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City of Amesbury
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Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026
7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by President Jessica Redfern.

Councilor Amanda Haggstrom led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, and present were Councilor Amanda Haggstrom, Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Scott Mandeville, Councilor Kelly Sullivan, Councilor Maryann Welch, Councilor Claudel Frederique, Councilor Pamela Gilday, and President Jessica Redfern.

Absent was Councilor Steven Stanganelli.

Mayoral Appointments

2026-077 Appointment of Jay Williamson to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2029 - **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern noted that Mr. Williamson is already on the committee and this is a reappointment.

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to approve 2026-077 as presented. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-078 Appointment of Craige Hird to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee as the Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee representative for a term to expire February 28, 2027- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Craige Hird spoke about his desire to fill the position and thanked the council for their consideration.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-078 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Late file

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to accept the late file. Councilor Welch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to take 2026-087 out of order. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-087 Appointment of Greg Noyes to the position of member of the Energy, Environmental and Sustainability Committee as the School Committee representative for a term to expire March 31, 2029-
Mayor Sponsor

- Mr. Noyes spoke about his desire to fill the position and thanked the council for their consideration.

Councilor Welch offered a motion to approve 2026-087 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Correspondence

-President/Vice President Communications

- President Redfern noted that the public wants the Fiscal Conditions Report televised and that therefore this information will be shared again on May 12th.
- President Redfern shared that the budget hearings will be held on various evenings instead of on a Saturday.
- Councilor Haggstrom spoke about anticipated changes to the posting of council materials.

-Communication from Mayor, City Staff, other Elected Officials, and Official Representatives of Boards and Commissions

- None

Monthly list of licenses –April

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve the April list of licenses. Councilor Sullivan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Public Comment

- Liz McConnell, 60 Merrimac St., spoke about the conditions of the sidewalks on Merrimac Street.
- Barry Milanese, 60 Merrimac St. #616, spoke about the conditions of the sidewalks on Merrimac Street and referred to a survey that was performed.

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Sullivan questioned what department handles survey work once it is complete.
- Mayor Gove answered that the Department of Public Works addresses survey work.

Second Readings/Pole Hearings

a. Second Readings

2026-69 Request for Comment on 27 Kimball Road 40B Application

- President Redfern shared that she drafted a comment based on notes taken at the last meeting and text provided by Councilor Gilday.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to send the memo dated April 14, 2026 to the Zoning Board of Appeals from the City Council. Councilor Welch seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-1, Councilor Hogg opposed.

b. Public Hearings

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to take 2026-068 out of order. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed 7-1, Councilor Haggstrom opposed.

2026-068 An Order to amend the Amesbury Zoning Ordinance by repealing and replacing Section XI.K.3, Accessory Dwelling Units.-**Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday shared the positive recommendation from the Ordinance and Administration Committee.
- President Redfern shared the positive recommendation from the Planning Board.
- OCED Director Nick Cracknell gave a presentation on the order (see attached).

President Redfern opened and closed the public hearing at 7:48 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to accept the Planning Board redline. Councilor Mandeville seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-068 as revised. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-044 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30630076-C Market St

- James Kanceruk, a representative from National Grid, shared this work is to improve reliability and reduce outages.

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 7:53 PM.

- Councilor Haggstrom noted that there is a letter from the DPW Director stating there are no serious concerns but with some stipulations.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 7:54 PM.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-044 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 12, 2026. Councilor Haggstrom seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-045 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30628351-C Valley St.

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 7:55 PM.

- Mr. Kanceruk and Mayor Gove provided background to the necessity of this pole.
- Darlene Souza, 35 Mill Street, requested more information.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:04 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-045 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 12, 2026. Councilor Frederique second. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-046 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30862343 Winkley St.

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:06 PM.

- James Kanceruk provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:08 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-046 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 12, 2026. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-047 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30630071-A Center St.
President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:08 PM.

- James Kanceruk provided background information regarding this pole request.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-047 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 12, 2026. Councilor Mandeville seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:09 PM.

2026-048 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30630071-B Sanborn Terr/Center St.

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:10 PM.

- James Kanceruk provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:13 PM

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-048 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 14, 2026. Councilor Welch seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-049 National Grid Pole/Conduit Hearing WR #30884966 Elm St. Underground Conduit

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:14 PM.

- Brian Saffler, representing the National Grid design team, provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:16 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-049 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 12, 2026. Councilor Welch seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-050 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30884966 Elm St

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:14 PM.

- Brian Saffler, representing the National Grid design team, provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:15 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-050 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 12, 2026. Councilor Frederique seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-051 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #31180928 Lake Attitash Rd.

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:16 PM.

- Brian Saffler, representing the National Grid design team, provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:17 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-051 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 14, 2026. Councilor Sullivan seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-052 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #31227587 Dark Lane

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:18 PM.

- Brian Saffler, representing the National Grid design team, provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:18 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-052 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 14, 2026. Councilor Welch seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-053 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #31199729 Elm St.

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:20 PM.

- James Kanceruk provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:20 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-053 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 14, 2026. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-073 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #31161452 Mill Street

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:21 PM.

- James Kanceruk provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:22 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-073 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 12, 2026. Councilor Gilday seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-074 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #31161452 Mill Street - Underground Conduit
President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:23 PM.

- James Kanceruk provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:24 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-074 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated January 12, 2026. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-075 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #31161452 Valley St.

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:26 PM.

- James Kanceruk provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:27 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-075 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated February 12, 2026. Councilor Welch seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-076 National Grid Pole Hearing WR#30630045 Main St.

President Redfern opened the public hearing at 8:29 PM.

- James Kanceruk provided background information regarding this pole request.

President Redfern closed the public hearing at 8:29 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-076 as presented and in accordance with stipulations from the letter from DPW Director Joe Buckley dated February 12, 2026. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

First Readings

AO 2026-01 Administrative Order 2026- Department of Public Wellness COA - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Mayor Gove shared that this position has been posted and that it is a creative approach to provide services needed for aging adults.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve AO 2026-01 as presented. Councilor Mandeville seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-079 An Order to amend Clerks office fee schedule boat ramp parking permit - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Haggstrom read the summary.

2026-080 An Ordinance to adopt a Schedule of Fees for renting single and tandem kayaks, canoes and stand up paddleboards (SUP) from the Amesbury Recreation Department - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Haggstrom read the summary.

2026-081 An Ordinance Change City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations SCHEDULE 1 PARKING (PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES) - NO Parking on Highland either side)- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Haggstrom read the summary.

2026-082 An Order to accept donation of shed at Amesbury Town Park ice rink- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Haggstrom read the summary.

2026-083 An Order to transfer funds from Building Inspection Overtime account to the Building Inspection Training account - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Haggstrom read the summary.

2026-084 An Order to pay Prior Year Invoices from FY26 General Operating Budge – APS- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Haggstrom read the summary.

2026-085 An Order to accept and expend a FY26 DFS grant for firefighter safety equipment- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Haggstrom read the summary.

Councilor Welch offered a motion to refer 2026-079, 2026-080, 2026-081, 2026-082, 2026-083, 2026-084, and 2026-085 to the Committee of the Whole with a second reading on April 28, 2026. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-086 A Resolution to adopt Housing Production Plan 2024-2029- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Haggstrom read the summary.
- Councilor Haggstrom questioned if the resolution should instead be an order.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to refer 2026-086 to the Amesbury Housing Authority and the Standing Committee of the Whole with a second reading on the next meeting pending a positive recommendation from the Standing Committee of the Whole. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Correspondence

a. Communications from Mayor, City Staff, other Elected Officials, and Representatives of City Boards and Committees

- None

b. Council Communications

- None

c. Council Committee Reports

- Councilor Gilday shared that information about trash and recycling was shared with the Energy Committee and that the Mayor will be rolling out a plan.
- Councilor Sullivan shared that funding was requested at the Amesbury Housing Trust.
- Councilor Welch shared that the Joint Education Committee elected the Joint Education Leaders and went over various action items.

- President Redfern shared recommendations from the Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee.
- Councilor Frederique shared that all communities are still working on an amendment to the agreement for the Whittier Tech Regional Agreement.

Act on Minutes – March 4, 2026 Special Joint Meeting of City Council and Library Board of Trustees Minutes - March 24, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes - March 17, 2026 Budget & Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes- March 18, 2026 Ordinance & Administration Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve the March 4, 2026 Special Joint Meeting of City Council and Library Board of Trustees Minutes as presented. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed 7-0-1, Councilor Mandeville abstained.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve the March 24, 2026 minutes as presented. Councilor Sullivan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the March 17, 2026 Budget and Finance Subcommittee minutes as presented. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the March 18, 2026 Ordinance and Administration Subcommittee minutes as presented. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed 6-0-2, Councilor Hogg and President Redfern abstained.

Adjourn

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to adjourn at 8:56 PM. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Looney