



RECEIVED

By City Clerk at 10:17 am, Jan 21, 2025

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

City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 26, 2024
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

President Mandeville called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Gilday

Roll was called, and present were: Councilor Claudel Frederique, Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Jessica Redfern, Councilor Anthony Rinaldi, Councilor Steve Stanganelli, Councilor Nick Wheeler and President Scott Mandeville

Act on Minutes-October 8th, 2024

Councilor Gilday moved to approve the minutes from October 8, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed (7-0) with Councilor Wheeler and Councilor Haggstrom abstaining.

Mayoral Appointments

- Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey requested that 2024-150 through 2024-154 and 2024-158 be withdrawn from the agenda because they do not require Council approval.
- Councilor Haggstrom raised a question about how boards will continue to make appointments in the future and would consider amending the language of how this is done. Councilor Mandeville agreed and said he would co-sign something like this in the future.
- Councilor Stanganelli raised the question whether they should withdraw or not accept the late file of 2024-158

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to accept the late file of 2024-158. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed (8-1) with Councilor Stanganelli in opposition.

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to take 2024-158 out of order for consideration to immediately follow bill 2024-157. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed (8-1) with Councilor Stanganelli in opposition.

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to withdraw bills 2024-150-154 and 2024-158 per. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed (9-0).

2024-150 Appointment of Jay Williamson to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Historical Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2026

2024-151 Appointment of Andrew LeFleur to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Amesbury Housing Trust for a term to expire February 28, 2026

2024-152 Appointment of Michelle Faucher to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2025

2024-153 Appointment of Joel Nice to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Planning Board for a term to expire February 28, 2025

2024-154 Appointment of Robert Manseau to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Conservation Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027
Councilor Wheeler made a motion to withdraw 2024-150 through 2024-154 and 2024-158. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-155 Appointment of Suzanne Egan to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2027

- Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey spoke on behalf of Suzanne Egan in favor of her appointment.
- Councilor Wheeler also spoke in favor of Suzanne's appointment.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the appointment of Suzanne Egan to the position of member of Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2027. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-156 Appointment of Joseph Fahey to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2026

- Joseph Fahey spoke about his long history with the City of Amesbury and thanked the Council for their consideration.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the appointment of Joseph Fahey to the position of member of Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-157 Appointment of Mel Webster to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2025

- Mel Webster introduced himself and thanked the Council for the opportunity.
- Councilor Stanganelli spoke in favor of Mr. Webster's appointment.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the appointment of Mel Webster to the position of member of Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-158 Appointment of Annmary Connor to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Amesbury Housing Authority for a term to expire February 28, 2026

****President Mandeville called for a recess at 7:20 PM, returning at 7:30 PM****

~~~~~  
Monthly list of licenses

- **Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve all licenses up for renewal. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).**

~~~~~  
Correspondence

· President/Vice President Communications

- Councilor Mandeville relayed the KP Law advice on the Joint Ed Committee.

Councilor Gilday made a motion to nominate Councilor Stanganelli, Councilor Redfern, and Councilor Hogg to the Joint Ed Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (9-0).

- Councilor Stanganelli asked how the Joint Ed. Committee will appoint the School Committee members; Councilor Mandeville answered that the School Committee will nominate their own members.
 - Councilor Gilday talked about her previous experience on the Join Ed Committee and suggested thinking about how they will go about approving and posting their minutes in a timely manner since they meet so infrequently.
 - Councilor Haggstrom suggested posting the minutes as a draft right after they meet and then approving them at the next quarter meeting.
- Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions
- Jessica Ducrow from the Library spoke about how the library conditions report had been posted
- Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports
- Councilor Stanganelli shared that they had a successful meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee on November 19, 2024.
 - Councilor Gilday shared that they had a successful meeting of the Ordinance and Administration Committee on November 18, 2024.
 - Councilor Hogg shared that they had a successful meeting of the Planning and Development Committee on November 20, 2024. Councilor Hogg shared that Councilor Haggstrom would become the new Chair of the Planning and Development Committee.
 - Councilor Redfern stated that she would be reaching out to the Chair of Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee for an update.
 - Councilor Rinaldi shared that he was not present at the Energy Committee Meeting on November 14, 2024, and could give no update.
 - Councilor Rinaldi shared that he was not present at the Liaison to the Chamber of Commerce Meeting and could give no update.
 - Councilor Hogg shared that they had a successful meeting of the Disposition Committee on November 21, 2024.
 - Councilor Stanganelli shared that they had a successful meeting of the Affordable Housing Trust Committee.
 - Councilor Frederique shared that he attended a successful zoom meeting of the Whittier Task Force Committee on September 26, 2024. This was the last meeting they had, and he is anticipating another meeting soon. Also that he and Councilor Gilday attended an online Listening Session earlier this month regarding the possible Whittier/Northern Essex Community College building partnership facilitated by UMass.

Public Comment

- Betsy Doucette (5 Bay St.) spoke in favor on 2024-149.
- Brock Omohundro (198 Market St.) thanked the Council for its efforts in forming the Joint Ed Committee.
- Michelle Lamott (24 Fern Ave) invited the Council Members to walk in the Holiday Parade along with Mayor Gove.

Council Response to Public Comment

~~~~~ Second Readings

Councilor Gilday made a motion to take 2024-147 out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (9-0).

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**

- Councilor Stanganelli shared that 2024-147 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting on November 19th, 2024.

Councilor Gilday made a motion to approve 2024-147. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (9-0).

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to take 2024-149 out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (9-0).

Public Hearings

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**

- Councilor Gilday shared that 2024-149 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Ordinance and Administration Subcommittee Meeting on November 18th, 2024.
- Councilor Mandeville shared that 2024-149 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Planning and Development Subcommittee Meeting on November 20th, 2024.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared that 2024-149 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting on November 19th, 2024.
- Councilor Gilday shared that 2024-149 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Planning Board Meeting on November 25, 2024.

****Councilor Mandeville opened the public hearing at 8:03 PM****

- Joseph Fahey (14 Woodlawn St) spoke in favor of 2024-149. He shared about opportunities for great buildings the city had missed out on in the past.
- Mel Webster (6 Perkins St.) spoke in favor of 2024-149.

****Councilor Mandeville closed the public hearing at 8:10 PM****

Councilor Haggstrom made a motion to approve 2024-149. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday

- Mayor Gove interjected to say that the free cash is not yet certified, the tax rate needed to be certified first.

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to amend the motion to continue 2024-149 to the December 10th City Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-133 An Order authorizing the Mayor to dispose of, by sale or lease, a portion or portions of City-owned property and any structures thereon consisting of approximately .18 acres (8,000 SF+/-) located at **9 School Street** (Parcel 52-199, formerly the "Ordway School") as shown on Exhibit 1, and approximately .07 acres (3,000 SF+/-) located at **5 School Street** (Parcel 52-202, formerly the "Orlando S. Bailey House") as shown on Exhibit 2.-**Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday shared that 2024-133 passed unanimously (2-1) at the Ordinance and Administration Subcommittee Meeting on November 18th, 2024, with Councilor Wheeler in opposition.
- Councilor Haggstrom shared that 2024-133 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Planning and Development Subcommittee meeting on November 20th, 2024.
- Councilor Mandeville shared that 2024-133 passed unanimously at the Planning Board Meeting on November 25, 2024.
- Jessica Ducrow shared that 2024-133 passed unanimously at the Library Trustees Board Meeting
- Councilor Hogg Shared that 2024-133 passed unanimously at the Disposition Subcommittee Meeting.
- Councilor Wheeler stated his concern about not having enough affordable housing which was his reasoning for opposition to 2024-133.

****Councilor Mandeville opened the public hearing at 8:26 PM****

****Councilor Mandeville closed the public hearing at 8:26 PM****

Councilor Hogg made a motion to approve 2024-133. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to amend the motion to include a statement that no more than 8 parking spaces would be surplussed. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed via roll call vote (5-4) with Councilor Hogg, Councilor Frederique, Councilor Redfern, and Councilor Rinaldi in opposition.

Councilor Hogg made a motion to approve 2024-133 with the amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed (8-1) with Councilor Wheeler in opposition.

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**

- Councilor Stanganelli shared that 2024-138 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Budget & Finance Subcommittee Meeting on November 19th, 2024. At this meeting they combined all 4 articles into one with each article passing individually first.

****Councilor Mandeville opened the public hearing at 8:34 PM****

****Councilor Mandeville closed the public hearing at 8:35 PM****

- Councilor Wheeler raised concerns and voiced his disappointment about the transparency of the Chamber of Commerce meetings and asked about the idea of having a workshop on this matter that never came to fruition.
- Councilor Haggstrom clarified that the meetings with the Chamber of Commerce did not violate open meeting law.
- Councilor Gilday agreed that the meetings with the Chamber of Commerce did not violate open meeting law.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated that he would have preferred the Budget & Finance Committee meet as a body of the whole on this matter, Councilor Gilday agreed and hopes this will happen next year, Councilor Haggstrom also agreed on this matter.
- Councilor Rinaldi reiterated that the meetings with the Chamber of Commerce did not violate open meeting law.
- Councilor Mandeville stated he had hoped 2024-138 could have been done as a first reading but the presentation was not ready at the time.

Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to approve 2024-138 in the manner that the Budget & Finance Subcommittee suggested with all 4 articles combined as one. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed (8-1) with Councilor Wheeler in opposition.

~~~~~  
Second Readings

**2024-139** An Order to request the City Council vote to increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants. - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli shared that 2024-139 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Budget & Finance Subcommittee meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Councilor Wheeler made a motion to approve 2024-139. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**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**

- Councilor Gilday shared that 2024-140 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Ordinance and Administration Subcommittee Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Councilor Haggstrom shared that 2024-140 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Planning and Development Subcommittee Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Councilor Wheeler spoke in favor of 2024-140 with the amendments listed, he stated these edits are available in the drive or on Teams.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked how the Police Department will communicate these updates with the public. Police Chief Craig Bailey answered that he will start off initially by issuing warnings to the residents in this area.

**Councilor Wheeler made a motion to substitute the red line edits for the original wording of 2024-140. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to approve 2024-140 as revised. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**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**

- Councilor Gilday shared that 2024-141 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Ordinance and Administration Subcommittee Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Councilor Haggstrom shared that 2024-141 passed (2-1) at the Planning and Development Subcommittee meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with Councilor Hogg in opposition.
- Councilor Wheeler noted that there would be a cost for new signage and reminded the body that a parking study had been done previously.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked about how the parking study results may shift with the passing of 2024-149. Mayor Gove replied that the parking study for 2024-149 was very thorough and saw no potential issues for parking for the business' downtown.

**Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to approve 2024-141. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed (7-2) with Councilor Hogg and Councilor Mandeville in opposition.**

**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**

- Councilor Gilday shared that 2024-142 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Ordinance and Administration Subcommittee Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Councilor Haggstrom shared that 2024-142 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Planning and Development Subcommittee Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Councilor Wheeler explained the red line edits.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked Police Chief Craig Bailey how he would communicate this with the public. He answered that there is no parking allowed at all in the area.

**Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to substitute the original version of 2024-142 with the red line. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**Councilor Wheeler made a motion to approve 2024-142 with the amendments. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**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**

- Councilor Gilday shared that 2024-143 passed with included capitalization edits unanimously (3-0) at the Ordinance and Administration Subcommittee Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- Councilor Haggstrom shared that 2024-143 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Planning and Development Subcommittee Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Councilor Wheeler explained that “Emergency Access Lane” was capitalized in some spots but not consistent.

**Councilor Wheeler made a motion to substitute the original version of 2024-143 with the red line. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to accept 2024-143 with the red line edits. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**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**

- Councilor Gilday shared that 2024-148 passed with edits listed on the drive unanimously (3-0) at the Ordinance and Administration Subcommittee Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Councilor Haggstrom shared that 2024-148 passed unanimously (3-0) at the Planning and Development Subcommittee Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Councilor Wheeler made a motion to substitute the original version of 2024-148 with the red line. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**Councilor Wheeler made a motion to accept 2024-148 with the red line edits. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**Councilor Mandeville moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously (9-0).**

Respectfully submitted,

*Allie Connolly*