



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

City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

President Mandeville called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Frederique

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

Councilor Wheeler was absent

Act on Minutes- September 24, 2024 and September 30, 2024

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the minutes from September 24, 2024 as presented The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (7-0).

Councilor Hogg moved to approve the minutes from September 30, 2024 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed 5-0-2 with abstentions from Councilors Gilday & Frederique.

Mayoral Appointments

2024-122 Appointment of Michael McCarthy to the position of member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

- Mr. McCarthy said a few words on his appointment.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the appointment of Michael McCarthy to the position of member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire February 28, 2027. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (7-0).

****President Mandeville called for a recess at 7:20 PM, returning at 7:25 PM****

2024-123 Reappointment of Stephen Klomps to the position of member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the Reappointment of Stephen Klomps to the position of member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (7-0).

2024-124 Reappointment of Joan MacPherson to the position of member of the Health Care Trust Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the Reappointment of Joan MacPherson to the position of member of the Health Care Trust Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (7-0).

Monthly list of licenses – none at this time

Correspondence

- President/Vice President Communications
 - None at this time
 - Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions
 - None at this time
- Warrant- 2024 State Election - Approval

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the 2024 State Election Warrant. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously (7-0).

- Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports
 - Councilor Rinaldi shared that they had a successful meeting with the Chamber of Commerce on the tax classification, and more meetings will be held.
 - Councilor Stanganelli announced that the City Council has a vacancy in District 3, and that applications are being accepted. The deadline is Nov 6 at 4PM. Councilor Stanganelli also mentioned that the Joint Education Committee requires the City Council President to appoint 3 members to start meeting and would like those before budget season. Also, Amesbury Troop 7 is having a fundraiser at the Salisbury Boys and Girls Club at 6:30 PM and encouraged all to attend.

Public Comment-

- Scott Winters (146 ½ Market Street) Cited numbers supporting many cannabis shops closing recently, which he attributes to market oversaturation. Deeply concerned about the addition of more cannabis licenses. Is in favor of downtown marijuana establishments but does not support increasing the number of licenses.
- Robert DiFazio (6 Baker Street) Owner of CNA Stores, supports adding marijuana establishments to Downtown, but is concerned about the parking situation in the area and echoes Mr. Winters's concerns on market oversaturation.

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Stanganelli responded to Mr. Winters and Mr. DiFazio and reminded everyone that there was not a zone that allows downtown cannabis until the last meeting. The fact that a zone was created does not authorize a specific applicant. Parking issues must be taken into consideration when approving a store. Currently effectively no upper cap in Amesbury. The proposed bills establish an upper boundary.

Second Readings

Public Hearings

2024-098 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Zoning Ordinance to create an overlay in compliance with MBTA Communities Act - **Mayor Gove and Councilor Gilday Sponsors**

- President Mandeville recapped the process so far on 2024-098, stating that the public hearing is continued from the September 24, 2024 City Council meeting.
- Planning Director Nipun Jain gave a short update on two proposed changes. Documents have been made available to City Council and City Clerk
- Councilor Gilday confirmed with Mr. Jain that the City Council can vote on this tonight.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to accept the redline as a substitution for 2024-098. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed unanimously (7-0).

President Mandeville closed the public hearing at 7:50 PM.

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2024-098 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously (7-0).

First Readings

AO 2024-05 Pursuant to Section 6-1(a)(2) of the Amesbury Home Rule Charter (the "Charter"), city government is hereby reorganized, upon effect of this order, as follows:

The Office of Community & Economic Development (OCED)

- OCED Director Nick Cracknell spoke on the administrative order. It is critical to establish a Senior Project Manager. Large projects coming up – including the MBTA bill passed tonight – will require a greater staff to manage.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked Director Cracknell what he would envision this position doing, if anything, with the CDBG program? NO, too many projects on the block.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked Director Cracknell if he would anticipate more support staff needed for this position in FY26? Probably. Very easy to overestimate what you're going to get.
- Councilor Redfern mentioned that he is right in setting a high bar, asking max of 90k in 2026, does that salary match qualifications and how does it compare to other cities? Will it be competitive? Director Cracknell replied that the average salary is 90k for project planner.
- Councilor Gilday pointed out that she believes 90k seems low, would prepare for different numbers come budget season.
- President Mandeville mentioned that 90k is the threshold for a project architect in Boston, so he believes that the city is in the right ballpark.
- Councilor Frederique asked if there is a timeline to hire someone. Director Cracknell replied that, if approved, the intention is to get the job posted ASAP. Would like someone to start in December, but due diligence will be done in hiring process.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked how much money is left in budget salary reserve if this is done? If hired in January, how do they deal with Marina/boat ramp project? When do we have to start construction? Director Cracknell replied that time is of the essence, we don't want to hire someone in April and have them play catch-up.
- Mayor Gove provided numbers asked for by Councilor Stanganelli: 2 approved bills, started at \$200k, down to \$175,637, would take out another \$50k if approved.
- Councilor Hogg: If position not funded, who is doing the work? Director Cracknell replied that it would probably be himself, and he would likely use consulting money to provide help.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve AO 2024-05. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (7-0).

2024-125 An Order to authorize a transfer of \$50,000.00 from the FY25 Budget Reserve account to the Office of Community & Economic Development Salaries & Wages.

Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2024-125 to the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on October 22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously (7-0)

2024-126 An Order to authorize a transfer of \$35,000.00 from Fire Department Personal Services to Fire Department Other Expenses. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2024-126 to the Budget and Finance Committee with second reading October 22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (7-0).

2024-127 An Order to approve payment from the FY25 general fund operating budget for the below listed prior year invoices. - **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2024-127 to the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on October 22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (7-0).

2024-128 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$29,640.00 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research FY25 Municipal Road Safety (MRS) Grant Program.- **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2024-128 to the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on October 22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously (7-0).

2024-129 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for FY 2025.- **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2024-129 to the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on October 22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously (7-0).

2024-130 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend, for its fifth year, a Drug Free Communities Support Program Grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP).- **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2024-130 to the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on October 22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (7-0).

2024-131 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant from the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council for FY 2024.- **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2024-131 to the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on October 22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously (7-0).

2024-132 An Ordinance to amend Chapter 334 Licenses and Permits with the municipal code to allow for licensing of adult cannabis retailers within the Retail Marijuana Overlay District. -**Councilor Stanganelli and Councilor Rinaldi Sponsors**

Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2024-132 to the Ordinance and Administration Committee with a second reading on October 22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed Unanimously (7-0).

Councilor Stanganelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Manning

Addendum N

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: SCOTT WINTERS

Address: 146 1/2 MARKET ST 01913

City: AMESBURY State MA Zip 01913

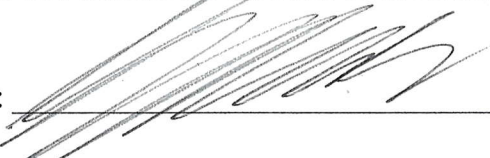
Home Phone () 978-2405

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: CANNARIS

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

IT'S MY LIVELIHOOD

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature:  Date: 10/8

Addendum N

Public Comment / Public Hearing Speaker's Request Form

In order to be recognized to speak on any matter you must complete all sections of this form.

Name: Robert DiFazio

Address: 6 Baker St.

City: Amesbury State MA Zip 01913

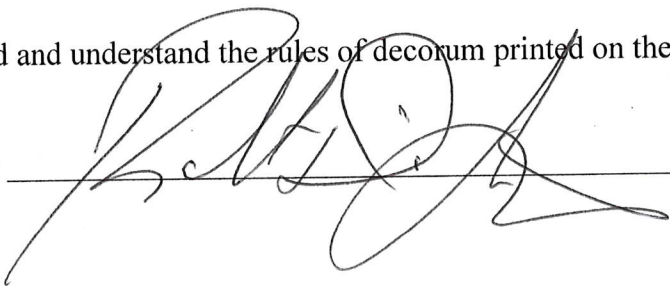
Home Phone (978) ~~327~~ 589-3192

Matter(s) on which you would like to speak: 2024-132

Please disclose any relationship as well as any direct or indirect financial interest you or a family member, may have with this matter:

I own a business in town

I have read and understand the rules of decorum printed on the reverse of this form.

Signature:  Date: 10/8/24