



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

City Council Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2024
7:00 PM

President Scott Mandeville called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Councilor Anthony Rinaldi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, and present were Councilor Anthony Rinaldi, Councilor Steven Stanganelli, Councilor Nicholas Wheeler, Councilor Owen Corcoran, Councilor Claudel Frederique, Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Jessica Redfern, and President Scott Mandeville.

Also present: Administrative Assistant Jess Manning, Minute Recorder Jasmine Looney

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Minutes for approval

March 13, 2024 Joint Meeting of the City Council and Planning Board

**Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded and the motion passed 8-0-1, Councilor Wheeler abstained.**

March 13, 2024 Joint Meeting of the City Council and Library Board of Trustees

**Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the March 13, 2024 minutes as presented. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.**

May 28, 2024

**Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the May 28, 2024 minutes as presented. Councilor Rinaldi seconded. The motion passed 7-0-2, Councilors Redfern and Corcoran abstained.**

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Mayoral Appointments-

2024-077 Reappointment of KP Law, P.C. to the position of City Attorney for a term to expire June 3, 2025

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to move 2024-077 to follow council response to public comment. Councilor Corcoran seconded.

- Councilor Stanganelli stated that it is not appropriate to wait.
- Councilor Gilday stated that a representative should be present between 7:30 and 8:00 PM.

The motion passed 7-1-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed, Councilor Hogg abstained.

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Licenses and Permits

None

### Correspondence

#### President/Vice President Communications:

- President Mandeville requested a moment of silence for the passing of Amesbury's original Poet Laureate.
- Councilor Gilday Pam shared that the Amesbury Public Library and Library Board of Trustees invite the public to a Library Facilities Plan public hearing on June 18 at 7:00 PM to learn about the Library's Conditions Assessment and Facilities Master Plan project.
- Councilor Gilday congratulated the AHS graduates.

#### Communications from Elected Officials, Boards, and Commissions:

None

#### Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports:

- Councilor Corcoran shared a letter written by Mark Zuberg of 15-17 Pond St., with concerns regarding the city owned stockade fence.
- Councilor Stanganelli praised Officer Ward regarding a moved elementary school bus stop.

### Public Comment

- Wendy Howes, 17 Pond St., spoke to the danger and eyesore of the city owned stockade fence.

### Council Response to Public Comment

None

**Councilor Gilday offered a motion to move 2024-077 to follow 2024-001. Councilor Rinaldi seconded. The motion passed 8-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed.**

### Public Hearings

#### **2024-001** An order to adopt operating budget for FY25 – Mayor Sponsor

- President Mandeville read the summary.

President Mandeville opened the public hearing at 7:26 PM.

- Maeve Sweeney, 66 Aubin St, spoke in favor of funding schools.
- Cindy Yetman, 6 Newton Rd, spoke in favor of funding schools.
- Lauren Snay, 17 Woodwell Circle, spoke in favor of funding schools.
- Tia Costello, 182 Whitehall Rd, spoke in favor of funding schools.
- Jim Sweeney, 66 Aubin St, spoke in favor of funding schools.
- Councilor Stanganelli read the recommendations from the Budget & Finance Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

President Mandeville closed the public hearing at 7:47 PM.

- President Mandeville read the recommendations of the Budget & Finance Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.
- Councilor Rinaldi objected to the Total City Council line item.
- Councilors Gilday and Stanganelli objected to the Total Amesbury Public Schools line item.
- President Mandeville objected to the Total Library line item.
- Councilor Stanganelli objected to the Total General Fund line item.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve all unquestioned items. Councilor Rinaldi seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Wheeler opposed.**

**Councilor Rinaldi offered a motion to give up Council stipends for a value of \$37,000. Councilor Corcoran seconded.**

- President Mandeville asked if this amount would come out of the City Council Personal Services line item. Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey stated that is correct.
- Councilor Wheeler noted that the City Council Personal Services and City Council Other Expenses line items have already been approved and that the only item not approved was the Total City Council line item.

**Councilor Gilday offered a motion to reconsider the prior vote. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed 7-2, Councilors Wheeler and Hogg opposed.**

- Councilor Rinaldi objected to the City Council Personal Services line item (111).
- President Mandeville objected to the Library Personal Services and Library Other Expenses line items (610).
- Councilor Stanganelli noted that the chair may not be able to object.

President Mandeville called for a brief recess at 8:23 PM.

The meeting resumed at 8:29 PM.

- Councilor Gilday objected to the Total Library line item (610).

**Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve all unquestioned items. Councilor Wheeler seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Wheeler opposed.**

**Councilor Rinaldi offered a motion to give up FY25 Council stipends for a value of \$37,000, reducing the line item to \$12,167. Councilor Stanganelli seconded.**

- Councilor Redfern asked if the Council could specify where funds go. President Mandeville answered that they cannot. Councilor Wheeler stated that if the intent is to add funds to the school budget, then the Council cannot do that. Councilor Corcoran stated that he hoped the Council's wishes would be honored by decision makers.
- Councilor Gilday stated that she will not vote for this motion because she would rather have the stipend in case it is needed for anything else down the line.
- Councilor Corcoran stated that he is torn on this issue and that perhaps it should be left as a personal choice for councilors.
- President Mandeville passed the gavel to Councilor Gilday.
- President Mandeville stated that he is torn on the suggestion and that he recognizes the challenges with the budget, but he puts in many of hours of work.
- Councilor Gilday passed the gavel back to President Mandeville.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated that the Council has the authority to increase the school budget but is limited to increasing it if there is a gap between what the school committee approved and the Mayor's proposed budget.
- Councilor Rinaldi asked to hear from acting CFO Sheryl Wright about the excess levy capacity.
- Ms. Wright stated that the Council votes on the expenses, not the revenues.
- Councilor Redfern stated that she would be voting no due to a lack of control over where the funds go.
- Councilor Rinaldi stated that control comes when the school budget is voted on.

**After a roll call vote, the motion failed 2-7, Councilors Wheeler, Frederique, Gilday, Hogg, Redfern, Corcoran, and President Mandeville opposed.**

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve the City Council Personal Services line item (111) at the amount of \$49,167. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Rinaldi opposed.**

**Council Wheeler offered a motion to approve the Total City Council line item (111) for a total of \$145,602. Councilor Stanganelli seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Rinaldi opposed.**

- Councilor Gilday stated that she objects to the additional \$30,000 from the excess levy capacity and that she would like to leave the money there since there is a small buffer if the anticipated revenue falls short.
- Councilor Stanganelli encouraged the Council to approve the Mayor's approved budget and not what was approved at the last Ad Hoc budget meeting.
- Councilor Wheeler shared his disagreement that using \$30,000 from the excess levy capacity will bring the city to the edge of a cliff, and that the amount might as well be used since no revenues have been cut.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to adopt the Budget & Finance Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation of \$37,945,439 for the Total Amesbury Public Schools line item (300). Councilor Corcoran seconded.**

- Councilor Stanganelli reiterated his belief that this amount is inappropriate because this amount is all at the discretion of the superintendent.
- Councilor Corcoran shared his desire to save one position.
- Councilor Wheeler stated that he does not know if there are grants that can help with these cuts and that this is the only thing the Council has the ability to change.
- Councilor Redfern stated that reducing the excess levy capacity is too great of a risk.
- Councilor Hogg stated that he cannot support the recommendation or the additional \$30,000 because it results in the reductions of frontline teaching staff.

**After a roll call vote, the motion failed 3-6, Councilors Rinaldi, Stanganelli, Frederique, Gilday, Hogg, and Redfern opposed.**

**Councilor Gilday offered a motion to accept the Amesbury Public Schools total line item (300) budget as specified in Mayor's budget book of \$37,945,439. Councilor Stanganelli seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-3-1, Councilors Wheeler, Corcoran, and President Mandeville opposed, Councilor Hogg abstained.**

President Mandeville passed the gavel to Councilor Gilday and recused himself at 9:28 PM.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to accept the Library Personal Services line item (610) at the amount of \$673,176. Councilor Redfern seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 8-0, President Mandeville recused.**

**Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve the Library Other Expenses line item (610) at the amount of \$231,680. Councilor Rinaldi seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 8-0, President Mandeville recused.**

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve the Total Library line item (610) for a total of \$904,856. Councilor Stanganelli seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 8-0, President Mandeville recused.**

President Mandeville returned to the meeting at 9:33 PM.  
Councilor Gilday passed the gavel back to President Mandeville.

**Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve the Total General Fund amount of \$79,414,528. Councilor Rinaldi seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-2, Councilors Wheeler and Corcoran opposed.**

**Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve said appropriation by the City Council for taxation of \$77,059,308. Councilor Gilday seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-2, Councilors Wheeler and Corcoran opposed.**

**Councilor Wheeler moved to approve the Total Appropriation of in the amount of \$86,598,257. Councilor Frederique seconded.**

**Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to amend to include other revenue sources of \$2,355,220, Water Enterprise of \$4,350,000, Sewer Enterprise of \$2,458,729, and Cable Public Access of \$375,000, bringing the Total Appropriation of \$86,598,257. Councilor Rinaldi seconded.**

- Councilor Wheeler stated that these items do not need to be specified and that the only item remaining is the total appropriation.
- Councilor Mandeville moved the question for the amendment.

**After a roll call vote, the motion to amend failed 3-3-3, Councilors Wheeler, Hogg, and President Mandeville opposed, Councilors Corcoran, Frederique, and Redfern abstained.**

Councilor Wheeler moved the question.

**After a roll call vote, the main motion passed 7-2, Councilors Corcoran and Wheeler opposed.**

President Mandeville called for a brief recess at 9:48 PM.  
The meeting resumed at 9:50 PM.

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2024-077 Reappointment of KP Law, P.C. to the position of City Attorney for a term to expire June 3, 2025

- KP Law representative Lauren Goldberg, President of KP Law, shared her enthusiasm to continue working with Amesbury.
- Councilors Wheeler and Gilday thanked her for her work with Amesbury.
- Councilor Stanganelli mentioned the response time from KP Law and questioned who is the most qualified to answer questions regarding parliamentary rules and procedures. President Goldberg replied that Mark Reich has good experience.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2024-077. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

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First Readings

**2024-078** An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$298,834.00 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs to fund the Amesbury Council on Aging's FY25 and FY26 Elder Mental Health Outreach Team (EMHOT)- Mayor Sponsor

- President Mandeville read the summary.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-078 to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee with a second reading for Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed 7-1-1, Rinaldi opposed and Stanganelli abstained.**

**2024-079** An Order to authorize inter-departmental transfers of general fund appropriations in accordance with MGL c.44 Section 33B.- Mayor Sponsor

- President Mandeville read the summary.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-079 to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee with a second reading on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed 8-0-1, Councilor Stanganelli abstained.**

**2024-080** An Order to appropriate \$32,699.28 from the Quality of Life fund (8020) for the purpose of funding improvements to Collins Street Park basketball court and surrounding area.- Mayor Sponsor

- President Mandeville read the summary.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-080 to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee with a second reading on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Corcoran seconded, and the motion passed 8-0-1, Councilor Stanganelli abstained.**

**2024-081** An Order that \$6,063,254 is appropriated to pay costs of the following project, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; AMS Performance Center – AMS Roof Replacement. Summary: This order will authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, to borrow \$6,063,254 for the project listed above. Pursuant to G.L. c. 44, the order must be passed by at least a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the City Council.- Mayor Sponsor

- President Mandeville read the summary.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-081 to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee with a second reading on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> and a presentation from the administration. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed 8-0-1, Councilor Stanganelli abstained.**

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Late Files

2024-082 An order to authorize the Mayor to enter into a renewal of the inter-municipal agreement for animal control services with Salisbury-**Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to accept 2024-082 as a late file. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

- President Mandeville read the summary.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-082 to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee with a second reading on Tuesday, June 25th. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed 8-0-1, Councilor Stanganelli abstained.

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Adjourn

**Councilor Rinaldi offered a motion to adjourn at 10:06 PM. Councilor Wheeler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Jasmine Looney*