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

City Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 10, 2024  
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.  
7:00 PM

President Mandeville called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Haggstrom

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

Councilor Steve Stanganelli was absent

Act on Minutes-October 22, 2024 and November 12, 2024

**Councilor Gilday moved to approve the minutes from October 22, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed (8-0).**

**Councilor Gilday moved to approve the minutes from November 12, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed (8-0).**

Mayoral Appointments

**Motion by Gilday to accept the late files 2024-165 through 2024-173, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rinaldi, all in favor unanimous with 8 members present.**

**Motion by Gilday to suspend the Rules and take bills 2024-165 through 2024-173 out of order to immediately follow bill 2024-162, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wheeler, all in favor unanimous with 8 members present.**

**2024-159** Appointment of James Wilson to the position of Interim Director of Inspectional Services to be in effect until April 2, 2025

- James Wilson spoke briefly to his appointment.

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2024-159. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2024-160** Appointment of Bailey Campbell to the position of member of the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire February 28, 2027

- Bailey Campbell spoke briefly to her appointment.

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2024-160. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2024-161** Appointment of Joanne Barnes to the position of member of the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire February 28, 2027

- Joanne Barnes spoke briefly to her appointment.

**Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2024-161. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (8-0).**

**\*\*Councilor Stanganelli joined the meeting at 7:15 PM\*\***

**2024-162** Reappointment of Ann Marie Casey to the position of member of the School Building Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve the reappointments in 2024-162 and 2024-165 through 2024-172. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (9-0)**

**2024-165** Reappointment of Elizabeth McAndrews to the position of member of the School Building Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

**2024-166** Reappointment of James Montanari to the position of member of the School Building Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

**2024-167** Reappointment of Jim McCarthy to the position of member of the School Building Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

**2024-168** Reappointment of Joseph Spencer to the position of member of the School Building Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

**2024-169** Reappointment of Nicholas Wheeler to the position of member of the School Building Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

**2024-170** Reappointment of Bruce McBrien to the position of member of the School Building Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

**2024-171** Reappointment of Joan Liporto to the position of member of the School Building Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

**2024-172** Reappointment of Peter Hoyt to the position of non-voting member of the School Building Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

**2024-173** Appointment of Mary-Lee Ford to the position of member of the Health Care Trust Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

- Mary-Lee Ford spoke briefly to her appointment.

**Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2024-173. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler and passed unanimously (9-0).**

Monthly list of licenses

- **Councilor Gilday moved to approve the December license list. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (9-0).**

Correspondence

· President/Vice President Communications

- Councilor Mandeville announced that the City Council will not be holding their regularly scheduled meeting on December 24, and that their next meeting will be on January 14, 2025

· Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

· Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

Public Comment

- Mike Campbell (69 Erica Way, Salisbury, MA) Voiced his displeasure surrounding events on November 2, 2024 and brought the Council's attention to a missing plaque at 47 Friend Street.

Council Response to Public Comment

Second Readings

**2024-099** An Ordinance to amend the Cannabis Retail License Limits – **Councilors Stanganelli and Rinaldi Sponsors**

- Councilor Hogg asked for clarification on the acronyms outlined in the ordinance. Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey responded and went over the acronyms.

**Councilor Gilday moved to amend the amendment currently on the floor, by changing the word “issued” to “allowed,” and by striking the last sentence, “The minimum number of allowed retail licenses shall be two (2).” The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler and pass via roll call 6-3 with Councilors Hogg, Rinaldi, and Stanganelli voting against.**

**A roll call vote was held on the amendment, as amended. The amendment passed via roll call 7-2 with Councilors Hogg and Rinaldi voting against.**

**Councilor Wheeler moved to accept 2024-099, as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed via roll call 6-3 with Councilors Hogg, Rinaldi, and Wheeler voting against.**

**2024-132** An Ordinance to amend Chapter 334 Licenses and Permits with the municipal code to allow for licensing of adult cannabis retailers within the Retail Marijuana Overlay District.  
**Councilors Stanganelli and Rinaldi Sponsors**

- Councilor Stanganelli asked about the language of the municipal code being 2/3 vs majority.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked if there was a more concise way to submit a revision, Councilor Wheeler said that the motion is valid and next time they will adjust the way they revise for record keeping purposes.

**Councilor Gilday moved to accept 2024-132 with the revisions changing 40% to 30%, changing “issued” to “allowed,” and striking the last sentence, “The minimum number of allowed retail licenses shall be two (2).” The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed via roll call 5-4, with Councilors Hogg, Rinaldi, Stanganelli, and Wheeler voting against.**

**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 Stanganelli shared the list of questions he brought to the latest Budget & Finance Meeting.
- Councilor Wheeler asked if there was anything new to note from the Administration
- Councilor Redfern asked if the free cash had since been certified and what the exact amount was.
- Mayor Gove answered that the free cash had been certified and was for roughly 7 million dollars.

**Councilor Haggstrom moved to approve 2024-149. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously via roll call (9-0).**

First Readings

**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**

**Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-163 to Ordinance & Administration and Budget & Finance and set a second reading for January 28, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**2024-164 An Order to:** Vote to Rescind Bill No. 2019-042 and Accept a Portion of Elm Street as a City Public Way- **Mayor Sponsor**

**Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-164 to Ordinance & Administration and Planning & Development and set a public hearing for January 28, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (9-0).**

**Councilor Stanganelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (9-0).**

Respectfully submitted,

*Allie Connolly*