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

MEETING NOTICE

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Version 7.1.10

City Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, November 26, 2024
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

The public can view this meeting:

- In person
- ACTV Channel 6
- the ACTV website: <https://www.amesburycvtv.org/public-government-access-television>
- or the ACTV Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/AmesburyCommunityTelevision

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Gilday
3. Roll Call
4. Act on Minutes- October 8, 2024
5. Mayoral Appointments

2024-150 Appointment of Jay Williamson to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Historical Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2026

2024-151 Appointment of Andrew LeFleur to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Amesbury Housing Trust for a term to expire February 28, 2026

2024-152 Appointment of Michelle Faucher to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2025

2024-153 Appointment of Joel Nice to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Planning Board for a term to expire February 28, 2025

2024-154 Appointment of Robert Manseau to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Conservation Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027

2024-155 Appointment of Suzanne Egan to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2027

2024-156 Appointment of Joseph Fahey to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2026

2024-157 Appointment of Mel Webster to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2025

6. Monthly list of licenses – November 2024

7. Correspondence

· President/Vice President Communications

- Councilor assignments (3) to Joint Education Committee

· Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

· Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

8. Public Comment- Public comment can be done in person during the meeting, or by emailing your comments to clerk@amesburyma.gov by 12:00 p.m. the Friday before the Council meeting, per City Council Rule 5G. Subject line PUBLIC COMMENT. Your comments will be read aloud at the appropriate time in the agenda and entered into the public record.

9. Council Response to Public Comment

10. Second Readings

Public Hearings

2024-133 An Order authorizing the Mayor to dispose of, by sale or lease, a portion or portions of City-owned property and any structures thereon consisting of approximately .18 acres (8,000 SF+/-) located at **9 School Street** (Parcel 52-199, formerly the "Ordway School") as shown on Exhibit 1, and approximately .07 acres (3,000 SF+/-) located at **5 School Street** (Parcel 52-202, formerly the "Orlando S. Bailey House") as shown on Exhibit 2.-**Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: The Mayor is requesting authorization to dispose of a portion or portions of two (2) City-owned properties to enable the creation of no more than eight (8) residential units at **9 School Street** and no more than one (1) single-family dwelling at **5 School Street**. The remaining property will be retained by the City for public parking or other municipal use(s) as needed. Additionally, the portion of the 5 School Street property that the City is retaining (2,757 SF+/-) of paved parking behind the Orlando S. Bailey House would be held by the City for (or transferred to) the Library Board of Trustees for their exclusive use as part of the Library Project.

2024-138 An Order to request the City Council vote to hold the annual Classification Hearing to vote on four (4) separate items in order to establish the tax burdens for each class of property. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: On an annual basis, the City Council must vote on the issue of selecting a residential factor which will determine the percentage of the burden to be borne by each class of property.

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**

Summary: This order will authorize the Mayor to acquire the land, building, and structures referenced above for municipal purposes, including for use as the City Hall, and appropriate funds to pay costs of such acquisition, which appropriation would be met by a combination of borrowed funds and a transfer from free cash. Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §14, the order must be passed by at least a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the City Council.

(Second Readings)

2024-139 An Order to request the City Council vote to increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants. - **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: On an annual basis, the City Council must vote to decide if the City of Amesbury shall increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants under the provisions of M.G.L.

2024-140 An Ordinance to update and amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations SCHEDULE 1 PARKING (PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES) to include the Northbound side of Whitehall Rd from the Intersection of Garfield Street to High Street. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to revise the SCHEDULE 1 PARKING (PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES) to include the Northbound Side of Whitehall Rd from the intersection of Garfield Street to High Street. Currently traffic exiting High Street and turning onto Whitehall Road are met with an obstructed view due to cars parking on the Northbound side between Garfield and High Street. Prohibiting parking will not impact the neighborhood as the three lots impacted have ample off-street parking.

2024-141 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations SCHEDULE I PARKING (2 HOUR PARKING) to a 3 HOUR time limit from 8 AM to 6 PM every day except Sundays. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to revise the SCHEDULE I PARKING (2 HOUR PARKING), amending it to 3 HOUR PARKING from 8 AM to 6 PM every day except Sundays. In May of 2024, the Mayor along with the Chief of Police met to discuss a December 2023 downtown parking efficiency study that was conducted by John M. Burke, PE, CAPP, Consultant Parking, Transit & Downtown Development. The study recommended that the city look into extending its 2 hour limit to 3 hours. Both the Police Chief and the Mayor agreed and also decided the scheduled time for this limit should be 8 AM to 6 PM every day except Sundays. This recommendation was brought to the Executive Board of the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce which unanimously voted to adopt the Mayor and Police Chiefs' recommendations.

2024-142 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-1 - General Prohibitions to prohibit parking on a curb. - **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to prohibit parking on a curb. Currently, the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-1 - General Prohibitions states "Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches from the curb or edge of the roadway, except upon those streets that are designated as one-way streets" and "On such one-way streets, vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches from the curb." This ordinance would add clarifying language to support not parking on a curb or edge of roadway and better define prohibited parking by stating, "Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches from the curb or edge of the roadway, but not on said curb or edge of roadway, except upon

those streets that are designated as one-way streets. On such one-way streets, vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches from the curb, but not on said curb."

2024-143 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5 to include the prohibition of parking in Fire Lanes. -

Mayor Sponsor

Summary: This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to include the prohibition of parking in Fire Lanes. State Law does not specifically prohibit parking in Fire Lanes but does allow Police and Fire Chiefs to create such lanes. If these lanes are created, then an ordinance would need to be established to prohibit parking in these designated areas. The current Traffic and Parking Regulations do not prohibit parking in Fire Lanes, and this ordinance would prohibit those that are not emergency responders responding to an emergency or conducting routine business from parking in Fire Lanes.

2024-147 An Order to authorize a transfer of \$1,800.00 from Veterans Services Department Other Expenses to Veterans Services Department Salaries & Wages. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order requests a budget transfer in the amount of \$1,800.00 from Veterans Services Department Other Expenses to Veterans Services Department Salaries & Wages to cover a stipend increase for the Office Assistant.

2024-148 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-1 - General Prohibitions to prohibit parking on a curb.-

Mayor Sponsor

Summary: This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to prohibit parking on a curb. Currently, the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-1 - General Prohibitions states "Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches from the curb or edge of the roadway, except upon those streets that are designated as one-way streets" and "On such one-way streets, vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches from the curb." This ordinance would add clarifying language to support not parking on a curb or edge of roadway and better define prohibited parking by stating, "Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches from the curb or edge of the roadway, but not on said curb or edge of roadway, except upon those streets that are designated as one-way streets. On such one-way streets, vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches from the curb, but not on said curb."

11. First Readings

12. Late Files

2024-158 Appointment of Annmary Connor to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Amesbury Housing Authority for a term to expire February 28, 2026

13. Adjourn