



RECEIVED

By City Clerk at 10:49 am, Sep 10, 2025

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

City Council Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, June 10, 2025
7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Mandeville.

Councilor Frederique led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Act on Minutes

May 27, 2025

- Councilor Wheeler asked for the language for the motion for item 2025-055 to be copied into the minutes.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve the minutes with the correction to item 2025-055. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

2025-065 Appointment of Delaney Kingsland to the position of member of the Amesbury Conservation Commission for a term to expire February 29, 2028

- Ms. Kingsland, 7 Spindle Tree Lane, spoke to her ability and desire to her appointment to the Amesbury Conservation Commission
- Councilors thanked Ms. Kingsland for her service.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2025-065 as presented. Councilor Anthony Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

2025-066 Reappointment of James Humphries as Constable for the City of Amesbury for a term to expire July 1, 2028

- Mr. Humphries shared his background and his desire for reappointment

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2025-066 as presented. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

2025-067 Reappointment of KP Law to the position of City Attorney for the City of Amesbury for a term to expire June 2, 2026

- Councilor Stanganelli spoke against reappointing KP Law.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2025-067. Councilor Haggstrom seconded, and the motion passed 7-1-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed and Councilor Redfern abstained.

Monthly list of licenses –June

Councilor Gilday offered motion to approve the monthly list of licenses. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

President Mandeville called a brief recess at 7:16 PM to swear in the new appointees.

The meeting resumed at 7:21 PM.

Correspondence

- President/Vice President Communications
 - President Mandeville shared a recap of the ad hoc committee and noted that the council will be in recess for the month of August.
 - Councilor Gilday shared that Amesbury days are coming soon and will be organized by the Chamber of Commerce.

Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

- None

Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

- Councilor Frederique shared that Amesbury will be hosting its first Juneteenth event on Saturday, June 14th at Zach's Field

Public Comment

- President Mandeville read an email from Pat Garvey, 31 Merrimac St, into the record, which spoke to a desire for a crosswalk with advanced warning signage (see attached).
- President Mandeville read a letter from the Charles C. Cashman Upper Elementary Specialist Team into the record, urging the community to support the new Integrated Arts program (see attached).

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Gilday responded to the public comment from Pat Garvey, who is her constituent. Councilor Gilday shared that she would need to write a bill which will go to council and get referred to the Planning and Development Committee.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared that he would be happy to co-sponsor a bill with Councilor Gilday.
- Councilor Stanganelli shared that there is little to do regarding specific school positions and encouraged people to bring these issues to the school committee in the fall.

Second Readings

Public Hearings

2025-001 An Order to adopt operating budget for FY26 – Mayor Sponsor

- President Mandeville shared that the budget book and presentations are available for viewing online and that this bill was referred to the ad hoc committee, which met five times.
- Councilor Stanganelli summarized the ad hoc committee meetings.

President Mandeville opened the public hearing at 7:45 PM.

- Kaden Vogler, 209 Market Street, Seguin Weeks, 5 Hitching Post Lane, and Delia Lanik, 5 Powow Street, students at Amesbury Middle School, spoke in support of the superintendent's proposed budget
- Courtney Connell Lovett, 5 Wells Ave, teacher at Cashman, spoke in favor of the school budget.
- Lauren Snay, 17 Woodwell Circle, paraprofessional at Cashman, spoke in favor of the superintendent's proposed budget.

- Jordan Lincourt, 3 Wren Way Methuen, long-term substitute, spoke in favor of the superintendent's proposed budget.
- Elizabeth Peterson, 13 Pages Lane Hampton Falls, asked about the impact of the Integrated Arts Interventionist position at Cashman.
- Brock Omohundro, 198 Market Street, spoke in favor of the superintendent's proposed budget
- Cindy Yetman, 6 Newton Road, President of AFT Amesbury, spoke in favor of the superintendent's proposed budget.
- Greg Noyes, 8 Clarks Road, School Committee member and member of the Strategic Planning Committee, shared how the mayor stretched the budget, giving it the ability to avoid catastrophe with the understanding that things won't be the same next year.

The public hearing was closed at 8:08 PM.

- Councilor Gilday shared that the council can vote on the School Committee's number and the mayor's number, not the superintendent's number.
- Councilor Wheeler thanked the public for coming out to speak and said he does not support the budget because the current cuts to the schools are coming with increases to the city side. Councilor Wheeler further noted that if the budget was increased to the Superintendent's budget it would cripple the city side.
- Councilor Haggstrom echoed the councilors' previous comments and shared support for the schools.
- Councilor Stanganelli thanked everyone for coming out and spoke to the tough decisions behind the budget, rock and a hard place
- President Mandeville mentioned that the city is at the levy capacity and urged the community to reach out to state legislators.
- President Mandeville read the Kauffman ordinance.
- President Mandeville read each line item of the budget.
 - Councilor Wheeler objected to the total Amesbury Public Schools' budget.
 - Councilor Wheeler objected to Council on Aging Personal Services budget.
 - Councilor Stanganelli and President Mandeville objected to the Total Library budget.

Councilor Haggstrom offered a motion to accept the unobjected items for the total of \$42,889,686. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- Councilor Wheeler stated that he is not in favor of the school budget and that he has no adjustments.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve the Amesbury Public School budget of \$39,842,711 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Wheeler opposed.

- Councilor Wheeler stated that the Council on Aging Personal Services budget needs further discussion due to a retirement.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to accept the Council on Aging Personal Services budget of \$171,892 as presented. Councilor Rinaldi seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- President Mandeville recused himself.

President Mandeville passed the gavel to Councilor Gilday at 9:10 PM.

- Councilor Stanganelli withdrew his objection.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve the Library's total budget of \$937,670 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 8-0 (President Mandeville recused).

Councilor Gilday passed the gavel back to President Mandeville at 9:12 PM.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve a total general fund appropriation of \$83,841,959. Councilor Haggstrom seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Wheeler opposed.

Water

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve the water budget of \$4,843,166. Councilor Gilday seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Wheeler opposed.

Sewer

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve and appropriate the sewer enterprise budget of \$3,448,901. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Wheeler opposed.

Cable Public Access

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve and appropriate the Cable Public Access budget of \$325,000. Councilor Frederique seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 9-0.

Total Appropriation

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve the total appropriation of \$92,459,026. Councilor Frederique seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-1, Councilor Wheeler opposed.

President Mandeville called for a recess at 9:23 PM.

The meeting resumed at 9:33 PM.

Councilor Haggstrom left the meeting at 9:33 PM

2025-047 An Order to appropriate Free Cash for the purpose of funding FY26 Capital Expenditures- Mayor Sponsor

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to accept the substitution for 2025-047. Councilor Stanganelli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

President Mandeville opened the public hearing opened at 9:36 PM. The public hearing was closed at 9:37 PM.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to discharge the Budget and Finance Committee from their obligation. Councilor Frederique seconded.

- Councilors engaged in discussion as to whether or not it is necessary to discharge the Budget and Finance Committee.

The motion passed 6-2, Councilor Wheeler and President Mandeville opposed.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2025-047 as substituted. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Second Readings

2025-054 An Ordinance to amend Wetlands and Floodplain protection regulations per NFIP regulations-
Mayor Sponsor

- President Mandeville read the summary.
- Councilor Gilday shared that the Planning Director noted that omissions were made during the May 13, 2025 meeting. Councilor Gilday also noted that a second reading and hearing date were not set and the ordinance was not referred to the Planning and Development Committee.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to refer 2025-054 to the Planning and Development Committee and continue to the June 24, 2025 City Council meeting with a public hearing on June 24, 2025. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

First Readings

2025-068 An Order to authorize the Mayor to enter into a renewal of the inter-municipal agreement for an additional one-year period beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 with the Town of Salisbury for the provision of regional animal control services.- **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2025-068 to the Ordinance and Administration Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on June 24, 2025. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2025-069 An Order to appropriate \$449,940.23 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding fiscal year 2025 Snow & Ice expenditures in excess of appropriation.-**Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2025-069 to the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on June 24, 2025. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2025-070 An Order to authorize inter-departmental transfers of general fund appropriations in accordance with MGL c.44 Section 33B.-**Mayor Sponsor**

- President Mandeville noted that there is a revised version of the order.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2025-070 as submitted to the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on June 24, 2025 with the anticipation of a likely revision. Councilor Stanganelli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2025-071 An Order to appropriate \$122,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings for the purpose of funding fiscal year 2025 operating expenditures listed below.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2025-071 to the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on June 24, 2025. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Late Files

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to suspend Rule 4A and 5D. Councilor Gilday seconded.

- Councilors engaged in discussion as to whether or not Rule 4A should be suspended.

The motion failed 0-8.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to suspend Rule 5D. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2025-072 An Order that \$211,935.00 is appropriated from the Receipts Reserved for Real Estate Proceeds Fund (239 4193) to purchase the land and building located at 128 Kimball Road, Amesbury, for the purpose of using the property for water supply protection, passive use recreational area, and conservation purposes, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2025-072 to the Ordinance and Administration Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Planning and Development Committee, Planning Board, Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee, and Conservation Commission with a second reading on July 22, 2025. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

2025-073 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$122,661.00 from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) program to offset the City's costs to acquire the property at 128 Kimball Road in Amesbury for the purposes of drinking water resource protection and flood control management.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2025-073 to the Budget and Finance Committee with a second reading on July 22, 2025. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Adjourn

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to adjourn at 9:59 PM. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Looney