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

City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 2025
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

President Mandeville called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Redfern

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

Councilor Nick Wheeler was absent

Also Present: Assistant City Clerk Jess Manning, Administrative Assistant Allie Connolly, Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey

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Act on Minutes – February 11, 2025

**Councilor Gilday moved to approve the minutes from February 11, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0)**  
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Mayoral Appointments –

2025-022 Appointment of Michael Fallon to the position of member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2025-022. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (8-0).

2025-023 Appointment of Catherine Rymsha to the position of member of the Cemetery Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2025-023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (8-0).
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Monthly list of licenses - None  
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Correspondence

· President/Vice President Communications

· Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

- Mayor Gove gave a presentation on the financial condition
- These slides will be made available with the City Councilors and attached with the minutes.

· Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

- B&F: Councilor Stanganelli reported that they had a productive virtual meeting on February 18th.
- O&A: Councilor Gilday reported that they had a productive virtual meeting on February 20th.
- P&D: Councilor Haggstrom reported that they had a productive virtual meeting on February 19th.
- OSNRTC: Councilor Redfern reported that at their last meeting they talked in length about the Meadowbrook project and had two recommendations regarding zoning/permitting.
- Energy: Councilor Rinaldi reported that the Energy Committee has changed their meeting to the 1st Tuesday of every month at 5:30.
- Chamber of Commerce: Councilor Rinaldi reported that the last Chamber meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm.
- Disposition Committee: Councilor Hogg reported the last meeting was in November and their next meeting would be on February 27th.
- Affordable Housing Trust: Councilor Stanganelli reported the next meeting would be on March 12th at 4:30.
- Whittier Task Force: Councilor Frederique reported their last meeting was on February 25th, he summarized their discussion about the Whittier Task Force.
- Joint Education Committee: Councilor Stanganelli reported their last meeting was on January 23rd. They spoke in depth about the school budget with Superintendent McAndrews.

Public Comment

- Timothy Ryan of 15 Wells Ave. shared that there are multiple illegal fences throughout the city. He also stressed the importance of transparency in local government.

Second Readings

2025-011 An Order to request the City Council to vote to declare as surplus various municipal vehicles and equipment – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive referral from B&F

Councilor Haggstrom moved to approve 2025-011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0).

2025-012 An Order to request the City Council vote to authorize the Mayor to enter into five-year or less lease purchase Agreements for a new copier.- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive referral from B&F

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2025-012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0).

2025-013 An Order to transfer \$4,550.00 from Conservation Commission Personal Services to Conservation Commission Other Expenses.- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive referral from B&F

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2025-013 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (8-0).

2025-014 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$18,989.00 from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services (DFS) FY 2025 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program.- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive referral from B&F

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2025-014 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed unanimously (8-0).

2025-015 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a FY25 Legislative Earmark Grant Award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the amount of \$50,000.00 for lighting improvements in the downtown region of the city. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive referral from B&F

Councilor Haggstrom moved to approve 2025-015 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0).

2025-016 An Order to authorize the Mayor to enter into an intermunicipal agreement pursuant to the provisions of MGL CH.40 § 4A for the provisions of participation in the Public Health Excellence (PHE) for Shared Services Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive referral from B&F
- Councilor Gilday read the positive referral from O&A

Councilor Hogg moved to substitute the original version of 2025-016 with the redline dated February 21, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (8-0).

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2025-016 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0).

2025-018 An Ordinance to amend Amesbury Code of Ordinances Chapter 20, Budget and Finance, Article V, Revolving Funds, § 20-24 Establishment of Revolving Funds to amend departmental revolving funds pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E1/2. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive referral from B&F.
- Councilor Gilday read the positive referral from O&A.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to substitute the original version of 2025-018 with the redline dated February 21, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (8-0).

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2025-018 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed unanimously (8-0).

2025-019 An Order to appropriate \$332,200.00 from Sewer Retained Earnings to Sewer Enterprise Fund Other Expenses. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive referral from B&F

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2025-019 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed unanimously (8-0).

2025-020 An Order to appropriate \$120,000.00 from Sewer Retained Earnings to Sewer Enterprise Fund Other Expenses. – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive referral from B&F

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2025-020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (8-0).

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First Readings – None  
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Late Files

Councilor Stanganelli moved to suspend the rules and accept 2025-024 as a Late File. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0).

2025-024 A Resolution Requesting that the State Legislature Revisit and Revise the Chapter 70 Funding Formula to Improve Its Funding Equity Across All Public School Districts.

- Councilor Gilday gave a summary of the document Councilor Wheeler and her drafted. She stated inflation drove the need for this document to be created and feels that if no revision is to be made most municipalities will struggle to be able to properly fund school budgets. She claimed the State needs to pay their share. She continued to summarize the document and clarified that the document itself is simply a statement to the State Representatives.

- Councilor Haggstrom thanked Councilor Gilday and Wheeler for creating this document and urged the public to also reach out to their State Representatives on this matter.
- Councilor Mandeville reminded the public that Barry Finegold would be in Merrimac on March 6th from 6-7 for a Merrimac/Amesbury Community Conversation.

Councilor Haggstrom moved to approve resolution 2025-024 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0) .

Councilor Stanganelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0) .

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Manning