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City of Amesbury
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62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

MEETING NOTICE

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Version 7.1.10

City Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

The public can view this meeting:

- In person
- ACTV Channel 6
- the ACTV website: <https://www.amesburycvtv.org/public-government-access-television>
- or the ACTV Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/AmesburyCommunityTelevision

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Gilday

3. Roll Call

4. Act on Minutes- April 8, 2025

5. Mayoral Appointments

2025-043 Appointment of Marisa Batista to the position of Chief Financial Officer

6. Monthly list of licenses – April

7. Correspondence

- President/Vice President Communications
- Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions
- Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

8. Public Comment- Public comment can be done in person during the meeting, or by emailing your comments to clerk@amesburyma.gov by 12:00 p.m. the Friday before the Council meeting, per City Council Rule 5G. Subject line PUBLIC COMMENT. Your comments will be read aloud at the appropriate time in the agenda and entered into the public record.

9. Council Response to Public Comment

10. Second Readings

Public Hearings (cont'd)

2024-096 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Zoning Ordinance and Amesbury Overlay Zoning Map by expanding the Renewable Energy Development Overlay District (REDD) and to make changes to Sections V, VI, XI.S and X.IV that would modify the requirements in those sections as they pertain to solar energy projects.

Summary: The development of large-scale solar energy projects has been recognized as being crucial to achieving the Commonwealth's goal of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Massachusetts law, including M.G.L. c. 40A, § 3, aims to promote the development of solar energy facilities. Amesbury has permitted large-scale solar energy projects in the city, that produce more than 10 MW of clean energy, but the areas zoned for solar energy projects have been confined primarily to the Industrial District.

The proposed zoning amendments seek to expand the existing Renewable Energy Development Overlay District (REDD) to include a portion of a parcel not currently included in the REDD. Specifically, Assessor Parcel 45-4 has been identified by a solar energy proponent for large-scale solar development and is seeking amendments to the boundaries of the REDD and Amesbury Zoning Ordinance. The proposed zoning amendments also seek to modify the provisions of Sections V, VI, XI.S and X.IV of the Amesbury Zoning Ordinance.

Second Readings

2025-037 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend an FY25 Community One Stop for Growth MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development to support the Clark's Road project.

Summary: These Pre-Construction (Design, Engineering, Permitting, Bidding, Etc.) grant funds will be expended for Clark's Road infrastructure improvements to support future development within the newly zoned Smart Growth Overlay and MBTA Multifamily Overlay Districts. The engineering work will include full existing conditions survey of the area, water main sizing and layout, sidewalks and ADA ramps, stormwater, and traffic calming measures along 0.5 miles of Clarks Road and the intersection with Main Street. The roadway would be designed for a full reconstruction similar to Elm Street, which was recently reconstructed by MassDOT and the City as a TIP project and will be engineered to a final stage that would be suitable for the execution of bidding and construction through another funding source. No match required.

2025-038 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend FY25 formula grant funding for the Amesbury Council on Aging from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) in the amount of \$69,165.

Summary: This formula grant funding from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) is issued on an annual basis to support all Massachusetts Councils on Aging. Funding is to be used to support older adults, and the yearly award is calculated at \$15 per person aged 60 and older with a minimum contract amount of \$7,500. Grant amounts are based on a formula, using the 2020 U.S. Census and have been approved by the state legislature and Governor Healey. Amesbury's allocation is based on 4,611 adults aged 60 and older.

2025-039 An Order to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority and the City of Amesbury Council on Aging pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 4A for the use of an accessible vehicle for transportation services for seniors, subject to approval by the Mayor.

Summary: The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority has been awarded an accessible vehicle through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) and has made it available for use by the City of Amesbury Council on Aging. This vehicle is a 2025 New England Wheels Low Floor Cutaway (14 passenger) and will replace an unreliable older

vehicle that the Council on Aging is currently using for transportation services and meals delivery. Through this MOU, the City of Amesbury acquires no ownership, title, property rights, or interest in or to the vehicle but only the right of use in accordance with the provisions of the MOU. Either party may terminate this agreement due to lack of sufficient funding and contingent upon the continued need of the service upon 30 days' prior written notice.

2025-040 An Order to approve payment from the FY25 general fund operating budget for the below listed prior year invoices.

Summary: The below listed invoices are for operating expenses related to supplies or services rendered in prior fiscal years but for which funds were not encumbered by the corresponding city department at fiscal year-end. This order requests payment be made to the listed vendors from the corresponding department's current year (FY25) operating budget in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44 s. 64. This vote requires a two thirds approval of the City Council.

2025-041 An Order to authorize the transfer of \$45,889.50 from the FY25 Salary Reserve account to various municipal departments.

Summary: This order requests budget transfers in the amount of \$45,889.50 from the FY25 Salary Reserve account to various municipal departments, based on the results of the FY25 compensation study. This study was conducted by NFP, an Aon company, which is an organization of consultative advisors and problem solvers helping companies and individuals address their most significant risk, workforce, wealth management and retirement challenges.

2025-042 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a FY25 Complete Streets Funding Program grant in the amount of \$401,654.70 from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Summary: These grant funds will be used to support construction costs for two projects:

1. Reconstruct the existing sidewalk that is in poor condition along the west side of Highland Street with new 5' wide sidewalk and vertical granite curbing from Haverhill Road (Route 110) to just beyond Winkley Street. Stripe crosswalks across Winkley Street and the Walgreens driveway and ADA ramps at each crosswalk.
2. Realign the South Hampton Road intersection at Market Street and Pine Street, proposing curb extensions and creating a "T" intersection. Place southbound South Hampton Road traffic under stop control. Construct a new 5.5' wide sidewalk with granite curb along the west side of Market Street from the existing sidewalk terminus to the realigned intersection at South Hampton Road (approximately 375'). Connect the proposed sidewalk along Market Street to the existing sidewalk south of South0052 Hampton Road. The proposed sidewalk will fill an existing network gap. The safety improvements of both projects include design costs which will be funded through Chapter 90 funds. The deadline for construction will be December 31, 2026.

11. First Readings

2025-044 An order to accept and expend a 2nd Round FY25 DFS grant for firefighter safety equipment.

12. Adjourn