



RECEIVED

By City Clerk at 10:10 am, Jul 22, 2026

City of Amesbury
Office of the City Clerk
1 Market Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Standing Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM

City Hall 62 Friend St.

Present: Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Claudel Frederique, Councilor Maryann Welch, Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Sullivan, Councilor Steve Stanganelli, and Chair Mandeville

Also present: City Clerk Jennifer E. Smith, Mayor Cassandra Gove, Chief of Staff Pamela Tobey, Police Chief Craig Bailey, Deputy Fire Chief David Mather, DPW Director Joseph Buckley, Senior Project Manager Howard Synder, Director of Community and Economic Development Nicholas Cracknell, and presenters Ian Burns and Kayla Rennie of MVPC.

Absent: Councilor Amanda Haggstrom and Councilor Jessica Redfern

**** Councilor Gilday moved to continue 2026-086 to later in the meeting due to the presenter being late. The motion was seconded by Councilor Welch.**

Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to amend the motion on the table to substitute the revised version of the Amesbury Housing Presentation and continue 2026-086 to later in the meeting to when the MVPC Presenter is present. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hogg, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

All those in favor of the main motion as amended was unanimous, 7-0. **

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.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to return 2026-092 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Welch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to return 2026-093 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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.

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to return 2026-094 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Stanganelli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to return 2026-095 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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.

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to return 2026-096 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Stanganelli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to return 2026-097 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to return 2026-098 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

2026-086 A Resolution to adopt Housing Production Plan 2024-2029- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: The City of Amesbury, in collaboration with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, has prepared the 2024–2029 Housing Production Plan (HPP). This strategic plan establishes goals and implementation strategies to address Amesbury’s housing needs, with a focus on expanding affordable housing opportunities and encouraging a diverse range of housing types throughout the community. The five-year plan evaluates community demographics, housing demand, and development trends, and outlines specific actions to guide the City’s housing efforts.

- Ian Burns and Kayla Rennie gave a presentation on 2026-086

****Councilor Sullivan and Councilor Stanganelli left the meeting****

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to return 2026-086 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation and recommended the full City Council refer the matter to the Planning Board and the Amesbury Housing Trust. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Welch and passed unanimously, 5-0.