
[LOCAL APPROVAL]

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
90 HAMPSHIRE STREET
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS 01844

Robert J. LeBlanc, *Administrator*

Order #340

Order authorizing the Town Administrator to file legislation to ensure, protect and provide for water rights to the Merrimack River

WHEREAS: It is the position and policy of the Town Council of the city known as the Town of Methuen that the public and as it relates to Methuen the people of Methuen have the right to utilize the resources of the Merrimack River for the public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS: The people of Methuen have exercised on a long-standing basis their inherent rights to the Merrimack River through a contractual relationship with the City of Lawrence and indirectly with the Town of Andover; and

WHEREAS: It has become clear and a matter of public policy that Methuen must now exercise its rights directly through the construction of a Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS: The Town Council has taken affirmative action in the exercise and determination of its rights to the Merrimack through the authorization under provision of the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the financing and construction of a Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS: The inherent right of the people of Methuen to the resources of the Merrimack River have been challenged by a private interest known as the Essex Company; and

WHEREAS: Said challenge has been made on the basis of various legislative acts:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED: That the Town Administrator be and hereby is authorized to file such legislation on behalf of the city known as the Town of Methuen to ensure, protect and provide for water rights to the Merrimack River as may be necessary in accordance with the policy, goals and objective as stipulated by the Town Council of Methuen; and be it further

Ordered: That the Town Administrator shall keep the Town Council, its President and respective committees fully appraised of any and all action deemed to be necessary and proper to guarantee the rights of the people of Methuen.

First Reading: June 20, 1977
Approved June 20, 1977 — as an emergency
Effective: Immediately

I do hereby certify that the foregoing was voted upon unanimously by the Methuen Town Council at a Special Meeting of June 20, 1977 with 18 members present and voting.

William F. Gallagher
Council President

M. Claire Faucher
Council Clerk

By Ms. Pollard, a petition of Sharon M. Pollard, Nicholas J. Buglione, Wilfred P. Beauchesne, Arthur M. Khoury and others (by vote of the town council) for legislation to supply the city known as the town of Methuen with water. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-seven.

AN ACT TO SUPPLY THE CITY KNOWN AS THE TOWN OF METHUEN WITH WATER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The provisions of general and special laws notwithstanding
2 the city known as the Town of Methuen, having inherent
3 rights to the waters of the Merrimack River, is hereby au-
4 thorized to take, hold and convey into and through said
5 municipality from the Merrimack River, at any point thereof
6 within said municipality sufficient water for the use of said
7 municipality and the inhabitants thereof for the extinguish-
8 ment of fires, creating steam, domestic and other purposes;
9 and may also take and hold, by purchase or otherwise, land
10 in said municipality or elsewhere for sinking wells or making
11 excavations in order to obtain water by filtration or percola-
12 tion, or from subterranean streams, and for the construction
13 of such works as may be necessary therefor; and also for
14 laying and maintaining aqueducts or pipes, constructing and
15 maintaining reservoirs or canals and such other work as may
16 be deemed necessary or proper for conveying, raising, forcing,
17 retaining, distribution, or disposing of said water in such
18 manner as may be deemed in the public interest.

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