

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MACKINNON COUNCIL CHAMBER  
MONDAY – May 18, 2009 – 7:00 PM**

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A meeting of the Southbridge Council was held on Monday May 4, 2009, in the Robert MacKinnon Council Chambers.

Chairwoman Nikolla called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance-** Chairwoman Nikolla led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Roll Call-** Councilors present: **KING, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL, and VECCHIA.** Late: **LAZO (7:10pm)** Excused: **MCDONALD.**
3. **Consider and accept the minutes of the following meetings:**
  - May 4, 2009 – Council of the Whole-**A motion was made by Councilor Logan and seconded by Councilor Regis. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL-**Those in favor: **LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Abstained: **KING and LIVENGOOD.** Excused: **LAZO and MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES**
  - May 4, 2009 - Regular meeting-**A motion was made by Councilor Regis and seconded by Councilor Logan, **VOTE BY ROLL CALL.** Those in favor: **LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA.** Abstained: **KING and LIVENGOOD.** Excused: **LAZO and MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES**
4. **Subcommittee Reports:**
  - (a) **General Government-**Councilor King had no minutes to report. No meeting scheduled.
  - (b) **D.P.W.-**Councilor Vandal read the minutes of May 13, 2009. No meeting scheduled.
  - (c) **Education and Human Services-**Councilwoman Nikolla read the minutes of April 30, 2009. No meeting scheduled.
  - (d) **Planning and Development-**Councilor Livengood read the minutes of May 7, 2009. Meeting scheduled June 4, 2009.
  - (e) **Protection of Persons and Property-**Councilor Lazo read the minutes of May 13, 2009. No meeting scheduled.
  - (f) **Town Manager-**Councilor Regis had no minutes to report. No meeting scheduled.
5. **Swearing In Ceremony-**No swearing in tonight

## **6. Chairman's Announcements**

- a) Proclamation for Public Works Week May 17, 2009-May 23, 2009- Integral part of waste water, drainage, parks/cemetery, etc. The Department of Public Works is responsible for the health, safety, comfort and quality of life. Councilwoman Nikolla extended her thanks and presented a notice of appreciation to Mr. Kalinowski.
- b) May 23, 2009 7:30pm at Cannery Music Hall, 12 Crane Street will hold an Elvis Tribute to help fund Concerts on the Common. Tickets are \$25.00. Contact Sue Pelletier for further information 508-248-6687.
- c) June 18, 2009 6:00-8:00pm second Community Meet and Greet at Community Center. Contact Town Hall at 508-764-5405 or Monique Manna at 508-764-7265.

## **7. Town Manager's Announcements**

- a.) Public Hearing May 21, 2009 at 6:00 for FY2010 Budget. Town Manager Christopher Clark has proposed the town adopt the current Governor and House version. When Senate decision final, budget meeting will reflect adjustments.
- b.) Electronic Recycling and Appliance Day is May 30, 2009 9:00am-3:00pm at Notre Dame church. Minimal fees per product.
- c.) Follow up to 55 Combs Street burned home. A judge issued a 7-day notice to comply or town can demolish.
- d.) Worcester Community Action Council has potential summer jobs for youth. It consists of one week training and six weeks paid employment.
- e.) Blockbuster video owner took initiative to build handicap ramp more accessible since last town council meeting.

## **8. Citizen's Forum**

- a.) Beverly Pratt of 329 Tipton Rock Road commented on the great open house held May 16, 2009 at the new combined Public Works facility located at 185 Guelphwood Road. She is very appreciative of the work they do in town.
- b.) Rene Tremblay of 14 Jerome Street commented on the condition at Oakridge Cemetery as being terrible. The roads/potholes need to be paved. Town Manager Clark commented that funds were located to fix archway as improvement. Councilor Lazo mentioned that he agreed with the poor condition and attempted to secure Grant Money, which is not allowed for cemetery repair. He suggested renting a paver as an option.
- c.) Howard Hall of 49 Main Street was pleased to see a 17 year old speak at the podium at last council meeting
- d.) John Pulowski of 3 Genoese Street expressed concern of the Agricultural Committee appointments this evening as he would have been interested himself. Mentioned the Town Hall is in need of repairs and a sprinkler system. Lastly thanked Councilor King for inspiring him to run for Council.
- e.) Monique Manna of 20 Maple Street reminded the public of the Meet and Greet June 18, 2009 6:00-8:00pm. Future of Southbridge Meeting to be held Thursday May 21, 2009 on Crane Street.

- 9. Vote to confirm the appointment of James Morin as Health Director for the Town of Southbridge for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2012. *Received favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor Livengood and seconded by Councilor Logan. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES.** James Morin addressed the Council and thanked them for the appointment.**
- 10. Vote to rescind the vote taken by Town Council on July 28, 2008, Agenda Item No. 10 – Vote to approve the Employment Contract between the Town of Southbridge and Anna Smith for a period of three years beginning July 24, 2008 through June 30, 2011 and to re-confirm the term of appointment from July 24, 2008 through June 30, 2011. *Received favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor King. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES****
- 11. Vote to confirm the appointment of Richard Harwood to the Agricultural Commission for the Town of Southbridge for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2012. *Favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor King and seconded by Councilor Regis. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES****
- 12. Vote to confirm the appointment of Marshall Morse to the Agricultural Commission for the Town of Southbridge for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2012. *Favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor King and seconded by Councilor Logan. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES****
- 13. Vote to confirm the appointment of Edward Baldyga to the Agricultural Commission for the Town of Southbridge for a two-year term to expire June 30, 2011. *Favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor King and seconded by Councilor Lazo. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES****
- 14. Vote to confirm the appointment of George Parent to the Agricultural Commission for the Town of Southbridge for a two-year term to expire June 30, 2011. *Favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor King and seconded by Councilor Livengood. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES****

- 15. Vote to confirm the appointment of Calvin Toth to the Agricultural Commission for the Town of Southbridge for a one-year term to expire June 30, 2010. *Favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Livengood. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES****
- 16. Vote to confirm the appointment of Gus Steeves as an Alternate Member to the Agricultural Commission for the Town of Southbridge for a one-year term to expire June 30, 2010. *Favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor Livengood and seconded by Councilor Lazo. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES****
- 17. Vote to authorize the Town Manager to issue a Request for Proposals for consultation purposes not to exceed \$60,000.00. *Favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* Several Councilors had comments and questions regarding the need for this position, where funds were being drawn from and what it would be supporting. Town Manager Clark reported that a Grant Writer is needed to go forward with the redevelopment plan. Since the salary for the position was not used this fiscal year, a consultant could fulfill the outstanding work. Sandy Ackley added that this position serves as a starting point of the redevelopment plan. Details and grants need to be written prior to FRP for scope of service. Some federal funds are still available as well. Some proposals are a downtown restructure and riverfront plan to improve the quality of living in Southbridge. Councilor Vandal was strongly opposed to a Riverfront property and Councilor Logan was in favor of the RFP that shows a good downtown “green” plan and riverfront plan, He feels the details are excellent and it’s a good investment. Councilor Vecchia clarified that this vote is only to approve the funds; another vote would be required to hire the consultant. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Livengood. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, and VECCHIA. Those opposed: VANDAL. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES.****
- 18. Vote to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Comprehensive Environmental Incorporated (CEI) in the amount of \$4,350.00 for assistance with obtaining compliance with the NPDES Phase II stormwater reporting. *Received favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor Logan and seconded by Councilor Lazo. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES****

**19. Vote to transfer the sum of \$65,000.00 from Fire Department Salaries and Wages Permanent Positions Account 001.0220.5110 to Fire Station Roof Repair/Replacement Account 400.592.5830.220.6320. *Favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor King. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES****

**20. Vote to authorize the Town Manager to award a contract to Leading Way Construction Co., Inc. for roof replacement and associated work at the Fire Station in the amount of \$330,800.00. *Received favorable recommendation from subcommittee.* A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor King. **VOTE BY ROLL CALL. Those in favor: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL and VECCHIA. Excused: MCDONALD. MOTION PASSES****

## **21. Councilor's Forum**

- a.) Councilor King concerned about Rt 131 near Big Bunny had recent tree removal and a remaining fence needs to be removed. Town Manager Clark stated state was slated to complete the work. Councilor King applauded Bay Path High School, where daughter is a nursing student, for earning the Gold Metal in Academic Skills, thus granting a trip to Kansas City June 22, 2009.
- b.) Councilor Vecchia requested that log book was missing at a recent Board of Health Meeting, Town Manager Clark will look into it. Councilor Vecchia also mentioned silver was an element found in the water supply, please investigate. The Federal Stimulus meeting recommended water infrastructure needs grants to be filed, of which Town Manager Clark reported were already underway. Lastly, of concern was the water and sewer increase to residents was substantial considering previous years. Town Manager Clark reported that DPW Director oversees company responsible.
- c.) Councilor Livengood reported that 796 Southbridge students received Identification Packets
- d.) Councilor Regis had two comments. First, a local business on May 16, 2009 expressed concern for the 2-hour parking limit in lots during working hours for business employees and would they be considered tenants? Town Manager Clark reported that there are long-term alternatives in the area and to contact Charlene at the Town Hall regarding a Public Hearing at the Police Station Wednesday May 27, 2009 at 7:00pm. Second, a follow up to Councilor Vecchia's comment regarding increased in water and sewer as being substantial. Her comment reflected that it is safer for the town to privatize water and sewer and in hindsight, increase as been on hold in the past, which may have been in error and why it appears to be so large currently.
- e.) Councilor Vandal reported that the Southbridge Evening News wrote an article that 9 million was already paid to renovate a building and now need extra funds to get rid of the smell. He also asked the holiday lights, with missing bulbs for three years, at the Gazebo be removed.

- f.) Councilor Logan questioned whether household improvements justify a tax break. Town Manager Clark will look into it.
- g.) Councilor Lazo has three comments. First, parking reduction to one hour would be drastic measure. Second, complimented Harrington Hospital for renovations and lastly thanked Town Manager Clark for speaking at the Southbridge High School class.
- h.) Councilwoman Nikolla reported that the Chief of the Fire Department, Chief Ciesla, was named Man of the Year by the VFW.

22. **Discussion of next meeting date-** Councilor Lazo recommended next meeting June 8, 2009. **VOTE BY SHOW OF HANDS. ALL IN FAVOR**

23. **Adjournment-** A motion was made by Councilor Regis and seconded by Councilor Logan. **VOTE BY SHOW OF HANDS. ALL IN FAVOR.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Williams MASC Recording Clerk