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

MEETING NOTICE

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. CHAPTER 30A §§18-25
Version 7.1.10

City Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

The public can view this meeting:

- In person
- ACTV Channel 6
- the ACTV website: <https://www.amesburycvtv.org/public-government-access-television>
- or the ACTV Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/AmesburyCommunityTelevision

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Gilday
3. Roll Call
4. Act on Minutes-
5. Mayoral Appointments

2024-136 Appointment of Helen "Ellie" O'Leary to the position of member of the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

2024-137 Reappointment of Nancy Frick to the position of member of the Amesbury Housing Trust for a term to expire April 30, 2026.

6. Monthly list of licenses

7. Correspondence

- President/Vice President Communications
- Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

Mayor Gove – Memo – Donations under \$5,000

2024-138 Presentation from Assessor's Office

- Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

8. Public Comment- Public comment can be done in person during the meeting, or by emailing your comments to clerk@amesburyma.gov by 12:00 p.m. the Friday before the Council meeting, per City Council Rule 5G. Subject line PUBLIC COMMENT. Your comments will be read aloud at the appropriate time in the agenda and entered into the public record.

9. Council Response to Public Comment

10. Second Readings

Public Hearings

(Second Readings)

2024-121 Declaration of City Council Vacancy – District 3

11. First Readings

2024-134 Library Board of Trustees Declaration of Vacancy - Delia Rinaldi Resignation

2024-135 Planning Board Declaration of Vacancy - Lorri Krebs Resignation

2024-138 An Order to request the City Council vote to hold the annual Classification Hearing to vote on four (4) separate items in order to establish the tax burdens for each class of property. – **Mayor Sponsor**
Summary: On an annual basis, the City Council must vote on the issue of selecting a residential factor which will determine the percentage of the burden to be borne by each class of property.

2024-139 An Order to request the City Council vote to increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants. - **Mayor Sponsor**
Summary: On an annual basis, the City Council must vote to decide if the City of Amesbury shall increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants under the provisions of M.G.L.

2024-140 An Ordinance to update and amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations SCHEDULE 1 PARKING (PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES) to include the Northbound side of Whitehall Rd from the Intersection of Garfield Street to High Street. – **Mayor Sponsor**
Summary: This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to revise the SCHEDULE 1 PARKING (PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES) to include the Northbound Side of Whitehall Rd from the intersection of Garfield Street to High Street. Currently traffic exiting High Street and turning onto Whitehall Road are met with an obstructed view due to cars parking on the Northbound side between Garfield and High Street. Prohibiting parking will not impact the neighborhood as the three lots impacted have ample off-street parking.

2024-141 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations SCHEDULE I PARKING (2 HOUR PARKING) to a 3 HOUR time limit from 8 AM to 6 PM every day except Sundays. – **Mayor Sponsor**
Summary: This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to revise the SCHEDULE I PARKING (2 HOUR PARKING), amending it to 3 HOUR PARKING from 8 AM to 6 PM every day except Sundays. In May of 2024, the Mayor along with the Chief of Police met to discuss a December 2023 downtown parking efficiency study that was conducted by John M. Burke, PE, CAPP, Consultant Parking, Transit & Downtown Development. The study recommended that the city look into extending its 2 hour limit to 3 hours. Both the Police Chief and the Mayor agreed and also decided the scheduled time for this limit should be 8 AM to 6 PM every day except Sundays. This recommendation

was brought to the Executive Board of the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce which unanimously voted to adopt the Mayor and Police Chiefs' recommendations.

2024-142 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-1 - General Prohibitions to prohibit parking on a curb. -

Mayor Sponsor

Summary: This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to prohibit parking on a curb. Currently, the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-1 - General Prohibitions states "Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches from the curb or edge of the roadway, except upon those streets that are designated as one-way streets" and "On such one-way streets, vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches from the curb." This ordinance would add clarifying language to support not parking on a curb or edge of roadway and better define prohibited parking by stating, "Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches from the curb or edge of the roadway, but not on said curb or edge of roadway, except upon those streets that are designated as one-way streets. On such one-way streets, vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches from the curb, but not on said curb."

2024-143 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5 to include the prohibition of parking in Fire Lanes. -

Mayor Sponsor

Summary: This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to include the prohibition of parking in Fire Lanes. State Law does not specifically prohibit parking in Fire Lanes but does allow Police and Fire Chiefs to create such lanes. If these lanes are created, then an ordinance would need to be established to prohibit parking in these designated areas. The current Traffic and Parking Regulations do not prohibit parking in Fire Lanes, and this ordinance would prohibit those that are not emergency responders responding to an emergency or conducting routine business from parking in Fire Lanes.

2024-144 An Order to: Vote Intent to Lay Out Colonial Drive and Refer to Planning Board. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: The City Council shall vote its intent to lay out Colonial Drive and refer the proposed action to the Planning Board.

2024-145 An Order of the Amesbury City Council to Approve the Acceptance of a Quitclaim Deed for a Parcel of Land known as Lot X in the Eastern Lights Subdivision, being a portion of property located off Middle Road, Amesbury and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute said Approval on Behalf of the City of Amesbury, - **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: The Planning Board issued a Special Permit and Definitive Subdivision Approval, dated May 2, 2007, for a subdivision known as Eastern Lights, located off Middle Road, in Amesbury, pursuant to which the developer of the Subdivision was to convey certain property, shown as Lot X on a plan entitled "F & C Builders Middle Road Amesbury, MA As-Built Layout Plan," dated September 23, 2024 to the City of Amesbury. The intent of this Order is to obtain the authorization of the City Council to approve the acceptance by the City of the property, for general municipal purposes, and authorize the Mayor to approve and execute the deed for the property.

2024-146 An Order to: Lay Out and Accept Colonial Drive as a Public Way. – **Mayor Sponsor**
Summary: The City Council shall lay out and accept Colonial Drive as a public way.

2024-147 An Order to authorize a transfer of \$1,800.00 from Veterans Services Department Other Expenses to Veterans Services Department Salaries & Wages. – **Mayor Sponsor**
Summary: This order requests a budget transfer in the amount of \$1,800.00 from Veterans Services Department Other Expenses to Veterans Services Department Salaries & Wages to cover a stipend increase for the Office Assistant.

2024-148 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-1 - General Prohibitions to prohibit parking on a curb.- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to prohibit parking on a curb. Currently, the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-1 - General Prohibitions states "Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches from the curb or edge of the roadway, except upon those streets that are designated as one-way streets" and "On such one-way streets, vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches from the curb." This ordinance would add clarifying language to support not parking on a curb or edge of roadway and better define prohibited parking by stating, "Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches from the curb or edge of the roadway, but not on said curb or edge of roadway, except upon those streets that are designated as one-way streets. On such one-way streets, vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches from the curb, but not on said curb."

12. Late Files

2024-149 An Order authorizing the Mayor to acquire the land, building, and structures located at 5 Market Street, Amesbury, for the purpose of using the building for City Hall purposes, and the appropriation of \$3,150,000 to fund such acquisition, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order will authorize the Mayor to acquire the land, building, and structures referenced above for municipal purposes, including for use as the City Hall, and appropriate funds to pay costs of such acquisition, which appropriation would be met by a combination of borrowed funds and a transfer from free cash. Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §14, the order must be passed by at least a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the City Council.

13. Adjourn