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

City Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 27, 2025  
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.  
7:00 PM

President Mandeville called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Wheeler

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

Absent: Councilor Amanda Haggstrom

Also Present: Administrative Assistant Allie Connolly, Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey, Fire Chief James Nolan, Deputy Fire Chief Rob Serino, IT Director Steve Hare

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Act on Minutes – May 13, 2025

**Councilor Gilday moved to approve the minutes from May 13, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed 7-0-1 with Councilor Wheeler abstaining.**  
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Mayoral Appointments –

**2025-061** Appointment of Aaron Martin to the position of member of the Amesbury Board of Health for a term to expire February 29, 2028.

- Aaron Martin (55 Sparhawk St) shared how his experience in business would be beneficial as he serves on this board.

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2025-061. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2025-062** Appointment of election workers for a term to expire after the conclusion of the November 4, 2025 Municipal Primary Election.

- Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey shared that this list was provided by the Clerk's Office.
- Councilor Gilday recused herself from acting on 2025-062 because she was included on the list. She also stated she needs to be removed as she will be on the ballot for the next election.
- Councilor Gilday suggested the word "preliminary" be deleted to avoid confusion.

**Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2025-062 with the deletion of Pamela Gilday from the list and the deletion of the word "preliminary". The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique, which passed (7-0-1) with Councilor Gilday abstaining.**

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Monthly list of licenses – May 27

**Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the license list for May 27, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

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Correspondence

· President/Vice President Communications

- Vice President Gilday- Councilor Gilday extended a thank you and recognition to the Fire Department for handling a recent larger fire incident. Rob Serino shared that a young boy would be represented with a Young Heroes Award at an upcoming date for his quick thinking and actions when this fire took place.

· Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

- State Representative Dawn Shand presented Councilor Frederique with the Black Excellence on the Hill award and thanked him for his hard work on behalf of the commonwealth.

· Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

- B&F (Councilor Stanganelli): Councilor Stanganelli reported on the May 20th Budget and Finance Meeting.
- O&A (Councilor Gilday): Councilor Gilday reported that this month's O & A Meeting was cancelled due to the ongoing Budget Meetings.
- P&D (Councilor Mandeville): Councilor Mandeville reported that this month's P & D Meeting was cancelled due to the ongoing Budget Meetings.
- OSNRTC (Councilor Redfern): Councilor Redfern reported that the last OSNRTC meeting was cancelled but that they would be meeting virtually this week.
- Energy (Councilor Rinaldi): Councilor Rinaldi reported the Energy Committee met on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Chamber of Commerce (Councilor Rinaldi): Councilor Rinaldi reported on the last Chamber of Commerce Meeting.
- Disposition (Councilor Hogg): Councilor Hogg was reported the Disposition Committee has not met in a few months they are awaiting funding.
- Affordable Housing Trust (Councilor Stanganelli): Councilor Stanganelli reported that the next meeting will be on June 11th.
- Whittier Task Force (Councilor Frederique): Councilor Frederique reported that May 6<sup>th</sup> was their last meeting.
- Joint Ed Committee (Councilor Stanganelli): Councilor Stanganelli reported that their last meeting was May 8<sup>th</sup> and they would not be meeting again until October.

Councilor Stanganelli gave a reminder that the Budget Meetings are continuing tomorrow and gave an overview of the upcoming agenda. He stated that he hopes they can continue Budget Committee Meetings of the Whole beyond the budget season. This was something that they had done in the past and it proved beneficial to him.

Councilor Wheeler thanked the VFW for the invitation to their Memorial Day Ceremony. He reminded the Councilors that were all invited to the upcoming AHS and AIHS graduations.

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Public Comment-None

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Second Readings –

**2025-044** An order to accept and expend a 2nd Round FY25 DFS grant for firefighter safety equipment. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Deputy Chief Rob Serino was present to answer any questions. He stated this is a non-matching grant.

**Councilor Hogg moved to approve 2025-044. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2025-048** An Order to authorize the Mayor to establish spending limits for departmental revolving funds FY26- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Wheeler asked how this was written previously. Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey answered that it was written as an order in the past.

**Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2025-048. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2025-049** An Order to enter into a 10 year or less lease - Cardiac Monitors Police Cruisers Body Worn Cameras and Cruiser Mounted Dash Cameras- **Mayor Sponsor**

**Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2025-049. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2025-050** An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a FY25 CCC Information Technology Grant-**Mayor Sponsor**

**Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2025-050. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2025-051** An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend FY25 SAFE and Senior SAFE grants- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Wheeler asked if this was a formula grant based on population. Deputy Chief Rob Serino answered yes.

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2025-051. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2025-052** An Order to transfer Amesbury Elementary School Property for general municipal purposes- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Wheeler asked if the maintenance costs for this property would be included in the city or the school's budget. Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey answered the school is responsible, she stated that she was going to further investigate the cost coverage and check in with Chief Financial Officer Marisa Batista on this question.

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2025-052 with the stipulations from DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

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Public Hearings-

**2025-055** Pole Hearing – 10 Aubin St. - #30628351-A

- National Grid Representative gave background for 2025-055.
- Councilor Wheeler read through Director of DPW Joe Buckley's recommendations concerning the pole.

\*\* Public Hearing was opened at 7:53\*\*

- Jill Barley (159 Main St.) spoke about old lines on her building that appear dangerous.
- Councilor Mandeville suggested she reach out to her internet provider about taking down these old lines.

\*\* Public Hearing was closed at 7:55\*\*

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2025-055 with the stipulations from DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2025-056** Pole Hearing – 5 Chester St. - #30630076-A

- National Grid Representative gave background for 2025-056.

\*\* Public Hearing was opened at 7:57 it was then closed at 7:57\*\*

- Councilor Gilday asked about the accuracy of the maps provided by National Grid.
- Councilor Wheeler brought up the property near this pole is currently going before Planning Board.

**Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2025-056 with the stipulations from DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2025-057** Pole Hearing – Nayson’s Ct. (Heritage Vale St.) - #30628351-B

- National Grid Representative gave background for 2025-057.

\*\* Public Hearing was opened at 8:06 it was then closed at 8:06\*\*

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2025-057 with the stipulations from DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2025-058** Pole Hearing – Oakland St. - #30628400

- National Grid Representative gave background for 2025-058.

\*\* Public Hearing was opened at 8:09 it was then closed at 8:09\*\*

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2025-058 with the stipulations from DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

**2025-059** Pole Hearing – South Hampton Rd. - #330630076

- National Grid Representative gave background for 2025-059.

\*\* Public Hearing was opened at 8:11 it was then closed at 8:11\*\*

- Councilor Wheeler pointed out there were a few outstanding questions from Director of DPW Joe Buckley in his letter addressed to National Grid. National Grid representative said he would connect with the designer to get back to Joe on these questions.

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2025-059 with the stipulations from DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday, which passed unanimously (8-0).**

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First Readings –

**2025-060** An Order to request the City Council vote to authorize the Mayor to enter into five-year or less lease purchase agreements for new copiers.

**Councilor Stanganelli moved to refer 2025-060 to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee with the second hearing to be determined. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0).**

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Late Files-

**2025-063** An Order that pursuant to G.L. c. 44B, the Community Preservation Act, the following amounts be reserved from the FY2025 estimated annual revenues of the Community Preservation Fund: \$47,224 to the Community Housing Reserve, \$47,224 to the Historic Resources Reserve, and \$47,224 to the Open Space and Recreation Reserve.

Further ordered, that the remaining FY2025 estimated revenues be placed in the Community Preservation Fund Unreserved Balance, to be used for future appropriations in accordance with the purposes of the Act.

These funds shall remain in their respective accounts until expended for eligible purposes upon future appropriation by vote of the City Council. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli stated that he believes this matter should be brought in front of a Budget Committee of the Whole, which was in place in prior years. A Committee that acts beyond the budget season.

**Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2025-063 to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee with the second hearing to be at the June 24<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed (7-1) with Councilor Stanganelli in opposition.**

**2025-064 An Order** that pursuant to G.L. c. 44B, the Community Preservation Act, the following amounts be reserved from the FY2026 estimated annual revenues of the Community Preservation Fund, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee: \$56,488 to the Community Housing Reserve, \$56,488 to the Historic Resources Reserve, and \$56,488 to the Open Space and Recreation Reserve. These funds are reserved for future appropriation in accordance with the requirements of the Community Preservation Act and shall remain in their respective reserve accounts until expended for eligible purposes by further vote of the City Council.

Further ordered, that the sum of \$28,244 be appropriated from the FY2026 CPA estimated revenues to the Community Preservation Committee Administrative account, to be expended under the direction of the CPC for administrative and operational expenses related to implementation of the Act. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli stated that he believes this matter should be brought in front of a Budget Committee of the Whole, which was in place in prior years. A Committee that acts beyond the budget season.
- Councilor Wheeler pointed out there were some language discrepancies that should be looked at more closely when 2025-064 goes to Subcommittee meetings.

**Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2025-064 to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee with the second hearing to be at the June 24<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed (7-1) with Councilor Stanganelli in opposition.**

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Adjourn-

**Councilor Stanganelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed (7-1) with Councilor Wheeler in opposition. The meeting adjourned at 8:29.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Allie Connolly*