Moved by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** and seconded by **Councilor Curtis** that Ordinance 09-14 be adopted.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

5. REPORTS: TOWN MANAGER, FINANCE, ORDINANCE & RECYCLING COMMITTEES:

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 09/01/2009:

1. The FYI Folder: The FYI Book contains the following items this week: List Read

2. New Recreation Manager: Mike Godfrey will manage the Recreation Programs for the Town of Pittsfield starting this week. This is a part-time position and we are going to look at the recreation programs themselves as we move forward. Mike has played sports in the school system and recreation programs throughout his elementary – high school experience here graduating from MCI. Mike currently coaches the JV Girls Basketball Team and assists with the Varsity team. He also coaches the track team at MCI . Mike worked for MSAD#53 last year as a sub. He comes very well recommended from MCI. Mike is here this evening and can say a few words. Mike Godfrey spoke to the Town Council and public. He is very excited to work on recreation opportunities for the children and the community.

3. Pickin' & Picnic In The Park: Come down to Hathorn Park for some good old fashioned pickin'. Bring your guitar, banjo, fiddle, accordion, wash board, a song and other instruments to make music. The event will start with a picnic at 5:30 p.m. and end at dark. This will involve a wide variety of musicians and a family atmosphere. Everyone is invited. The third event will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2009 with a rain date of September 24, 2009. For more information contact Hazel Mitchell at 207-257-2312.

4. Memorial Repairs at Powers Cemetery: The results were excellent. READ Report.

5. Tax Bills for 2009 due on Friday, 10/16/2009: Tax bills were issued last month after Somerset County was able to issue their assessment to the Town. The mil rate is $16.30 and the Town is at 95% of valuation. The Town was below 70% of market value and was required to increase values, which then lowers the mil rate. The factoring itself does not changes taxes, it is increases and decreases in budgets and valuation. The Town lost over $8.4 million dollars in personal property assessment when several of the Town's largest personal property taxpayers reduced the amount of equipment they maintain in Town and the Maine legislature exempted most new business personal property from taxation.

6. Kennebec Valley Council of Governments Annual Meeting: The 42nd meeting of KVCOG will take place on Wednesday, 09/23/2009 at Grandeur Sun off Jefferson Street in Waterville from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

7. Census 2010: Remember that Census workers are out collecting information in the community. The individuals should have signs on their vehicle and proper Census identification.

8. Pittsfield Farmers' Market: The Farmers Market at Hathorn Park is available Mondays and Thursday from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm until October 29, 2009.

Finance Committee: No Report.
Ordinance Committee: No Report.
Recycling Committee: No Report.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. ***ORDER 09-14:*** (To be set to Public Hearing on 10/06/2009) Ordered that the Town Council Adopt the quarterly and monthly rates for the Pittsfield Water Works for metered customers, municipal fire protection and private fire protection effective 11/06/2009.

Moved by **Councilor Chale** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Order 09-14 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town has identified the need to improve the water infrastructure of the Town. The capital improvement plan and program includes a listing of lines that need to be upgraded, valves that need to be replaced, and hydrants that need to be replaced. We were fortunate that one of our applications for federal stimulus funding was approved – a backup finish pump for the water treatment plant which is underway. Our projects, although very important, did not rank high enough due to a number of reasons – specifically one is that our water rates are among the lowest in the State of Maine. Just as our sewer rates were the lowest in the State of Maine until we approved a rate increase, the water rates in 2008 were the 10th lowest rate in the State of Maine overall. The State documents ranking the rates were dated early in 2008 so since then, we may be even lower if any of those other 9 towns or districts had a rate increase since then.

In addition, we have not been eligible for some grant programs because the community is not considered low-moderate income, such as for Community Development Block Grant funding that would allow $500,000 of infrastructure repairs with the Town's match of 25% toward the project. This is why we undertook the income survey, which is still underway trying to obtain responses. If income results showed sections of the community might be eligible, we may be able to obtain funding for those areas if they needed improvement. Then those projects would not be paid for entirely by rate increases.

We knew that we would not have a rate increase put into place until we got the meters into better order. In 2006 we obtained financing for the meters and have worked on installing meters from 2006 – 2009. We some left that we can not change over as the people refuse to respond, there is bad plumbing, can not get under the house, they can not afford to upgrade their plumbing, etc. But in all, we now have a reliable metering program so that people are treated fairly and now will need to install rate increases.

The first rate increase is simply to balance the budget: We understood that adding on loans would result in the need to pay for those loan payments. Depreciation is now charged to the Town's water system and we can not absorb an extra $60,000 – $90,000 cost to the budget Future rate increases after this first one would be improvement driven.