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City of Amesbury
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City Council Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, July 22, 2025
7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Councilor Gilday.

Councilor Gilday led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, present were Councilor Amanda Haggstrom, Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Anthony Rinaldi, Councilor Steven Stanganelli, Councilor Nicholas Wheeler, and Councilor Pam Gilday. Absent were Councilor Jessica Redfern, Councilor Claudel Frederique, and President Scott Mandeville.

Act on Minutes

July 1, 2025 Ad Hoc Budget Committee of the Whole, July 8, 2025

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve the July 1, 2025 Ad Hoc Budget Committee of the Whole minutes as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. The motion passed 4-0-2, Councilors Wheeler and Stanganelli abstained.

Councilor Rinaldi offered a motion to approve the July 8, 2025 minutes as presented. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed 4-0-2, Councilors Wheeler and Stanganelli abstained.

Mayoral Appointments
None

Monthly list of licenses- none

Correspondence

- President/Vice President Communications
 - Councilor Gilday shared that the Mayor of Amesbury in Wiltshire, England will be visiting Amesbury this week.
- Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions
 - None
- Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports
 - Councilor Stanganelli shared that the Budget and Finance Committee met on June 17th and related items will come up during the second readings.
 - Councilor Gilday shared that the Ordinance and Administration met in June and did not meet in July, and the next meeting will be in September.
 - Councilor Haggstrom shared that the Planning and Development Committee met June 18th and will not meet again until September.
 - Councilor Rinaldi shared that the Energy Committee did not meet due to a technical difficulty, and the next meeting will be in September.

- Councilor Rinaldi shared the success of Amesbury Days on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce.
- Councilor Hogg shared that the Disposition Committee has not met recently.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared that the Affordable Housing Trust did not meet due to lack of quorum.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared that the Join Education Committee last met prior to the vote for the budget and that the next meeting will be in October.
- Councilor Wheeler shared that the School Building Committee met on July 15th and that the items for the project are now complete aside from an issue with flagpoles.

Public Comment

Councilor Gilday opened public comment at 7:15 PM.

- Sarah Chapman, 7 Mechanics Row, spoke in favor of repairs to the road being provided by the city.
- Dennis Moccia, 11 Mechanics Row, spoke in favor of the city repairing Mechanics Row.
- Alex Cedrone, 20 Mechanics Road, spoke in favor of street acceptance for Mechanics Row.
- James Chapman, 183 Main Street, spoke in favor of street acceptance for Mechanics Row.
- Sarah Turner, 5 Mechanics Row, spoke in favor of street acceptance for Mechanics Row.
- Daryl Brown, 7 Mechanics Row, spoke in favor of street acceptance for Mechanics Row.
- Anne Ferguson, 1 River Court, spoke in favor of street acceptance

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Haggstrom expressed her sympathy and asked if real estate agents are disclosing when streets are private. Councilor Haggstrom noted that the list of streets is a public document.
- Councilor Wheeler thanked the public for coming out and shared his favor for accepting Mechanics Row while noting there is not a process for this.
- Councilor Stanganelli thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and expressed his concern that on the financial side if every street is accepted the city could have a large potential liability.
- Councilor Gilday thanked the public for expressing their concern and noted that the administration is trying to do the right thing.

Councilor Gilday closed public comment at 7:48 PM.

Second Readings

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to take 2025-081 out of order. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed 5-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

2025-081 An Order to appropriate \$5,000 from the Streets and Sidewalks Stabilization Fund to the Temporary Repairs on Private Ways account – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary
- Councilor Stanganelli stated that the Budget and Finance Committee had a positive recommendation.
- Councilor Wheeler said the bill does not mention Mechanics Row
- Councilors engaged in discussion about funding for private ways.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2025-081 as presented. Councilor Wheeler seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2025-053 An Order to Accept an Easement at 12 Elizabeth Street-**Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary
- Councilor Gilday read the recommendation from the Planning Board to accept the easement.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked how this impacts the city since the majority of Elizabeth Street is not an accepted way. DPW Director Joe Buckley stated that there is no overlap.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2025-053 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2025-072 An Order that \$211,935.00 is appropriated from the Receipts Reserved for Real Estate Proceeds Fund (239 4193) to purchase the land and building located at 128 Kimball Road, Amesbury, for the purpose of using the property for water supply protection, passive use recreational area, and conservation purposes, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; -**Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary.
- Councilor Wheeler read the positive recommendation from the Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee.
- Councilor Stanganelli noted and he believes this should be passed at this meeting to avoid potentially missing out on the grant.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2025-072 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2025-073 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$122,661.00 from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) program to offset the City's costs to acquire the property at 128 Kimball Road in Amesbury for the purposes of drinking water resource protection and flood control management. -**Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary
- Councilor Gilday noted that the Budget and Finance Committee provided a positive recommendation.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2025-073 as presented. Councilor Stanganelli seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2025-074 An Ordinance to establish a Crosswalk at Merrimack River Condominiums- **Councilors Gilday and Stanganelli Sponsors**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary
- Councilor Gilday stated that this ordinance is straightforward and shared her desire to discharge the Planning and Development Committee and Ordinance and Administration Committee from their obligation.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to discharge the Ordinance and Administration Committee and Planning and Development Committee from their obligation. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed 5-1, Councilor Wheeler opposed.

- DPW Director Joe Buckley shared that he believes the crosswalk will add to the overall safety.
- Councilor Wheeler asked for clarification regarding the bylaws.

Councilor Gilday called for a recess at 8:29 PM.
The meeting resumed at 8:36 PM.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2025-074 as presented with the addition to make appropriate changes to the E code and general ordinances. Councilor Rinaldi seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 4-1-1, Councilor Haggstrom opposed and Councilor Wheeler abstained.

First Readings

2025-082 An Order authorizing the Mayor to dispose of, by sale or lease, all or a portion or portions of City-owned property and any structures thereon consisting of approximately 4 +/- acres (180,000 SF +/-), which is a portion of the 14 acre +/- City-owned property located at 24 South Hampton Road (Parcel 26-4, formerly the site of the Amesbury Elementary School) as shown on Exhibit 1.- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2025-082 to the Ordinance and Administration Committee, Planning and Development Committee, Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee, and Planning Board with a second reading and hearing for September 23rd. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2025-083 An Ordinance to Amend the Amesbury Zoning Map to rezone two (2) portions of 24 South Hampton Road (the former Amesbury Elementary School) from the OSC to the R-8 Zoning District-**Mayor Sponsor**

- Councilor Gilday read the summary

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to refer 2025-083 to the Planning Board, Planning and Development Committee, and Ordinance and Administration Committee with a second reading and hearing for September 23rd. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2025-084 A Resolution to formally establish a twinning relationship between the City of Amesbury, Massachusetts, United States of America and the Town of Amesbury, Wiltshire, United Kingdom- **Mayor Gove and Councilor Haggstrom Sponsor**

- Councilor Haggstrom read the resolution into the record.
- Mayor Gove shared that the mayor is arriving on Thursday.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve as presented. Councilor Stanganelli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Late Files

None

Adjourn

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to adjourn at 8:53 PM. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Looney