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City of Amesbury
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62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

President Mandeville called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Gilday

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

Also present: City Clerk Jennifer Smith, Assistant City Clerk Jess Manning, Mayor Kassandra Gove, Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey, Chief Assessor Diana Caswell, Police Chief Craig Bailey

Act on Minutes – None

Mayoral Appointments –

2024-136 Appointment of Helen “Ellie” O’Leary to the position of member of the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

- Poet Laureate Helen O’Leary spoke to her appointment.

Councilor Gilday moved to approve the appointment of Helen “Ellie” O’Leary to the position of member of the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire February 28, 2027. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously (8-0)

2024-137 Reappointment of Nancy Frick to the position of member of the Amesbury Housing Trust for a term to expire April 30, 2026.

Councilor Gilday moved to approve the reappointment of Nancy Frick to the position of member of the Amesbury Housing Trust for a term to expire April 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (8-0)

Councilor Wheeler moved to take 2024-121 out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously 8-0.

Second Readings

2024-121 Declaration of City Council Vacancy – District 3

- Amanda Haggstrom (38 Orchard St.) Voiced her excitement to represent Amesbury’s Third District, drawing from her experience as a municipal clerk and Amesbury’s former City Clerk.
- Councilor Wheeler thanked Ms. Haggstrom for stepping up and applying for the position.
- President Mandeville welcomed Ms. Haggstrom to the City Council.

Councilor Wheeler moved to nominate Amanda Haggstrom to fill the remaining District Three City Councilor term. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (8-0)

****President Mandeville called for a brief recess at 7:21 PM, returning at 7:31 PM.****

****Councilor Haggstrom joined the meeting at 7:31 PM****

Monthly list of licenses – None

7. Correspondence

· President/Vice President Communications

- President Mandeville gave a statement concerning an incident involving Councilor Stanganelli on 11/2.
- Councilor Gilday thanked the chairs of the Amesbury Cultural Council for their Open Studio and shared a letter from the Chamber of Commerce concerning the tax classification.

Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

- Mayor Gove Memo – Donations under \$5000
- Mayor Gove gave a brief background on 2024-149

2024-138 Presentation from Assessor's Office

- Chief Assessor Diana Caswell gave a presentation for the tax classification hearing.

Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

- Councilor Stanganelli addressed the incident that occurred on 11/2.

Public Comment-

- Brock Omohundro (198 Market St.) – Stressed the importance of establishing the Joint Education Committee, that it is crucial to have this level of communication between the School Committee and City Council.
- Anne Ferguson (1 River Ct) Appreciates the City Council. President of Amesbury Improvement Association. Public hearing held tomorrow at Costello Center at 7PM to get input on design for phase 2 of skate park improvements.
- Monica Home (6 Mallard Dr. Hudson, NH) – Spoke to her experiences on November 2 as part of a “Trump Train” in Amesbury.
- Robert Fowler (25 Clinton St.) – Spoke in opposition to 2024-149. Too many projects to devote money to a new City Hall.
- Michael Campbell (17 Beach Rd Salisbury, MA) Leader of “Trump Train” Heading from NH to Newburyport HS, spoke to his experience on 11/2. Wanted to support Newburyport HS kids.

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Wheeler thanked Anne Ferguson for the work she does in the city.

First Readings

2024-134 Library Board of Trustees Declaration of Vacancy - Delia Rinaldi Resignation

Councilor Wheeler moved to accept the resignation and declare the position vacant. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-135 Planning Board Declaration of Vacancy - Lorri Krebs Resignation

Councilor Wheeler moved to accept the resignation and declare the position vacant. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stanganelli and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-138 An Order to request the City Council vote to hold the annual Classification Hearing to vote on four (4) separate items in order to establish the tax burdens for each class of property. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-138 to Budget & Finance and set a second reading and public hearing on 11/26, as well as including a workshop with date TBD. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-139 An Order to request the City Council vote to increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants. - **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Stanganelli moved to refer 2024-139 to Budget & Finance and set a second reading on 11/26. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-140 An Ordinance to update and amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations SCHEDULE 1 PARKING (PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES) to include the Northbound side of Whitehall Rd from the Intersection of Garfield Street to High Street. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-140 to Ordinance & Administration and set a second reading on 11/26. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg.

Councilor Wheeler moved to amend the main motion to include Planning & Development. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

A vote was held on the main motion, as amended, which passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-141 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations SCHEDULE I PARKING (2 HOUR PARKING) to a 3 HOUR time limit from 8 AM to 6 PM every day except Sundays. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-141 to Ordinance & Administration and Planning & Development and set a second reading on 11/26. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-142 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-1 - General Prohibitions to prohibit parking on a curb. - **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-142 to Ordinance & Administration and Planning & Development and set a second reading on 11/26. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-143 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5 to include the prohibition of parking in Fire Lanes. - **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-143 to Ordinance & Administration and Planning & Development and set a second reading on 11/26. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-144 An Order to: Vote Intent to Lay Out Colonial Drive and Refer to Planning Board. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-144 to Ordinance & Administration, Planning & Development, and the Planning Board and set a second reading and public hearing on 1/14/2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed (5-4)

2024-145 An Order of the Amesbury City Council to Approve the Acceptance of a Quitclaim Deed for a Parcel of Land known as Lot X in the Eastern Lights Subdivision, being a portion of property located off Middle Road, Amesbury and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute said Approval on Behalf of the City of Amesbury, - **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-145 to Ordinance & Administration, Planning & Development, and the Planning Board and set a second reading on 1/14/2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-146 An Order to: Lay Out and Accept Colonial Drive as a Public Way. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-146 to Ordinance & Administration, Planning & Development, and the Planning Board and set a second reading and public hearing on 1/14/2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed (8-1).

2024-147 An Order to authorize a transfer of \$1,800.00 from Veterans Services Department Other Expenses to Veterans Services Department Salaries & Wages. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Stanganelli moved to refer 2024-147 to Budget & Finance and set a second reading on 11/26. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-148 An Ordinance to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-1 - General Prohibitions to prohibit parking on a curb.- **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-148 to Ordinance & Administration and Planning & Development and set a second reading on 11/26. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (9-0).

12. Late Files

Councilor Stanganelli moved to suspend the rules and accept 2024-149 as a late file. Motion seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0).

2024-149 An Order authorizing the Mayor to acquire the land, building, and structures located at 5 Market Street, Amesbury, for the purpose of using the building for City Hall purposes, and the appropriation of \$3,150,000 to fund such acquisition, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2024-149 to Ordinance & Administration, Planning & Development, Budget & Finance, and the Planning Board and set a second reading and public hearing on 11/26. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haggstrom and passed (8-1).

Councilor Stanganelli moved to accept a late file to appoint Councilor Haggstrom to Planning & Development to replace the former District Councilor appointed to that committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed 8-0-1 with Councilor Wheeler abstaining.

13. Adjourn

Councilor Stanganelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (9-0)