



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

City Council Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2024
7:00 PM

President Scott Mandeville called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Councilor Michael Hogg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: City Clerk Jennifer Smith, Assistant City Clerk Justin Kaiser

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Minutes for approval

March 26<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting

March 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole Minutes

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve the minutes from the March 26<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting and the March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded.**

- Councilor Stanganelli asks why there are some votes in the minutes that do not reflect who voted no or abstained. Clerk Jennifer Smith answered that denoting that is not required but could be added to the votes in question if the council wished it to be.

**The motion passes 7-1-1 with Councilor Stanganelli voting no and Councilor Hogg abstaining.**

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Mayoral Appointments-

2024-048 Appointment of Sheryl Wright to the position of Interim Chief Financial Officer to be in effect until July 28, 2024 – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Ms. Wright gave an overview of her prior experience and qualifications.
- Councilor Wheeler asked if Ms. Wright is primarily focused on the budget in her role. Ms. Wright answers that her predecessor is still assisting with the budget on a part-time basis and that Ms. Wright is focused on the other administrative duties of the Chief Financial Officer.
- Councilor Gilday asked if Ms. Wright would be available to attend the upcoming budget meetings and Ms. Wright answered in the affirmative.

Councilor Corcoran offered a motion to approve 2024-048 as presented. Councilor Wheeler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

2024-049 Appointment of Ben Siebecker to the position of Ad Hoc member of the Disposition Committee for a term to expire at the conclusion of the committee's work relative to the disposition of the former Trader Alan's Truck Stop – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Mr. Siebecker thanked the Council for their consideration.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve 2024-049 as presented. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

2024-050 Appointment of Matt Langis to the position of member of the Design Review Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2027 – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Mr. Langis thanked the council for their consideration.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2024-050 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

2024-051 Reappointment of Matt Sherrill to the position of member of the Design Review Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2027 – **Mayor Sponsor**

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2024-051 as presented. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 9-0.

President Mandeville called for a brief recess at 7:14 PM.
The meeting resumed at 7:21 PM.

Licenses and Permits

Councilor Stanganelli read the monthly list of licenses into the record.

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

Correspondence

President/Vice President Communications:

- President Mandeville announced the meeting schedule for the Ad Hoc Budget Committee of the Whole.

Communications from Elected Officials, Boards, and Commissions:

- No communications from elected officials.

Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports:

- Councilor Corcoran addressed dangerous dog hearings and expressed opposition to the council being the authority to conduct hearings. He stated that the council being the hearing authority may not be compliant with state law.
- Councilor Gilday concurred with the statements made by Councilor Corcoran and stated that she has drafted a bill to address this issue.
- Councilor Redfern stated that she will be unable to attend the first two scheduled budget hearings.
- Councilor Redfern stated that the Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Commission held a forum at City Hall in the previous week and that the draft presentation was available on the City website. The date and time of the next meeting was stated.

- President Mandeville stated that the Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole has not met since the last full City Council meeting.
- Councilor Stanganelli summarized the discussion in the previous Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting and announced the time and date of the next meeting.
- Councilor Gilday summarized the discussion of the previous Ordinance and Administration subcommittee meeting and announced the time and date of the next meeting.
- Councilor Corcoran announced the time and date of the next Planning and Development meeting.
- Councilor Rinaldi announced the time and date of the next Energy Committee meeting.
- Councilor Wheeler announced the date of the last School Building Committee meeting and stated that the committee has moved to a bi-monthly format.
- Councilor Frederique stated that the Community Block Grant Development program has not met yet and that there are no current plans to meet.
- Councilor Rinaldi stated that he was unable to attend the previous Chamber of Commerce meeting due to a storm.
- Councilor Hogg stated that the disposition committee has not met yet.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated the date of the next meeting of the Amesbury Housing Trust.

Public Comment

- Michael Picard of 22 Middle Road testified that he has had multiple issues with a neighbor over the years and that it has made completing projects more difficult and has caused other inconveniences since the police are often called. He asked if the council can assist in this matter.

Council Response to Public Comment

- Councilor Gilday expressed sympathy to Mr. Picard and suggested that he reach out to let the police know when work will be done at his house so that they are aware of it ahead of time.

First Readings

AO 2024-02 Administrative Order- City Government Reorganization - Department of Human Resources and Office of Information Technology

- Read into record by President Mandeville.
- President Mandeville stated that this item does not require a committee referral and can be voted on during the first reading.
- Councilor Wheeler requested that the email sent by Annmarie Casey related to this order be attached to the minutes.
- Clerk Jennifer Smith stated that this proposal has been approved by city legal counsel.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to pass AO 2024-02 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 9-0.

2024-052 An Order to appropriate \$30,000 from Water Retained Earnings to Water Other Expenses- **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to refer 2024-052 to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee, seconded by Councilor Gilday. Councilor Wheeler offered an amendment to the motion which would add that the second reading for this proposal would be had during the April 25th, 2024 City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilor Gilday.

- Councilor Stanganelli stated that this amendment may not be necessary to have a second reading at that meeting. Councilor Wheeler stated that the purpose of this amendment is to provide transparency to members of the public.

The amendment passes 5-4 with Councilors Frederique, Hogg, Rinaldi, and Stanganelli voting no.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to further amend the referral to set the second reading date for the April 23rd, 2024 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Gilday, the motion passed 5-2-2 with Councilors Hogg and Stanganelli voting no and Councilors Frederique and Rinaldi abstaining.

2024-053 An Order to authorize the mayor to accept and expend a grant from the Newburyport Society for the Relief of Aged Women in the amount of \$19,760.00 - **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-053 to the Budget and Finance committee with a second reading date of April 23rd, 2024. Second by Gilday, the motion passes 7-0-2 with Councilors Frederique and Stanganelli abstaining.

2024-054 An Order to authorize the mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$19,000 from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services (DFS) FY2024 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-054 to the Budget and Finance committee with a second reading date of April 23rd, 2024. Second by Councilor Hogg, the motion passes 7-0-2 with Councilors Frederique and Stanganelli abstaining.

2024-055 An order to increase the monthly stipend of the Retirement Board members to \$375 and to establish a \$250.00 stipend for the City Treasurer – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville

A motion was duly made and seconded to refer 2024-055 to the Budget and Finance committee with a second hearing date of April 23rd, 2024.

- Clerk Jennifer Smith states that this proposal should also be referred to the Ordinance and Administration subcommittee.

Councilor Wheeler amended the motion to refer 2024-055 to the Ordinance and Administration committee and the Budget and Finance committee with a second hearing date of April 23rd, 2024. Seconded by Councilor Gilday, the motion passed 7-0-2 with Councilors Frederique and Stanganelli abstaining.

2024-056 An Order to transfer \$50,000 from Police Salaries & Wages to Police Other Expenses – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-056 to the Budget and Finance committee with a second reading date of April 23rd, 2024. Second by Councilor Hogg, the motion passes 7-0-2 with Councilors Frederique and Stanganelli abstaining.

2024-057 An Act Exempting the position of Deputy Police Chief in the City of Amesbury from the provisions of Chapter 31 of the general Laws – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-057 to the Ordinance and Administration committee with a second reading date of April 23rd, 2024. Seconded by Councilor Gilday, the motion passes 7-0-2 with Councilors Frederique and Stanganelli abstaining.

2024-058 An Order of the Amesbury City Council to approve and accept a Preservation Restriction Agreement on property located at 6 Center Street, Amesbury, and to authorize the mayor to execute said Preservation Restriction Agreement on behalf of the City of Amesbury – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Read into record by President Mandeville.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-058 to the Ordinance and Administration committee, the Planning and Development Committee, and the Planning Board with a second reading date of May 14th, 2024. Seconded by Councilor Gilday, the motion passed 7-0-2 with Councilors Frederique and Stanganelli abstaining.

2024-059 Dangerous Dog Hearing Request- Arthur Amirault

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-059 to the Animal Control Officer and to set a hearing date for April 24th, 2024. Seconded by Councilor Rinaldi, the motion passed 8-0-1 with Councilor Corcoran abstaining.

2024-060 Dangerous Dog Hearing Request – Zachary Kozdra

- Councilor Stanganelli expressed opposition to having two dangerous dog hearings in the same night due to the length of previous hearings.

Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-060 to the Animal Control Officer and to set a hearing date for April 24th, 2024. Seconded by Councilor Gilday, the motion passed 7-1-1 with Councilor Stanganelli voting no and Councilor Corcoran abstaining.

Second Readings

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to continue items 2024-016, 2024-017, 2024-018, 2024-019, 2024-020, 2024-021, and 2024-022 to the scheduled May 28th, 2024 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Frederique.

- Councilor Hogg asked when these items need to be passed by. President Mandeville answered that the deadline is four months after the beginning of a council term but that they are taking the necessary time to ensure they are adequate.

The motion passed 8-0-1 with Councilor Stanganelli abstaining.

The councilors had a brief discussion regarding May scheduling.

Adjourn

Councilor Corcoran offered a motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Councilor Wheeler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Kaiser