



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

City Council Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2024
7:00 PM

Vice President Pamela Gilday 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 Claudel Frederique, Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Pamela Gilday, Councilor Jessica Redfern, Councilor Anthony Rinaldi, Councilor Steven Stanganelli, and Councilor Nicholas Wheeler.

Absent were Councilor Owen Corcoran and President Scott Mandeville.

Also present: Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey, Fire Chief James Nolan, Director of Public Works Joe Buckley, Chief of Police Craig Bailey, City Clerk Jennifer Smith, Assistant City Clerk Justin Kaiser

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Minutes for approval

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 City Council Meeting

- Councilor Wheeler noted that the proposed minutes did not include the language presented in the motions for 2024-059 and 2024-060 to request a report from the Animal Control Officer for the two dangerous dog hearings and that the dates of the hearings were not reflected.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve the minutes from the April 9<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting with changes to reflect the motions in 2024-059 and 2024-060 to request a report from the Animal Control Officer and to set public hearing dates for April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

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Mayoral Appointments-

No mayoral appointments at the time of the meeting.

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Licenses and Permits

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

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to approve the monthly list of licenses. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

### Correspondence

#### President/Vice President Communications:

- Vice President Gilday shared that she, Councilor Rinaldi, City Clerk Jennifer Smith, and Animal Control Officer Steve Maher attended a training that covered the proper procedure of dog hearings on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 and that information and materials from that training have been distributed to councilors. It was further stated that the Whittier Technical School budget hearing will take place on May 29<sup>th</sup> instead of the previously scheduled May 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Communications from Elected Officials, Boards, and Commissions:

- No communications from elected officials.

#### Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports:

- Vice President Gilday announced that the Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole has completed its business and will not be meeting further.
- Councilor Stanganelli had no update regarding Budget and Finance
- Vice President Gilday announced that Ordinance and Administration has not met since the last full City Council meeting and that she had no updates to provide.
- Vice President Gilday announced that Planning and Development had not met since the last meeting.
- Councilor Redfern announced that the meeting for Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails would be on April 24<sup>th</sup> and that she was unsure if she would be able to attend due to the dangerous dog hearing scheduled for the same time
- Councilor Rinaldi reported the recent happenings from the Energy Committee including the green spaces proposal that was sent to the mayor and their new focus on sustainability which led to them appointing two auxiliary members.
- Councilor Rinaldi announced that he was unable to attend the recent Chamber of Commerce meeting due to a storm and announced the date of the next meeting.
- Councilor Wheeler announced the next hearing date for the School Building committee.
- Councilor Frederique announced that the Community Block Grant Development committee has not met.
- Councilor Hogg stated the date of the next Disposition committee hearing.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated that the last scheduled Amesbury Housing Trust meeting was unable to meet due to a scheduling glitch.

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### Public Comment

- Tracey Chalifour of 25 Clarks Road #201 spoke on an ongoing transportation project that she is frustrated with the process of.

### Council Response to Public Comment

- No council response.

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### **Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to table the first readings on the agenda until the second readings are completed. Seconded by Councilor Redfern.**

- Councilor Stanganelli asked for the purpose of this motion. Councilor Wheeler answered that this is the typical order of the agenda and that doing it in this order would ensure that the department heads who came to speak on behalf of second readings would be able to leave earlier.

**The motion passed 6-1, Councilor Stanganelli opposed.**

## Second Readings

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

- Read into record by Vice President Gilday
- Councilor Stanganelli reported a positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance subcommittee and deferred all questions relating to the discussion had at that meeting to Councilor Redfern due to Councilor Stanganelli's absence.

**Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to pass 2024-052 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.**

**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

- Read into record by Vice President Gilday
- Councilor Stanganelli reported a positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance subcommittee and deferred all questions relating to the discussion had at that meeting to Councilor Redfern due to Councilor Stanganelli's absence.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to pass 2024-053 as presented. Councilor Rinaldi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.**

**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

- Read into record by Vice President Gilday
- Councilor Stanganelli reported a positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance subcommittee and deferred all questions relating to the discussion had at that meeting to Councilor Redfern due to Councilor Stanganelli's absence.
- Councilor Redfern stated that this grant was a reimbursement and that there was no match for it.

**Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to pass 2024-054 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.**

**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

- Read into record by Vice President Gilday
- Councilor Stanganelli reported a positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance subcommittee and deferred all questions relating to the discussion had at that meeting to Councilor Redfern due to Councilor Stanganelli's absence.
- Police Chief Craig Bailey, speaking as a member of the Retirement Board, is recognized and gives context to the background of this proposal. He further requested that the proposal be withdrawn from the Ordinance and Administration subcommittee and that he could answer any questions that the council had.

**Councilor Rinaldi offered a motion to discharge 2024-055 from the Ordinance and Administration subcommittee. Seconded by Councilor Frederique.**

- Councilor Wheeler asked why this bill was sent to the Ordinance and Administration subcommittee and Chief Bailey answered that there was a question of how this would work within existing ordinances but that he felt there was precedent for this proposal to work within existing the existing ordinances.

- Councilor Wheeler stated that there is an ordinance in the City Code which prohibits members of boards from receiving compensation. Chief Bailey answered that it was his understanding that this would not directly apply to the Retirement Board.
- Councilor Wheeler asked what the workload of the Retirement Board is. Chief Bailey stated that the board meets once per month and that there are 18 hours of training required each year.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked what the percentage of the Retirement Board's yearly budget obligations this increase would account for. Chief Bailey answered that this would be approximately .0175% of the board's yearly budget.

**Motion to discharge passed 5-2 with Councilor Stanganelli and Councilor Wheeler voting no.**

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to continue this item to the next City Council Meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Seconded by Councilor Hogg, the motion passed 7-0.**

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

- Read into record by Vice President Gilday
- Councilor Stanganelli reported a positive recommendation from the Budget and Finance subcommittee and deferred all questions relating to the discussion had at that meeting to Councilor Redfern due to Councilor Stanganelli's absence.
- Police Chief Craig Bailey was recognized and summarized this proposal.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked why there is a surplus in salaries and wages that could be transferred to other expenses. Chief Bailey answered that the department does a good job of managing overtime which limits their amount spent on salaries.
- Vice President Gilday asked if the police department would be asking for an increase in salaries in the coming budget season. Chief Bailey answered no.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to pass 2024-056 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.**

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#### First Readings

**2024-061** An Order to accept 2022 Economic Development Bill Earmark- \$150000

- Read into record by Vice President Gilday

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-061 to the Budget and Finance committee with a second reading date of May 14, 2024. Seconded by Hogg and the motion passes 6-0-1 with Councilor Stanganelli abstaining.**

**2024-062** An Order to accept and expend FY25-FY27 grant for public health shared services

- Vice President Gilday asked that councilors attend the Budget and Finance meeting where this is being discussed if possible due to the importance of this topic.

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-062 to the Budget and Finance committee with a second reading date of May 14, 2024. Seconded by Redfern and the motion passes 6-0-1 with Councilor Stanganelli abstaining.**

**2024-063** An Order to accept FY24 Earmark- Pedestrian Bridges- \$12500

**Councilor Wheeler offered a motion to refer 2024-062 to the Budget and Finance committee with a second reading date of May 14, 2024. Seconded by Redfern and the motion passes 6-0-1 with Councilor Stanganelli abstaining.**

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Adjourn

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to adjourn at 8:01 PM. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Kaiser