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City of Amesbury
Office of the City Clerk
1 Market St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2026
7:00 PM

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

Councilor Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Councilor Stanganelli stepped away from the meeting during the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayoral Appointments

2026-124 Appointment of Jonathan Greeno to the position of member of the Board of Assessors for a term to expire February 28, 2029 **- Mayor Sponsor**

- Jonathan Greeno was present to answer any questions; he gave a quick summary of his work in the Assessing field and explained how his role is currently split between Amesbury and Salisbury.
- Councilor Mandeville asked Jonathan about the revaluation taking place in the City. Jonathan answered he would be speaking more at length about this during his presentation.
- Councilor Gilday thanked Jonathan for his work in Amesbury.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2026-124 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-125 Appointment of Travis Souther to the position of member of the Trustees of the War Memorials for a term to expire February 28, 2029**- Mayor Sponsor**

- Mayor Gove stated Travis was not present; she also stated that this appointment had been filed long enough ago that it was already effective.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-125 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Correspondence
-President/Vice President Communications

2026-127 Reappointment of Jennifer E. Smith to the position of City Clerk for a term to expire October 10, 2029- **Councilor Redfern Sponsor**
Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2026-127 as presented. Councilor Stanganelli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-132 District 2 Councilor Claudel Frederique-Resignation

- President Redfern read Councilor Frederique's resignation letter into the record.

- President Redfern declared the District 2 City Council spot open; she stated the opening would be posted online.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to accept 2026-132. Councilor Welch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

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

Assessor's Revaluation Work Presentation

- Chief Assessor Jonathan Greeno spoke about the City's revaluation process.
- Councilor Sullivan asked if this process is state mandated? Jonathan answered yes. She also asked if residents are required to let the data collectors in. Jonathan answered no, they are not required. The team is obligated to try and get into as many houses as possible, if they are unable to, they can do an exterior only assessment but gaining access to the interior creates more accurate data.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked about the response of paperwork from multi-family homes. Jonathan Greeno answered that typically when there is a very large number of units the Association will hire an accountant to fill these forms out and send back. Councilor Stanganelli asked if they are obligated to send these forms back. Jonathan Greeno answered no, however if they file for an abatement without filing this paperwork it could hurt their case.
- Councilor Mandeville encouraged residents to let the data collectors into their homes during this revaluation process
- Councilor Hogg asked if you could file an abatement if you do not let the data collectors into your home. Jonathan answered yes you can, but the case will likely be dismissed if an interior evaluation was not done. Jonathan emphasized these appointments are usually very quick about 5-10 minutes

Chief Bailey Traffic Enforcement and Staffing Discussion

- Police Chief Craig Bailey spoke about the traffic concerns in the City and how his team currently is proactively working to better this. He also spoke about the increasing workload on each of his officers and how they cannot realistically do it all being understaffed. He praised his officers for their hard work and commitment to ensuring safety across Amesbury.
- Mayor Gove also commended the Police Department for their dedication and work.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated he appreciated Chief Bailey's response and that 2026-133 was a great starting point on this issue. He shared his thoughts and feelings on the need for traffic safety. He stated he would share his formal written response with the Clerk's Office.
- Councilor Welch asked if any surrounding communities have started successful traffic initiatives. Chief Bailey answered he did not know.
- Councilor Gilday asked if the 2024 Traffic Study could be reshared with all the Councilors. She also asked what the expectation of the Council would be, should they be doing some sort of data collection from the residents. Chief Bailey stated that a community survey does go out annually.
- Mayor Gove stated that the override failing has put the City in a tough position with a limited budget.
- President Redfern asked if they would like the Council to form an Ad Hoc Committee to address these concerns. Chief Bailey asked if the Mayor and him could meet and discuss this further before the Council takes this action.

Licenses and Permits-August

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve the August 2026 List of Licenses. Councilor Sullivan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Public Comment

- Dale Pinkham Cavanaugh, 146 Whittier Meadows Drive spoke about her concerns with the new Trash Removal Ordinance in how it relates to Condo Associations. She also spoke about her desire for more composting in Amesbury.
- Tracey Chalifour, 25 Clarks Rd. #201, spoke about her shared concern for traffic and pedestrian/cycler safety in the City, she was happy to hear about some of the new ideas and initiatives included in 2026-133.

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Gilday stated she would share a lot more of her thoughts on 2026-133 at the Standing Committee of the Whole Meeting next week, she also shared her interest and excitement over composting in Amesbury.
- Councilor Sullivan reiterated that although the City was once taking care of the trash for condo associations like Whittier Meadows it was not right, and that it is very typical for condo associations to pay for trash removal in her experience.
- Councilor Stanganelli also shared he felt Condo Associations paying for trash was typical. He did express the October 1st timeline was very tight for these Associations to get set up with their own trash service.
- Mayor Gove stated that they have been working with any of the associations who have reached out about the tight timeline.

Second Readings

a. Public Hearings:

2026-126 National Grid Pole Hearing WR#30531898 Sparhawk St. and Main St. Underground Conduit

- Councilor Redfern stated 2026-126 would be postponed as the information on the agenda was incorrect. The public hearing was for "Bay St. WR#31343970" not Sparhawk and Main St. The public hearing notice in the newspaper and the abutters notices were correct only the agenda had the typo.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to continue 2026-126 to the next scheduled City Council Meeting on September 22nd. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously, 8-0.

First Readings

2026-128 City Clerk Salary Ordinance**- Councilor Redfern, Councilor Haggstrom, and Councilor Sullivan Sponsors**

Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to refer 2026-128 to the Standing Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for September 15, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously 8-0.

2026-129 An Order to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 140 sec. 139**- Councilor Haggstrom and Councilor Redfern Sponsors**

Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to refer 2026-129 to the Standing Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for September 15, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously 8-0.

2026-130 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant of $25,000.00 through the FY27 Field Demonstration Project.-**Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Sullivan made a motion to refer 2026-130 to the Standing Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for September 15, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously 8-0.

2026-131 An Order to approve payment from the FY27 general fund operating budget for the below listed prior year invoices-**Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to refer 2026-131 to the Standing Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for September 15, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously 8-0.

Correspondence

a. Communications from Mayor, City Staff, other Elected Officials, and Representatives of City Boards and Committees-None

b. Council Communications-None

c. Council Committee Reports

- President Redfern shared that the Chamber of Commerce Meetings were shifting to the second Thursday of the month to align better with the City Council, giving them time to discuss relevant items.
- Councilor Hogg shared the Disposition Committee had not met in quite a while.
- Councilor Hogg shared that at the last Energy Committee Meeting the floodlight audit was discussed.
- Councilor Sullivan noted the last Housing Trust Meeting was on August 12th and gave a summary of their discussion including a down payment assistance program.
- Councilor Welch shared a summary of the last Joint Ed Committee Meeting
- Councilor Mandeville shared he would be appointed to the Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee on September 22.

Act on Minutes

July 28, 2026, City Council Meeting

- Councilor Redfern stated she had sent the Clerk's Office a few edits prior to the meeting.
- Councilor Welch stated she also sent one typo to the Clerk's Office

Councilor Welch offered a motion to approve the July 14, 2026, minutes with the proposed edits. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

August 5, 2026, Special City Council Meeting

- Councilor Stanganelli asked why he was listed absent when he joined the meeting late. Clerk Jennifer Smith answered because he was absent for the roll call. She clarified the minutes do reflect when he joined the meeting later on.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the August 5, 2026, minutes as presented. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed, 8-0-1, with Councilor Stanganelli abstaining.

Late Files

2026-133 An Order to appropriate $30,000 from the Smart Growth Stabilization Fund to fund traffic calming methods in densely populate residential neighborhoods- **Mayor and Councilor Gilday Sponsor**

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to accept the late file. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to refer 2026-133 to the Standing Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for September 15, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilor Welch and passed unanimously 8-0.

Adjourn

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to adjourn at 9:02 PM. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie Connolly

September 9, 2026

Amesbury
City Council

Steven Stanganelli
Councilor At Large
City Hall, Office of the City Clerk
One Market Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

(978) 388-8143
Fax: (978) 388-8150
councilorstanganelli@amesburyma.gov

September 8, 2026

I've commented in the past about speeders and lack of enforcement at stop signs. In response to comments and calls from vulnerable road user constituents, I wanted to put this out there. I'll also note that just because I bring something up or ask a question about policy, it doesn't mean I'm criticizing. But I think it's important to make improvements. We can't do that without taking a hard look at how things are done.

To all my cycling friends and family and family of cycling friends some of whom are constituents, I think it is past time sitting around and saying nothing while we continue to be mowed down by ignorance on the roads while we live in the pursuit of happiness.

First, at any given point in the day, we're all "vulnerable road users." Whenever someone crosses a street, jogs, rides a bike, or is standing waiting for a school bus, we're vulnerable road users. This list includes First Responders as well as those providing roadside assistance.

In light of the tragedy that befell a college road cycling team last month that changed the lives of eleven families leaving two dead, it's important to tackle this issue proactively before tragedy strikes close to home.

Earlier this year in a meeting with the Mayor's Chief of Staff I also outlined this as one of my legislative priorities.

I think it is well past time that we take proactive measures to better educate and make an effort to change the cold hearts of the many angry or distracted drivers that think that roads are for cars only. We are all part of someone's

family. We are grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters and children to many others.

There is much that can be done to protect cyclists and other vulnerable road users.

The late file today (2026-133) is a great start.

In addition to the options outlined in 2026-133 and as mentioned as part of my legislative priorities shared with the Administration earlier this year, I think that we need more than painted lines separating bicycles from vehicles. For instance, there are flexible delineator posts that can be installed temporarily near cross walks, along bike lanes, and other popular cycling routes.

We can use more cones at cross walks and school crossings as used by the Clearfield Police Department.

We can use marked "bike boxes" at intersections as adopted elsewhere like Boston and Madison WI.

We can install external stop-arm cameras on school buses and pass appropriate ordinances providing the legal authority for issuing citations based on this video.

We could adopt the local option of MGL Chapter 90, Section 14e to protect VRUs.

We can figure out a way that video from VRUs can be used to issue warnings or citations. For instance, many cyclists including myself have front- and rear-facing cameras. Like other cyclists and joggers, I'd like to know that when a driver buzzes by me with inches to spare, I have a legal remedy to file a complaint with these videos and feel confident that accountability will be coming for that driver.

But before we deal with the accountability, we should deal with the education. Many drivers are unaware of the relatively new 4' rule when passing vulnerable road users. As I suggested to the COS, we need a concerted strategy to increase awareness through communication and education such as through

social media, at National Night Out, at Bike Safety checks and baby seat installations.

Finally, I think that we need to take action on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc committee that was reviewing the 25 MPH speed limit. With the help of our DPW Director and APD Officer Blatchford, many roads might be better listed with higher speed limits.

Addendum N

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: Tracey Chalifoux

Address: 250 Clark Rd # 201

City: Amesbury State MA Zip _____

Home Phone ( ) _____

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: _____

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

Bill 2026-133 - details

~~Stabilization Fund~~

Chief Bailey's Presentation

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature: TChalifoux Date: 9/8/2026

RULE 15 - DECORUM

Members of the City council shall conduct themselves in an orderly and businesslike manner to ensure that the business of the City shall be attended to efficiently and thoroughly and to ensure that the integrity of the deliberative process of the City council is maintained at all times. Members of the Council shall maintain a polite, respectfully and courteous manner when addressing one another, City staff and members of the public during meetings. It shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer to ensure that the rules of operation and decorum contained herein are observed.

RULE 15A – *Decorum of Council Members*

1) Councilors should request the floor of the Presiding Officer before speaking.
2) A Councilor who is speaking shall attempt to avoid repetition and shall endeavor to limit comments to the subject matter at hand. Councilors should endeavor to express views without engaging in lengthy debates.
3) When a Councilor is speaking, other Councilors shall not interrupt or otherwise disturb the speaker, except by rising to a point of order, to a point of personal privilege, to a question of parliamentary procedure, or to doubt the presence of a quorum.
4) Councilors, upon recognition by the Presiding Officer, may question a person addressing the Council at the conclusion of the person's comments or upon expiration of the person's time to speak
5) Councilors shall not engage the person addressing the Council in a dialogue with the City council or Council Staff, but shall confine communication to a question and answer format conducted through the Presiding Officer.
6) If a member of the audience has addressed the Council on matters which are not on the agenda, Councilors shall refrain from extended discussions of the matter. If a Councilor so wishes, the Councilor may, during the Councilor Comments portion of the meeting ask that the matter be placed on the next agenda.
7) No member in debate shall mention another member by name but may describe him or her by such designation as may be intelligible and respectful.
8) A member may rise to a point of personal privilege by leave of the Presiding Officer, but, shall not discuss pending questions and shall confine his or her remarks to statements which have been made regarding his rights, reputation, or conduct in his capacity as a City councilor.
9) A member may rise to ask questions of parliamentary inquiry by leave of the Presiding Officer, but, shall not discuss pending questions.
10) When a member is ruled out of order, he or she will immediately take his seat, unless permitted to explain, and the Council, if appealed to, shall decide on the case without debate, and if the decision is against the member, he shall not be permitted to speak.
11) The members of the Council shall not leave their place on adjournment until the Presiding Officer declares the Council adjourned.
12) When two or more members rise at the same time, the Presiding Officer shall name the member who is to speak first.

RULE 15B – *Decorum of City Employees*

City employees shall not engage in public dialogue or debate with members of the public during public meetings. When addressed by the Council, staff shall respond in a polite and respectful manner.

RULE 15C – *Decorum of the Public*

a. **Members of the Audience.** Members of the audience shall not engage in disorderly or boisterous conduct, including the utterance of loud, threatening or abusive language, whistling, stamping of feet or other acts which disturb, disrupt, impede or otherwise render the orderly conduct of the City council meeting unfeasible. A member of the audience repeatedly or continuously engaging in any such conduct shall, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer or a majority of the City council, be subject to ejection from that meeting.

b. **Persons Addressing the City council**

1. Any persons wishing to speak during the Public Comments portion of the meeting or on a Public Hearing item shall notify the Presiding Officer prior to the calling of the Public Comment of Public Hearing portion of the agenda.
2. No person shall address the City council without first being recognized by the Presiding Officer.
3. Each person addressing the City council shall do so in an orderly manner and shall not make repetitious, slanderous or irrelevant remarks, or engage in any other disorderly conduct which disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the Council meetings. Any person who so disrupts the meeting may, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer or a majority of the City council, be subject to ejection from that meeting.

RULE 15D – *Decorum Enforcement*

Upon a violation of the rules of order and decorum established in this resolution, the procedure to enforce the rules is as follows:

1. **Warning.** The Presiding Officer shall request that a person who is violating the rules of decorum cease such conduct. If after receiving a warning from the Presiding Officer, the person persists in the violation, the Presiding Officer shall order the person to leave the City council meeting. If the person does not leave the meeting, the Presiding Officer may order any law enforcement officer who is on duty at the City council meeting as sergeant-at-arms to remove the person from the City council chambers.
2. **Removal.** Any law enforcement officer who is serving as sergeant-at-arms at the City council meeting shall carry out the orders and instructions given by the Presiding Officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum. Upon instruction of the Presiding Officer, it shall be the duty of the sergeant-at-arms to remove from the City council meeting any person who is disturbing the proceedings of the City council.
3. **Resisting Removal**. Any person who resists removal by the sergeant-at-arms may be charged with a violation of the rules of order and decorum as well as any other applicable ordinance or law.
4. **Motion to Enforce**. If the Presiding Officer of the City council fails to enforce the rules of order and decorum set forth above, any member of the City council may move to require the Presiding Officer to do so, and an affirmative vote of the majority of the City council shall require the Presiding Officer to do so. If the Presiding Officer fails to carry out the will of the majority of the City council, the majority may designate another member of the City council to act as Presiding Officer for the purpose of enforcing the rules of order and decorum established above.
5. **Clearing the Room**. If a meeting of the City council is disturbed or disrupted in such a manner as to make infeasible or improbably the restoration of order, the Presiding Officer or a majority of the City council may exercise the authority granted by statute by ordering the meeting room cleared. Members of the press shall be permitted to remain unless they have participated in the disruption. If any person persists in disorderly behavior after a warning from the Presiding Officer, the Presiding Officer may order the person to leave the meeting (reference Addendum C). The Presiding Officer may delegate enforcement authority for meeting decorum to the sergeant-at-arms at the beginning of each meeting. In such cases, the sergeant-at-arms shall enforce the provisions of this section unless overruled by a majority vote of the Council.

Addendum N: Public Speaker Form

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Name: DALE PINKHAM CHAMARETH

Address: 146 WHITTIER MEADOWS DRIVE

City: AMESBURY State MA Zip 01913

Home Phone (508) 783-7798

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: TRASH REMOVAL / FOOD COMPOSTING / RECYCLING

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature: Dale Pinkham Date: 9/8/16

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Addendum N: Public Speaker Form