to approve the amended by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio – UPON ROLL CALL VOTE – unanimously approved.**

Council Subcommittee Appointments – Chair Soto said, "I wanted to share with all of you that I have assigned you to your sub committees and I want to circulate that. I've also, per our Charter Rules and Regulations, the committee you're on and I'll read them out:

- **Committee for Athletic and Recreation Enhancement.** Clr. Valley, Clr. Drew, and Clr. MacLaren
- **Economic Development Committee:** Clr. Marsan, Clr. MacLaren and Clr. Santos
- **Finance Committee:** Clr. Pesch, Clr. Drew & Clr. Santos
- **Public Safety Committee:** Clr. DiZoglio, Clr. Valley and Clr. Soto
- **Unaccepted Ways Task Force:** Clr. Valley, Clr. Marsan and Clr. Soto
- **Veteran Affairs Committee:** Clr. DiZoglio and Clr. Pesce
- **Ad Hoc Great Hall Video, Audio and Lighting Committee.** Chair Soto said, "This is a brand-new committee. Clr. MacLaren and myself. This is to work in conjunction with IT Department and MCS for the audio-visual in this room and the lighting. So that committee will work on that for a tenure of about six months. So, I'll pass those out. I also will be sending and again these are suggestions that I have for each chair. On your committee list, if you're listed as the first person on the committee, you are the Chair of that committee at your first meeting. It is up to those Councilors to decide whether you will remain the chair or not. You will vote amongst yourselves on that action. For example, I'll go to Clr. MacLaren. You're our chair for the Great Hall Audio, Visual and Lighting Committee. So, I would defer to you to schedule that first meeting and you would prepare the agenda obviously with the Clerk's help and we would take our own minutes at that meeting, and you would provide, as Chair of that Committee, an update at the next Council meeting in regard to what we did. So that's just an example of how the subcommittees work." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Simard, "Council Chair, I didn't hear my name." Chair Soto said, "Did you email me Councilor?" Clr. Simard said, "No I didn't." Chair Soto said, "Okay so what I did is everybody that emailed me, I prioritized that they were where they wanted to land as far as their sub-committee assignments. Right now, there's space on the Veterans Affairs Committee. That's what I was going to refer to next. There are suggested projects that I'm

giving each committee. Obviously that body will decide what they're going to work on. I'll give you an example. The Finance Committee, for example, I have given you some suggestions. City assets and inventory review is one of them. Based on the resolutions that were on the floor tonight, if that passes, that will connect to that committee. Revolving funds and special revenue review along with the CAFO. I pointed out that she should be involved in those committee meetings. Budget process and calendar improvements --- work with the Mayor on that. Those are just suggestions for that committee, Mr. Mayor. So, if you feel that there's something you want to prioritize, please let me know. But they'll pick from those suggestions what they want to do or bring their own ideas to the table. So, in essence if there's something that you'd like to recommend please let me know and we'll let them know." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Simard, "Is there a date of that email because I don't remember getting that email. Was there a date and was it to my private email or the city email?" Chair Soto said, "So I'm confused Councilor, are you asking me..." Clr. Simard said, "You sent an email you said to ask Councilors what committee they wanted to be on." Chair Soto said, "No. At the last meeting, I announced that by the next meeting, I will have assignments to your subcommittees and to please email me your request to serve on those committees. In essence, everybody emailed, texted, and Clr. Drew and I don't mean to point you guys out. Councilors Drew and Santos showed up and they physically gave me their committee requests that evening. So, they did an email text or call. So, you know my apologies if you were expecting an email, but I didn't email that out. I mentioned it at the last meeting." Clr. Simard said, "I'll wait till next year." Chair Soto said, "I'll take a motion to accept the Subcommittees as presented." **Motion to accept by Clr. Valley, seconded by Clr. Santos – UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.**

6. Public Participation:

- **Linda Soucy, 10 Kirk Street, Methuen** – "First of all I want to congratulate Wally Corraera from E&W Auto Body on receiving the citation tonight. They have consistently shown a strong commitment to working with neighborhood residents and their supportive presence in our community. The past more than four months, believe me, of construction has been very difficult for his customers and vendors alike to get to his business. While we worked with the Mayor's office to solve these issues the disruption still placed a significant strain on his business. Despite these challenges he has always remained welcoming, positive and focused on helping the neighbors. His resilience and community support truly deserve our recognition tonight. Thank you, Wally. And now I'll go on to the Snow Emergency Packing Ban. Like I said before I'm in favor of Option 2 which maintains the current winter parking ban but increases the enforcement measures. The fines would increase from \$25 to \$100 for the first violation and \$200 for subsequent violations. Vehicles would also be subject to towing, and the ban would be enforced during every declared snow emergency. But we truly believe that these procedures have to be followed. So, if the car is on the street. If you want to drive through my neighborhood right now, I can name 10 cars that still have all the snow on it and have not moved at all, and I did not see one of those orange things on the windshield meaning a ticket. It's very important that they move their vehicles just because of allowing all of our emergency responders down through the neighborhood. It's a densely populated neighborhood. You have two and three and four and six tenements that you know before they had maybe one or two cars. But we're talking about some of these buildings that have eight or ten cars because the kids have a car, the mother has a car, the father has a car. It's not like it was before. So, we have to get these off the street and I like the fact that they have put in the off-street parking at different places like the Neal Playstead and different places for people to park if they don't have anywhere to park. A lot of the landlords won't let

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their people park in their driveways which makes no sense to me. I'm also in favor, I've told the chief this, of the enhanced notification system. This is where there'll be a flashing blue light that says that there is a snow emergency parking ban. And I think that's very important for us to have. I know he had sent something to Ron and myself about how much that would cost and it's going to be in the range of between \$25,000 and \$50,000. But this needs to be implemented. Not everybody has their phone number with the police department or the reverse 9-1-1. In order to get a call that says the snow emergency parking ban is on. People don't have Facebook. I don't have Facebook. I know you find it hard to believe but I don't want any part of that. I don't have social media. There's none of this Twitter or any of that other stuff on my phone or anywhere else. So, there has to be other ways to let people know, especially our elderly or disabled, that there is a parking ban. Like I said, I think it makes sense to continue with the current ban while increasing the fines and enforcement measures. If after this winter these changes prove ineffective, then we have to look at another option. But for right now, I think we stay with what we have. I've talked to the neighborhood residents. We've talked about it at neighborhood meetings and this is what they're interested in trying and seeing if just the increase in the fine. You know, \$25, am I going to go move my car? I'm in bed, nice and warm. \$100, I'm getting out of my bed, going down and moving my car. So that's all I have to say. Thank you."

- **Jennifer Loiselle, 32 Orchard Street, Methuen** - Good evening, Mayor and City Council and members of the public. Let's see, I'm trying to decide how to start because there's so much. I think I'll start with the serious stuff and then end with the positive stuff so we can end on a positive note. So, thank you for allowing me the time to speak to me. My name is Jennifer and I am a resident of Methuen. I am also a sociologist, an artist, an art advocate, and a social justice activist. These rules shape how I understand the world, but more importantly, they place me in close relationship with people's lived experiences, especially fear, loss, and the consequences of injustice when it goes unaddressed. I'm here to speak about something kind of scary for some of us in our community. I'm scared, genuinely, which is why I'm here tonight to talk with you guys, not hypothetically and not politically, but in a really lived way. As a person of color and as a woman, I have already lost rights that I had just a year ago. Rights that, you know, some people in this room and in their city are still able to enjoy. That reality is really, really frightening, especially right now, to be a person of color. It affects how I move through the world, but I know it's affecting just how so many people right now are moving through the world, moving through America. I am also deeply unsettled by what is happening around us locally. Knowing that federal immigration enforcement facilities are operating in our region, in Burlington, and soon in Merrimack, New Hampshire, has changed how many people are living their daily lives. The disappearance of the enforcement vehicles from public view in Burlington does not bring comfort. It brings uncertainty, and uncertainty breeds fear. I know people who now carry their passports with them everywhere they go. I do. I know people who hesitate before driving, before attending events, before participating in public life, before bringing their kids into Boston to much-needed doctor's appointments. That's me. Not because they have done anything wrong, but simply because they are afraid of being a misunderstood target or swept into a system they cannot navigate or escape from. I do not believe at all that I am alone in this fear. Tonight, I'm here not to accuse, not here to disrupt. I'm just really here to ask respectfully for reassurance and clarity from our city's leadership. I'm asking the city of Methuen, its elected officials, our police department, to publicly affirm that this is a city where residents are safe, where our constitutional rights due process and dignity matter, and where people can trust that their local government will look out for them. Public reassurances matter, words matter, and silence in moments like this can feel like

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abandonment. I also want to speak in grief. People have been killed during encounters with immigration enforcement. Others have been seriously injured or permanently maimed. There are documented reports of sexual assault and abuse. These are not abstract stories. These are real lives and I do not want them to be Methuen Night lives. Even when these harms do not occur here, their impact ripples outward creating fear and trauma far beyond the places that they are happening. For that reason, I respectfully request a moment of silence for those who have lost their lives and for those whose lives have been permanently altered during encounters with U.S. immigration and custom enforcement. Silence when chosen intentionally can be an act of humanity, remembrance, and grace. And if we may just have another quick moment of silence. My heart's beating so fast here. I'm speaking tonight not because I want attention but because I want safety for myself and for my children who are children of color. For my children's friends, you know, I picked up my daughter's friend today on the way to school and all I could think of is, you know, I don't want these children of color walking around by themselves. It's just a scary time to be doing that. I'm just asking those entrusted with leadership to help us, to see us, and to affirm that our lives and our rights matter here in Methuen. Thank you for listening and I do want to say it was really lovely to be here and see all of the wonderful things that are happening in Methuen and the wonderful, especially people of color, that are doing some great things in our city. So, thank you so much for listening.”

- **George Richardson, 19 Central Street, Methuen** – “My name is George Richardson. I live at 19-A Central Street, Methuen. Thank you. I'm going to pass on some flyers. The reason I am here is because of the parking ban and winter ticket that I got yesterday. I didn't have a lot of time to prepare because between getting to pick up the car and getting to go to work and doing the flyer, it's really been a roller coaster. Thank you for email. I emailed you in relation to this, so everything is coming together too fast. I thank everyone for opening the mic to me, all right. I know that many of you are trying to keep the city as safe as possible, particularly in wintertime. I know that many people here are concerned about the emergency response to this to the situations that happen around the town. I understand that, but you have to realize that not everybody here has a driveway, and there are many people renting now. In some of the conditions that people rent right now is not ideal because there are very few houses or apartments that you can rent. Those that are available usually have a price that is two or three times what it was five years ago. So, people do not have the luxury to take necessarily where they want to live. It's something that they can afford at the same time that they can find it. Usually, a person that is renting gets like 120 people looking at the apartment. So, it's kind of a situation where sometimes you have to live in or accept to live in a condition that does not necessarily agree with you. So, some of the conditions are with the parking. I used to have a studio in Methuen, on Broadway. I work with the public library. I've been working with the public library for years as a volunteer, creating stuff, events. I worked with 98.1 FM, the radio station here on Broadway. Those places have parking, but when you go to houses here, some don't have a driveway. I wanted to portray because I didn't have the time to write. We photographed what was happening. In the first photograph, what you see is the parking in front of my house, the street, what kind of snow we have after they removed the car. But that photo was taken at 4:55 PM. So, if the reason to take my car away was to remove the snow, and when I woke up to go to pick up my car to get to work, I didn't find my car. How is it possible that at 4.55 p.m. when I come back from work, there is still snow there? So, the real reason was not to remove the snow. The real reason was to do something else. There is one space in my house that has a driveway. But in front of the driveway, in front of two, you will see that there is some equipment that somebody is working in front of. So where do I park if there is equipment in front of my

parking space? I only can park one car. So, first, it's difficult to get a parking space or a driveway to park. Then when you have it, you have some equipment in front of it. So, what do you do? So, what do you do when you have some equipment in front of your parking space? You park it in front of your parking space. That's my understanding. The second reason I am here is they charge \$198.92. To get my car back, I had to pay \$192. Now, look at the photo number 2 and 10, where did they put the car? So, you have to understand that what you are doing is creating an unfair burden on the working-class people. You have the privilege of having a driveway where you can park. This is not what happened with the majority of the people that you represent. Thank you very much."

- **Clr. Pesce read Alejandro Baez's letter to the City Council.**

7. Reading and Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meetings: December 30, 2025, Special meeting – **Motion to accept by Clr. DiZoglio, seconded by Clr. Valley – UPON VOTE - 5 yes, 4 present (Clr. DiZoglio, Clr. Drew, Clr. Simard & Clr. MacLaren)**

Consideration of Appointments – Chair Soto said, "Thank you for that. Consideration of appointments. All appointments need five yes votes, Mr. Solicitor, with the exception of voting for a 10 plus year appointment, that requires 6 yes votes." recognized Solicitor O'Neill, "Yes. So, I just want to point out that there are two appointments on the agenda that go beyond the 10 years. And I did some additional research today. And I would like the Council to table two of these appointments while I determine whether or not these folks can be reappointed. One is Kenneth Sateriale to the Conservation Commission. And there is one other one, Raymond DiFiore, and I will tell you why. In 2010, the Council passed a resolution that was vetoed by the Mayor at the time and then overridden, which is now reflected in Section 380 of the Methuen Municipal Ordinances, establishing a 10-year limit on terms of office for boards and commissions. It does allow people to be reappointed to a board who have served under 10 years if their term goes over 10 years during the term of appointment by a two-thirds vote. But it says, provided, however, that should a person upon his or her reappointment have served less than 10 years, then such restrictions shall be interpreted to allow him to serve out the balance of any specific term of office past said 10-year period, but he shall not be reappointed. I believe that that makes people who have served a full 10 years not eligible for reappointment under this ordinance. I do want to take some time to see if there was anything passed in the interim from 2010 forward. I did look earlier today. I haven't found anything yet. But for those two appointments, I would like the Council to wait until the next meeting to act on those appointments. They only require one vote of the Council. So, the rest of them require five votes. You only require six votes to go to appoint somebody who will span 10 years or more, but who did not have 10 years at the time of their appointment." Chair Soto said, "May I ask a clarifying question? Now that you've stated such, we've made 10-year-plus appointments. This body, well, I'm sorry, the body before, not this particular body." Solicitor O'Neill said, "Sure, yes. I mean, we have to look at that. I mean, this has been an issue as well that the Charter Commission has been looking at. So, I took a look at this when I saw these were 10-year appointments today and saw this ordinance. And then I went back and looked at the ordinance itself. I will go back and look at the meeting when this passed to see what the Council was discussing at this time. But I think the language is pretty clear that the intent was that folks could serve up to 10 years and no further. And I know this Council has had discussions at various times about wanting new people on boards and commissions. And we recognize that that's a difficult

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thing. There's not a lot of people volunteering for these boards and commissions. But like I said, there was, I imagine, a robust discussion about this 10 years ago. It was vetoed by, I believe, Mayor Manzi and then was overridden by this Council. So, there's clearly an intent to limit here. I will get to the bottom of it. I just need some time to do that. And, again, if that's not the will of this Council, you can, it's at your pleasure, you can change it to something different. If you so, choose." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, "Mr. Solicitor, in your opinion, is it 10 years consecutive or is it 10 years total?" Solicitor O'Neill said, "Well, it says no person shall be appointed to serve in the office of a board or commission as defined herein for a period in excess of 10 years. I would say 10 years total. But I think it's always good to clarify. We have this same issue that was clarified in the Charter, whether it was 10 years total or 10 consecutive years. Right now, you can serve six years on the Council, skip a term and serve six more. Some people think that's the right amount. Some people think it's too much. So, it's always good to have clarifying language. But right now, I think it's a total of 10 years. I don't think they're consecutive." Clr. Drew said, "Okay. I'm only asking because we do have another person here that seems to be, if I add the numbers, they've done more than 10 years. That would be David DiZazzo." Solicitor O'Neill said, "There's two people that have served consecutively 10 years, more than 10 years." Clr. Drew said, "Right. Well, those are the two that you outlined before. But there's also David DiZazzo that served from 1996 to 2003. So, we may want to, like you're saying, to table them for future. This may be another one that we want to place if we're wondering if it's going to be more than 10 consecutive or total." Solicitor O'Neill said, "I leave that to your discretion. I would need to review the tape. I want to see what the discussion was because generally when things like this are passed, there's definitely a robust discussion going on about what the intent is of it." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Simard, "Thank you, Madam Chair. Just for clarification, is it evergreen on them if we don't find a replacement, they just continue until we do, correct?" Solicitor O'Neill said, "I have to look. There's definitely some language on some of these boards that say that they continue in office until their successor qualifies. It's not true of all boards, but most of the boards. I haven't looked specifically at these, but in general that is true." Clr. Simard said, "Because that's been a problem in the past, I know, that replacing someone that's qualified. So, it's something we have to address, I'm sure." Solicitor O'Neill said, "Yes, and I believe that the Charter Commission has looked at that issue too and is proposing some language about that, that there needs to be affirmative moving forward of appointments so that people aren't continuously serving in a non-appointed holdover status." Chair Soto recognized Mayor Beauregard, "Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to state for the record and for the public to clarify. So, we've had this longstanding issue over the course of the past several years where we've had many boards that have members with long-expired appointments in some cases. The goal that I've had with my team is to, whenever we have somebody new to, of course, bring them before the Council, assuming they're qualified for service on one of these boards and commissions. However, let's say there are individuals who are interested in potentially continuing to serve and they reapply. The goal ultimately for them as well, in the absence of new qualified applicants, is to at the very least ensure that their terms are up to speed, that they're no longer serving expired appointments, that we're able to bring these votes before you to ensure that we don't have the expired appointments. And so, we do have several folks who are under the 10-year mark here on the agenda tonight. One brand new applicant is the first on the agenda. But just to share, my intent is to get all of these boards to a place where we don't have anybody serving an expired appointment. Thank you, Madam Chair." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Valley, "I do have a question, Madam Chair, and this is to the Mayor. I noticed on the talent bank application. I noticed that Christine Touma

Conway (formerly Mayor's Chief of Staff) is being CC'ed on this email. I would like to know if you can clarify if her email is still active." Mayor Beaugard said, "My understanding is that it's not. However, I can ensure that IT will update that to have those emails going to the correct recipient. Nevertheless, they do go to my office through Jordan, who is the point person relative to boards and commissions. So, it is going to be the relevant member of my team. But we'll update that." Clr. Valley said, "I just want to make sure that she's not receiving all of these applications and maybe other sensitive information." Mayor Beaugard agreed.

- **Patrice Friant** - Conservation Commission – **Motion to appoint by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley – UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.**
- **David DiZazzo** - Conservation Commission (Reappointment) – **Motion to TABLE by Clr. Drew, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio – UPON VOTE - unanimously approved.**
- **Kenneth Sateriale** - Conservation Commission (10+ years Reappointment) – **Motion to TABLE by Clr. Drew, seconded by Clr. Santos – UPON VOTE - unanimously approved.**
- **Cara Seaman** - Conservation Commission (Reappointment) - **Motion to appoint by Clr. DiZoglio, seconded by Clr. Pesce – UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.**
- **Raymond DiFiore** - Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (Reappointment) – **Motion to TABLE by Clr. DiZoglio, seconded by Clr. Pesce – UPON VOTE - unanimously approved.**

8. Presentations/Projects/Department Updates: None

- 9. Mayor's Report** – Chair Soto recognized Mayor Beaugard, "Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening, Councilors. One of my New Year's resolutions is to provide a little more of an emphasis on the schools in my Mayor's report. So, without further ado, we will dive right in. The **Methuen Public Schools** District continues to work toward executing the 2024 through 2027 Strategy for District Improvement, focused on accelerating literacy and language development, reducing achievement and opportunity gaps, and enhancing partnerships with students and families. In her second quarter update during the upcoming School Committee Workshop on Monday evening, the Acting Superintendent will share updates on the impact of professional development as we launch our new literacy curriculum in the lower school grades, the work of the 30-member faculty team revising our district's multi-tiered systems of support, and the success of our brand-new 9th grade exploratory program and middle school opportunities within Methuen High School's vocational programs. I invite you to join Methuen Public Schools students and faculty at the Nevins Library on Thursday, February 5th, from 5 to 6.30 p.m. as they seek community input in the development of the Vision of a Graduate. This workshop will be developed and run by Methuen students. The Vision of a Graduate will serve as an aspirational outline of the skills, knowledge, and traits we hope our students will have upon graduation. Additionally, please look for announcements regarding upcoming workshops for Methuen Public Schools families on bullying, prevention, and intervention. Students and staff will also undergo a series of lessons and training on bullying prevention as we strive to ensure inclusive, positive, and supportive learning environments for all Methuen students. As I mentioned before, **efforts to exclude pests from our school buildings have been tremendously successful.** While we seek to maintain this progress, we are assessing our buildings, prioritizing major projects, and developing plans to execute this work. Systems and measures for tracking maintenance efforts are being improved to ensure the upkeep of our school buildings. The

joint **City Council and School Committee follow-up meeting with CBIZ regarding the operational and cultural audit of the Methuen Public Schools** is scheduled for tomorrow night here in the Great Hall at 6 p.m. Just so the public is aware, members of the Council and School Committee had the opportunity to send questions directly to the audit team and those questions will be answered publicly during tomorrow night's meeting. There will be opportunities to ask some follow-up questions and any new questions that come up during the meeting, so I think we'll be in for an insightful and productive discussion. Also, I want to mention that as promised, the RFP for the **School Financial Audit** is online and available for interested vendors to look at and respond to. As I've also mentioned previously, we will be coming to you with a request to pay for that audit by way of free cash. Once we receive our certification from the Commonwealth, we expect that in the coming weeks. Regarding **the trash and recycling services in our community, the RFP is nearly ready to be posted.** The Solicitor has reviewed the draft and will be meeting this week on Thursday with DPW leadership and the procurement team to put the finishing touches on the RFP. **Regarding the cart situation, an order for over 400 carts has been placed.** The payment will be on this week's warrant and we're expecting them to arrive by the end of January. We've been in close touch with the vendor, and they've already been preparing to fulfill the order, which will help ensure that we're able to distribute the carts to residents who need them as soon as possible. As I mentioned, we're dealing with a trash and recycling system that has been broken since it was rolled out. One of the things that I plan to incorporate into the next contract is a system by which residents contact the vendor directly to obtain any new or additional carts instead of going through a middleman, which right now is the city. I know Councilor DiZoglio included this topic as one of his requests on tonight's agenda. It's extremely inefficient and one of the aspects of the trash program that we intend to fix once our new contract begins in July. The current contract expires on June 30th and so, of course, we're moving into new territory with a new vendor. **Regarding the school and city IT litigation,** I have nothing new to report. As I mentioned during a previous meeting, I don't think it makes much sense to pursue such a significant operational change considering the leadership transition that's underway in the district. The litigation goes away with the rescinding of my executive order, but also a School Committee vote to drop the lawsuit. And any future consolidation would require a vote of the City Council and the School Committee. The judge in this case emphasized the need to comply with Chapter 71, Section 37M regarding the consolidation of administrative functions. So, of course, any future discussions about this will need to focus on adherence to that statute so that we're in compliance with 37M. **Regarding Councilor Valley's request for a Pelham Street update,** the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, as you might recall, provided us with two options to choose from in terms of a redesign of the intersection of Pelham Street with Salem Street. We selected one of those options. And since we added a line- item for road improvement stemming from **our Safe Streets for All Task Force** to the FY'2026 CIP, we have some funding available to move forward. However, TEC is doing design work for us on a culvert replacement project. It's at the same location. That culvert has been in terrible shape for a long time. So, for that reason, we would aim to implement the selected redesign option and construction for the culvert at the same time. So, we'll keep you posted on the timeline as we get closer to that. **Regarding the RFP for the Searles Building elevator, this was also a request from Councilor Valley.** It has not yet been issued. DPW had a private consultant come in to take a look at it, and they're working on some specs for the project. So, once the specs are complete, then we'll be able to post the RFP. So, that's in progress right now. On tonight's agenda is the **Eagle Woodworking TIF agreement.** The agreement supports the reactivation of a long, vacant commercial space on Broadway. It's now

occupied by a disabled veteran-owned company that recently relocated its operations from Lawrence and Middleton to Methuen. That decision by this company brings 42 existing full-time jobs into our city and will create 25 new full-time jobs beginning this year with 40% of those positions for the TIF committed to Methuen residents. Beyond putting an underutilized, non-taxpaying property, since Crest Collaborative, the previous owner, was a non-taxpaying entity, beyond putting this property back into productive use and generating new tax revenue, the project, I think, reflects a practical partnership-based approach to economic development, one that helps businesses invest, expand, and create jobs here. When companies choose Methuen over neighboring communities, I think that choice speaks for itself. I want Methuen to be a place where people look at us and say, that's where I want to realize my entrepreneurial dream. And with all the economic development initiatives on tonight's agenda, I think we're moving in the right direction. **Regarding our efforts to build a grant-writing infrastructure, this was another request from Councilor Valley.** We've been dealing with a timeline that has been slower than I would have liked. Initially, we were in talks with a potential contractor with some grant-writing experience, but that didn't pan out. I didn't think that person would have been able to produce the level of results, meaningful results, necessary to meet our funding needs. We've been in touch with Merchant McIntyre, a lobbying firm out of Washington, but they have constraints due to the fact that they also work with the city of Haverhill. And due to conflict concerns about Haverhill being in the same congressional district as Methuen, they're not able to commit to providing the same level of service that they provide at Haverhill, which, of course, if we were to engage with a company like that, we would want that same top service that they provide to every municipality. So, that means that we're at a point at which the only remaining option is to publish an RFP and go out to the open market. Many municipalities that have a strong grant-writing operation are tied in with some type of federal government relations agency, and I don't think we should aim for anything less. So, we're aiming to publish that RFP this week so that we can have a contract in place with a vendor approved by the City Council before the upcoming budget season begins in earnest, which will be here before we know it. **Regarding Councilor Valley's request for an update about the situation involving Murphy's Farm,** as many of you know, I authorized the filing of an appeal of the Dracut Zoning Board's decision in land court recently. By way of an update, I can share that the developer is seeking to dismiss the appeal to the City Council. We worked with KP Law. In this case, they're in the process of preparing an opposition to the developer's motion, and we think we have meritorious arguments. I'll defer to the solicitor if there are any additional questions, but that's a quick update of where we're at with Murphy's Farm. Tonight, **I'm asking for your approval of the formal establishment of the new Economic Development Coordinator and Sanitation-Zero Waste Coordinator** positions that were included in the FY'2026 budget. Now that the hiring freeze has been lifted, the Economic Development Coordinator role will equip us to double down on our current existing economic development efforts by expanding our commercial tax base, providing in-house support for businesses, and creating a true one-stop shop for our small business community with the goal of making it easier to start, operate, and grow a business in Methuen. On the sanitation side, the focus will be on strengthening our trash and recycling program in partnership with the next vendor, enforcing our trash ordinance, implementing waste reduction strategies to help bring down our tonnage costs, and serving as the point person who will, in essence, own Methuen's rebooted trash and recycling program in collaboration with DPW leadership. I'm grateful for your consideration of these two important personnel measures. These aren't just new government positions being created for the purpose of adding to the bureaucracy. These are roles designed strategically to help us achieve specific results. Regarding the recent

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meeting with DESE, we had, I think, a very productive meeting with DESE and their new commissioner, Pedro Martinez, last week. I want to thank Senator Payano, Chair Soto, for their efforts to coordinate that meeting. Commissioner Martinez talked about some of the education-related challenges that Gateway Cities like Methuen have been facing. Many of our challenges, especially in the context of special education, are not unique to our city, and he's aiming to foster a more regionalized approach to helping cities like Methuen tackle these issues. Again, I thought it was highly productive, and I'm looking forward to keeping the conversation going, Chair, especially as we prepare to build our FY'2027 budget. I realize that during the last meeting I neglected to share some helpful housekeeping items with the new Councilors and also the public. Our **textile recycling program, in partnership with Planet Aid, has been tremendously successful.** It's been a convenient resource for residents and helps reduce our municipal expenses by keeping various items out of the trash system. **The next two pick-up dates are Saturday, February 7th, and Saturday, February 21st.** Bag and tightly seal your items and put them out on the curb by 8 a.m. on whatever pick-up day you select. They'll pick up any dry, gently used coats and jackets, shoes, purses, hats, belts, ties, towels, drapes and curtains, small toys, and stuffed animals. Clothes should be placed in a plastic bag to keep them dry, and you can schedule your free **curbside textile pick-up at either PlanetAid.org or by calling 508-893-0644.** Also, since winter is far from over, I wanted to share a quick reminder that residents can stop by the highway yard at 33 Lindbergh Ave. to grab some sand. If you need some sand for your walkway or your driveway, this is offered at no cost to Methuen residents. They only ask that you bring your own bucket or some mechanism to bring it home. Lastly, keep in mind that trash and recycling pick-up is delayed by one day this week since yesterday, of course, was a holiday. Regarding upcoming events, **Methuen Restaurant Week is happening next week, the week of January 25th.** You can learn more by visiting HaverhillChamber.com. This is being done in partnership with the Greater Haverhill Chamber's new Methuen Business Alliance. We're going to be holding the city of Methuen's first ever **Dominican Independence Day celebration.** We're planning, hopefully, maybe like a breakfast flag raising type of event on either Thursday, February 26th, or at some point later in the day on the 27th. I'll continue to keep everyone posted about exact details as we get closer. Mark your calendars for our first official Methuen 300 event. It's called Hollywood in Methuen, a tricentennial celebration featuring the Firebird Pops Orchestra to be held at Methuen High School on March 7th at 5 p.m. Not to steal Councilor Drew's thunder and of course I'm sure you'll advertise this a little more later, thanks to Councilor Drew's leadership in collaboration with city residents, the city's going to be, in essence, commandeering the former Lawrence St. Patrick's Day parade, bringing it here to Methuen. And so that'll be held on Saturday, March 21st. And at that point, I'll conclude tonight's Mayor's Report. As always, I'm happy to answer any questions.”

- 10. CAFO Report** – Chair Soto recognized CAFO Duprey, “I have two things to go over tonight. I passed out a packet that says Capital Improvement Plan Project Status. I know the Councilors that have been on the Council in the last session are well aware of this report. But if you'll indulge me, I thought it would be helpful to take just a few minutes to go through it for the new Councilors, because we do utilize and reference this report often, especially when we're talking about contracts that come before Council. So basically, I will pass this out. I will update and share this with the Council every month and give you an update on the status of what these projects are. This packet is done by capital improvement year. So, the first capital improvement plan that we actively moved on was FY'2022. So, you should see in this pile 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026. What is here is only what's current and

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open. If a project has already happened, finalized, and closed, it's not reflected here. It's not available, and it's already been resolved. So, I'm just going to really quickly roll through what you're looking at. The account is just our Munis. Munis is what we use for our financial software, and so that's just kind of our reference number as far as our finance goes. The next column would be the actual project that it's related to. So, if I'm looking at the front page, it's FY'2022 CIP. This is a very small amount that's left over here that's been rolling forward for other reasons. So, you'll see there what the different projects are, whether it's DPW highway trucks or the Timony cooling towers, et cetera. So that's where you'll see that. The original appropriation is what was voted in 2022 for the 2022 CIP, and then the available balance that's next to it is what was available at the beginning of this fiscal year, so FY'2026. The next one, two, three, and four columns are really just current year activity. So, as we go along, you'll see when things might be reclassified. We may come – well, I'll say it. We will be coming to council and asking to reclass between projects. You'll see expenses, and then as soon as something comes forward to the Mayor and myself, per signature it goes on here, whether it's come to Council or not, just so that we can keep track of it and make sure that we're not spending it more than once. The biggest number that you will probably reference is that available balance at the end. So, I always update that date, so you know where it's effective. This was as of January 16th, so it's pretty up to date. So again, we break it out by year. This is a helpful reference as far as contracts go. So, you'll see this referenced a lot in my CAFO report, the financial impact statement that I sent out. When I say this is the project from the CIP, it will be on this report somewhere. So, I'm talking about a balance that exists here. So, if you ever have any questions about what I'm referencing there, I'm happy to give more information, but this is just kind of a handy item to be able to see a relatively close number to what we're referring to. That was a really quick update. I'm not going to go through every single one of these, nor will I on a monthly basis, but I am happy to answer any questions on the floor or outside of the meetings if you want to approach me with any questions on any of these projects. That was just kind of a reference thing that I realized when I was doing my financial impact statement that would be a foreign document that I thought would be helpful. The only other thing I have on my agenda for tonight is the **question that Councilor Valley had asked about outstanding real estate taxes**. I know that I had sent it via my email, but I'm just going to take two seconds to kind of go over what I sent. **So currently we have approximately \$2.5 million outstanding in back real estate taxes. So that doesn't include motor vehicles, personal property, water, sewer, et cetera.** So that's just real estate taxes. That's the actual amount of tax outstanding. When you add in accrued interest, which is constantly accruing, we have some accounts that have been years outstanding, so it continues to accrue. So accrued interest demands and fees we actually have due to the city is just under \$7.5 million. So, whether we'll collect all of that, obviously the demands and the fees and all of that stuff are part of land court and the whole process, but that's what we have as currently due to the city. About 32 percent of that is commercial properties and 68 percent are residential. I did send out the actual listing to the counselors just so that you have it if you need any questions specifically. I'm happy to answer those questions, but I'm just going to keep this general. In an effort to collect that, we do work with a vendor, and the name of the vendor is Brown Legal. It was D'Ambrosio and Brown. We've been extremely successful in partnership with them since we started using them in 2019. We've collected just about \$5.8 million in taxes that were outstanding. So, as I mentioned, right now we have \$2.5 million outstanding. When I first came on, it was closer to \$5 million, not including all the interest, et cetera. So, this vendor works with our treasurer's office and is constantly updated with where things stand. They will bring things through the foreclosure process, through land court, et cetera, et cetera. And so, they only get paid when

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they resolve an item successfully for us. So, if they go through the process and they're unable to successfully resolve something, they don't get paid for that. And then when they do get paid, they get paid at an hourly rate. So, it's not like a percentage of our taxes that are outstanding. They get paid at their hourly rate. For motor vehicle excise taxes, not that that was asked, but just so that you know, we also work with Kelly and Ryan. So, we do have a firm that we use for them as well. Those are kind of our two biggest outstanding receivables that we would have out there. I think that answers the question, but I'm happy to answer any other questions you might have." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Pesce, "Thanks. I just had a question. I'm not sure if it's for you, Madam CAFO, or who it might be for in regard to the back taxes. And I know I have been working on something similar with you for the past couple of months now, trying to figure out how best to address this with a number so large. My question is, when you sent over the actual list of the people, just perusing through it, of my own personal knowledge of one of the residents in Methuen, there was a deceased person on it. That amount was a very nominal amount that had accrued over, I'm guessing this person has been deceased, from my own memory, I would say almost 20 years, to thousands of dollars. So, I guess my question is this. I know that a long time ago, they used to publish the list. And it's not meant to embarrass, but I'm thinking more along the lines of notification, because I'm absolutely sure that this particular family has no idea that the member of their family owed the small amount that has now accrued to thousands, and we may or may not be hiring someone. I know you said it's a contingency, but if that contingency comes through, then it's an hourly rate. So, if they're spending numerous hours on something that they may get a small amount on from a deceased individual that could just be remedied kind of easily, I don't know. Is that something we've looked at? I guess I'll direct it to you, Mayor. I'm not sure why they stopped doing it. And again, by no means is this for someone who is behind on taxes and has conferred with the city and is on a repayment plan or whatever. It's not meant to embarrass, but more so, again, alert those people who may or may not know that they even have kind of like unpaid properties, right? With the state, they may not even be aware that they are in arrears with taxes." Mayor Beauregard said, "That's something we'll absolutely follow up on." CAFO Duprey said, "So, as far as I understand, we do still publish the list. So once things are going to go into tax title, we do publish the list." Clr. Pesce said, "So, where is it published, in like local newspapers or...?" CAFO Duprey said, "Yes. But I will get that exact and the timing of that, and I'll see if I can even get the last one." Clr. Pesce said, "And in addition to that, it might be easy enough, too, to make it like a link on our city page where you can search your name to see if you're on that list, you know, for repayment or developing some sort of plan structure for them. My other question is, too, looking through the list, a lot of the commercial entities that are on it seem to be development entities. Are those companies that may have done a development somehow not pay taxes, let's say on their sold properties or whatever and weren't collected? I might be misreading it, but I'm going by just the name of the LLC or however it's listed. I'm just wondering if that's the case, then do we get bonds for those, and can we apply those bonds to back taxes? Do we do that?" CAFO Duprey said, "If you have like specific ones that you're talking about, that would be perfect." Clr. Pesce said, "I'll send you an email. I'll just highlight those names, and we can go from there." Mayor Beauregard said, "And we can get with IT about the format on the website, but specifically we'll follow up on the situation you mentioned with that long-deceased individual. So, thank you very much for bringing this to our attention." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, "As I look through this list, I mean, there's some significant, they seem like they've been sitting on here for quite a while. Like some of them, it goes from \$30,000 to now \$400-and-something thousand dollars. I mean, that's been sitting there a while. There's absolutely nothing we can

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be doing to try to get that back?" CAFO Duprey said, "So we're talking about the property taxes? Yes. Okay. I just wanted to make sure. So, of those, I'm sure there are definitely certain situations, certain properties, where there's a reason why we have to legally hold on to it for whatever reason. But 15 of those properties are in the foreclosure process. 16 of those properties are in land court. So, it does look like a hefty list, but there are movements in different areas. I could probably talk to Brown Legal and see if they can share. I do have a list. They did share a list of which ones are in land court. So, I do have that that I could provide. But see if there's a status update on all of them." Clr. Drew said, "As I'm looking, I'm seeing half a dozen to a dozen of these. One of them, for instance, \$26,000 was the initial issue, and now it's like \$186,000. That's been sitting for a while. It looks like currently there's about one of these items is \$26,000. Now it's about \$186,000." Chair Soto said, "Thank you, Counselor. So, if I may, if there's no other questions, I had brought to the floor a conversation, I think it was in 2024, about equity theft law. So, I would like the Solicitor, and I believe that it's going to Economic Development Department. They're tasked with figuring out how they look at the properties that we have in tax title that maybe the person has been deceased. And now, you know all those fees you mentioned, Madam CAFO? We can no longer charge those fees. So, we have to bring that ordinance into Methuen so that once we transition that property to be able to recap our taxes, right? The family actually gets the difference. We can no longer keep those dollars like we used to back in the day. So that needs to be done through Economic Development and our Legal Department. Just wanted to point that out there. And we're lagging on that because other cities surrounding us already have it on their books." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Valley, "Okay. Madam Chair, through you, to the City Solicitor, at what point in the legal process does the city place a lien or put a lien on the property?" Solicitor O'Neill said, "So the liens go on automatically after a certain period of time. And then we can proceed to tax foreclose with the CAFO." Clr. Valley said, "So, all these properties have a lien right now?" Solicitor O'Neill said, "These properties all have liens on them right now. Whether we can get them to actually pay us, sometimes when these go to land court. Let's just back up. The Treasurer's been using outside counsel. We have been assisting them with some of these cases. And so, depending on what it is, the Legal Department wasn't heavily involved in this before. In some communities, it is heavily involved in this. Methuen does not have a history of tax foreclosing on properties. We try to work with people to create payment plans or actually get them to pay. So, the Equity Theft Law that Chair Soto is talking about; It doesn't reduce the taxes. But if we do tax foreclose the property and sell it on the open market. It used to be that communities would basically, if somebody owed, say, \$50,000 in taxes and we tax foreclosed and owned that property, we could sell that property for \$300,000 and keep all \$300,000. That whole system has been overruled by the U.S. Supreme Court. And basically, that's where the Equity Theft Law came in and said, you can, as a city or town, only recoup what you're owed. And any excess equity that results from the tax foreclosure sale must be returned to either the owner or heirs or whoever rightfully owns the property in the interest of fairness. So that is the law. We can certainly update our ordinance to reflect the law better. I would say that that hasn't happened in Methuen in a very long time. I've had discussions with the Treasurer and in her tenure, I don't think we've ever tax foreclosed on someone. We've always been able to work with them to get payment. And what typically happens in these cases, some of these larger ones, the interest continues to accrue. Penalties continue to accrue. And they do mount up rather quickly because they're 16 and 18 percent. When a property is transferred, that's when things end up getting paid. So, if there's a death and then there's a transfer to another family member, they generally have to pay those off. If a company sells its corporate piece of property, they can't actually transfer without paying off that debt. So, the city is generally not

out these monies and always has the option to tax foreclose and take the property. But we try not to do that because generally, we don't want to own property and have to go through that process. And so, we try to do that.”

11. **Requests of Councilors** – Chair Soto said, “The request of councilors were answered in the Mayor's report. If you had an addition or felt that you wanted more, please let me know.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. DiZoglio regarding his request to Mayor Beauregard - Issues with garbage barrels and solutions – “Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Through you to the Mayor. So, the issue with the trash, I saw it online and then I got tons of phone calls. Once I said, please call me. Some of these people have been asking for a barrel since June to sometimes May of last year. The question is they paid for it. They went through the process and they were still waiting. And now a lot of them have paid a lot of money for the overflow bags because the reason why they bought the barrel was they knew that they needed the extra barrel. So, a lot of these people that I've talked to have spent maybe 100 bucks to 200 bucks on overflow bags because at Market Basket, five bags cost \$10. To me, I look at constituents as customers in some perspective when they're paying taxes, especially with their taxes increasing. And now they have to pay for overflow bags after they purchase a barrel. One of the suggestions, and I'm just putting this among the Council. I feel like some of these, we should provide some of the overflow bags to them for the fact that they had to pay for when they have done the process that this trash program, which a lot of people did not want in the city, which I was one of them because I thought it wasn't going to work. I feel like we owe it to those people that have been waiting for a while. We should give them at least some overflow bags. I know it's not going to be compensating for what they have to deal with, but I feel like that would be a general thing to do after they've been doing and waiting and having heard back from anybody. So that's just one thing. Second thing, why is it taking so long? Just curiosity. I know you have to buy them in bulk, right? Correct, Mr. Mayor? Why is it that we haven't been doing it when people have asked since April, May, why is it taking so long? Or at least getting a call back. That's all I care about.” Mayor Beauregard said, “Sure. Fair questions. So, part of the issue that we've been dealing with is that there has to be a funding source to place an order. And so, in the case of the roughly, I think, 444 carts that are in the current order, that's a \$24,717 order. And given the fact that this is something that has not been consistently included in, say, the municipal budget, we've had to tap into a revolving fund account to be able to cover that cost. And so, this is yet another example, as I referenced in my report, where having the city be a middleman here rather than having folks the opportunity to simply go to the vendor, go onto an app or something like that, and order their new cart. Now they're having to go through the city, which just doesn't make any sense. It's inefficient. And we have these added wrinkles that come up when we have this extended period of time where folks are waiting on the carts. So, the thinking is to fix it going forward by having this be something that the vendor deals with. The vendors, I think, are far more qualified to deal with carts and the like and distribution than having an added party, which is the city, doing that. So, between funding source and logistics, this is something that has been tasked to the city ever since the rollout of the program. But it's something that just doesn't work. And we're seeing that play out now. And thankfully with the fix for it, we're going to have those new carts. I like the idea of working with DPW --- the solution relative to the bags. But this is something that's been a longstanding issue that we're going to be finally fixing this year. But, again, no excuse for the challenges that we've had over the course of the past time that folks have been waiting.” Clr. DiZoglio said, “So, my next question is I have people that have broken barrels. And they've been trying to get online. And they said it's very confusing. Again, I haven't been online to check it. But is there an easier process just going

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on the city website or explain it to them? Because of the way they were describing it, they had to go online. They went on this link. It led them to one thing. And then they asked for different information. It seemed like it was a whole big process just to make sure it's simple. I need a new barrel. My address. Put the credit card in. Whatever they need to do. Or is it free? And then they should be getting confirmation. That's how I look at it. But to them, it's a whole big process. So, can you explain to the audience, I know a few of them are watching, how that process is supposed to work?" Mayor Beaugard said, "Well, so currently, as you've referenced, there's this system that folks use in order to request a new cart. But, again, I keep looking at how we can make that more efficient? How can we make that a little more straightforward by way of going through, say, the vendor directly, logging on to an app, rather than having to go on, say, the city website, access. I think, you know, we have the See-Quick-Fix program that folks often use to report trash issues. You know, when I look at other municipalities, for example, the town of Arlington recently took on a new trash contract. And now in Arlington, for example, folks simply log on to the vendor app to report mis-pickup, things like that. And so, they have eliminated, as I referenced, the middleman, the added step, so to speak. And so that's something that I really think we need to get after with this new agreement going forward. And the current contract is in place until June 30th. Last year, we did have the potential to go about this process. However, we were eligible for two extension years. And if we had not exercised at least one of those extension years, we would have had to pay a balloon payment for the carts last year. And so, to avoid the need for that balloon payment, we took the year extension to give us this added time to properly go out for, you know, the RFP process, get bids, which is not required in the context of trash. You don't have to go out to bid, but it's best practice. So having this added time enables us to do that. So I envision 2026 as being, and I'm not exaggerating when I say this, I envision as being the year of the trash reset, where we have a new vendor, we have an updated system, in essence, a reboot of the program, simply because there's been issues all the way back since day one. Thank you." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, "Mr. Mayor, not to keep piling onto the trash, but you're buying 444 trash barrels. How many of those are people who put their \$100 in and purchased? Like if somebody's bought them, I mean, all 444, it seems like a weird number to just arbitrarily buy." Mayor Beaugard said, "So, that was the determination made in consultation, and I don't know if the DPW Director has any additional insights to share, but in terms of the order size, that was the consensus. In some cases, there are individuals who have been waiting on this list, and so by going about this order and doing it all at this time, we're going to be able to ensure that folks have their barrel in time for the very latest, something in the first week of February. Hopefully, they're going to be arriving by the end of the month, as I referenced. But nevertheless, this is something where we're trying to completely revamp the entire structure of this, so let's say when somebody goes ahead and makes a payment for a cart, they get it as soon as possible, rather than having to wait on a bulk order. You know, we're not able to go out and say buy, let's say somebody places an order for a cart, but we only have a handful in the queue. We're not going to place an order just for, say, those 10 or so carts. At this time, what we've been doing is we're taking advantage of this opportunity to buy them in bulk. Ultimately, that makes the most financial sense." Clr. Drew said, "And I understand that, but when you say that they need a funding source, I mean, if 100 people have bought barrels, you know, we have \$10,000, right? In that scenario. A couple thousand dollars, in essence, to purchase the barrels. I mean, you're paying, at your math, about \$55 a barrel to purchase these. If somebody's buying a \$100 barrel, you're halfway there with 100 barrels. I'm just wondering if people have bought these things, we should be giving them their barrels. I don't know if we have to make a quarterly purchase or things like that, but we should be ensuring that if

somebody has paid for these barrels, there's no reason that we should be worrying about a funding source, because their funding source is they've already put their money into the city. Sure. So, I don't know if it's a different way of doing it, if we can assess their property tax to give them onto it, so it comes on there every year that it's a \$100 fee, so we continue to get that, whatever it may be. But I think if people have paid their fee, we need to expedite getting them their barrels.” Mayor Beauregard said, “Absolutely.” Clr. Drew continued, “Another item on that trash RFP that's coming out, I know from personal experience, my trash truck comes running through my neighborhood at 6:00 or 6:30 in the morning, and we know that those are not the times contractually that they're allowed to. So, I just want to know that in this RFP, there will be fines that we can actually implement to the new contractor coming in if we do have issues and problems with constituents seeing the trash trucks coming through their neighborhoods at early hours that they shouldn't be because of our noise ordinances in our city.” Mayor Beauregard said, “Absolutely. So that is something that has been an issue that's been ongoing since, as I mentioned, the very beginning. And so, what we're going to have to do in the successor agreement is we're going to have to build in, I think, more concrete language that deals with that issue where, let's say, hypothetically, they're in one of these neighborhoods before that time. Right now, there are provisions in the contract that relate to damages and the like for violating the agreement. But ultimately, I think our next contract certainly needs a lot more teeth that will enable our trash point person to be able to actually carry out the fine structure that is included in the contract.” Clr. Drew said, “Okay. And just one more item. You mentioned the St. Patrick's Day Parade. I just want to point out Councilor DiZoglio has been helping me from the inception of this also.” Chair Soto said, “I do need a clarification, Mr. Mayor. You stated under the IT Department consolidation, did you state that the lawsuit was rescinded?” Mayor Beauregard said, “So, I mentioned during my report that it would require me to rescind the order and then the school committee, according to the Solicitor, chime in if my information is incorrect. But my understanding is that the School Committee would take a vote to drop the lawsuit. And then at that point, it would all end.”

12. Public Service:

- **Vehicle for Hire Company License** Application: (Renewal) M & M & I Transportation, LLC, 34 Sugar Pine Lane, Methuen, MA 01844 (*remove from the table*) (*valid registration submitted*) - **Motion to remove from the table by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley - unanimously approved – Motion to approve by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. Drew – UPON VOTE - unanimously approved.**
- **Vehicle for Hire Company License** (new), El Khourys Transport, 50 Milk Street, Methuen, MA 01844 - **Motion to approve by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley – Discussion –** Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, “Upon reading the application, it looks like the person listed as operator, there is one operator listed, but if you continue into their insurance, they have three people listed on their insurance for this vehicle. If we get into the rated drivers on this policy, there's also another vehicle on this insurance policy. So, I'm just wondering if they're planning to operate two different vehicles, there's three different operators on this.” Chair Soto said, “Councilor Drew, if I may ask Madam Clerk (Anne Drouin) to step to the podium and maybe she'll have clarification for you in regard to your questions.” City Clerk Drouin said, “Good evening, Council. He listed the three family members, I believe one's his wife, one's his daughter, on there just in case, down the road, they might be driving. But, as of right now, he's the only driver.” Clr. Drew said, “Well, as it stands, it says list of operators, and that's my understanding would be the people operating this vehicle in this business with this license, yes?” City Clerk Drouin said, “According to Hanna El Khoury,

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he's the only one that's driving the vehicles. He said down the road." Clr. Drew said, "But if he's going to list the other three people in case of their need to be able to. He should list them as potential operators for liability reasons for the city. He may be the licensee grantee, but this is asking for the list of people that would operate." City Clerk Drouin said, "Where are you seeing that on the app?" Clr. Drew said, "The list of operators here on this page. Well, this one here, page three, the list of operators, this gives you a spreadsheet." City Clerk Drouin said, "Yes, but he's not having them now. He might be adding them in the future." Clr. Drew said, "He has them insured. Why wouldn't he just add them to the list of potential operators now?" City Clerk Drouin said, "I didn't ask him the question. I just asked him about the insurance, and he said, 'I have my family in case they're going to.' But as of right now, I guess we can table it and add them if we so desire." Clr. Drew said, "And there is another vehicle listed on the insurance policy. I just want to make sure that it's clear that there's only one vehicle listed in the description of vehicles that's being approved for this license. But there are two vehicles. There's a Nissan also listed here as an insured on this policy. So that's not a license item on this." City Clerk Drouin said, "Right. He has two vehicles. He's adding one more. So, he does have another vehicle." Clr. Drew said, "So, he has an existing license?" City Clerk Drouin said, "Yes. What they have to do, Councilor, is every time they add a car, they have to fill out a new application. So, he already has a license with us with that other vehicle. So, it must be a combination of both." Clr. Drew said, "Okay. That's fine. I would just ask if they put the other operators potential, if they're listed on this, but that was just my only item." Chair Soto said, "Madam Clerk, may I ask a clarifying question? Does it matter if you list more as far as fees for the applicant? Do they have to pay more if they add other drivers?" City Clerk Drouin said, "No. They do not. For cars, they do \$250 per car. But if they just add other drivers, they just have to put them on the list. I can check his other application to see if the family members are on there, but he said he's the only driver. He put them on there in case down the road. He plans on adding another car as well. So, maybe he put them on there for future references. I'm not sure. But I can get clarification from him if he would like me to." Clr. Drew said, "Yes. I mean, the last thing I want to do is hinder a business by any means. I just want to make sure that if there is somebody who's driving this and they happen to get into some sort of accident, they are listed appropriately on the license for that vehicle." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Pesce, "Thank you. Not a question. I'm okay with them just listing one here, just because this is just for our benefit, yes?" City Clerk Drouin said, "Right. So, on the license, when I print the license, it will say the name of the company. It doesn't even list the drivers. It will just have the company name. So, I think, like you're saying, Councilor Pesce, it's just for our reference." Clr. Pesce said, "Because in my opinion, Counselor Drew, just my own opinion, we have more protection by having them listed on here. Just having one. Just an opinion. But I understand what you're saying. But his thinking, I'm guessing, was just that he's the only one driving. Now, would he have to update us if then he allowed his family members, not adding an additional car, but just adding a driver? Or does it matter?" City Clerk Drouin said, "Well, it's on the insurance. Which is the main thing I would say. But this is just our application that we have on file. So, I don't think it would really matter too much if he added the two other people from his family." Clr. Pesce said, "Because I would be more concerned if he listed one, had one reflective on the insurance, and then allowed the two others to potentially drive. Does that make sense? So at least they're listed on the insurance. So, I'm okay with it the way it is. Thank you." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Simard, "I could add a law enforcement perspective to it. If someone were to pull him over, the registration would be active. The insurance is active. That would be up to the insurance company to say, hey, wait a minute. Your wife is driving. She's not on the policy. It's no good. But as far as the

license goes, I don't think it would affect the status here. It would more so, like you said, it's more about the insurance and the fact that they are covered. So, as long as they pay the fees for a license, I think it's blanketed for whoever's on the policy. That would be my opinion." -
UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.

13. Contract(s):

C-26-64 Talty Floors, Inc., 86 Billerica Ave., Suite 2, N. Billerica, MA 01862 for Timony – Removal of Carpets & Cove Base and Installation of VCT Tile & Cove Base in the Amount of **\$64,804.00** (*remove from the table*) - **Motion to remove from the table by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley – unanimously approved – Motion to approve by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio – Discussion** – Chair Soto recognized Asst. Superintendent Ian Gosselin, “Ian, would you like to come to the podium? I want to make sure you did your homework.” Asst. Superintendent Ian Gosselin said, “After your last meeting, we were able to arrange a meeting for the contractor to come in, the vendor to come in and meet with us on Friday morning at 8 a.m. to show us the materials, talk about scheduling, make sure it's done by the end of the fiscal year. They did take that opportunity to go look at the rooms again, which they had already looked at during the bid process. I do want to thank Councilor Marsan, who accepted my invitation to come meet us there at 8 o'clock, because I do know he has a background in contracting, and he knows the materials, and he'd know if we were being led down the wrong path. But I brought the materials. They're pretty much identical to what we did with the other 23 or 24 rooms we did over the summer. The tile is the same color, same brand name. The carpet is pretty much the same. It's going to be a slightly different color, and we decided to go with a slightly smaller matting so it's easier to clean, but it's industrial, and we're very happy with the product. The code base will be identical to what we've been using, and we're happy with that.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Pesce, “Just one question. I don't want to be a stickler, but are these selections reduced to writing and confirmed in stock?” Asst. Superintendent Ian Gosselin said, “Yes. Well, confirmed in stock, yes. With the colors we picked, he's very confident he'll have them in time for February vacation.” Clr. Pesce said, “But we didn't reduce any of this to writing? Like he didn't – did he sign off on anything? I know the original concern of Councilor Drew, I believe, was that within the contract it said something like, or similar product. So, like, say one of these is not in stock. Did we get, like, an addendum or anything that says minimum rating, anything?” Chair Soto recognized Councilor Marsan, “He supplied the sample, and that was in the contract documents that he was supplying. He would give us a sample of what he was going to use, and that's what he did, and it's the same name brand and that we've been using.” Clr. Pesce said, “And as far as we know, those are in stock?” Asst. Superintendent Ian Gosselin said, “Yes. I can tell you the tile, for sure, is a very common color, and he didn't have any concerns about getting that. And the quantity that we need for the carpet is minimal. It's only one room. So, I don't have any concerns about that either.” Clr. Pesce said, “I mean, it's a quick turnaround, so I would hope there wasn't, like, an order or anything.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, “I think what Councilor Pesce is looking for is just, and I don't think this should hold this up by any means, I would just ask the contractor to give you a submittal for it, so you have something for record, just an approved submittal for the item.” Asst. Superintendent Ian Gosselin said, “I will ask them to send me a notice. So that we can attach it to the contract.” Clr. Drew said, “Thank you for getting the cove base, and, Councilor Marsan, thank you for going and taking a look at it.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Santos, “I asked you this earlier, but I just want to ask you again so that everyone is aware. Are you going to leave at least a couple of more tiles behind?” Asst. Superintendent Ian Gosselin said, “Yes. We always keep some extra tiles. Actually, that's where I got the sample from, from the last time we did floors. We kept some extra cases so that should one peel up or we have an issue with one that we can swap it out; we will do the same again. And since

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it's the same color, we should be in good shape as well because we still have some from the last time.” – **UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.**

C-26-67 Musco Sports Lighting, LLC, 100 1st Ave West, Oskaloosa, IA 5257 for LED Lighting for Methuen High Lower Turf Field in the amount of **\$235,820.00 - Motion to approve by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. Santos – Discussion** – Chair Soto recognized Mayor Beauregard, “Very briefly, this isn't included in the title for the contract, but I just want to mention, in case you didn't come across this in the actual document, for the public's sake, this is for the product only. So, installation would need to go out to bid separately pending approval of this agreement. So, this is separate from the actual installation. This is only the product.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Santos, “So, this is just for the materials, not for the installation. I have questions, but it was based on materials and installation. Maybe you can answer some of those, if they apply. Was this the most inexpensive bid for these materials? Because I was looking for any other bids, and I wasn't able to find them.” Mayor Beauregard replied, “So the DPW director just pointed out, and this is something also that is on the cover sheet. This was purchased through --- it is called Sourcewell. And so that is purchased through that contract, which is different from like a traditional process.” Clr. Santos said, “What page is that? Is it in the package?” Mayor Beauregard said, “So, it's on the cover sheet. There's an indication of number four was the bid process required by law. If not, what provisions of law will the contract be awarded? And it indicates that it was purchased through Sourcewell contract number 041123-MSL. And it cites Mass General Law Chapter 30B Section 22, which allows jurisdictions to purchase supplies from contracts already procured.” Chair Soto said, “For education purposes, Mr. Mayor, could you explain to the new counselors what that means in a nutshell, that they don't have to go out to an RFP bidding process? I think that would help them.” Mayor Beauregard said, “Sure. So, in some cases, there are, just like in this case, Sourcewell, they've already been vetted. They're on a certain state procurement list. And so, because of that, it's not something that we would have to go through the traditional process because there's an existing state list.” Clr. Santos said, “Great. Thank you. I also have several other questions.” Chair Soto said, “Do you mind if I have a CAFO say something before she loses her train of thought, Madam CAFO? Thank you.” CAFO Duprey said, “Just to follow up on what the Mayor said, there is a page in the document, and I'm sorry, it's not numbered, but it's right in the middle, that shows that from Sourcewell, which responses they received when they did the bidding process. And there were more than 10 different vendors that did submit and they picked from there. So that information is in here. Thank you. Just for your reference.” Clr. Santos said, “Thank you. I have another question about this project. Did we look into any grants for this project? Are there any available grants? Because I know that once you change to LED or any source of this type of product, are there grants to help with the cost?” Mayor Beauregard said, “So, in this case, Councilor was included as part of our Capital Improvement Plan. And so that's the funding source for this, simply because it was included in that multi-year outlook in terms of capital upgrades.” Clr. Santos said, “And what is the reimbursement? And how much are we going to save after having all this lighting installed?” Mayor Beauregard said, “I'd have to get an exact number for you. I don't have that in front of me right here. This has been a pretty extensive project that involves multiple layers, but nevertheless.” Chair Soto recognized DPW Director Pat Bower, “So Councilor, this is new lighting at the field. So, it's not a replacement project. It's lighting up the lowest section, which is where the football stadium is between the Methuen High School football stadium and the Pop Warner where the track is in that middle field. So, it's been something that the city has been looking into for a decade now. And we're finally, you know, compiling some funds from a different CIP fund. So, it's new lighting.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, “Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a question for the CAFO and the Mayor. I see that we're paying it out of three different accounts on three different Capital Improvement Plans. How come there are three different years? It's just because we were allocating

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this project for over three years. Or did we just not have the money in the original budget, or it escalated?" CAFO Duprey said, "So this is the LED replacement project is not just specific to this field. It's throughout the city. So, it's been a project that's been ongoing and they've been trying ... It is expensive. So, we weren't able to get after it in one or two of the CIP. We got after it in pieces. So, basically what we did is for, I think it was the three years. We decided to do a little each year so that by the end of the three years, not only for money, but also for manpower and project capacity. By the end of those three years, we'd be able to get through all of the projects. I believe it was Clr. Faretra that had requested that we do it all at once. But once we went through all of the requests and everything, it wasn't something that we could do all at once, but that we could do over a few years with the scope that we ultimately wanted to get through." Clr. Drew said, "Okay. So, it wasn't a, we thought it was going to be \$73,000 and then it just ballooned up to something crazy. It was just because I know there's been a lot of volatility in the market. So, we just wanted to clear that. Okay. That was my only question." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Valley, "Thank you, Madam Chair. This might be to DPW Director Bower. Why was option two selected over option one? Was the 30 FC is sufficient for the intended use? Because I know there's a saving of \$70,000 between one and two." DPW Director Bower said, "So, I don't know if you're familiar with the field, but you have a softball field on one end and it's a larger soft soccer field. And I think we're going to do it on the four corners. So, you want it to get the higher rated luminaires. So, it's better lighting versus more poles with lower lighting. So, I think they went with the higher poles. And then I think the last one, the only difference between those two was there was specific softball lighting. So, my question was slightly different from yours was. Why did we choose two and not three or B and not C, but we didn't feel that we needed the specific softball lighting and to choose option C, which was therefore more expensive." Clr. Valley said, "So basically for the lighting, that was the reason why." DPW Director Bower agreed. - **UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.**

C-26-68 – Greenman-Pederson, Inc., 325 West Main Street, Babylon, NY 11702 – Marsh Grammer School Fire Alarm Upgrades - **\$42,500.00 - Motion to approve by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley – Discussion** – Chair Soto recognized Mayor Beauregard, "Again, this is another CIP project this involves the engineering for that project. In case anyone is wondering regarding procurement, there is an exemption under 30 B relative to engineering services and the like and so this is in keeping with that exemption." Chair Soto said, "Do you need clarifications Councilor?" Clr. Santos said, "Yes, so, this is just for the equipment again?" Mayor Beauregard said, "This is only for engineering." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, "As I read through the professional services terms and conditions for item 7. It asks that invoice payments are within 30 days so once we get an invoice, we have to pay them within 30 days, and we see a fee of 18 percent accrued so just want to make sure we understand that. Once they give us an invoice, we owe them money in 30 days, or we are going to accrue interest on this contract." Chair Soto said, "If I may follow up on that to the CAFO. You really don't get these invoices until they're done, correct? Until you get the renderings? I didn't see that in here. Did they take something up front?" CAFO Duprey said, "They don't do it up front, but they would do progress payments because it's a project such as engineering. It's over time. There are different phases. So, they'll do progress billing, but they'll do it once they've started the project." Chair Soto said, "Thank you" and recognized Clr. Drew, "Is net 30 the typical billing cycle in the city?" CAFO Duprey said, "Net 30 or net 45 if we're lucky." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Santos, "I Just have a quick question about this. If they're already going in to do part of the work, why don't we get an estimate on how much the whole job is going to be?" Asst. Superintendent Gosselin said, "The engineering firms are hired just to do the specs. They'll draw up exactly what has to be fixed and what has to be replaced. Then we can go out to bid for the actual installation of the alarm system. And I will tell you that the engineering firm does follow it right through the installation, right up until it's complete. And they have to sign off on all those payments as well

before the city does.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. DiZoglio, “These are the ones that needed to be replaced for a long time?” Asst. Superintendent Gosselin said, “Correct. All our fire alarm systems are approaching 30 years if they're not there already. They're all working. They're all still safe. But should things start to break, they don't make those parts anymore. We'll have to scurry around the country looking for pieces of this and pieces of that. So, we really need to upgrade it to more current, less proprietary products so that it's easier to fix or replace should we need to.” Chair Soto recognized Mayor Beauregard, “Just a helpful thought. As somebody who sat on the Council side for several years. Some of these contracts are sizable in terms of the amount. It's not this one certainly in this case, but I'm speaking overall and I think that contracts, given the fact that they are one-read items --- It's kind of one and done --- You take a vote on it and then it comes back for a second read unless it's a CBA. And so, if you have any level of discomfort or you have questions about the specific Items in a contract or anything like that, feel free to reach out to the Department Head, copy me and the CAFO ahead of time before you have the proverbial gun to your head to make a decision on a one read item. That's something that might be helpful just to ensure that if there is any level of discomfort with these contracts, we're able to get all the questions answered in a complete thorough manner. And not have to act on the fly so many questions and so much uncertainty before making big decisions. Thank you.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Santos, “I just want to add that to what the Mayor just said. I think that it's important for us to add all these questions on the table just so that everyone knows and everyone is aware of what we're doing. And especially our constituents, if they have the same questions I have, they may have the answers that are available to them as well. If we have it on an email, unless we put that out to the public, they won't be able to get the information.” – **UPON VOTE - unanimously approved.**

14. Other Officers and Committee Reports

15. Unfinished Business

Resolutions:

TR-26-1 - Resolution ref: Amendment to the Agreement with Respect to the Establishment of a Vocational Regional School District (*EPA requested*) – Chair Soto said, “I need clarification from the Solicitor. I know this is under TR 26-1. We received a different number, 26-8. Am I amending that on the floor to the correct number?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “We're just procedurally going to vote on this as a new item because what was submitted is not an amendment of the pre-existing agreement. What was submitted last time is substantially different. And there are two votes here that you need to take separately. One to approve the use of the \$975,000 and then one vote also to approve the charter change allowing the request. And then you need a separate vote for the EPA, if that's your pleasure.” Chair Soto said, “And for clarification, do I need six votes on the EPA?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “Yes.” Chair Soto said, “So, I'll take a roll call on that. Thank you. With that being said, I'll take a motion in regard to TR 26-8. Would you like that motion read in its entirety?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “The last proposal that we didn't proceed on because he asked to resubmit a different proposal and so we're going to give this a new number. It's still the same as what you received in the packet, but it needs to be TR-26-8 because it's a new matter. And I would suggest that you vote first on number 1 and then on number 2. And then you need to do an EPA for each of those matters separately. Chair Soto said, “I will read motion #1 and then we will vote on that one and then the second item. ‘A motion for the City of Methuen to approve Greater Lawrence Technical School to use \$975,000 from its excess and deficiency amount to purchase a hangar at the Lawrence Municipal Airport from the City of Lawrence at no cost to the City of Methuen.’” **Motion to approve Motion #1 by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. Pesce – Discussion** – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, “So, in the last meeting we talked about this being an amendment to the Charter of the school.” Solicitor O'Neill said, “That's the next one --- number two.” – **UPON ROLL CALL VOTE – unanimously**

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approved – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Marsan, “Madam Chair, point of clarification. Can we ask the Superintendent if we still need an EPA on this because they gave him an extension on the time, so we do we need an EPA tonight on this? Do we need it do we still need an EPA on this tonight because they gave the airport authority gave you an extension on purchasing the hangar. That was the initial reason for the EPA. Do we still need an EPA on this, this evening?” GLTS

Superintendent Lavoie said, “Yes, we do need it done tonight because the owner is anxious to sell. If we don't move on it quickly, then he's going to the next buyer. The City of Lawrence has approved the purchase of the hangar, and the attorneys are now working on a purchase and sale agreement. Once that's completed the sale will be completed. So, we need your vote in order to solicit that to make that possible. They would not be able to --- would not purchase it if your vote was not a positive.” **Motion to attach an EPA on the use of the hangar by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. Pesce** – **UPON VOTE – 8 yes, 1 no (Clr. Simard)** – Chair Soto said, “Now on to the main motion:

‘A motion to approve greater Lawrence Technical School to change the school Charter by entering into a sublease for land held for our school purposes from the City of Lawrence at the Lawrence Municipal Airport. The sublease shall have a maximum term of 20 years with an option to extend for an additional four years at the discretion of the committee. The monthly base rent shall be \$607.65 with an annual total of \$7,291.80 subject to adjustment every third April based on changes in the consumer price index. The district shall also be responsible for its allocable share of common area maintenance costs including electricity, snow plowing, Secretary of State annual reporting fees and insurance. The sublease shall include such other terms and conditions as the Committee determines to be in the best interest of the district.’” **Motion to approve Motion # 2 by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. Valley – Discussion** – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew,

“Superintendent, on this amendment, we had spoken and the last time you were here that you were going to send over where this amendment was going to lie within your Charter. Where does this amendment end up? Is this just going at the end of your Charter? Go in the middle of it? The front of it? I have no idea where this amendment is actually amending.” Superintendent Lavoie said, “No, it'll be somewhere in the middle of the Charter where it talks about our ability to lease property. It's not it's not doable, at this time, until this vote. I would say this --- with the second time we had the same language for leasing property when we bought the first hanger, so this will replace that language when we sell the other one. But for now, we'll have the ability to lease property in the Charter twice. Where it falls exactly in terms of what page or anything, I don't have that now because the attorney has to put that in the Charter once it's voted on.” Clr. Drew said, “But when we were here two weeks ago, when we spoke on this, I'd asked the question --- where will this end up? And I figured you would have that because you told us that you would forward that over highlighted where it would end up in your Charter so we could ensure that we know where it's going. I don't know what this is amending. I know you're saying it's just going somewhere in the middle --- just really don't care much for that.” Superintendent Lavoie said, “What you're amending is allowing us to lease property where this particular property is. By voting, you're permitting a change in the Charter. So, you're amending the Charter to add this to the Charter. That's the amendment so this language can be added to the Charter. So that means that the Charter is going have new language in it, which is the amendment that will exist, once this is approved.” Clr. Drew said, “Okay, I have one other question. Last week watching the meeting you mentioned that this fee that we're paying also covers the taxes in North Andover. Is that correct?” Superintendent Lavoie said, “The taxes? Yes, it's part of the Lease payment.” Clr. Drew said, “But aren't you? I mean if you are a school, do you pay taxes?” Superintendent Lavoie said, “Well, we won't be paying taxes. We're tax exempt.” Clr. Drew said, “Okay, because that was stated in the last meeting is that you were going to pay the taxes out of some of that money there.” Superintendent Lavoie said, “Yes, so the Westside hangar pays taxes to North Andover, but we'll be exempt from that even though we're part of that Consortium, we will be tax exempt from that square footage of that.” – **UPON ROLL CALL VOTE – 8 yes, 1**

no (Clr. Drew) - Motion to attach an EPA on charter change by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. Valley – Discussion – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Pesce, “Just could you explain to us why we need the EPA on this. I'm assuming it doesn't hinder the sale. Do we still need it?” Superintendent Lavoie said, “We need it because we can't purchase this property without your approval. Are you saying that you want to push it to another meeting? I mean if you didn't vote on it tonight you would still have to vote on it in order for us to eventually purchase that hanger.” Clr. Pesce said, “Yes, I don't know. I mean it doesn't seem like you're getting a lot of pushback. So, I'm just wondering why we need the EPA but you're saying we need this for the sale and the change in Charter?” Superintendent Lavoie said, “We can't purchase it if we If the city's not going to approve the change in the Charter, then we can't purchase the hangar.” **Motion to attach an EPA on charter change by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. Valley – UPON ROLL CALL VOTE – 7 yes, 2 no (Clr. Simard & Clr. Drew)**

TR-26-2 - Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds from the Edwin J. Castle Fund to Methuen Senior Center (Request from Commission on Trust Funds) - **Motion to approve by Clr. DiZoglio, seconded by Clr. Simard – UPON ROLL CALL VOTE – unanimously approved.**

Ordinance(s):

TO-25-21 An Ordinance Amending the Winter Parking Ban AS AMENDED (Req. of Chief McNamara) (*remove from the table*) – **No Action Taken**

TO-26-2 An Ordinance Amending the Wage and Salary Classification Plan of the position of “Assistant Council Clerk” (*Request of Councilor Soto*) (*remove from the table*) - **Motion to remove from the table by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley – UPON ROLL CALL VOTE – unanimously approved – Motion to approve by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley -Discussion** – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, “So this pay scale...can somebody just tell me who chose this table. I understand where we got the table. What the table does. Who chose which table we're actually utilizing here. I don't know if that's a question to the CAFO or the Mayor? You Madam Chair?” CAFO Duprey said, “We received this from Madam Chair with discussion about whether we thought that it was appropriate based on other positions in the city which we agreed with.” Clr. Drew said, “So, we used data from other positions within the city, and this was the only data we used was.” CAFO Duprey said, “I didn't use anything to create the table. The table was presented by the Chair, but we reviewed it in comparison with the other Clerk positions within the city and it was reasonable to in comparison.” Clr. Drew said, “Okay, I want to be clear about what I see here, and it's again. This is not a discussion --- this is not personal. You know I believe that Ms. Ferry is an absolutely phenomenal employee and extremely qualified for this position --- I mean vastly over-qualified in my opinion, especially for the job description as it sits. So, I think we need to look at this as a position not the person and the qualifications for this position. My concern is when this position reopens, we are now paying for somebody that does not have the qualifications of the person who's currently occupying that job. And I believe, but I don't have the data to back up where this sits in other places, to make a decision on that. So, again, this is my decision on this vote as of now is not to...Want to make sure it's not reflected on the person. This is more on the position that I'm concerned with.” Chair Soto said, “May I ask for clarification, Clr. Drew? When you say you don't have the information, is the information from not in the building or from other municipalities?” Clr. Drew said, “My concern isn't, you know, I know we sent the information for the building. Where do we stand within other municipalities for similar roles, that type of stuff is kind of my concern. I don't know where all these other positions lie in comparison. I've never had to hire a Clerk myself in the world, so I don't have the data to make an educated conversation from email correspondences that we've had on this. There were things that were said that I don't know to be true or not true. I've made other calls and some of that information just trying to find pay scales.” Chair Soto said,

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“Please bear with me. So, I want clarification ---the information was from other municipalities? Because I also want to point out the Assistant ---this is uncomfortable with you right next to me but we're going to do this--- The Assistant City Clerk position is unique to Methuen by Charter. What does that mean when you go to Lawrence or when you go to other municipalities? You will not have it. An Assistant, you will not have this Clerk Department by Charter. That is the gods of Methuen that did that prior to us. We've got to deal with it, right? So, with that being said, when I provided, and I'm sorry I get emotional. When I provided my data of the Clerk positions in this building, along which I passed at the first meeting. You could see the Assistant Council Clerk \$56,623. The lowest number is that number which is hers. Everyone else whether Clerk 1, 2, or 3 or Confidential Secretary in this building. God bless them. They're much higher. That's what I used because I had to look at what's in my building. What are comparable positions? Now, you may say well there it's not comparable because in Lawrence, for example, or I believe the email reference. I think Lawrence and Haverhill because we are talking about an email that was sent to this body by an employee in this building. I want to be clear on that, too. So, I have my opinions on that. I'm going to reserve them myself. But, in essence, when I am looking at apples to apples within the building. We do have our Clerk at the bottom of the barrel --- you can agree to disagree, and I respect that a hundred percent. Now there are other Clerks in this building. What time is it, Clr.? Give me the time? 9:53 p.m. Department Heads are still sitting in the audience right, but the Clerk has to be here till we leave. In essence, we can be here till 11:00 PM and by the vote that we chose on our procedures. We will not continue unless we amend the rules and we continue till midnight, that could happen tonight --- could very well happen tonight when you look at the example of other municipalities, and I want to give the floor to Clr. Simard because he tabled this item and he was going to do some research. I think he should elaborate on his research and then Clr. DiZoglio as well. I know Clr. Valley called me with additional research after receiving that email. That's the beauty of this body. When they get emails from outside, they actually go back and do their search and do their homework, and I appreciate that. So, if you don't mind, with your permission, can I give the floor to Clr. Simard? I'd like to do that to see if you did any additional research. I didn't see you, Clr. MacLaren. Would you like to go next?” Clr. MacLaren said, “I just have one quick clarifying question, Madam Chair. I'm not sure if this is something you can answer. Does this change in the classification of the salary change upon someone else entering the position or will it stay the same regardless of the qualifications of or the experience of the next person who takes the role?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “Well, so these positions are not part of collective bargaining. These positions, under the Charter, are in section 280-D and the positions of City Solicitor, City Council Clerk, City Council Assistant Clerk, Mayor and Council are all set by the Council, and they're set at your will. You can typically set upon appointment, and they can change at any time. So, the last Council chose to Implement this with some salary steps other councils have chosen to do it differently It's completely at your discretion. You're not wedded to it for the when the position becomes vacant. But if that's something of concern, then the Council can specify that. With respect to this order or any order, it's completely at your discretion. The positions appointed by the Council are not a part of the Salary Administration Plan controlled by the Mayor. If we look at his authority in section 3-2 of the Charter. He shall supervise and direct the administration of all departments, commissions, boards and officers except the City Council, School Committee, City Accountant, Solicitors office and Clerk of the Council. So, these are not mayoral positions. He shall fix the compensation of all city offices and employees appointed by him. These positions are not appointed by the Mayor. He does not fix their compensation So it's entirely up to the Council to fix the compensation as it sees fit. It can do it this way. It did it this way last time. If it decides later on that this is not the right way to do it or the position is vacant and it wants to change those numbers, it's free to do so. It's free to address that issue now or in the future --- totally at its discretion.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Simard, “Thank you Madam Chair. Lisa's doing a great job, and you know it

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would be a loss to this Council If she opted to leave if this vote didn't pass. But we're funding the position and not the person. She's definitely overqualified if we're filling this position tomorrow with a new candidate, would we have it at that rate? There's nothing more demoralizing as a union employee because I've been one for 30 years There's nothing more demoralizing when you're a union employee and you're taking the cost-of-living allowance on a regular basis for a raise and you're working hard you have 15 20 years. And then the Mayor comes and in the new Council comes in. Next you know, they're paying their people. When I say people, you're part of the Council and so with unaffiliated workers, and they're getting these exorbitant raises because, you know, the old phrase, 'we here for a good time, not a long time.' There's nothing more demoralizing as someone who put their time in who's making a set amount. So, let's just say there's a Clerk Step Three that's in this building that she went out and got her Masters because she wants to better herself, we're gonna up her salary and change the wage and salary classification? I think not.” Solicitor O’Neill said, “We would need to collectively bargain that, and that's the difference between Clerks that are in the Union and unaffiliated positions and managerial positions.” Clr. Simard said, “I know that now so thank you for that. But unfortunately, it's always a new employee that are the most invested in the city that always gets short changed when it comes to collective bargaining. And then you have some people that come in and, you know, I think Miss Ferry's been here for two years and look at the raise we're giving. So, it's not going to go well in City Hall around the city, and that's why I'm a no vote.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. DiZoglio, “Thank you Madam Chair. So, I put this thought into it, and I'm still on the fence hearing everybody's issues. I actually reached out to two communities that have the same population and actually have the same budget as us. I reached out to Peabody. I talked to the City Councilor and then I talked to George from Medford. They both said they were shocked that we have our own clerks, especially two of them. They usually have their own people in their Clerk's office but so be like Anne would be staying here putting our packets together. They would have a designated person they also hire a person to do their own minutes. A person like a court messenger that actually types, so it's a totally different human being. Unfortunately, that person, I think I don't want to quote --- either left or retired. So those positions have been vacant, and Medford is kind of weird right now. So, I tried to reach out to Chicopee. Couldn't get a hold of anybody over there. This is where I look at it, saying well, I compare a lot of those salaries are up to about \$80,000 to \$100,000. Depending on what you are looking for, in that type of skill set. Another thing I did, I reached out to the Solicitor, and I get where everybody's saying they're worried about when Lisa leaves that position. That we all know how Methuen works. Someone knows someone and then it comes back to the body and then somehow that person gets that job. And they're at that regular pay scale of \$78,000. It has happened. I've been here for 27 years, and I've seen it happen. So, I filed an amendment that I sent to the Solicitor. Can I read it or and then pass it out to everybody? Basically, I'm taking the power away from the Council on this ordinance of going it back to normal. It will say 'Be it further ordained that when the current position becomes vacant the above salary schedule shall automatically expire and no longer be in effect for this position at that time as per section to be of the Methuen Home Rule Charter of the Council.' So, set the salary of the Assistant Council Clerk position by vote. Basically, I'm not setting it by vote. This is an ordinance and once Lisa leaves that position, the Council will have to do nothing. It will go back to the old salary scale. So yes, that's where I think protects the corruption pot of happening or nepotism or whatever you want to put it. I'm going to hope for the vote for that. If you want me to put it up.” Chair Soto said, “Are you making the motion right now?” Clr. DiZoglio said, “I didn't know if I could separate the amendment and then continue discussion? I can wait If you want me to. Whatever works with the process here.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Valley, “Thank You Madam Chair. After receiving the email that you mentioned a few minutes ago that I was basically called liar that I lie on the floor, I decided to reach out to a couple of communities as well. And the only one that get back to me was the City of Lawrence, and I spoke with HR. And she

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explained to me the same thing that they explained to you. The City Clerk is the one that attends the meetings, recording the minutes, but they do have a Confidential Secretary. So, the City Clerk is making \$120,000 plus a thousand and change as a stipend for the year to attend the meetings and the Confidential Secretary is making \$72,800.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Pesce, “Just had a question and I am for amending this. My question though is in reference to what Clr. Simard said because I noticed on this list there are one, two, three, four different clerks that are all at or lower than where our Assistant Clerk is. Do we know anything about those jobs? Are those union jobs? And do we know anything about their hours are they full-time employees? I'm just wondering because while I'm in favor of this. I hate how arbitrary all of this is. I just wish it were and to Clr. DiZoglio's point. If we do something like this were reverts back, I would hope that we would further elaborate on the job duties. And I would love to see positions in Methuen, especially going forward, more like the Police or the Fire Department where you have a range and then you might get a bump for a particular degree or what have you. I just you know we all talk about transparency and this whole arbitrarily finding what this job should be just doesn't sit well with me.” Mayor Beauregard said, “So, to answer your question, they're all full-time and some are union positions and some are unaffiliated.” Clr Pesce said, “Okay, so I mean I understand everyone's concern, but I would hope that If we're doing this, that we would look at the other unaffiliated as well. We can say this isn't personal and it's not. But I do think that if we are making a job reflective of the work that is being done and that should be done city-wide.” Chair Soto said, “These are all Mayoral employees though, and this is our employee. I just wanted to just point that out, so that's why we're we need to pull the trigger on this. It's not on them. That's his privy, so I just wanted to remind us of that.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. DiZoglio, “Thank You Madam Vice-Chair. So, I see everybody's concerns, and that's why It reaching out to Clr. Valley --- Lawrence --- the reason why I reached out to them was because they have like 80,000 people so their budget, their tax revenue, all that stuff. And I feel like and this is not towards you, but I feel like we did this on the School side. We always compared ourselves to cities that weren't even close to us in population or budget or their school situation. Where they get more state funding than us. So, I always try to make that argument, even on School Committee. You have to compare us to other cities like us. That's why I reached out to Medford and Peabody, and I was trying to reach out to those other two, but nobody responded, which hopefully they will respond to me in the next few days. And I feel like that's the research that we need to stop doing as a Council and in any office. We need to stop comparing us to cities that have much more in tax revenue, much more commercial base and residential base. Their budget, like I said, I even looked at this city budget. They had I think Medford had actually had a little less than us in their budget. We have like \$212 million budget and Medford's Operating Budget was \$189 million. So, they're operating cheaper than us. I could have read their budget wrong, but that's why I did my research on this, to make this kind of comparison. Also, I understand everybody's concern, and I'm still concerned about our union employees. I feel like this is going to look like we're taking care of our own and that's going to hurt us in the future. Like I said, I'm still on the fence about it. I think a lot of people are still, so we have options in the next few minutes before we start making those decisions. But that's where I want people to know that. That's how we should be doing our research.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Valley, “Just for clarification, Clr. DiZoglio, the City of Lawrence was one of the cities referenced in the email, and that was the reason I reached out to them today. Thank you.” Clr. DiZoglio made a motion to amend TO-26-2, seconded by Clr. Valley – Clr. Pesce asked to make a friendly amendment – Clr. DiZoglio and Clr. Valley accepted the friendly amendment. Clr. DiZoglio's amendment – Be it further ordained: That when the current position becomes vacant, the above salary schedule shall automatically expire and no longer be in effect for this position. At that time, as per Section 2-8 (d) of the Methuen Home Rule Charter, the City Council shall **reevaluate the salary and duties** of the Assistant Council Clerk position by vote.” **Motion to amend by Clr. DiZoglio, seconded by Clr. Valley – UPON ROLL CALL VOTE - 8 yes, 1 no (Clr. Simard) -**

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Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, "We alluded to the Clerks that are in the building that are making less. Is their job description similar to the job description that is set for the Assistant Council Clerk currently with the high school diploma the two years clerking experience, the use of Excel and so forth." Mayor Beauregard said, "I don't have that in front of me Councilor, we'd have to look that up for you." Chair Soto recognized Clr. DiZoglio, "Another concern and I was just thinking. Through you Chair to the CAFO. So, the question I have right now because of the funding from my understanding. We have this line item, and we will take money from the Solicitor's office to fund this position. Question is though, when Ms. Ferry moves up on the pay scale, what will happen to our budget? Is that going to put us in the red because that's another concern of mine if as she increases, I'm not thinking about this year. I'm thinking about next year when she gets her bump." Mayor Beauregard said, "So at this point, the City Council's budget as we sit here today even without this is already in the red and so on July 1st when the Fiscal Year 27 budget takes effect, it would just simply need to reflect the addition on the basis of the passing of this ordinance." Chair Soto said, "So clarification to the comment of us being in the red. It is my experience from being in this Council two previous budgets that we are constantly transferring funds to cover. So, it's not like the Council Chairman, no offense to my previous Chairman but it wasn't like they allocate extra thousands of dollars for other than their salaries and very minor dollars for business cards or which hence the email I sent you all that I think you should all be getting the training you're taking paid through the Council. Meaning if you're going to go learn about policy and how to write ordinances and how to bring forth new initiatives, you shouldn't have to be taking \$200 out of your pocket. We should have an allocated budget through that but that's I'm getting off the topic. What I'm trying to say is to your point, Mr. Mayor. That's not unusual of the Council office based on the way it's been managed previously, number one. Number two, knowing that the legal office line item --- the transfer would come, if it passes. It would come from that legal line item which if the CAFO could elaborate, what that looks like and obviously he had to agree, right, which makes us whole. And so, he agreed and or is agreeing and so therefore not only will it include that transfer and I will also ask him to allocate additional dollars so that I can get you guys your business cards and the other things that you need and a time stamp that I need. Is that doable?" Solicitor O'Neill said, "There's a regular budget process. The Council's entitled to meet with the Mayor and bring with them their requests. And if there's additional things that you want, you have to ask for them and see if you can get them." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Simard, "Thank you Madam Chair. The one glaring fact is that the previous Council put us in the red. I don't know when the last time a City Council was in the red prior to this year. And then this new Council is gonna put us even in the red even more so you can answer that." Mayor Beauregard said, "Well, in this case without getting into sensitive details, it's been a very unique year in terms of personnel within the Council office which has certainly complicated things and that's simply a matter of you know reality and life in the way that you know things have played out. But nevertheless, given the Solicitors' indication of his willingness to provide some additional support out of his budget. You know in that case, it's not like this will completely leave the Council out on the cold by way of funding where as long as we have that mechanism in place or being at least offered, that will ensure that the funding is available or something like this in this Fiscal year. And then going forward to reference what Clr. DiZoglio asked about earlier. Like we would do with any other position. For instance, there are two --- I reference economic development and the sanitation role. Let's say hypothetically somebody comes into one of those positions, name the step. If that's not currently in the budget this year that would be reflected Fiscal Year 2027, so there are mechanisms by which this would work from a fiscal standpoint." Chair Soto recognized Clr. Pesce, "Thanks, and I just wanted to clarify because I think it was said the last time. If this gets passed the step would not increase as a July, right?" CAFO Duprey said, "It would be a year from the date it was passed. it would be a year if this is approved tonight, I believe it's effective upon passage, which means it would go into effect for tomorrow and her and the Step would be a

year from there.” – **Motion to approve by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley – 5 yes, 4 no (Clr. Simard, Clr. Drew, Clr. MacLaren, Clr. Marsan – MOTION FAILS**

**16. New Business:
Resolutions:**

TR-26-3 - A Resolution Accepting a Conservation Easement at 799 Lowell Street, Methuen, MA pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, Sec. 8C. - **Motion to approve by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley – Discussion** – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Valley, “Thank you Madam Chair through you to the City Solicitor. I didn't see any sunset or termination clause in this document. So, once the DEP order of conditions are satisfied, is this going to be a permanent easement?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “No, it is a permanent easement. Yes. It's a pedestrian easement for compliance purposes so that the Conservation Officer can walk on the land unfettered to check on continued compliance going forward. So, it will be a permanent recorded easement.” Clr. Valley said, “Thank you.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Marsan, “Isn't this a site where we had the sighting of the eagle and that's why Conservation wants it. If the Eagle does nest there again next year, they want to be able to go view it and see if there's any need. That's why there's a pedestrian easement on this site.” Solicitor O'Neill said, “Yes, and it's just for the Conservation officer, it's not for the public to go look at, just to be clear.” Chair Soto said, “I had a few questions on that and part of it had to do with why it was only given to the Conservation Commission as opposed to the city.” Solicitor O'Neill said, “This is typically how it works with Conservation easements. The Conservation Commission is authorized to both hold land and also hold easements. So, it's typically this was part of a conservation easement that was voluntarily needed by the developer. This was something that Joe Giarusso worked on for a while to make sure that we protected that habitat for the bald eagle.” Chair Soto said, “I saw that DEP order was referenced. Is it because of the DEP order?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “No, not really. It was really Joe Giarusso who worked on this too. I mean certainly DEP helped with that, but it was a mutual thing. The developer was pretty helpful.” Chair Soto said, “I had questions on protocol. When they go to the site do they have to have bad particular badges for identifying themselves?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “The conservation officer has a badge.” Chair Soto said, “And then, my pet peeve on when we do easements, and this has to do with my experience on the Unaccepted Ways Committee. Who assumes the liability now that we have an easement on there? Is that for maintenance obligation? Is it explicit or implied over time now that we have that easement?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “This is strictly an access easement. The property will be as it exists. There's not any provision in there. They're not going to clear the easement for us. It's anticipated that it'll be grown. We're free to do that if we want, but it would be up to them to clear it.” Chair Soto said, “And then is it perpetual?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “It is perpetual, yes.” Chair Soto said, “And finally does it transfer automatically obviously if it's perpetual the ownership?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “It doesn't matter. It'll be recorded at the Registry of Deeds, and it will run with the land no matter who owns it.” Chair Soto said, “Okay, and if anyone's injured there, it belongs to the owner?” Solicitor O'Neill said, “It belongs to the owner. There's no city liability for us.” - **UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.**

TR-26-4 - Resolution Approving a Tax Increment Financing Agreement by and Among the City of Methuen, Eagle Management Co., LLC (DBA Eagle Woodworking), and 189 North Main Street, LLC (*Requested by the Mayor and Director of Economic and Community Development, Jack Wilson*) - **Motion to approve by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio – Discussion** – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Valley, “I'm all the way in for economic development, but I noticed on page 3 section 4 states that the company will create a minimum 67 new jobs. But are the transfers included here --- the one from Middleton and Lawrence? Because if that's the case, I think the Mayor says

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something about that on his report. So only 25 new jobs will be created in Methuen?" Chair Soto recognized Director of Economic Development Jack Wilson, "If I may Madam Chair. Good evening, Madam Chair through you to the to the members of the Council --- the new ones and the ones returning. For the record, my name is Jack Wilson. I am the Director of Economic and Community Development. I'm very pleased to be here with you this evening accompanied by Mr. Scott Rosenshein who is not only here to support the agreement you've got before you but also is appreciative of the massive municipal government lesson he learned by sitting through this meeting tonight. But the short answer to the question is the 67 jobs are all being created in Methuen. There are 42 jobs that are being relocated from the two former facilities and then there'll be another 25 jobs created. But those are all new jobs to Methuen --- the 42 that are relocating. That's very common for this TIF program and for those uninitiated, if I may. The tax income and financing agreement is a tool by which the state Economic Office of Business Development and Municipalities work jointly together where the state provides incentives for the company --- in this case the company that was at this point last year or later in the year actually on the verge of moving from their current locations in Middleton and Lawrence to New Hampshire. The State stepped in. Let us know that we've got to find some opportunity for them here in Massachusetts and specifically here in Methuen and the opportunity for 476 Broadway came up. So, this piece before you is actually the third leg of a stool that involves the Commonwealth, the company and the landlord for the time being and the City of Methuen. So, in essence, the benefits of the city are not only the creation of the additional 25 jobs but the relocation of 42 jobs. It's also investment in a property that has been largely vacant and blighted for the last 10 years. And prior to those 10 years, it was not on the tax rolls when it was occupied by Crest, as it was a public entity. So, this is a really great confluence of interest for the city to support this TIF. Relatively speaking, Methuen's been successful in implementing TIFs, at least for the city's part, doing so with New Balance as the most recent success story. But this is a way for us to say, what is the sweet spot for the Mass Office of Business Development's Program is manufacturing and that that's what this company is. They are a manufacturer and a veteran owned company. It manufactures specialty woodworking products --- cabinetry. So, they are fully built out and hope at some point, we talked earlier about perhaps the Mayor and the Council being invited to do a tour of the property as they move in. Their plan is to buy the property for a figure of \$6.15 million dollars. The current value and this is what I think the most important thing I can convey because it could get lost in the paperwork --- the typical forms that the state provides you --- what we have agreed to do under the terms of this this TIF is to essentially, the current property assessed value is \$4.815 million dollars. We are collecting taxes on \$4.815 million dollars. The city, for the life of the five-year term, will continue to collect taxes from that from the property owner on \$4.815 million dollars. What we're agreeing to here, with the proposal in front of you, is that when the time comes and they've already made a significant investment in plant equipment. When the time comes for the acquisition of the property, which will very likely trigger an increase in the assessed value. What we're saying to the company is that the city will --- in year one --- anything over and above that \$4.815 million dollars that you are assessed for the property, we will exempt that 100% of taxes. In year two, that new growth will be exempt at 80% and then year three, four, and five will be 60%, 40% and 20% and after year five, the company will be paying, through the landlord, but presumably the company will own it by that time. We'll be paying full taxation. So, what we essentially do --- one of the features I like about this particular tool in the Economic Development toolbox that we have is that it's not saying to the city, you're gonna collect more taxes than you are already collecting. We're going to be collecting exactly what we've been collecting now. And, only for year one will we not be doing something over and above that. That's essentially the that's a long answer to your question Councilor, but I thought it's given the opportunity. I could kind of boil it down for you in the late hour It might be a benefit to everyone." Solicitor O'Neill said, "Well wasn't this parcel tax exempt already, right? It wasn't a tax-exempt parcel, right?" Mr. Wilson said, "The only

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time it was owned by Crest it was completely tax exempt.” Solicitor O’Neill said, “It was collecting zero.” Mr. Wilson said, “I think I just said that. And then about ten years ago the property was acquired. But it hasn't essentially been occupied until the folks at Eagle Woodworking came along at the end of last year. So what you have is this last piece in in that three-party commitment to do what we can to create jobs here, but that would expand the tax base, remove blight and essentially check off most of the boxes that we need to check off when it comes to expanding the the commercial tax base.” CAFO Duprey said, “I just want to correct something for my financial impact statement. Normally with the TIF, once the Council approves it, it then goes to the State for their approval. As Director Wilson just mentioned, the State's already been involved in this, so the State's already approved it. In my Impact Statement, I said that once it's approved by Council it will go to the State. That's incorrect and I just wanted to make sure that that was clarified.” Director Wilson said, “That's already happened. The Commonwealth and Governor Healey's administration at the time. We had discussions with them, and they thought it was vitally important that they not have to wait for all for the piece that's happening here for the company to be incentivized from a state tax standpoint. Just to remain in Massachusetts and not move to New Hampshire, so time was of the essence.” Clr. Pesce said, “When was the property assessed?” Director Wilson said, “That's the current assessment.” Clr. Pesce said, “Right. Was it newly assessed? Was it previously assessed?” Director Wilson said, “It gets assessed every year.” Solicitor O’Neill said, “These are these are the new assessments that just came out for 2026.” Director Wilson said, “So I'll give you an example, at the time we began discussions with the company, the assessed value was \$4.5 million, north of \$4.5 million. It's now \$4.8 million.” Clr. Pesce said, “I just was wondering if it was assessed when it was sold for a certain amount and then had gone up every year or when it was newly assessed?” Director Wilson said, “To that to that point, when the property is acquired by the woodworking company from the current owner, that sale is a factor in determining what the new assessed value is. They're going to be making an investment of over \$7.6 million, \$6.1 million of which almost \$6.2 million is the acquisition of the property which hasn't happened yet. When that happens, if you're paying for property at \$6.15 million dollars and the current value is \$4.85 million, you don't have to be a betting person to assume that that assessed value is going to go up. Does that make sense?” Clr. Pesce said, “It makes sense. But I was told that there's usually a two-year lag time between the sale and acquisition.” Director Wilson said, “And it might be that and if that happens then...” Clr. Pesce said, “But that's where the tax incentive, let's say, comes into place for a company like this because if it has that big jump, then they get a little bit of a break.” Director Wilson said, “From a company standpoint, it's not as advantageous if it was when they do it. It's 60% rather than the 100% in year one. But that's exactly the case that we would hold them at the four point eight one five for five years going down from a hundred percent of that into growth to eighty – sixty – forty - twenty till year five.” Clr. Pesce said, “I guess my question and again I don't know these numbers, but my question was like let's say it was sold 20 years ago for I know --- it's not the case --- But say it was 20 years ago for four point one million or whatever --- three point eight and had gradually gone up to this four point six number or whatever, right? Versus if it had been reassessed somewhere in the middle and it's actually worth \$20 million and --- again, I'm using arbitrary numbers --- I know this isn't true --- But if it had just gone up and that new assessment like a brand new assessment on that property would show it at \$20 million because now the market's doing whatever it's doing and then it's gonna go upward from there. I was just wondering where it was, in that line, of actually being assessed versus being properly assessed and then just going up if that makes sense.” Director Wilson said, “Well, I don't know if I'd call it properly versus how it is assessed now. I think according to the way Assessor's office works, it's all proper. And I have faith in the Assessor in coming and providing the number to me, that we use as a basis. I can't go and do the Assessor's job, nor would I want to. Simply go to the Assessor and say can you give me a certified assessment card as to what the current value on that property is and then it's up to my Department and working with the Mayor to say

listen, let's try and figure out what we can do with this company to show that we're committed to their continued growth here in Methuen in the investment at 476 Broadway. But the assessment is done according to state law and as it affects commercial property. So, I don't know if that's answering your question, but the assessed value is sort of what it is based in part on past transactions.” Clr. Pesce said, “Yeah, I mean I get it. I'm for it. Again, just was kind of wondering where it was in assessed value.” Director Wilson said, “As I understand it, there are lags. But the same thing is true with the triennial assessment of residential, where you know, you live on one end of town, I live on the other end of town. Yes, they do my assessment for purposes of a particular fiscal year eight months before you get to mine and the market crashes. Well, all of the sudden that real estate values have adjusted but the assessment has to come down to a common denominator, common date, right, using the formulas that he used. Same thing with the commercial property.” Solicitor O'Neill said, “We can send this to you. So, just so you know, they come out every January and they're backward looking. So, even if there was a sale, it wouldn't be necessarily reflected. It would depend on how close it was. And the formula doesn't exactly correlate. Just because something was sold for \$10 million, the assessment doesn't automatically go up to \$10 million because that was a market sale. But like the Director said it's factored in, and it is a strong factor in what the valuation is. I can't tell you exactly, but we can find out for you.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Marsan, “So, this is economic development. This is what we want. If we don't, you know, this shows our commitment to a new business in our community. We don't lose any tax money. We're gaining it. We're giving them a five-year incentive to come here. We need more of this. He's taking an empty building and utilizing it and he's going to purchase it so we cannot say no. This is so vital to us to the economic development of our city to have more Commercial tax base here.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. DiZoglio, “Just to piggyback of Clr. Marsan, we are very low. I think 12% is our commercial base right now and the fact that we're just spinning our wheels and talking. We all know we need the commercial tax base and everybody's talking about precious time. And we have items that we have to get through. Let's just pass this because we're all going to vote yes on this. I think we should move the question.” **UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.**

TR-26-5 – Resolution Requesting Comprehensive Condition, Safety and Capital Needs Audit of All City-Owned Parks and Public Spaces – (Sponsored by Clr. John Drew) – Motion to approve by Clr. Simard, seconded by Clr. Valley – Discussion – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, “Thank you Madam Chair. I hate using the word audit, but it's kind of what it is. It's more of an assessment of knowing what our inventory is and the kind of status of everything we have in green space and kind of joining the Parks Committee. I want to be able to ensure that we're spending capital money in the right spot, so we know where our liabilities are and work on the plan. Currently, we're probably not going to be able to get grants for FY'2026. A lot of that vote has sailed. So, this will help us work on the grant system for FY'2027. I really think we need to assess what we have for parks, for ball fields, for trails, all these types of things to just start bettering our city for the quality of life for our residents. And planning ahead and not always being reactive.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Santos, “After reading it I really agree with you Clr. Drew. It looks like a great idea. I think the point is to start moving forward and see what we need to do in our city. I just wanted to add that to it, but I also want to make a motion to amend. I would like to add a subcommittee and that was in public participation. So, I just want to add to that as a committee to this resolution.” Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, “I think what you meant was the next one over which was the building one which is almost the same because this one would end up on the Parks Committee which we currently have. I think that's why it was just they're pretty much identical.” **Motion fails to add subcommittee.** Chair Soto recognized Clr. Marsan, “So I'm in favor of this but we just need to know what an audit is going to cost us. We need some idea. We can't just sit here and say we're going to accept this, and it could be five hundred thousand dollars to do an audit. We

have no idea. I just think we need to work on that before we do the second read here. So, I'm making a motion to table this until we get an actual number that it's going to cost us to do this audit." **Motion to TABLE by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. Valley – 6 yes, 3 no (Clr. Drew, Clr. DiZoglio and Chair Soto)**

TR-26-6 – Resolution Requesting Comprehensive Facilities Condition, Risk and Capital Needs Audit of All Non-School City-Owned Buildings and Facilities – (Sponsored by Clr. John Drew) – Motion to approve by Clr. Santos, seconded by Clr. Pesce – Chair Soto recognized Clr. Drew, "Mr. Mayor, thank you Madam Chair. So, again, similar to the parks resolution, I wasn't going to initially bring this, but when we had this meeting two weeks ago and the generators came up, when we asked how long they've been in service. Nobody really knew. So, that kind of was what drove me to this because I was going to put the parks in front of you and then this kind of snowballed from that because I believe we need to start being more proactive as a community. Looking at our greatest assets that we own and ensure that we're watching them long-term. So, I believe we should just have a plan and a little of bit help to inform our plan." Chair Soto recognized Mayor Beauregard, "Thank you Madam Chair, and I didn't have a chance to speak on the prior item, but the same principle applies in terms of my feelings. So, you know, when we have a Capital Improvement Plan, we're talking about in the ballpark of between \$10 and \$15 million dollars' worth of spending on capital projects. Now granted, those are informed by Department Heads who do have intimate knowledge of the needs of their facilities and what have you. But, at the same time, the value in all of this is that we're talking about the prospect of the Council making a formal request of the administration to go about some more comprehensive planning in terms of directing those ten plus million dollars worth of capital plans every year. And I think that that is a very helpful exercise and something along these lines that I want to point out. We're in the process now of beginning a needs assessment for a new public safety building. And this is something that is so widely recognized by people who work for the city, people who are in city government, people outside of city government, who realize that. Look, our Police Department facility is in deplorable condition. Our Central Fire Station, as I've referenced many times, as former Mayor Perry referenced many times, was designed at a time when the main method of transportation was horse and buggy. And so, you have the entryway to the Central Fire Station for these ladder trucks. We have to custom order fire trucks to fit through the entryways for the Central Fire Station which adds time, it adds cost, right? Whenever you have anything custom ordered our DPW building, you know, I say this not playfully, I'm not saying this so literally either, but you know, if somebody were to blow on the DPW building hard enough, there's a chance it could come down. I'm not saying that literally but it's in such a deplorable condition when you go into the garage with the service vehicles and you look up at the ceiling and you can see straight through to the sky right in some areas. It's remarkable how much of a state of disrepair that building is and so we know that just by looking at it, right? But, nevertheless, this, I think, speaks to the need for the assessment of the public safety building. This is calling on the administration to do some advanced planning in terms of our capital improvement needs and I think it makes sense. And, in terms of cost, we would have to go out and get quotes and what-have-you and that's fine. We can deal with that and in terms of a funding source. This is why we have our Free Cash, for instance, for one-time expenditures. And I think that this deep dive into things from a facility standpoint, especially in the context of guiding the expenditure of how many tens of millions of dollars in capital upgrades is something that I think is certainly more useful than not so I just wanted to speak in support of the sentiment behind this." Chair Soto said, "So in essence, Mr. Mayor, you were going to support the one that got tabled because you're saying it would have been the same context. Is that what you're saying?" Mayor Beauregard said, "Added planning never hurts." Chair Soto recognized Clr. DiZoglio, "Thank You Madam Chair. I was just going to piggyback off what the Mayor said because yes, I know the cost of our audit, but this was a request

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so the Mayor would go out and do the audit, so how can we table it? So, how is he supposed to put out to bid on the cost of an audit if we are tabling it? That was just my question.” Mayor Beauregard said, “Yes, to consider going about whatever activities in the ask and so, you know, frankly, I think this is a good idea in terms of planning.” **Clr. Pesce made a Motion, seconded by Clr. Valley, to Move the Question, UPON VOTE – 7 yes, 2 no (Clr. Simard & Clr. Marsan)**

Motion to extend the meeting past 11:00 PM by Clr. Drew, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio – UPON ROLL CALL VOTE – 4 yes, 5 no (Clr. Pesce, Clr. Simard, Clr. Valley, Clr. MacLaren and Clr. Marsan)

TR-26-7 - Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Gift of \$2,000 from Digital Federal Credit Union to Support the Methuen Police Department (*Requested by the Mayor*) - Motion to approve by Clr. Marsan, seconded by Clr. Pesce – UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.

TO-26-4 - An Ordinance Amending the Wage and Salary Classification Plan, Unaffiliated, to Add the New Position of Economic Development Coordinator (*Requested by the Mayor*) - Motion to approve by Clr. Pesce, seconded by Clr. Valley – Motion to TABLE by Clr. Drew, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio - UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.

TO-26-5 - An Ordinance Amending the Wage and Salary Schedule of Chapter 6, Section 6-5 of the Methuen Municipal Code, Department of Public Works Employees Association by Adding the Position of Sanitation/Zero Waste Coordinator (*Requested by the Mayor*) - Motion to approve by Clr. DiZoglio, seconded by Clr. Pesce – Motion to TABLE by Clr. Drew, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio - UPON VOTE – unanimously approved.

For the good and welfare of the community

- Clr. Drew announced that there will be a fundraising event on Friday, January 30, 2026 from 6-10 PM at the Irish Cottage in support of the Methuen St. Patrick’s Day Parade.
- Clr. Simard and Chair Soto had a discussion regarding City Council Subcommittee assignments.
- Chair Soto said that the City Council’s Facebook Page is up and running.

17. Adjourn – 11:04 PM

**Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Yarid Ferry
Assistant Council Clerk**

At a meeting where a quorum was present, the foregoing minutes were approved by the Methuen City Council on February 17, 2026 by a unanimous vote.