

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MACKINNON COUNCIL CHAMBER  
MONDAY – November 30, 2009 – 7:00 PM**

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A meeting of the Southbridge Council was held on Monday November 30, 2009, in the Robert MacKinnon Council Chambers.

Councilor Lazo called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** Councilor Lazo led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Roll Call-** Councilors present: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, MCDONALD, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.**
3. **Consider and accept the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of November 9, 2009** A motion was made by Councilor McDonald and seconded by Councilor Livengood. Councilor Vecchia requested a terminology change to agenda 4b. **VOTE BY SHOW OF HANDS. ALL IN FAVOR. Motion passes.**
4. **Subcommittee Reports:**
  - (a) **General Government** Councilor McDonald read the minutes of November 23, 2009. No meeting scheduled.
  - (b) **Department of Public Works** Councilor Vandal red the minutes of November 24, 2009. NO meeting scheduled.
  - (c) **Protection of Persons and Property** Councilor Vecchia reviewed the minutes of November 10, 2009. Meeting scheduled December 3, 2009 has been postponed until December 10, 2009.
  - (d) **Education and Human Services** Councilor Clemence read the minutes of November 23, 2009. No meeting scheduled
  - (e) **Planning and Development** Councilor Logan had no minutes. Meeting scheduled December 12, 2009
5. **Swearing In Ceremony/Awards Presentation-**None this evening
6. **Chairman’s Announcements**
  - a) MMA Annual Meeting, January 22 and 23, 2010-Chairman Lazo requested to contact Yvonne Toris if interested in attending this conference.
  - b) Congratulations to Southbridge High School Football win on Thanksgiving.
  - c) Thanked residents, Fire and Police departments for making the Southbridge High School bonfire event possible.

## 7. Town Manager's Announcements

- a) Reminder on behalf of Representative Alicia that State Transportation Committee meeting December 7, 2009 at 1:30 will address the Registry relocation as a major topic with a full agenda.
- b) December 1 2009-April 1, 2010 winter parking band in effect. Snow removal policies also in effect. Call DPW at 508-764-5403 with any questions.
- c) Notice to Proceed – Marois Bros.-November 23, 2009 Worcester Access Road has begun
- d) Rating Methodology – “The Six Critical Components of Strong Municipal Management”-In light of over 1 million in state budget cuts, the following components were taken into consideration: Conservation budgeting techniques, fund balance policies, debt planning, succession and contingency planning, strategic planning for economic development and timely disclosure. Information packet with details of above provided to all council.
- e) 2009 Holiday Schedule – Hours of Operation reviewed
- f) SEFA Fund Raising November 20, 2009 Spaghetti supper raised over \$3,500.00 for families in need.

## 8. Citizen's Forum

Joan Bernard, 66 Dresser Street invited the public on Wednesday December 9, 2009 to Harrington Memorial new cancer wing open house 2-6pm.

Suzie Dears, 107 Marcy Street had a dream come true riding on a fire truck dressed as an elf in the Holiday parade last Friday in Southbridge.

Chris Auyer, 468 Hamilton Street was hit by a car on Tuesday November 23, 2009 while walking to work.

Judy Whitman, 468 Hamilton Street is Chris' mom and again requesting crosswalks at various locations in the downtown area for safety. The accident was a hit and run.

Second, she requested pothole be fixed on River Avenue. She was informed by the Town Manager to obtain a petition from the Town Hall and have all residents on the street sign it and she will receive up to \$500.00 in repairs.

George Chenier 235 Pleasant Street voiced concern about being appalled at the lengthy delay in crosswalks and that railroad tracks were proposed as a “safe” alternate walking route. Second, requested that parking be limited on Pleasant Street and Rt 131 area until bridge is repaired. Lastly, urged citizens to come the Public Hearing next week.

Howard Hall, 228 Coon Street reported that Center of Hope never contacted the police regarding pedestrian hit in the crosswalk as he in fact made the call to police.

9. **Vote to appoint Seth Lajoie to the Board of Trustees, Jacob Edwards Library, for a 3-year term to expire June 30, 2012.** A motion was made by Councilor McDonald and seconded by Councilor Livengood. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, MCDONALD, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Motion passes.

10. **Vote to appoint Joseph Losavio, Sr., to the Recreation Committee for a 3-year term to expire June 30, 2012.** A motion was made by Councilor Nikolla and seconded by Councilor McDonald. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, MCDONALD, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Motion passes.
11. **Vote to approve the appointment of John Sypek, to the Board of Registrars.** Based on the recommendation of the Republican Town Committee, I recommend the appointment of John Sypek to the Board of Registrars and ask for your confirmation of said appointment. A motion was made by Councilor McDonald and seconded by Councilor Livengood. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, MCDONALD, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Motion passes.
12. **Overview of the Southbridge Cultural Council (Section 3-207) in association with the Massachusetts State Cultural Council presented by Cultural Council interim chairman/treasurer, Ted Bartlett.** A summary was provided by Ted Bartlett highlighting the Arts and Humanities merge in 1990 to make the Cultural Council comprised of 351 councils in Massachusetts. It is the second largest grant program in Massachusetts supporting the Arts, Sciences and Humanities. October 15th is the annual closure for consideration of grants and generally two meetings per year in Southbridge take place to review and submit grant proposals. It is run by 2,500 volunteers across the state. Councilor Regis thanked Ted for his presentation and clarified that on-line accounting is current to record grant funds. Councilor Logan also thanked Ted and requested specific projects supported in Southbridge as well as how many grants were typically fulfilled compared to amount filed. Ted Bartlett commented that both the Festival of Trees to raise money for Cancer research in children as well as a Community project on American Optical Sculpture are examples. In total 45 grants were requested in 2009 and 2/3 were funded between \$250.00-\$2,500.00. He added that on-line grant applications are available or can be obtained from the Town Clerks Office.
13. **Vote to approve change to Lens Court to a "No Parking on Street" area as favorably recommended from the Traffic Commission and residents of Lens Court.** A motion was made by Councilor Livengood and seconded by Councilor McDonald. Councilor Vecchia mentioned all residents on the street are in favor. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, MCDONALD, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Motion passes.
14. **Vote to authorize contract between Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through its Highway Department, and the Town of Southbridge, not to exceed \$12,000.00, to move fire alarm wires on North Woodstock Road.** A motion was made by Councilor McDonald and seconded by Councilor Livengood. Councilor Vecchia mentioned sub-committee approval was unanimous. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, MCDONALD, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Motion passes.

- 15. Vote to authorize a contract with Weston & Sampson to provide resident inspection type services over the construction of the Industrial Access Road.** A motion was made by Councilor Livengood and seconded by Councilor Clemence. Councilor Vecchia had concerns of the expense boiling down to \$13,000.00 per week for a 9-month project and no contract to review. He is seeking a cost breakdown and mentioned he felt rushed in this vote. Councilor Logan inquired about a Resident Inspection and who on the Council has reviewed the contract. Additionally asked about ramifications if vote postponed until next week. Town Manager Christopher Clark gave an overview on this lengthy process only making sense to use the proposed contractor who designed the road to also build and use oversight day to day, Resident Inspection, to benefit the town. Councilor Nikolla and Regis agreed that Weston and Sampson designed road it only makes sense to have them oversee road construction to avoid additional expenses. A motion to table the vote by Councilor Vecchia and seconded by Councilor McDonald. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **MCDONALD, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Those opposed: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA and REGIS.** Motion passes. Councilor Regis assured that if vote is tabled an amendment can be provided. Councilor Clemence was concerned that this vote should never have been “tabled”, rather “postponed” as the meaning of terms change the vote. Councilor Vecchia quickly responded that for 35 years the word “table” as been used. He feels this is still excessive in funds and will vote after reviewed the financial breakdown. Councilor Livengood requested these conversations be had sub-committee meetings in the future. Lastly, Councilor McDonald mentioned he had never seen the contract himself.
- 15A Vote to table vote to authorize a contract with Weston& Sampson to provide resident inspection type services over the construction of the Industrial Access Road.** A motion was made by Councilor McDonald and seconded by Councilor Livengood. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, MCDONALD, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Motion passes
- 16. Vote to authorize the Town’s Manager’s request for additional funds for Weston & Sampson regarding oversight of the wastewater treatment plant renovations.** Vote postponed
- 17. Vote to accept petition for repairs to a Private Way as submitted by the abutters to Pearl Street and North Violet Avenue to make necessary repairs to this private way in the maximum amount of \$500.00 for materials and labor.** A motion was made by Councilor McDonald and seconded by Councilor Livengood. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, MCDONALD, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Motion passes.
- 18. Vote to accept the recommendation of the Town Manager, to sell Lot 22, Map 20, on the corner of Hillcrest Avenue and Stevens Street to Mark Morin pursuant to his offer of \$5000.00 and to take care of any other paperwork necessary to accomplish said sale of property.** A motion was made by Councilor Livengood and seconded by Councilor McDonald. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, MCDONALD, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Motion passes.

18a. **Vote to transfer \$300,000 from sewer retained earnings for the purpose of funding additional oversight of the Waste Water Treatment Plant renovations.** A motion was made by Councilor Livengood and seconded by Councilor McDonald. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **CLEMENCE, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, MCDONALD, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Motion passes

**19. Councilor's Forum**

Councilor Nikolla wished all a Happy Holiday and mentioned the downtown decorations looked wonderful.

Councilor McDonald congratulated the Southbridge High School on their win on Thanksgiving Day

Councilor Clemence had reminder dates: December 9, 2009 at 6:30 is School Building Committee meeting on school design and is open to the public; December 16, 2009 scope meeting at Town Hall on the new school; and Transportation meeting December 7, 2009 at 1:30pm. Additional comment that Quinsigamond Community College enrollment is over 300 students for Spring 2010.

Councilor Livengood hope that someone who witnessed citizen who was hit on Central Street last Tuesday comes forward and reports to the police.

Councilor Vecchia clarified that Sewer Enterprise Fund of \$300,000 was removed from the 1.4 million budget. He wants to know how to keep the rates the same for citizens. He proposed a plan to review, distributed to all council at the meeting, and requested that accounting department seek ways to find \$500,000.00 to keep real estate tax from increasing. Town Manager Clark responded that handling a budget with cuts that the State has handed down is difficult. If additional cuts are made, somewhere will suffer and the budget is as lean as it is, but he will review this proposal.

**20. Next Town Council Meeting Date** – Monday, December 7, 2009 immediately following the Public Hearing at 6:30pm

**21. Adjournment** A motion was made by Councilor Livengood and seconded by Councilor Clemence. **VOTE BY SHOW OF HANDS. ALL IN FAVOR.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Williams MASC