



RECEIVED

By City Clerk at 11:21 am, Apr 01, 2026

City of Amesbury
Office of the City Clerk
1 Market Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026
7:00 PM**

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

Councilor Claudel Frederique led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Act on Minutes- February 7, 2026 Budget Workshop Minutes and February 10, 2026 City Council Minutes

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the February 7, 2026 Budget Workshop minutes with a revision noting that Chief Financial Officer Marisa Batista and Chief of Staff Pam Tobey attended the meeting remotely due to the snowy weather. Councilor Sullivan seconded, and the motion passed 7-0-1, Councilor Stanganelli abstained.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the February 10, 2026 minutes with the deletion of "and f" and the addition of the date "February 24, 2026" under the motion for bill 2026-042. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Mayoral Appointments

2026-054 Reappointment of Paul Cote to the position of member of the Trustees of War Memorials for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-055 Reappointment of James DeMars to the position of member of the Trustees of War Memorials for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-056 Reappointment of Anthony Rinaldi to the position of member of the Amesbury Energy, Environmental and Sustainability Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-057 Reappointment of Joseph Fahey to the position of member of the Amesbury Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-058 Reappointment of Margaret Miller to the position of member of the Council on Aging for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-059 Reappointment of Crystal Hall to the position of member of the Board of Assessors for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-060 Reappointment of Ann McKay to the position of member of the Board of Health for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-061 Reappointment of Ann Johnson to the position of member of the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire February 28, 2029

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-054, 2026-055, 2026-056, 2026-057, 2026-058, 2026-059, 2026-060, and 2026-061 as presented. Councilor Mandeville seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Monthly list of licenses –February

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the February list of licenses. Councilor Mandeville seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Correspondence

-President/Vice President Communications

- President Redfern shared that the candidates from the 2023 election should have been considered for Maryann Welch's School Committee vacancy and that the seat will be posted for 30 days and a joint meeting held.
- President Redfern shared that Kate Slater's School Committee vacancy could be considered at the February 10th meeting and that this seat will be posted for 30 days and a joint meeting held.
- President Redfern noted that there was a failure to elect for a Library Board vacancy and that a joint meeting will be held.
- President Redfern noted that the Ordinance and Administration Committee considered the proposed revisions for the 15th Session rules and that a version that highlights their proposed changes can be found online.

-Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions
None

Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

- Councilor Gilday shared that Brock Omohundro from the School Committee has emailed councilors urging them to advocate for \$150 per pupil which is not in the governor's budget this year.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared that he is pleased the council is addressing and correcting the vacancy issue.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared he will be advocating for cameras for bus patrol.

Public Comment

- President Redfern read an email from Cynthia Yetman regarding 2026-029 into the record (see attached).
- Greg Noyes, 8 Clarks Road, spoke to 2026-029 regarding funding problems.

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Gilday encouraged the public to watch the most recent School Committee meeting.

Second Readings

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to take 2026-042 out of order. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-042 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend the North Shore HOME Consortium grant in the amount of \$91,983- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Shauna Becotte, representing CDBG, confirmed that there will be a public hearing on the grant March 11, 2026 at 4:30 PM.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2026-042 as presented. Councilor Sullivan seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-025 An order to rescind acceptance of MGL Chap 90 sec 20A and half and replace with MGL Chap 90 sec 20A-2025 – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday reported the Ordinance & Administration Committee voted to return 2026-025 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.
- Councilors engaged in discussion with Police Chief Craig Bailey regarding security concerns and financial needs regarding this bill.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2026-025 as presented. Councilor Welch seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-1, Councilor Mandeville opposed.

2026-034 An Order to accept and expend a Last Call Foundation grant award- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-034 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2026-034 as presented. Councilor Frederique seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-041 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Code of Ordinances Chapter 237 Cemeteries- Jan 2026- **Mayor Gove and Councilor Haggstrom Sponsors**

- Councilor Gilday reported the Ordinance & Administration Committee voted to return 2026-041 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation with the following four revisions:
 1. Section 3, subsection H: Inserting the words or trees after No shrubs. Striking the entire next sentence.
 2. Section 3, subsection M: striking the 5 before the 7 in §237-57 to read §237-7.
 3. Section 5, addition of bullet G: The City is not responsible for damage to flowers, plantings, flags, containers, holders, or any other permitted decorative item due to weather, vandalism, theft, or maintenance procedures.
 4. Section 10: strike entirely.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-041 with the redline amendments from the Ordinance and Administration Committee. Councilor Welch seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-029 An Order to appropriate \$100,000 from Free Cash- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-029 to the full City Council with no recommendation.

Councilor Stanganelli made an objection, moving 2026-029 to the March 10, 2026 meeting.

2026-024 An Order to request the City Council vote to authorize the Mayor to enter a five-year contract for one new copier- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-024 to the full City Council with a recommendation to withdraw without prejudice.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to withdraw 2026-024 without prejudice. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-026 An Order to pay Prior Year Invoices from FY26 General Operating Budget- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-026 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.
- Councilor Gilday questioned if the city is incurring late charges. CFO Marisa Batista replied that no late charges are being incurred.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2026-026 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-027 An Order to transfer from School Capital Accounts to fund the ball field project at AHS- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-027 as revised to the full City Council with a positive recommendation

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2026-027 as revised. Councilor Gilday seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-028 An Order to appropriate \$200,000 from Free Cash to Stabilization Fund- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-028 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2026-028 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-030 An Order to transfer funds from Salary Reserve to Police Sick and Vacation Buyback- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-030 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2026-030 as presented. Councilor Sullivan seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. 8-0.

2026-031 An Order to appropriate from Sewer Retained Earnings- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-031 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.
- DPW Director Joe Buckley explained the need to remove from Sewer Retained Earnings.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2026-031 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-032 An Order to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-032 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.
- DPW Director Joseph Buckley stated that this bill is about the \$1 million water main replacement grant, and that the city needs to contribute funds as well.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-032 as presented. Councilor Mandeville seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-033 An Order to transfer \$231,535 from Streets and Sidewalks Stabilization to DPW Streets and Sidewalks- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-033 as revised to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to accept the redline version of 2026-033. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to accept the revised version of 2026-033. Councilor Sullivan seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-035 An Order to accept and expend a Newburyport Society for the Relief of Aged Women grant- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-035 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to approve 2026-035 as presented. Councilor Frederique seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-036 An Order to accept and expend FY26 formula grant funding for COA- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-036 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-036 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-037 An Order to accept and expend FY26 MassWorks Grant- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-037 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2026-037 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded.

- Councilor Frederique noted that there is a \$360,000 match that the developer will cover.

After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-038 An Order to accept FY26 earmark- Digitization and Preservation of Municipal Documents- Mayor Sponsor

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-038 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to approve 2026-038 as presented. Councilor Stanganelli seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-039 An Order to accept FY26 earmark- Chromebooks- Mayor Sponsor

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-039 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Welch offered a motion to approve 2026-039 as presented. Councilor Mandeville seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-040 An Order to accept FY26 earmark- Parking Study Phase 2- Mayor Sponsor

- President Redfern reported the Budget and Finance Committee voted to return 2026-040 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Sullivan offered a motion to approve 2026-040 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Public Hearings

None

First Readings

None

Adjourn

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to adjourn at 8:16 PM. Councilor Stanganelli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Looney

March 18, 2026