



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

City Council Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2024
7:00 PM

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

Councilor Rinaldi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, and present were Councilor Anthony Rinaldi, Councilor Nicholas Wheeler, Councilor Owen Corcoran, Councilor Claudel Frederique, Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Michael Hogg, President Scott Mandeville

Absent was Councilor Jessica Redfern

Councilor Steven Stanganelli joined the meeting at 7:47 PM.

Also present: Mayor Kassandra Gove, Chief of Police Craig Bailey, Council on Aging Director Doreen Arnfield, Director of Community and Economic Development Nicholas Cracknell, Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey, and Asst. City Clerk Justin Kaiser

Minutes for approval

April 16th, 2024 City Council Meeting

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the minutes from the April 9th City Council Meeting. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Mayoral Appointments-

2024-064 Appointment of Brittany Steingesser to the position of member of the Energy Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2027

- Ms. Steingesser thanked the council for their consideration.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to accept 2024-064 as presented. Seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

2024-069 Appointment of Rachel Wallace to the position of member of the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire February 28, 2027

- Ms. Wallace thanked the council for their consideration.
- Councilor Hogg noted that Ms. Wallace was and artist and an engineer.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to accept 2024-069 as presented. Seconded by Councilor Hogg and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

2024-070 Appointment of Jamie McCarthy to the position of member of the Amesbury Conservation Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027

- Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey is recognized and noted that Ms. McCarthy is unable to attend but is very qualified for this position.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to accept 2024-070 as presented. Seconded by Councilor Hogg and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

2024-071 Reappointment of John Moynihan to the position of member of the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire February 28, 2027

- Co-chair of the Amesbury Cultural Council was recognized and noted that Mr. Moynihan was unable to attend but has been a valuable member of the Amesbury Cultural Council

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to accept 2024-071 as presented. Seconded by Councilor Hogg and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Licenses and Permits

President Mandeville read the monthly list of licenses into the record.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve the monthly list of licenses. Councilor Corcoran seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Correspondence

President/Vice President Communications:

- Vice President Gilday shared the dates and locations of the upcoming budget meetings. Vice President Gilday further shared details regarding the upcoming Lake Gardner Festival on June 1st at 11 am.

Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports:

- Councilor Frederique announced that PACT was hosting a series of events surrounding addiction prevention treatment and recovery in town.
- Councilor Wheeler thanked Councilor Gilday for bringing attention to the Lake Gardner event. It was further stated that the Amesbury Improvement Association recently hosted events in town.

Communications from Elected Officials, Boards, and Commissions:

- Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey gave an update from the mayor's office regarding a memo outlining donations received by the city that were under \$5,000. Councilor Wheeler thanked the Council on Aging, which had received a significant number of donations. Councilor Gilday noted that there were 9 pages of donations.
- Mayor Kassandra Gove gave a presentation on the budget line items (see presentation).

Councilor Steven Stanganelli joined the meeting at 7:47.

- Councilor Wheeler asked if the Mayor's office would be able to provide the PowerPoint to councilors. Mayor Gove answered that they would be happy to.

Public Comment

- Cindy Yetman of 6 Newton Rd representing AFT Amesbury spoke on the school budget proposal and expressed support for the School Committee's proposed increasing and spoke in opposition to the mayor's proposed school budget.

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Stanganelli expressed that arts are an important part of the budget and that this proposed school budget may cause issues. He further expressed that the budget is approaching the levy capacity and he hopes that this can be resolved.
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Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to suspend the rules and take 2024-072 out of order.

Seconded by Councilor Gilday and the motion passed 7-1 with Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

- Councilor Stanganelli asked if it was appropriate to take item 2024-072 out of order without voting to accept it first. Councilor Wheeler answered that this motion was required first.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to accept 2024-072 as a late file. Seconded by Councilor Gilday and the motion passed 7-1 with Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

2024-072 Resolution-Older Americans Month Resolution- Emily Zarraga – Mayor Gove, Councilors Wheeler, Gilday and Rinaldi Sponsors

- Read into the record by President Mandeville.
- Councilor Wheeler thanked Council on Aging Director Doreen Arnfield for bringing this matter to the council's attention.
- Director Arnfield was recognized and thanked the council for their attention on this matter.
- Councilor Gilday asked for a history of the Boston Post Cane that would be given out per this resolution. Councilor Wheeler and Mayor Gove offered a history of the cane.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked clarifying questions regarding the cane, such as where it was stored and if it was insured. Mayor Gove answered these questions.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to accept 2024-072 as presented. Seconded by Rinaldi, the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

Second Readings

2024-055 An order to increase the monthly stipend of the Retirement Board members to \$375 and to establish a \$250.00 stipend for the City Treasurer - Mayor Sponsor

- Read into the record by President Mandeville.
- Councilor Stanganelli noted a typographical error in the proposal.
- Police Chief Craig Bailey was recognized and stated support for this proposal. He asked the council to consider that this increase would not come from taxpayer dollars. He further stated that city legal counsel advised that the retirement board was exempt from the provisions of the charter prohibiting members of boards and commissions from receiving compensation because the Retirement Board was not established by the charter.
- Councilor Gilday stated that all City Councilors were in possession of an email from the Mayor's Office outlining and describing the changes to this proposal.

- Councilor Stanganelli calculated that the compensation being voted on would account for .0736% of the Retirement Board's portfolio.
- Councilor Wheeler asked what the total time commitment for the Retirement Board. Chief Bailey answered that yearly it is roughly 40 hours. Councilor Wheeler then stated that this would amount to approximately \$150 per hour and that most other boards and commissions in town are not compensated.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated that he attended multiple Retirement Board meetings and that their work was important and necessary and that this type of compensation is standard practice in the investment industry.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to accept 2024 as amended to address a grammatical error. Seconded by Gilday, the motion passed 7-1 with Councilor Wheeler opposing.

2024-058 An Order of the Amesbury City Council to approve and accept a Preservation Restriction Agreement on property located at 6 Center Street, Amesbury, and to authorize the mayor to execute said Preservation Restriction Agreement on behalf of the City of Amesbury – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into the record by President Mandeville
- Councilor Gilday stated that the Ordinance and Administration subcommittee had not yet met on this. Councilor Corcoran stated that the Planning and Development subcommittee had not yet met on this.
- President Mandeville stated that the Planning Board had given this proposal a positive recommendation.

Councilor Corcoran motioned to continue this item to the May 28th, 2024 City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilor Gilday and the motion passed 6-1-1 with Councilor Stanganelli opposing and Councilor Hogg abstaining.

2024-061 An Order to accept 2022 Economic Development Bill Earmark- \$150000 - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated that the Budget and Finance subcommittee has not met on this topic and therefore has no recommendation.

Councilor Frederique motioned to continue this item to the May 28th, 2024 City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilor Hogg and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-062 An Order to accept and expend FY25-FY27 grant for public health shared services-**Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into the record by President Mandeville.

Councilor Frederique motioned to continue this item to the May 28th, 2024 City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilor Hogg and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-063 An Order to accept FY24 earmark- pedestrian bridges- \$12500- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into the record by President Mandeville.

Councilor Frederique motioned to continue this item to the May 28th, 2024 City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilor Hogg and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

First Readings

2024-001 An order to adopt operating budget for FY25 – Mayor Sponsor

- Read into the record by President Mandeville.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to set a public hearing date for the June 11th City Council meeting and refer this item to the Ad Hoc Budget Committee of the Whole. Seconded by Councilor Gilday.

- Councilor Stanganelli asked if it would be appropriate for this item to be referred to the Budget and Finance subcommittee as he recalled as being done in past years. Councilor Wheeler answered that it hasn't been referred in recent years.
- Councilor Gilday stated that a public meeting to deliberate on the hearings would need to be set by the chair of the Ad Hoc Budget committee of the whole.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked when the proposed hearing date was and was told June 11th.

The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

AO 2024-03 Sustainability and Conservation Planner Office of Community and Economic Development

- Read into record by President Mandeville.
- Councilor Gilday read the full order aloud.
- Councilor Wheeler asked if there was an expected salary range. Community and Economic Development Director Nicholas Cracknell stated the background of the proposal and stated that the proposed salary is \$76,500.

Councilor Rinaldi offered a motion to accept AO 2024-03 as presented. Seconded by Hogg, the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-065 An Ordinance to Amend the Amesbury Zoning Map to extend the R-40 Zoning District along Haverhill Road – Mayor Sponsor

- Read into record by President Mandeville.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to set a public hearing date for the June 25th City Council meeting and refer this item to the Ordinance and Administration subcommittee, the Planning and Development subcommittee, and the Planning Board. Seconded by Councilor Corcoran and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-066 An Ordinance to Amend the Amesbury Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Overlay District Map to make changes to the Amesbury Gateway Village Smart Growth Overlay District (AGV-SGOD) - Mayor Gove, Councilors Corcoran, Frederique, Gilday and Redfern Sponsors

- Read into the record by President Mandeville.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to set a public hearing date for the June 25th City Council meeting and refer this item to the Ordinance and Administration subcommittee, the Planning and Development subcommittee, and the Planning Board. Seconded by Councilor Hogg and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2024-067 An Order to approve payment from the FY24 general fund operating budget for the below listed prior year invoices - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into the record by President Mandeville.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to refer 2024-067 to the Budget and Finance subcommittee with a second reading date to be determined by the clerk's office. Seconded by Hogg. Councilor Wheeler offered an amendment to hold a second reading at the May 28th City Council meeting, seconded by Councilor Gilday. The motion passed 7-0-1 with Councilor Stanganelli abstaining.

2024-068 An Order to establish spending limits for departmental revolving funds pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53E ½ - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into the record by President Mandeville

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-068 to the Budget and Finance committee with a second reading date of May 28th. Seconded by Councilor Hogg and the motion passed 7-0-1 with Councilor Stanganelli abstaining.

Adjourn

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Kaiser