RECEIVED
By City Clerk at 10:53 am, Oct 28, 2026

City of Amesbury
Office of the City Clerk
1 Market St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2026
7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Jessica Redfern.

Councilor Maryann Welch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, and present were Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Steven Stanganelli, Councilor Kelly Sullivan, Councilor Maryann Welch, and President Jessica Redfern.

Councilor Amanda Haggstrom and Councilor Scott Mandeville were absent.

Mayoral Appointments
2026-145 Appointment of Courtney Hutchinson to the position of Director of Public Wellness for the City of Amesbury-**Mayor Sponsor**

- Ms. Hutchinson spoke to her desire to fill the position.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-145 as presented. Councilor Sullivan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-146 Appointment of Jonathan Greeno to the position of Chief Assessor for the City of Amesbury-**Mayor Sponsor**

- Mr. Greeno spoke to his desire to fill the position.
- Councilor Sullivan clarified that Mr. Greeno will work Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2026-146 as presented. Councilor Welch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-148 Appointment of Jennifer Welter to the position of member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire February 29, 2029-**Mayor Sponsor**

- Ms. Welter spoke to her desire to fill the position.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2026-148 as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-149 Appointment of Kevin Latady to the position of member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire February 29, 2029-**Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern explained that Mr. Latady was appointed to the historical commission as an alternate member at our last City Council meeting on September 22. Tonight, he is becoming a full member. He is not here tonight because he addressed us at our last meeting.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2026-149 as presented. Councilor Welch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-150 Appointment of Lisa Higgins to the position of member of the Cultural Council for a term to expire February 29, 2029-**Mayor Sponsor**

- Ms. Higgins spoke to her desire to fill the position.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-150 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Correspondence

-President/Vice President Communications

- President Redfern shared that at the next meeting on October 27th a representative for the District 2 City Council seat will be elected.

-Communication from Mayor, City Staff, other Elected Officials, and Official Representatives of Boards and Commissions

- Mayor Update Whittier Regional Agreement Amendment Committee
    - Mayor Gove provided a brief update on the Whittier Regional Agreement Amendment Committee, including that the goal is to get to a two-thirds majority on issues before the committee.
- Chief Bailey Presentation Police Budget/Operations Updates
    - Due to technical difficulties this item was taken out of order.

Licenses and Permits –October

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve the October list of licenses. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Public Comment

None

Council Response to Public Comment

None

Second Readings

Public Hearings

2026-134 National Grid Pole Hearing Cedar St. WR #30630081

- President Redfern opened the public hearing at 7:25 PM.
- Brian Saffler, representing National Grid, provided background information regarding this pole request.
- President Redfern read a memo from Assistant DPW Director Patrick McDonald which included stipulations for these pole requests.
- President Redfern closed the public hearing at 7:30 PM.

Councilor Sullivan offered a motion to approve 2026-134 as presented with stipulations from the DPW. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-135 National Grid Pole Hearing High St. WR #30630057

- President Redfern opened the public hearing at 7:31 PM.
- Mr. Saffler provided background information regarding this pole request.
- President Redfern closed the public hearing at 7:32 PM.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to approve 2026-135 as presented with stipulations from the DPW. Councilor Stanganelli seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-136 National Grid Pole Hearing Allens Ct. WR #30630057

- President Redfern opened the public hearing at 7:33 PM.
- Mr. Saffler provided background information regarding this pole request.
- President Redfern closed the public hearing at 7:34 PM.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2026-136 as presented with stipulations from the DPW. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-137 National Grid Pole Hearing Thompson St. WR #30630057

- President Redfern opened the public hearing at 7:35 PM.
- Mr. Saffler provided background information regarding this pole request.
- President Redfern closed the public hearing at 7:36 PM.

Councilor Welch offered a motion to accept 2026-137 with stipulations from the DPW. Councilor Sullivan seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-138 National Grid Pole Hearing Glenwood St. WR #30630079

- President Redfern opened the public hearing at 7:38 PM.
- Mr. Saffler provided background information regarding this pole request.
- President Redfern closed the public hearing at 7:39 PM.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2026-138 as presented with stipulations from the DPW. Councilor Gilday seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-139 National Grid Pole Hearing Ring St. WR #30628380

- President Redfern opened the public hearing at 7:40 PM.
- Mr. Saffler provided background information regarding this pole request.
- President Redfern closed the public hearing at 7:41 PM.

Councilor Sullivan offered a motion to accept 2026-139 with stipulations from the DPW. Councilor Welch seconded. After a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-140 National Grid Pole Hearing Elm St. WR #30628380

- President Redfern opened the public hearing at 7:42 PM.
- Mr. Saffler provided background information regarding this pole request.
- Councilor Gilday noted that certain drawings are transposed.
- President Redfern closed the public hearing at 7:46 PM.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to continue 2026-140 to next meeting on October 27, 2026. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-141 National Grid Pole Hearing Pond Hill Rd. WR #31253711

- President Redfern opened the public hearing at 7:47 PM.
- Carlos Garriga a representative from WSP; a contractor for National Grid provided background information regarding this pole request.
- President Redfern closed the public hearing at 7:48 PM.

Councilor Welch offered a motion to accept 2026-141 as presented with stipulations from the DPW. Councilor Hogg seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Councilor Welch offered a motion to take Chief Bailey's presentation out of order. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

- Chief Bailey Presentation Police Budget/Operations Updates
    - Chief Bailey shared the first part of his budget presentation, including a budget overview (see attached).
    - Councilor Gilday asked which communities are Boston area priced growth. Chief Bailey replied that these communities are the Cambridge and Newton area.

First Readings

2026-151 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of $9,020.00 from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to be used by the Amesbury Emergency Management Agency, which is managed by the Amesbury Fire Chief.-**Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern read the summary.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to refer 2026-151 to the next Committee of the Whole meeting with a second reading as applicable. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-152 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant award in the amount of $25,200 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research FY27 Municipal Road Safety (MRS) Grant Program. -**Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern read the summary.

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to refer 2026-152 to the next Committee of Whole meeting with a second reading as applicable. Councilor Stanganelli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-153 An Order to approve payment from the FY27 general fund operating budget for the below listed prior year invoices. -**Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern read the summary.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to refer 2026-153 to the next Committee of the Whole meeting with a second reading as applicable. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-154 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend an award amendment in the amount of $146,653 awarded to the Amesbury Council on Aging through the FY27 Behavioral Health Outreach for Aging Populations (BHOAP) program. -**Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern read the summary

Councilor Hogg offered a motion to refer 2026-154 to the next Committee of the Whole meeting with a second reading as applicable. Councilor Welch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

2026-155 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a Shared Streets Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). -**Mayor Sponsor**

- President Redfern read the summary

Councilor Gilday offered a motion to refer 2026-155 to the next Committee of the Whole meeting with a second reading as applicable. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Correspondence

a. Communications from Mayor, City Staff, other Elected Officials, and Representatives of City Boards and Committees

    2026-147 Warrant for the November 3, 2026 State Election

- Councilors read the warrant into the record.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to accept 2026-147 as presented and authorize the clerk to post the same as applicable. Councilor Sullivan seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

b. Council Communications

- Councilor Gilday shared that early in person voting begins Saturday, October 24th and that information about the election is on the City website.
- Councilor Gilday shared that National Grid is holding an informational session on October 19th from 3:00-5:00 PM.
- Councilor Gilday shared that the Amesbury Education Foundation is holding their Annual Autumn Celebration of Giving on October 26th.
- Councilor Gilday shared that the Energy, Environment, and Sustainability Committee is holding its first annual pumpkin smash event.
- Councilor Gilday noted various grants received by the city.

c. Council Committee Reports

- President Redfern shared that the Chamber of Commerce is holding a meeting to discuss single versus split tax rates and noted other topics of discussion in the meeting.
- Councilor Gilday shared that the Energy, Environment, and Sustainability Committee is working with an expert regarding solid waste solutions.

Act on Minutes – September 22, 2026 City Council Meeting

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve the September 22, 2026 minutes as presented. Councilor Gilday seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Adjourn

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to adjourn 8:42 PM. Councilor Welch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Looney

October 22, 2026

AMESBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT · PART 1 OF 3

Where the Money Went

Informational summary for the City Council · [Meeting date] · Figures from the City's own reports

+19%
Police budget growth, FY20→FY27 ($4.35M → $5.17M)

2.5%/yr
Average annual budget growth

~28%
Boston-area price growth, same period

−$395K
Short of FY20 buying power: keeping pace with prices would take $5.56M in FY27 (−7%)

Where the City's growth went

Budget line	FY20→FY27 growth	Per year
Debt service	+$2.88M (+194%)	16.7%
State assessments	+$3.32M (+113%)	11.4%
Employee benefits (all departments)	+$2.81M (+48%)	5.8%
These three fixed costs combined	**+$9.0M**	

Fixed costs: FY20 actual to FY27 proposed (Budget Books). No department controls these costs.

Traffic and roads: two departments, the same squeeze

> Most complaints to the Council are about traffic and road conditions. Actual spending by the two departments that handle them grew more slowly than prices, FY20 to FY26:

Actual spending	FY20	FY26	Growth	Per year
Police & Harbormaster	$4.29M	$4.96M	**+16%**	**2.5%**
DPW (salaries & expenses)	$1.35M	$1.53M	**+14%**	**2.2%**
Prices (Boston CPI)			*+23%*	*3.6%*
Fire (for comparison)	$3.71M	$5.17M	+39%	5.7%

Police budget and actual spending, FY20–FY27

Fiscal year	COLA	Budget	Actual spent	% of budget spent
FY20	2.5%	$4,346,194	$4,287,564	98.7%
FY21	0%	$4,343,693	$4,208,284†	96.9%
FY22	3%	$4,655,577	$4,618,112	99.2%
FY23	2%	$4,844,328	$4,781,577	98.7%
FY24	2.5%	$4,987,148	$4,951,965	99.3%
FY25	3%	$5,022,590	$4,984,714	99.2%
FY26	4%*	$5,183,190	$4,963,060	95.8%
FY27	2%*	$5,170,454	—	—

*FY26–FY27 COLA rates are placeholders; the contract is not settled. †FY21 actual from MUNIS, confirmed by the APD tracker. Actual spending has been flat since FY24, at about $4.96M.

Next time, Part 2: how Police compares with other departments, and how the department has managed the money it has.

Sources: City of Amesbury Annual Reports FY22–FY26 (preliminary, unaudited); FY21 Annual Budget pp. 45, 66–67; FY2024–FY2026 Adopted and FY2027 Proposed Budget Books (5-Year History tables); APD MUNIS reports and payroll trackers; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI-U, Boston-Cambridge-Newton.