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City Council Ordinance & Administration Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2025, at 7:00 PM

City Hall – 62 Friend Street

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: Attorney Bethany Raffa, Attorney Leonard Johnson, and Administrative Assistant Allie Connolly

Minutes for Approval: Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed 3-0.

Communication and Updates:

Public Comment:

- Councilor Gilday shared the agenda for the night and stated that any public comment related to agenda items should be saved for that portion of the meeting.
- Councilor Gilday opened the public comment at 7:03, public comment closed at 7:03.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to move 2024-163 to be the first item on the agenda, followed by 2024-164. Councilor Rinaldi seconded the motion and passed unanimously (3-0).

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**

- Mayor Gove was present to answer any questions regarding 2024-163, she explained this bill was a similar measure that was taken one year ago. A user friendly word doc was created for public use based off a successful document the school uses for reservations.
- Councilor Wheeler recused himself from participating in the discussion of 2024-163, as his property is across the street from a portion of Woodsom Farm.
- Michelle Leblanc of 162 Elm St. spoke against 2024-163, she stated there needed to be more clarification on “maintenance” in the bill.
- Dr. Crystal Sorgini of 82 Prospect St. spoke against 2024-163, she stated that the bill seemed premature and that there were various inaccuracies.
- Councilor Gilday suggested Dr. Sorgini bring her edits and concerns to the Stakeholders Meeting on January 17th.

Councilor Rinaldi made a motion to return 2024-163 to the City Council with a positive recommendation, recognizing that there may be amendments from the Administration prior to the January 28 Council meeting after the Administration meets with representatives from the leagues on January 17. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed 2-0. Councilor Wheeler had recused himself, as his property is across the street from a portion of Woodsom Farm.

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**

- Joe Buckley Director of DPW gave an overview of the history of 2024-164.
- Councilor Wheeler asked a few clarifying questions regarding the dimensions of the project.

Councilor Rinaldi made a motion to return 2024-164 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler and passed 3-0,

2024-119 Revised Amesbury Energy Committee By Laws – **Councilors Rinaldi and Hogg Sponsors**

- Councilor Gilday gave various recommended edits as outlined in a document she gave out at the start of the meeting
- Councilor Wheeler gave various recommended edits
- Attorney Leonard and Attorney Raffa gave a few minor formatting edits
- Councilor Rinaldi agreed with all the combined edits

Councilor Wheeler made a motion to refer 2024-119 in its December 20 time-stamped revised version back to City Council with a positive recommendation with the edits suggested made at O&A by Councilor Gilday (in a written changes document) and Councilor Wheeler (in a PDF mark-up) as well as various further noted edits made by all members of the subcommittee, including our citizen members, during the meeting and captured in writing by Councilors Wheeler and Rinaldi. Councilor Gilday seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0. Councilor Rinaldi was to incorporate all these edits ahead of the January 28 City Council meeting so that the Council could see all the edits and act on the amended version of the bill. Again, these amendments are to the December 20 version of the bill, which wholly superseded the original version of the bill that was initially seen for a 1st reading on September 24.

Adjourn

Councilor Gilday made a motion to adjourn at 8:17 PM. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously (3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Allie Connolly