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City of Amesbury
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City Council Standing Committee of the Whole Minutes

**July 21, 2026, at 6:00 PM
City Hall Auditorium, 62 Friend Street**

Chair Pamela Gilday called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call was taken and present were: Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Jessica Redfern, Councilor Steve Stanganelli, Councilor Kelly Sullivan, and Councilor Maryann Welch

Absent: Councilor Claudel Frederique, Councilor Amanda Haggstrom, and Chair Scott Mandeville

Also present: Mayor Kassandra Gove, Chief of Staff Pam Tobey, Fire Chief Rob Serino, Department of Public Works Director Joe Buckley, and Assistant City Clerk Allie Connolly

****Mayor Gove led a moment of silence for the passing of former Mayor David Hildt. She remarked on his lighthearted leadership and gave a quick overview of his accolades****

Minutes for Approval:

May 19, 2026

- Councilor Gilday stated the minutes had been updated prior to the meeting by Assistant City Clerk Allie Connolly

Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to approve the updated May19th, 2026 Minutes. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously, 6-0.

June 16, 2026

Councilor Welch made a motion to approve the June 16th, 2026 Minutes as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Sullivan and passed unanimously, 6-0.

Public Comment: None.

Council Response to Public Comment: None.

Topics for Discussion

2026-117 An Order to appropriate and raise by borrowing, \$1,600,000 to pay the costs of the following project, including the payment of all cost incidental and related thereto: Purchase of

two (2) fire pumpers and incidental equipment or unanticipated costs for each apparatus. –

Mayor Sponsor

- Fire Chief Rob Serino was present to give a background of 2026-117 and answer any questions
- Fire Chief Rob Serino stated the last time a truck was built specifically for Amesbury was 2001. He stated the various reasons engines 2 and 3 are not usable currently and explained that Amesbury has been borrowing Salisbury's reserve truck since January. Salisbury has not been charging us for this.
- Councilor Welch asked if the Elm St. location would be prepared to receive these trucks. Fire Chief Rob Serino answered yes. The trucks would ideally be delivered around this time next year.
- Councilor Hogg asked about the decision to acquire the 2 trucks at once versus staggering the cost. Fire Chief Rob Serino explained that Greenwood was giving them a significant price incentive to purchase the two trucks and an ambulance at once.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked about the warranties associated with this purchase. Fire Chief Rob Serino stated the many and various warranties that were associated.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked about using grant funding for this purchase. Fire Chief Rob Serino explained why they were not eligible to use grant funding for this.

******Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to suspend the rules to allow for more than 3 minutes per question-and-answer session per councilor. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and tied with Councilor Stanganelli, Hogg and Welch in favor and Councilor Gilday, Redfern, and Sullivan in opposition. Chair Gilday stated that in this case she would suspend the 3-minute rule for discussion of 2026-117, she stated that Councilors should be timely and respectful still in regard to time spent speaking******

- Councilor Stanganelli asked if these trucks were customized and if they would fit in the base. Fire Chief Rob Serino answered yes.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked about regionalization of fire operations. Fire Chief Rob Serino explained this is a complicated practice to execute.
- Councilors asked various other questions related to 2026-117.

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to return 2026-117 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Redfern seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-118 An Order to authorize a transfer from the Water Retained Earnings account of \$48,000 to the Water Sick Leave Buy-Back (610-0450-5152) account. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Director of DPW Joe Buckley gave some background information on 2026-118. He explained there were two unanticipated retirements of long-term employees. He also stated how hard it is to find licensed water treatment operators and this employment shift will result in the elimination of the overnight shift due to short staffing.
- Councilor Gilday asked about the state requirements for these positions and further clarification about the elimination of the night shift position.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked if they foresee a need to increase the salary of these positions when they are posted to attract stronger candidates. Director of Public Works Joe Buckley answered no that they ideally will be hiring from within. Mayor Gove also stated these positions are union and follow the union wage scale.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to return 2026-118 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Welch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-119 An Order to authorize a transfer from the Budget Reserve (100 0946 5980) account of \$15,000 to the Public Health Salaries & Wages (100 0510 5110) account. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Chief of Staff Pam Tobey was present to answer any questions.
- Councilor Welch asked if they were increasing the salary of this position to make it more desirable to applicants. Chief of Staff Pam Tobey answered yes.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked if this funding would be for one full-time staff member or two part time members. Chief of Staff Pam Tobey answered 1 full-time staff member.
- Councilor Gilday asked where this position would be physically stationed. Chief of Staff Pam Tobey answered in Amesbury at 39 South Hunt Road under inspectional services.

Councilor Sullivan offered a motion to return 2026-119 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-120 An Order to request the City Council to vote to declare as surplus various municipal vehicles and equipment. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Chief of Staff Pam Tobey gave an overview of why these vehicles are unusable.
- Director of DPW Joe Buckley stated these vehicles would be auctioned for scrap metal.

Councilor Redfern offered a motion to return 2026-120 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Adjourn

Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to adjourn at 7:16 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Welch and passed unanimously, 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allie Connolly