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City of Amesbury
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62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 19, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Councilor Stanganelli called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

Roll was called and present were: Councilor Redfern, Councilor Frederique and Councilor Stanganelli
Also Present: OCED Director Nick Cracknell, Mayor Kassandra Gove, Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey, Chief Assessor Diana Caswell, City Clerk Jennifer Smith, and Administrative Assistant Allie Connolly

Minutes for Approval: None.

Communication and Updates: None

Public Comment:

- Robert Fowler spoke against 2024-149.

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**

- Chief Assessor Diana Caswell was present to answer any questions.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked if 5 Market Street had been assessed yet, Nick Cracknell answered yes for 3.3 million dollars.
- **Article 1: Councilor Redfern made a motion to return 2024-138 Article 1 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 3-0.**
- **Article 2: Councilor Redfern made a motion to return 2024-138 Article 2 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 3-0.**
- **Article 3: Councilor Redfern made a motion to return 2024-138 Article 3 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 3-0.**
- **Article 4: Councilor Redfern made a motion to return 2024-138 Article 4 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 3-0.**
- **Councilor Redfern made a motion to return 2024-138 with all 4 articles together to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 3-0.**

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

- Chief Assessor Diana Caswell was present to answer any questions.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked if the rate of applicants over the past few years had been steady, Diana Caswell answered yes.

Councilor Redfern made a motion to return 2024-139 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 3-0.

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

- Veterans VSO Jeremiah Murphy summarized that the funds would be used for their intern position, which has proven very valuable to them

Councilor Redfern made a motion to return 2024-147 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 3-0.

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

- OCED Director Nick Cracknell gave a presentation outlining 2024-149
- Councilor Redfern, Councilor Frederique, and Councilor Stanganelli asked some follow up questions

Councilor Redfern made a motion to return 2024-149 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 3-0.

Adjourn

Councilor Redfern made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 PM. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed unanimously (3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Allie Connolly