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City of Amesbury
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62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Councilor Stanganelli called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

Roll was called and present were: Councilor Redfern, Councilor Frederique and Councilor Stanganelli

Also Present: Mayor Kassandra Gove, Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey, Director of Public Works Joe Buckley and Administrative Assistant Allie Connolly

Minutes for Approval: Councilor Redfern asked for an amendment to the proposed 11/19/2024 minutes. She requested that the Clerks's Office correct the minutes to reflect that under 2024-138 Article 1 the motion was made by Councilor Redfern and seconded by Councilor Frederique, the motion passed unanimously 3-0. No other edits were made.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to accept the November 19, 2024 minutes with the proposed edit from Councilor Redfern. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed 3-0.

Communication and Updates: None

Public Comment:

- Michelle Leblanc (162 Elm St.) spoke against 2024-163 stating her general concerns and specifically over language in the bill surrounding "maintenance"
- Ryan Buckley (139 Haverhill Rd.) spoke about an issue with a gap in the sidewalk near his property, stating that it is dangerous and is seeking Council help to fix
- Dr. Crystal Sorgini (82 Prospect) spoke against 2024-163 stating various concerns with the bill.

2024-163 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Code of Ordinances Chapter 396 Special Events to establish a usage fee schedule and regulations for community use of City-owned facilities. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Mayor Kassandra Gove gave an update on the Stakeholders Meeting that was held on January 17, 2025
- Councilors Frederique, Redfern, and Stanganelli asked a few follow up questions
- Councilor Amanda Haggstrom was present and asked a few questions about the ease of Open Gov and about who would be in charge for monitoring the use of these spaces
- Discussion followed between the Councilors, Mayor Gove, Michelle Leblanc and Crystal Sorgini debating concerns and the thought process behind the bill from the Administration

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2024-163 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed 3-0.

2025-002 An Order to request the City Council to authorize the Department of Public Works to overspend the fiscal 2025 snow and ice appropriation of \$250,000. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Director of Public Works Joe Buckley was present to answer any questions from the Council
- Councilor Redfern asked if the budget had already been surpassed
- Joe Buckley answered that he couldn't be certain until the fees from the 1/19-1/20 storm were processed but that is was highly likely

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2025-002 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed 3-0.

2025-003 An Order to appropriate \$145,193.52 from Water Retained Earnings to Water Other Expenses. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Director of Public Works Joe Buckley gave a summary of the importance of the 3 water pumps and explained the emergency that occurred when they were broken recently
- Discussion followed about one day getting the pumps on a maintenance schedule or potentially having a backup pump to avoid another emergency situation

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2025-003 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed 3-0.

2025-004 An Order to authorize a transfer of \$1,615.00 from Youth Services Personal Services to Youth Services Other Expenses. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey stated that these funds would be used for Leadership Training, CPR/First Aid Training, and Supervisor Training. She explained that due to the recent vacancy for the Assistant Director of the Recreation Department the funds are in the budget.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2025-004 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed 3-0.

Adjourn

Councilor Frederique made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 PM. Councilor Redfern seconded, and the motion passed unanimously (3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Allie Connolly