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

City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

President Mandeville called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Gilday

Roll was called, and present were: Councilor Jessica Redfern, Councilor Anthony Rinaldi, Councilor Steve Stanganelli, Councilor Claudel Frederique, Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Amanda Haggstrom, and President Scott Mandeville

Absent: Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Nick Wheeler

Also Present: Assistant City Clerk Jess Manning, Administrative Assistant Allie Connolly, Mayor Kassandra Gove, Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey

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Act on Minutes – April 8, 2025

**Councilor Gilday moved to approve the minutes from April 8, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed 5-0-2 with Councilors Haggstrom and Redfern abstaining.**

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Mayoral Appointments

2025-043 Appointment of Marisa Batista to the position of Chief Financial Officer

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2025-043 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (7-0)

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Monthly list of licenses – April

**Councilor Haggstrom moved to approve the license list for April 22, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (7-0).**

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Correspondence

· President/Vice President Communications

- President Mandeville - None
- Councilor Gilday – Councilor Gilday spoke about various happenings in the community such as the Union Congregational Theatre by the River and the Amesbury Eco Garden. She also gave an overview of the upcoming budget meetings.

· Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

· Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

- B&F (Councilor Stanganelli): Councilor Stanganelli reported on the April 15th Budget and Finance Meeting.

- O&A (Councilor Gilday): Councilor Gilday reported on the virtual Ordinance and Administration Meeting on April 14th.
- P&D (Councilor Hogg): Councilor Haggstrom reported on the virtual Planning and Development Meeting on April 16th.
- OSNRTC (Councilor Redfern): Councilor Redfern reported she was unable to attend the last OSNRTC meeting.
- Energy (Councilor Rinaldi): Councilor Rinaldi reported the Energy Committee met on April 7th and is working on the Mass Energize program in collaboration with Newburyport.
- Chamber of Commerce (Councilor Rinaldi): Councilor Rinaldi reported he was unable to attend the last Chamber of Commerce Meeting.
- Disposition (Councilor Hogg): Councilor Hogg was absent and could not give an update.
- Affordable Housing Trust (Councilor Stanganelli): Councilor Stanganelli reported that at the April 17th meeting Nick Cracknell gave a presentation, their next meeting will be May 14th at 4:30.
- Whittier Task Force (Councilor Frederique): Councilor Frederique reported that they met on April 9th and their next meeting is May 6th.
- Joint Ed Committee (Councilor Stanganelli): Councilor Stanganelli reported that their next meeting is May 8th.

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#### Public Comment

- Tracy Chalifour (25 Clarks Road) spoke about her concerns for 2025-037. She spoke about the potential impact in traffic and to the surrounding roads.

#### Council Response- None

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Public Hearings

2024-096 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Zoning Ordinance and Amesbury Overlay Zoning Map by expanding the Renewable Energy Development Overlay District (REDD) and to make changes to Sections V, VI, XI.S and X.IV that would modify the requirements in those sections as they pertain to solar energy projects.

- Barry Fogel the Lake Attitash Association Attorney thanked the administration for the efforts put into the revision on 2024-096. He shared that the residents of Lake Attitash are very pleased with the outcome and appreciative of the collaboration with the City on this matter.

President Mandeville closed the public hearing on 2024-096 at 7:31 PM.

Councilor Redfern moved to substitute the redline of 2024-096 from the Planning Board for the original. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed unanimously (7-0).

Councilor Redfern moved to accept 2024-096 as substituted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously via roll call (7-0)

Second Readings

2025-037 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend an FY25 Community One Stop for Growth MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development to support the Clark's Road project.

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive recommendation from B&F
- Councilor Haggstrom read the positive recommendation from P&D
- President Mandeville read the positive recommendation from the Planning Board

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2025-037 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously via roll call (7-0).

2025-038 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend FY25 formula grant funding for the Amesbury Council on Aging from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) in the amount of \$69,165.

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive recommendation from B&F

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2025-038 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously via roll call (7-0).

2025-039 An Order to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority and the City of Amesbury Council on Aging pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 4A for the use of an accessible vehicle for transportation services for seniors, subject to approval by the Mayor.

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive recommendation from B&F
- Councilor Gilday read the positive recommendation from O&A

Councilor Gilday moved to accept the redline for 2025-039 dated April 22, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 6-0-1 with Councilor Stanganelli abstaining.

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2025-039 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed via roll call 6-0-1 with Councilor Stanganelli abstaining.

2025-040 An Order to approve payment from the FY25 general fund operating budget for the below listed prior year invoices.

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive recommendation from B&F

Councilor Redfern moved to approve 2025-040 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously via roll call (7-0).

2025-041 An Order to authorize the transfer of \$45,889.50 from the FY25 Salary Reserve account to various municipal departments.

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive recommendation from B&F
- Councilor Gilday shared as a reminder that Mayor Gove gave a presentation on the creation of the salary study at the last City Council Meeting.
- Councilor Haggstrom spoke about her personal experience as a Clerk and spoke to how the role has grown and changed over the years. She stated that the Clerk's position remains underpaid and undervalued.
- Councilor Redfern stated that conversations with the administration have started with the intent to work out the needs of the Clerk's Office.
- Councilor Frederique if there was any ways in which the load of the Clerk's Office could be aided. Councilor Haggstrom suggested increasing the number of staff or potentially creating a separate elections division.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated that he thought this was a good starting point for opening up the conversation about the Clerk's salary. He spoke about how the City Council heavily relies on the Clerk's Office.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2025-041 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously via roll call (7-0).

2025-042 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a FY25 Complete Streets Funding Program grant in the amount of \$401,654.70 from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive recommendation from B&F
- Councilor Haggstrom provided the positive recommendation from P&D
- Councilor Gilday read the positive recommendation from the Planning Board
- Councilor Stanganelli spoke about how Complete Streets Program is a long process, he also encouraged safe driving and emphasized how unsafe it is for drivers to be on their phones.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2024-042 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed unanimously via roll call (7-0).

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First Readings –

**2025-044** An order to accept and expend a 2nd Round FY25 DFS grant for firefighter safety equipment.

**Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2025-044 to Budget & Finance and set a second reading for May 27, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (7-0).**  
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Councilor Stanganelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Manning