



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

City Council Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026
7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Jessica Redfern.

Councilor Pamela Gilday led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Steven Stanganelli joined the meeting at 7:03 PM

Roll call was taken, and present were Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Amanda Haggstrom, Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Scott Mandeville, Councilor Steve Stanganelli, Councilor Kelly Sullivan, Councilor Maryann Welch, Councilor Claudel Frederique, and President Jessica Redfern.

Act on Minutes- March 4, 2026 and March 10, 2026

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve the March 4, 2026 minutes as presented. Councilor Mandeville seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the March 10, 2026 minutes as presented. Councilor Sullivan seconded, and the motion passed 7-2, Councilors Mandeville and Stanganelli abstained.

Mayoral Appointments

2026-070 Reappointment of Craig Bailey to the position of member of the Amesbury Retirement Board

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-070 as presented. Councilor Stanganelli seconded.

- Councilor Stanganelli asked about the stipend amount. Chief of Staff Pam Tobey noted that she would find the exact amount.

The motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Monthly list of licenses –None

Correspondence

-President/Vice President Communications

- President Redfern declared a vacancy on the Planning Board.
- President Redfern declared a vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees.
- President Redfern shared that the obligation to review the financial condition of the city has been fulfilled.

- Councilor Haggstrom spoke to the potential new structure of the budget hearings taking place on a Saturday with a proposed date of May 30, 2026.
 - Councilor Gilday shared that she cannot attend a meeting on May 30th.
 - Councilor Hogg shared that he is not in favor of having one budget hearing on a Saturday.
 - Councilor Haggstrom noted that the Amesbury Public Schools budget hearing will be held on a different day.
 - Councilors discussed the transparency aspect of the budget hearings.

-Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

None

Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

- Councilor Welch shared that she attended a tour of Amesbury Public Schools with Councilor Gilday, the Vice Chair of the School Committee, and the Superintendent.
- Councilor Welch shared that she and President Redfern attended the Long Range Planning Committee meeting for its final report presentation.
- Councilor Welch shared that she attended the MMA Legislative Breakfast.
- Councilor Gilday shared that the Council received an email informing them that the Zoning Board of Appeals will be seeking comments from councilors regarding bill 2026-069.
- Councilor Stanganelli spoke about his desire to take trash collection out of the municipal budget.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared his desire for a bus patrol system for both safety and financial reasons.
- Councilor Stanganelli disagreed with President Redfern's statement that the financial condition report was covered by the budget workshop meeting.

Public Comment

- Tony Delmonico, 39 Kimball Road, shared safety concerns regarding 2026-069.
- Rebecca Delmonico, 39 Kimball Road, shared safety concerns regarding 2026-069.
- Michelle Calvert, 29 Kimball Road, shared safety and water runoff concerns regarding 2026-069.

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Frederique thanked the public for coming out and expressed his hope that a solution to residents' concerns will be found.
- Councilor Haggstrom shared her confidence in the police and fire departments with regard to public safety concerns.
- Councilor Mandeville thanked the public for coming to the meeting and echoed their concerns.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared that he is sympathetic to the concerns of the public, but that he is not sure how this can be changed.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to take 2026-069 out of order. Councilor Sullivan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

First Readings

2026-069 Request for Comment on 27 Kimball Road 40B Application

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to create a Microsoft Teams page to compile councilor's thoughts. Councilor Mandeville seconded, and the motion passed 8-0-1, Councilor Stanganelli abstained.

- Councilor Gilday gave an overview of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting she recently attended and shared her concern over who will pay for the water drainage system.
- Councilor Sullivan shared her support for the idea that the project cannot be stopped but it can be shaped.
- Councilor Mandeville shared that the key aspects are wastewater disposal, traffic patterns, and environmental impact.
- President Redfern shared that some city departments have provided concerns with aspects of this project.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to continue 2026-069 to the next meeting. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

President Redfern called for a recess at 8:12 PM. The meeting resumed at 8:19 PM.

Second Readings

2026-008 An Order to adopt Rules and Procedures for the Fifteenth Session of the Amesbury City Council

- Councilor Gilday shared the positive recommendation with revisions from the Ordinance and Administration Committee.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-008 as revised with the incorporated Ordinance and Administration Committee edits and to amend page 16 section 7 to read “one chair of the committee of the whole” and to further allow the clerk to make clerical and formatting changes. Councilor Gilday seconded.

- Councilor Stanganelli opined that a typographical error versus a redline error is more than a minor editorial correction.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to amend 2026-008 to include five bullet points included in an email he provided to councilors dated March 24, 2026, as well as replacing the reference to the word “they” to “he/she/they.” The motion failed for a lack of a second.

After a roll call vote, the main motion passed 8-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

- President Redfern clarified that the amended rules will replace the Budget and Finance Committee, Ordinance and Administration Committee, and Planning and Development Committee with one Committee of the Whole.

Councilor Stanganelli left the meeting at 8:30 PM.

2026-065 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a FY26 Legislative Earmark Grant Award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the amount of \$20,000 for maintenance and improvements to a pocket park in the City of Amesbury.- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern read the positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee.
- Chief of Staff Pam Tobey shared that this grant will be used for phase two of the improvements to the pocket park.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2026-065 as presented. Councilor Frederique seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-066 An Order to authorize transfers from the Budget Reserve account of \$35,000 to the Revaluation Services account and \$40,000 the Legal Consultant Services account.-**Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern shared the positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee.
- Chief of Staff Pam Tobey shared that they are in the middle of negotiations.

Councilor Sullivan offered a motion to approve 2026-066 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2026-067 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) Wellness Public Safety Grant in the amount to of \$14,858.- **Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern shared the positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee.
- Chief of Staff Pam Tobey shared this grant is similar to one received by police last fiscal year, that there no match required, and that the fire department intends to apply for this grant again in the future.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to approve 2026-067 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Public Hearings

None

Adjourn

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to adjourn at 8:38 PM. Councilor Welch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Looney

March 31, 2026