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City Council Ordinance & Administration Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2024, at 7:00 PM

City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.

Councilor Gilday called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Roll was called and present were: Councilor Gilday, Councilor Rinaldi, and Councilor Wheeler

Also Present: Attorneys Bethany Raffa and Leonard Johnson, and Administrative Assistant Jess Manning

Minutes for Approval: February 22, 2024

- Councilor Wheeler pointed out that he abstained from the approval of minutes at the December 18, 2023 meeting, and that was not reflected in the minutes.

Councilor Rinaldi made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2023 meeting with Councilor Wheeler's revision. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler and passed unanimously (3-0).

Communication and Updates

- Councilor Gilday summarized the recent Ad-Hoc Meetings of the Whole on Rules and informed the current non-voting members Raffa and Johnson of the Council's intention to make them into voting members.

Public Comment: None at this time.

2024-002 Session 14 City Council Rules & Procedures

- Councilor Wheeler pointed out the presence of several typographical errors in the last Council's rules. The Councilor noted that the table of contents is inaccurate and needs reformatting, some subcommittees are numbered incorrectly, and the necessity of striking the 5E Amendment from 2011.
- Councilor Gilday read an email from Councilor Redfern, where she noticed a typographical error in the last sentence of addendum M.
- Councilor Wheeler asked if it was legal to return to the 5-member subcommittee structure.

The Committee temporarily moved past 2024-002 to discuss other items on the agenda, with the intention of returning at a later point in the meeting.

2024-016 An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules by revising Rule 6G: Appeal - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg and Rinaldi Sponsors**

- Councilor Gilday summarized the changes to 2024-016 that were made in the previous Ad-Hoc Committee of the Whole on Rules meetings.
- Councilor Gilday spoke to the necessity of proper phrasing concerning the motions, to ensure that each motion is made concisely.
- Councilor Wheeler stated that the intention is to incorporate proposed amendments into 2024-002 and withdraw the proposed amendments as they would be redundant.

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to take the positive recommendation from the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Whole on Rules, incorporate changes from 2024-016 into 2024-002 as presented with three amendments, and return 2024-016 to the full City Council with no recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (3-0).

2024-017 An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules by revising Rule 11-A Standing Committees. - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg and Rinaldi Sponsors**
Councilor Wheeler made a motion to incorporate the changes from 2024-017 into 2024-002 and to return 2024-017 to the full City Council with no recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (3-0).

2024-018 An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules – Rule 5E: Order of Business - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg and Rinaldi Sponsors**
Councilor Wheeler made a motion to take the negative recommendation from the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Whole on Rules, not incorporate them into 2024-002, and return 2024-018 to the full City Council with a negative recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (3-0).

2024-019 An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules – Rule 5B: Meeting Schedule - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg and Rinaldi Sponsors**

- Councilor Gilday summarized the changes made at the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Whole meetings with regard to Dangerous Dog Hearings.
- Councilor Wheeler pointed out that Rule 5B is Meeting Schedules, while 5A is Meeting Definitions, and that it would be more appropriate to put Dangerous Dog Hearings under Rule 5A.

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to take the positive recommendation with respect to dog hearings, make an amendment to 5A to read “Dangerous Dog Hearings shall be separate from regular City Council meetings and shall instead be heard at a special City Council Meeting scheduled for that purpose,” and incorporate it into 2024-002 without incorporating the other changes and returning 2024-019 to the full City Council with a negative recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (3-0).

2024-020 An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules by adding Rule 5J: Attendance Relating to Public and Adjudicatory Hearings or Meetings – **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg and Rinaldi Sponsors**

- **Councilor Gilday** pointed out that the Mullen Rule only pertains to adjudicatory hearings, with no mention of public hearings. Therefore, this proposed amendment would not be legal.

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to return 2024-020 to the full City Council with a negative recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (3-0).

2024-021 An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules by adding Rule 5I: Remote Participation - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg and Rinaldi Sponsors**

- Councilor Wheeler stated his belief that this proposed amendment not be passed as the city does not have the required technology to host hybrid meetings, except in the most specific of circumstances.
- Councilor Rinaldi asked for clarification on Open Meeting Law and why the city cannot host hybrid meetings.

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to return 2024-021 to the full City Council with a negative recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (3-0).

2024-022 An Ordinance to adopt changes to Amesbury City Council – 14th Session Rules by revising Rule 6O: Objections and Postponement of Votes. - **Councilors Stanganelli, Hogg and Rinaldi Sponsors**
Councilor Wheeler made a motion to take the positive recommendation from the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Whole on Rules, incorporate 2024-022 into 2024-002 as presented, and return

2024-022 to the full City Council with no recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (3-0).

The Committee continued their discussion on 2024-002 from earlier in the meeting

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to incorporate a proposed amendment to 2024-002: a reference to rule 2B under 11B, inserting as the last sentence in paragraph 2 of 11B to read, “such appointment shall be subject to Council approval in accordance with Rule 2B.” The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (3-0).

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to incorporate typographical and formatting corrections in the table of contents and to amend the typographical error in Addendum M by deleting the word “and” and substituting “an.” The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (3-0)

Adjourn

Councilor Rinaldi made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM. Councilor Wheeler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously (3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jess Manning

May 15, 2024