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City of Amesbury
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62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2024
7:00 PM

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

Councilor Pamela Gilday led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, and present were Councilor Owen Corcoran, Councilor Claudel Frederique, Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Jessica Redfern, Councilor Anthony Rinaldi, Councilor Steven Stanganelli, Councilor Nicholas Wheeler, and President Scott Mandeville.

Absent was Councilor Michael Hogg

Also present: City Clerk Jennifer Smith, Assistant City Clerk Justin Kaiser, Chief of Staff Annmarie Casey, School Superintendent Elizabeth McAndrews

Minutes for approval

February 15, 2024

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the minutes from February 15, 2024 as presented. Councilor Redfern seconded, and the motion passed 7-0-1, Councilor Wheeler abstained.

Mayoral Appointments-

2024-032 Appointment of Malcolm Rutter to the position of member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

- Mr. Rutter thanked the Council for their consideration.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2024-032 as presented. Councilor Corcoran seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2024-033 Reappointment of Joseph Finn to the position of member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

- Mr. Finn thanked the Council for their consideration.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2024-033 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve items 2024-034, 2024-035, 2024-036, 2024-037, 2023-038, 2024-039, 2024-040, 2024-041, and 2024-042 as presented. Councilor Corcoran seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-043 Appointment of Michael Hogg to the position of member of the Disposition Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2024-043 as presented. Councilor Redfern seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-044 Appointment of Nicholas Cracknell to the position of member of the Disposition Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

Councilor Rinaldi offered a motion to approve 2024-044 as presented. Councilor Wheeler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-045 Appointment of James Chapman to the position of member of the Council on Aging Board of Directors for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

- Mr. Chapman thanked the Council for their consideration.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2024-045 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-046 Appointment of Lois Honegger to the position of Ad Hoc member of the Disposition Committee for a term to expire at the conclusion of the committee's work relative to the disposition of the former Trader Alan's Truck Stop.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2024-046 as presented. Councilor Redfern seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-047 Appointment of David Frick to the position of member of the Disposition Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2024-047 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

President Mandeville called for a brief recess at 7:17 PM.
The meeting resumed at 7:28 PM.

Licenses and Permits

- Councilor Gilday read the monthly list of licenses.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the monthly list of licenses. Councilor Stanganelli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Correspondence

President/Vice President Communications:

- The Council President and Vice Presidents had no updates to share.

Communications from Elected Officials, Boards, and Commissions:

- Chief of Staff Annmarie Casey summarized a memo from Mayor Gove and offered to answer any questions the council may have.
- Mayor Gove delivered a presentation on the financial condition of the city (see attached).
- Councilor Wheeler asked Mayor Gove what the sources of new growth are. Mayor Gove answered that she would go more into detail on that when it's closer to the budget hearings.
- President Mandeville asked when funds from Bailey Pond will be reflected in the budget. Mayor Gove answered that the funds were already included. President Mandeville further asked what

the delta from free cash adjustments would be. Mayor Gove answered that she didn't have a perfect estimate but that there would not be a significant difference.

Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports:

- President Mandeville summarized the meetings of the Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the whole and stated that the items considered were sent to the Ordinance and Administration sub-committee.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated that the Budget and Finance subcommittee met and made various positive recommendations to the council.
- Councilor Gilday offered a summary of the previous Ordinance and Administration subcommittee meetings and stated that the next meeting was being rescheduled due to a holiday on the normally scheduled meeting day.
- Councilor Corcoran announced the date for the last Planning and Development meeting and summarized previous meetings.
- Councilor Redfern invited members of the public to an upcoming presentation hosted by the Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails committee.
- Councilor Rinaldi stated that the Energy Committee needed to adjourn their previous meeting without a quorum.
- Councilor Wheeler stated that the School Building committee has not met since the last full City Council meeting.
- Councilor Rinaldi summarized the discussion from the previous Chamber of Commerce meeting and asked for a meeting to be scheduled between the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce
- Councilor Stanganelli announced the date of the upcoming Amesbury Housing Trust meeting, summarized the discussion of the previous meeting, and stated the current balance in the fund.

Public Comment

None

Council Response to Public Comment

None

Second Readings

2024-014 An Order to create an Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund and to appropriate \$114,123.63 from Free Cash to said Fund to be expended in accordance with the Massachusetts State-Subdivision for Statewide Opioid Settlement Fund - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville.
- Councilor Stanganelli summarized discussion that was had on the proposal in the Budget and Finance subcommittee and reports that the subcommittee voted unanimously to positively recommend this back to the full City Council.
- Councilor Wheeler asked Chief of Staff Annmarie Casey how these funds would be appropriated. Chief of Staff Casey answers that the funds can be appropriated by the administration without going through the City Council.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to pass 2024-014 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-015 An Order to request the City Council to authorize the Department of Public Works to overspend the fiscal 2024 snow and ice appropriation of \$250,000 – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into the record by President Mandeville.

- Councilor Stanganelli summarized discussion that was had on the proposal in the Budget and Finance subcommittee and reports that the subcommittee voted unanimously to positively recommend this back to the full City Council.
- Chief of Staff Annmarie Casey stated the amount that has been spent from this fund in the fiscal year to date.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to pass 2024-015 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

Councilor Rinaldi motioned to continue items 2024-016, 2024-017, 2024-018, 2024-019, 2024-020, 2024-021, and 2024-022 until a future date when they have been considered by the Ordinance and Administration subcommittee. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-026 An Order to appropriate \$310396.12 from Free Cash to Amesbury Public Schools- Collective Bargaining Settlements for FY2024 – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville
- Councilor Stanganelli summarized discussion that was had on the proposal in the Budget and Finance subcommittee and reports that the subcommittee voted unanimously to positively recommend this back to the full City Council.
- Councilor Wheeler asked school superintendent if there are specific line items these funds will be allocated to. Superintendent McAndrews answered that these funds would primarily be transferred into out of district placements. Councilor Wheeler further asks about a report that indicated that salaries were behind their budgeted amounts and Superintendent McAndrews stated that the numbers in that report were out of date and that teacher salaries were on schedule.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to pass 2024-026 as presented. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed 7-0-1 with Councilor Wheeler abstaining.

2024-027 An Order to appropriate \$106678.15 from Free Cash to Amesbury Public Schools- Cashman Playground – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville
- Councilor Stanganelli summarized discussion that was had on the proposal in the Budget and Finance subcommittee and reports that the subcommittee voted unanimously to positively recommend this back to the full City Council.
- Councilor Wheeler asks the Superintendent if the cost estimate for this project has been completed; the Superintendent answers that it has. Councilor Wheeler further asks if there have been any tests for arsenic in the ground of the construction site; the Superintendent answers that there won't be as the depth that will be dug is not deep enough to deem an arsenic test necessary. Councilor Wheeler further asks if Cashman School will be closing soon and if it did what would happen to these funds. The Superintendent answers that no decisions have been made but if the school were to close that these funds would not be wasted.
- Councilor Stanganelli noted that the amounts in the proposals do not perfectly add up.
- Councilor Gilday asked what would happen to the playground equipment if the school were to close and the Superintendent answered that if the school were to close that they would likely be able to repurpose the items for use at other schools. President Mandeville encouraged the school administration to consult with the builders to ensure that items are installed in a way that could make them transferable.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to pass 2024-027 as presented. Councilor Wheeler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-028 An Order to pay Prior Year Invoices from FY24 General Operating Budget

- Read into record by President Mandeville
- Councilor Stanganelli summarized discussion that was had on the proposal in the Budget and Finance subcommittee and reports that the subcommittee voted unanimously to positively recommend this back to the full City Council.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to pass 2024-028 as presented. Councilor Corcoran seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-029 An Order to authorize renewal agreement between the City of Amesbury and ACTV - to expire June 30, 2032

- Read into record by President Mandeville
- Councilor Stanganelli summarized discussion that was had on the proposal in the Budget and Finance subcommittee and reports that the subcommittee voted unanimously to positively recommend this back to the full City Council.
- Councilor Wheeler noted two clerical errors in the proposal; Ms. Casey stated that they caught one of them and will edit the second one.
- Councilor Wheeler asked whether the city or Amesbury Community Television managed the microphones in the town hall auditorium. Ms. Casey stated that she was unsure and would find an answer at a later time. Councilor Wheeler further asked if it would be possible to get two additional microphones.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to pass 2024-029 as amended to correct the clerical errors. Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

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Adjourn

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to adjourn at 8:52 PM. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Justin Kaiser*