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City of Amesbury
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MEETING NOTICE

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. CHAPTER 30A §§18-25
Version 7.1.10

City Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

The public can view this meeting:

- In person
- ACTV Channel 6
- the ACTV website: <https://www.amesburycvtv.org/public-government-access-television>
- or the ACTV Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/AmesburyCommunityTelevision

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Hogg

3. Roll Call

4. Mayoral Appointments

2026-091 Appointment of Brian Higgins to the position of member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2029

5. President and Vice President Announcements/Communications

6. Presentations from Mayor, City Staff, other Elected Officials, and Official Representatives of Boards and Commissions

- Mayoral Presentation – FY27 Budget, including relevant information about the financial condition of the city

7. Licenses and Permits – May

8. Public Comment - Public comment can be done in person during the meeting, or by emailing your comments to clerk@amesburyma.gov by 12:00 p.m. the Friday before the Council meeting, per City Council Rule 5G. Subject line PUBLIC COMMENT. Your comments will be read aloud at the appropriate time in the agenda and entered into the public record.

9. Council Response to Public Comment

10. Second Readings

2026-082 An Order to accept donation of shed at Amesbury Town Park ice rink- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: The equipment shed, valued at approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000, was made possible through community fundraising efforts led by resident Dan Ouellet, along with contributions from numerous donors and volunteers. The structure was constructed at an estimated cost of under \$6,000 and includes durable materials such as pressure-treated framing and cement board siding. The shed will support rink operations by providing storage for hockey nets and related equipment, with additional improvements including heating, cooling, and a water heater to be completed in the spring.

- a. Public Hearings - None

11. First Readings

2026-001 An Order to vote to adopt an Operating Budget for 2027 – **Mayor Sponsor**

Be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows: that the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 be approved

2026-092 An Order to appropriate \$513,316.36 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding fiscal year 2027 capital expenditures listed below- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order proposes to appropriate \$513,316.36 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the following capital expenditures in fiscal year 2027.

2026-093 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**

Summary: This order proposes to establish spending limits for departmental revolving funds pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53E ½ for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

2026-094 An Order that pursuant to G.L. c. 44B, the Community Preservation Act, the following amounts be reserved from the FY2027 estimated annual revenues of the Community Preservation Fund, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee:

\$59,427 (or amount equal to 10% estimated revenue) to the Open Space and Recreation Reserve, and

\$59,427 (or amount equal to 10% estimated revenue) to the Historic Resources Reserve, and

\$59,427 (or amount equal to 10% estimated revenue) to the Community Housing Reserve- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order allocates FY2027 Community Preservation Act (CPA) estimated revenues in accordance with statutory requirements. Ten percent of revenues are reserved in each of the three required categories: Open Space and Recreation, Historic Resources, and Community Housing. An additional 5% is appropriated to support administrative and operational expenses of the Community Preservation Committee.

2026-095 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend two grants from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) Department of Fire Services (DFS) for the Fiscal Year 2026 Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) program in the amount of \$6,727.92 and the Senior SAFE program in the amount of \$2,859.19.-**Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: These grant funds support fire and life safety education programming for school-age children and the senior populations by trained firefighter-educators. The SAFE grant program focusses on school-age children, providing fire safety, prevention, and protection education that increases in complexity with each grade level. The Senior SAFE grants support fire, carbon monoxide, and other life safety education programs for older adults, particularly at senior centers, councils on aging, and through home visits. These programs may also include services like smoke and carbon monoxide alarm replacement, fall prevention education, and more. The SAFE grant program has been offered annually since 1995 and is

associated with a 79% reduction in child fire fatalities. The Senior SAFE program, established in 2014, responds to the high number of fire-related injuries and deaths among older adults.

2026-096 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Sustainable & Resilient New England Libraries grant in the amount of \$15,000. -**Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: These grant funds will support the replacement of the temporary ramp currently serving as the main and only ADA-compliant entrance at the Amesbury Public Library. Installed in 2007 as a temporary solution, the ramp has exceeded its intended lifespan and no longer meets current code standards.

2026-097 An Order to transfer \$22,881.86 from the Greenleaf Supportive Day Revolving Fund to the Council on Aging Revolving Fund. -**Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: The Greenleaf Supportive Day Program was established in 2015 under Council Order 2015-054 as a Chapter 44, Section 53E½ revolving fund to support the Council on Aging's day program. As this program is no longer in operation, and the original order permits any remaining balance to be either transferred to another departmental revolving fund or closed to the general fund if not reauthorized, a determination is now required regarding the disposition of the funds.

12. Correspondence

- a. Communications from Mayor, City Staff, other Elected Officials, and Representatives of City Boards and Committees
- b. Council Communications
- c. Council Committee Reports

13. Act on Minutes – April 14, 2026, April 28, 2026 and May 5, 2026

14. Late Files

2026-098 An Order to appropriate \$55,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings to the Sludge Disposal, Repair & Maintenance Other Equipment and Consulting accounts to fund an emergency wastewater treatment plant repair. - **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order proposes an appropriation from Sewer Retained Earnings to fund critical repairs at the wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater treatment facility sludge processing centrifuge installed in 2003 had a significant failure on May 6, 2026. The eventual replacement of the centrifuge was identified as a major capital expense by DPW review and design is scheduled to begin in FY2026.

15. Adjournment