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City of Amesbury
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62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

President Mandeville called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Hogg

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

Councilors Haggstrom and Redfern were absent

Also Present: City Clerk Jennifer Smith, Assistant City Clerk Jess Manning, Rec Director Kathy Crowley, Asst Rec Director Christopher Lull, DPW Director Joe Buckley

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Act on Minutes - January 14, 2025

**Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the minutes from January 14, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (7-0).**

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Mayoral Appointments –

Councilor Gilday moved to accept 2025-008 as a late file and take it out of order, to follow 2024-007. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (7-0).

Councilor Gilday moved to take 2025-008 out of order, to immediately follow 2025-007. Second by Wheeler, 7-0 unanimous.

2025-006 Appointment of Jim Wilson to the position of Director of Inspectional Services

- Mr. Wilson introduced himself and said that he is willing to answer any questions from City Councilors
- Councilor Stanganelli noted that the previous Director was working with the Board of Health to implement a rat trap program, and the Councilor hopes that said program will get implemented fully.

Councilor Wheeler moved to accept 2025-006. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rinaldi and passed unanimously (7-0).

2025-007 Appointment of Jena Jekums to the position of member of the Open Space, natural Resources and Trails Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2027

Councilor Stanganelli moved to accept 2025-007. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (7-0).

2025-008 Appointment of Maya Gakidis to the position of member of the Amesbury Conservation Commission for a term to expire February 28, 2027

- Ms. Gakidis introduced herself
- Wheeler thanked Gakidis, and asked her to say a few words concerning her background
- Gilday thanked Gakidis and emphasized Ms. Gakidis' background

Councilor Wheeler moved to accept 2025-008. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (7-0).

Monthly list of licenses

- **Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve the January 28 license list as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously (7-0).**
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Correspondence

· President/Vice President Communications

- President Mandeville shared that some councilors attended the MMA Conference and recapped the event.
- Gilday shared that Mayor Gove was selected as VP of MMA for 2025, with an eventual move to President of MMA in 2026.

· Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

- Greg Noyes: School Committee gave an update on budget talks with the School Committee, noting that some positions (ELL Staff) will need to be added. He also updated on the AES campus and hopes a bill addressing it will be introduced sooner rather than later.
- Wheeler asked why we are insuring a building that is being knocked down, would like to see a legal read on disposition process, doesn't believe a separate bill needs to be filed, just that an order must come down from the Mayor's Office

· Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

- Budget & Finance: Councilor Stanganelli Last mtg on 1/21, next mtg 2/19, discussed matters on agenda
 - Ordinance & Administration: Councilor Gilday: last met 1/15, discussed bills on tonight's agenda
 - Planning & Development: Councilor Hogg: Last met 1/22, next mtg 2/19
 - Energy Committee: Councilor Rinaldi Met 1/16,
 - Chamber of Commerce: Councilor Rinaldi - discussed Rocky Hill development and solar farm
 - Disposition Committee: Councilor Hogg Met 12/2024, not met yet this year. One order in front of them: Trader Allen's Truck Stop
 - Affordable Housing Trust: Councilor Stanganelli: next meeting 2nd wed of February, did not have quorum in January
 - Whittier Task Force: Councilor Frederique Met yesterday afternoon, lengthy, plan on having a February meeting but not scheduled
 - Joint Education Committee: Met on 1/21 (Stanganelli) next meeting on 3/5, discussed long range planning
 - Councilor Stanganelli shared Ryan Buckley came before B&F and made them aware of request, he is interested in sidewalk infrastructure on 110 and encouraged City Council to take action. He also shared that recent leg action has put a pause on the CDBG grant
 - Councilor Wheeler followed up on MMA Conference, noted himself and Councilor Haggstrom also attended.
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Public Comment

- Timothy Ryan (15 Wells Ave): Spoke about fencing issues and lack of parking in the city
- Crystal Sorgini (82 Prospect Street) Discussing 2024-163 and would ask Council to keep usage fee category in a fee-exempt status.

Council Response to Public Comment

Second Readings

2024-119 Revised Amesbury Energy Committee By Laws – Councilors Rinaldi and Hogg Sponsors

- Councilor Gilday read the positive recommendation from O&A with suggested revisions.

Councilor Rinaldi moved to substitute the original version of 2024-119 with the redline. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed 7-0.

Councilor Rinaldi moved to accept 2024-119 as revised. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (7-0).

2024-163 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Code of Ordinances Chapter 396 Special Events to establish a usage fee schedule and regulations for community use of City-owned facilities. – Mayor Sponsor

- Councilor Wheeler recused himself as an abutter
- Councilor Gilday read the positive recommendation from O&A
- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive recommendation from B&F
- Mayor Gove spoke about 2024-163, summarizing the process, modeled after school comm policy updated a year ago in form and function. Mistakenly applied exact fees to 2 new diamonds at town park but one has better lights. Randall field lighting fee should be amended to read “not applicable,” Packer field should be charging \$20/hr for lighting. Lights in Landry coordinating with School Dept, needs to change utility fee to \$20/hr and add custodial fee of \$40/hr
- Councilor Stanganelli: sought clarification on the changes The Mayor is suggesting.

Councilor Gilday moved to amend 2024-163 with revisions suggested by Mayor Gove: by changing the Randall Field Lighting Fee to “Not Applicable,” adding a \$20/hour lighting fee to Packer Field and adding a \$20/hour utility fee and \$40/hour custodial fee at Landry Stadium. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously (6-0).

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2024-163 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed unanimously via roll call (6-0).

****Councilor Wheeler returned to the meeting at 8:13 PM****

2025-002 An Order to request the City Council to authorize the Department of Public Works to overspend the fiscal 2025 snow and ice appropriation of \$250,000. – Mayor Sponsor

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive recommendation from B&F
- Buckley talked about 2025-002 explaining drivers to the cost, \$100,000 used to rent equipment

Councilor Stanganelli moved to accept 2025-002 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg and passed unanimously via roll call (7-0).

2025-003 An Order to appropriate \$145,193.52 from Water Retained Earnings to Water Other Expenses.– Mayor Sponsor

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive recommendation from B&F

Councilor Stanganelli moved to accept 2025-003 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously via roll call (7-0).

2025-004 An Order to authorize a transfer of \$1,615.00 from Youth Services Personal Services to Youth Services Other Expenses. – Mayor Sponsor

- Councilor Stanganelli read the positive recommendation from B&F

Councilor Stanganelli moved to accept 2025-004 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed unanimously via roll call (7-0).

A. Public Hearings

2024-164 An Order to: Vote to Rescind Bill No. 2019-042 and Accept a Portion of Elm Street as a City Public Way- Mayor Sponsor

- Councilor Gilday read the positive recommendation from O&A
- Councilor Mandeville read the positive recommendation from P&D

President Mandeville opened the Public Hearing on 2024-164 at 8:23 PM.

President Mandeville closed the Public Hearing on 2024-164 at 8:23 PM.

- Wheeler biggest change is portion of Elm Street by Stop and Shop exit to 110 will remain in state control

Councilor Stanganelli moved to accept 2024-164 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gilday and passed unanimously via roll call 7-0.

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First Readings – None

**Councilor Stanganelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler and passed unanimously (7-0).**

Respectfully submitted,

*Jess Manning*