



RECEIVED

By City Clerk at 5:04 pm, Feb 17, 2026

City of Amesbury
Office of the City Clerk
62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025
7:00 PM**

Follow along in the City's FY26 Budget Book here:

<https://www.amesburyma.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/403>

The recording of this meeting can be viewed here:

<https://amesburycvtv.org>

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Mandeville.

Councilor Haggstrom led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, present were Councilor Haggstrom, Councilor Hogg, Councilor Wheeler, Councilor Frederique, Councilor Gilday, and President Mandeville.

Absent were Councilor Redfern, Councilor Rinaldi, and Councilor Stanganelli.

Act on Minutes

September 9, 2025

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-1, Councilor Wheeler abstained.

Mayoral Appointments

2025-099 Appointment of Matthew Mohr to the position of member of the Amesbury Conservation Commission for a term to expire February 29, 2028.

- Mr. Mohr spoke to his desire to fill the Conservation Commission position.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2025-099 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

President Mandeville called for a brief recess at 7:08 PM.

The meeting resumed at 7:18 PM.

Monthly list of licenses- September

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to accept the September list of licenses as presented. Councilor Wheeler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Correspondence

- President/Vice President Communications
 - President Mandeville reminded the public of upcoming local events.
 - Councilor Gilday spoke to the commitment of councilors absent from the meeting.
 - Councilor Gilday shared that she received an email from the administration stating that the FY 25 annual report is complete.

- Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

Mayor Gove – Override Presentation

- Mayor Gove presented the Override Presentation (see attached).
 - Councilors asked questions and engaged in discussion with Mayor Gove.
- Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports
 - Councilor Frederique shared that the Budget and Finance Committee passed positive recommendations back to the full City Council.
 - Councilor Gilday shared that the Ordinance and Administration Committee met on September 15th and passed positive recommendations back to the full City Council.
 - Councilor Haggstrom shared that the Planning and Development Committee met on September 17th and passed positive recommendations back to the full City Council.
 - Councilor Hogg shared that the Disposition Committee does not currently have a meeting scheduled.
 - Councilor Gilday shared that the Affordable Housing Trust has not met recently and that the next meeting will be on October 8th, and that if a quorum is not met the meeting will become remote.
 - Councilor Frederique shared that the Whittier Tech Task Force had a regional endorsement in which all eleven sending communities formally endorse the Whittier Tech project.
 - Councilor Hogg shared that the Joint Education Committee will meet on October 9th.
 - Councilor Wheeler shared that Amesbury Elementary School Building Committee has not met and does not have a date set for the next meeting.
 - City Clerk Jennifer Smith read a statement from Councilor Stanganelli into the record (see attached).

Public Comment

- Cindy Yetman, 6 Newton Road, spoke in favor of putting the override on the ballot.

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Wheeler thanked Ms. Yetman for her comments.

Second Readings

Public Hearings

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to suspend the rules to take 2025-082 and 2025-083 out of order. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

**Councilor Redfern arrived at 8:40 PM.

OCED Director Nick Cracknell presented an overview of bills 2025-082 and 2025-083.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to suspend the rules to take 2025-082 and 2025-083 out of order. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2025-082 An Order authorizing the Mayor to dispose of, by sale or lease, all or a portion or portions of City-owned property and any structures thereon consisting of approximately 4 +/- acres (180,000 SF +/-), which is a portion of the 14 acre +/- City-owned property located at 24 South Hampton Road (Parcel 26-4, formerly the site of the Amesbury Elementary School) as shown on Exhibit 1.- **Mayor Sponsor**

President Mandeville opened the public hearing at 9:09 PM.

- Councilor Gilday shared the Planning Board's positive recommendation.
- Councilor Gilday shared the Ordinance and Administration Committee's positive recommendation. Councilor Gilday also shared that the Open Space, Natural Resources, and

Trails Committee had a positive recommendation that was read at the Ordinance and Administration Committee meeting.

- Councilor Haggstrom shared the positive recommendation from the Planning and Development Committee.
- Councilor Gilday shared that the Ordinance and Administration Committee is in support of the red line.
- Councilor Wheeler noted that a red line was received prior to the meeting and that it incorporates everything that was discussed during the Ordinance and Administration Committee meeting.
- Councilors engaged in discussion with OCED Director Nicholas Cracknell.

President Mandeville closed the public hearing at 9:28 PM.

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to continue 2025-082 to the next meeting to allow time for an amendment. Councilor Redfern seconded, and the motion passed 6-1, Councilor Wheeler opposed.

2025-083 An Ordinance to Amend the Amesbury Zoning Map to rezone two (2) portions of 24 South Hampton Road (the former Amesbury Elementary School) from the OSC to the R-8 Zoning District-**Mayor Sponsor**

President Mandeville opened the public hearing at 9:33 PM.

- Councilor Gilday reread the Planning Board's positive recommendation.
- Councilor Gilday read the positive recommendation from the Ordinance and Administration Committee.
- Councilor Haggstrom read the positive recommendation from the Planning and Development Committee.
- Councilor Wheeler thanked Cracknell for the redline and suggested a correction for Bullet 1 to strike a parenthetical.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to substitute 2025-083 with the redline and under Item 1 strike "as shown on Exhibit 1" under Item 2 put a decimal point before the "26 acres" so that it becomes ".26 acres." Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2025-083 as amended. Councilor Haggstrom seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

President Mandeville closed the public hearing at 9:38 PM.

Second Readings

2025-089 An Order to place a \$6 million operating override on the November 4, 2025 ballot.

- Councilor Frederique shared the positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee.
- Councilor Haggstrom made a statement sharing her desire for the override to be added to the ballot.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve as presented. Councilor Redfern seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

2025-090 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE 1 – DEFINITIONS with the names of the eight parking lots owned and maintained by the City of Amesbury

- Councilor Gilday shared the positive recommendation from the Ordinance and Administration Committee.

- Councilor Haggstrom shared the positive recommendation from the Planning and Development Committee.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2025-090 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

2025-091 An Ordinance to update and amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations SCHEDULE IV (STOP SIGNS) to reflect the addition of two stop signs added to the area of Market Street at Fern Avenue in support of an All-Way stop control (AWSC).

- Councilor Gilday shared the positive recommendation from the Ordinance and Administration Committee.
- Councilor Haggstrom shared the positive recommendation from the Planning and Development Committee.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2025-091 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

2025-092 An Order to request the City Council to vote to declare as surplus various municipal vehicles and equipment.

- Councilor Frederique shared the positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2025-092 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

2025-093 An Order of the Amesbury City Council to Accept an Easement from Newburyport Homes LLC for the purposes of accessing, operating, maintaining, repairing and replacing drainage infrastructure on the property located at 101-107 Market Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute an Acceptance on Behalf of the City of Amesbury.

- Councilor Gilday shared the positive recommendation from the Ordinance and Administration Committee.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to amend 2025-093 to replace the current attachment with the attachment from the email dated September 18, 2025. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve as amended. Councilor Frederique seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

2025-094 An Order of the Amesbury City Council to Accept an Easement from Newburyport Homes LLC for the purposes of installing, accessing, operating, maintaining, repairing and replacing the water line, curb box and fire hydrant now on, or to be placed on, the property located at 101-107 Market Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute an Acceptance on Behalf of the City of Amesbury.

- Councilor Gilday shared the positive recommendation from the Ordinance and Administration Committee.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to substitute 2025-094 with the redline version. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve as amended. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

2025-095 An Order to approve payment from the FY26 general fund operating budget for the below listed prior year invoices.

- Councilor Frederique shared the positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2025-095 as presented. Councilor Haggstrom seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

2025-096 An Order to transfer \$21,000 from the Salary Reserve account to the Administration & Finance Salaries & Wages account.

- Councilor Frederique shared the positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee.
- Municipal Fellow Nicholas Gilmore shared his support for the bill.

Councilor Redfern offered a motion to approve as presented. Councilor Wheeler seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

2025-098 An Order to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 138, Section 12D

- Councilor Gilday shared the positive recommendation from the Ordinance and Administration Committee.
- Councilor Wheeler shared there is a supplemental email from the Chief of Staff with backup documentation.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2025-098 as presented. Councilor Haggstrom seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Adjourn

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to adjourn at 10:06 PM. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Looney

October 23, 2025