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City of Amesbury
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1 Market St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026
7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Jessica Redfern.

Councilor Kelly Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: City Clerk Jennifer E. Smith and Assistant City Clerk Allie Connolly.

Absent was Councilor Amanda Haggstrom.

Councilor Stanganelli stepped out during the Pledge of Allegiance and returned to the meeting at 7:01 PM

Mayoral Appointments

2026-088 Appointment of Frederick Range to the position of member of the Trustees of the War Memorial for a term to expire February 28, 2029

- Mr. Range spoke about his desire to fill the position.
- Councilor Stanganelli and Councilor Gilday shared their support for the appointment.

2026-089 Appointment of Jason Donovan to the position of member of the Trustees of the War Memorial for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-090 Appointment of Elizabeth McConnell to the position of member of the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2029

- Ms. McConnell spoke to her desire to fill the position.
- Councilor Gilday shared her support for the appointment.

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to approve 2026-088, 2026-089, and 2026-090 as presented. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Correspondence

-President/Vice President Communications

- None

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

- None

Licenses and Permits –April

Councilor Sullivan offered a motion to approve the April licenses and permits. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Public Comment

- None

Council Response to Public Comment

- None

Second Readings/Public Hearings

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

- Councilor Mandeville shared the positive recommendation from the Committee of the Whole.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-079 as presented. Councilor Mandeville seconded.

- Councilor Stanganelli shared that he believes the boat ramp fee should be higher.

After a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

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 Mandeville shared that there was no recommendation from the Committee of the Whole.
- Chief of Staff Pam Tobey shared that a waiver will be required to use the kayaks and there will be no additional cost due to the city self-insuring.
- Chris Lull, Assistant Director for Amesbury Recreation, shared that there will be no additional cost for staffing as the beach director will be on duty.
- Councilor Frederique asked about revenue projection. Mr. Lull shared that this pilot program will hopefully give an idea of projected revenue.
- Councilor Stanganelli and Mr. Lull discussed the previous arrangement that the city had for kayak rentals.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-080 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

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 Mandeville shared the positive recommendation from the Committee of the Whole.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2026-081 as presented. Councilor Frederique seconded.

- Councilor Stanganelli shared his desire for input from the neighborhood and a tighter grip on overnight parking.
- Councilors discussed parking options for the neighborhood.

After a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

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

- Councilor Mandeville shared the positive recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, and to request the administration provide information regarding the city's potential liability in writing and a written maintenance agreement between the city and the volunteers.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to continue 2026-082 to the City Council meeting of May 12, 2026. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

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

- Councilor Mandeville shared the positive recommendation from the Standing Committee of the Whole and that the redline was accepted.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to accept redline version of 2026-083. Councilor Welch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2026-083 as amended. Councilor Welch seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

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

- Councilor Mandeville shared the positive recommendation from the Committee of the Whole.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-084 as presented. Councilor Mandeville seconded.

- Councilor Stanganelli shared his concern with having invoices dating back to 2024.

After a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

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

- Councilor Mandeville shared the positive recommendation from the Committee of the Whole.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-085 as presented. Councilor Sullivan seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

First Readings

- None

Public Hearings

- None

Correspondence

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

b. Council Communications

- Councilor Stanganelli shared his support for bus cameras.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared his support for improvement of the athletic fields.
- Councilors Stanganelli noted there is a conflict with a school event and the May 13th budget hearing being the same evening.
- Councilor Gilday shared support for the current revised budget hearing schedule.
- Councilor Sullivan asked Chief of Staff Pam Tobey when the Community Preservation money will be able to be accessed. Ms. Tobey replied that the committee is hoping to make a recommendation for funding in 2027.
- Councilor Welch shared support for rescheduling the May 13th budget hearing to another time.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared that at an Amesbury Housing Trust meeting it was discussed that CPA funds are not allowed to be used for schools.

c. Council Committee Reports

- None

Adjourn

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to adjourn at 7:54 PM. Councilor Mandeville seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Looney