



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
October 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

**Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, 4 Summer st, Room 202  
In-Person/Remote Meeting**

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Present: President Sullivan, Councilors Basiliere, Hobbs-Everett, Ferreira, Lewandowski

Remote: None

Absent: Councilors Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle

City Clerk – Kaitlin M. Wright

Administrative Assistant – Lori Robertson

*This meeting of Haverhill City Council will be held in-person at the location provided on this notice as its official meeting location pursuant to the Open Meeting Law. As the meeting is held in person at a physical location that is open and accessible to the public, the City Council is not required to provide remote access to the meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting. Please note that a live stream of the meeting is being provided only as a courtesy to the public, and the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly. Those attending tonight's meeting should be aware that the meeting is being audio and video recorded by HCTV, The Eagle Tribune, and WHAV. Any audience members who wish to record any part of the meeting must inform the Council President who will announce the recording. This is to comply with the MA wiretap statute. Thank you.*

**1. Opening Prayer**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Approval of Minutes of prior meetings**

**September 24, 2024**

*Councilor Lewandowski stated she reviewed the minutes and finds them in order.*

*Motion to approve by Councilor Lewandowski, Second by Councilor LePage.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

**October 1, 2024**

*President Sullivan explained these minutes are being reviewed by Councilor Toohey.*

**October 8, 2024**

*President Sullivan explained these minutes are being reviewed by Councilor Rogers.*

**4. Assignment of the minutes and review for the next meeting**

*President Sullivan assigned the minutes to Councilor LePage.*

**5. Communications from the Mayor:**

**5.1 Mayor Barrett submits Order to accept a gift of \$1,000.00 gift card for sporting**



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**equipment from Wellpoint to Haverhill Recreation Department – related communication from Wellpoint** 39D

**5.1.1 Order – City Council on behalf of the City votes to accept a gift of \$1,000 for sporting equipment from Wellpoint to be used by the Recreation Department.**

Caroline LeBlanc, 16 Blossom Street addressed the council on behalf of Wellpoint. She stated Wellpoint is one of the insurance companies that offers healthcare to our city employees. We feel its important for children to participate in sports for mental health and reducing stress levels. So, in partnership with Franklin Sports we wanted to present a check for \$1,000.00 to the recreation department.

Mayor Barrett stated this will go to the recreation department, the department runs the fields, pickle ball courts and youth sports.

*Motion to accept by Councilor LePage, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

**6. Communications from Councillors to introduce an individual(s) to address the council:**

**6.1 Councilor McGonagle requests to introduce Patrick Menzie who would like to invite the public to the November 3, 2024 pre-election Veteran’s fundraiser breakfast, from 9 am to 11 am at the Amvets on Primrose Street.** 93E

Councilor Lewandowski introduced Patrick Menzie to address the council.

Patrick Menzie, 429 Primrose Street addressed the council. He stated this event celebrates and supports Veterans. The last time we gathered the alliance was able to fund a heating program for the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center. Since then our alliance has provided an additional \$12,000 in support of Veteran Groups. We would like to highlight an opportunity to sponsor a star or stripe that will benefit our programs that support our Veterans.

Councilor Lewandowski wanted to congratulate Patrick as he was recently elected President of the Veteran Alliance of Greater Haverhill. The breakfast is free to Veterans and seniors and \$5.00 for everybody else. Part of the event is a large wooden flag that was built entirely from donations.

Individuals or businesses can either donate a star or stripe. Traditionally the City Council has pitched in and donated a stripe which is \$1,000. I would like to make a motion that we do that again to support this.

*Motion to accept by Councilor Lewandowski, Second by Councilor LePage.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

**6.2 Councilors Basiliere and Lewandowski request to introduce Fire Chief Robert O’Brien to update the Council on improved fire department alarm call response times as result of increased staffing and other operational fire safety improvements.** 93F

Councilor Basiliere stated we are going to hear from the Chief tonight about a new apparatus, staffing grants, second ladder online, new contract with four people manning engines 1 and 3.

Fire Chief Robert O’Brien addressed the council. He gave an overview of the last 8-9 months. July 2023, we began an interview process to fill out a reserve list. September 2023 we were awarded a 4.1 million SAFER grant to increase staffing levels. January 2024, we hired 2 recruits to fill open positions. Over the next 8 months we hired an additional 24 recruits. The staffing grant itself funded 16 additional firefighters and allowed the department to place a second ladder service and started in February 2024. Twelve recruits entered the academy in February. Over the next 5 months 12 additional firefighters were hired. He went through the lengthy process of onboarding new hires. As most of you know, I work with a



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limited day staff, I don't have an assistant chief yet. We had a small group of people who worked really hard on the process of onboarding the new hires. We are currently compliant with everything. All new hires rotate through the alarm room, which requires a lot of training as well.

Councilor Basiliere stated Engine 1 covers Washington Street, Observatory, Pilling, Pilgrim, Lafayette Square, Broadway, North Broadway, Freeman and many more. Adding 1/3<sup>rd</sup> manpower resulted in a tactic of doubling the hose capacity for two recent fires.

Chief O'Brien stated firefighter 1 is the operator of the pump and stays at the pump and flows the water. Two firefighters go and attack the fire. With the fourth firefighter that gave us the ability to have the officer in addition to properly sizing up, in the cases that you and I discussed, they were hitting the fire from the outside, a lot of operations we fight the fire from the interior out. It increases the safety of our firefighters and gives the crews entering the building a safer environment. For the Blaisdell fire it was a 2 minute response time from High Street and the second was 2 ½ minutes. That shows you the importance of the station and location of the station.

Councilor Basiliere asked both fires were multifamily, middle of the night and nobody was injured, died and the buildings are still standing, and the firefighters are safe. The numbers are adding up for me.

Could you explain mutual aid?

Chief O'Brien stated today's mutual aid response is dramatically different. The idea of mutual aid is they are manned, their trucks are staffed, they send help when we call them. We respond on the other end when we are needed. Another part of mutual aid system allows for friendships by lending us equipment. Boston is very good about lending trucks out. They will let trucks out for the area. It's going to happen, we have 20-year-old ladders that will need maintenance. The need is everywhere, and we do a good job of helping each other out.

Councilor Basiliere asked if people are safer tonight with the increased staffing? Also you can ladder a building more quickly which is critical for firefighter egress?

Chief O'Brien stated I absolutely believe so. Yes, that is correct.

Councilor Lewandowski stated I was here during the time of the former administration and union. More staff equals more safety. I was researching old emails in preparation for tonight and it was alluded to by the former administration that "we do not know if more people per shift is needed for the safety of the public or the safety of the firefighters" No changes might be needed at all, we need to wait for the study. We did have the study, and they came back and said changes are needed. Haverhill does not align for respective standards for single family, multifamily or apartments and now that has changed.

Chief O'Brien stated dramatically. Going forward, I know we are on a grant, but we have to maintain that second ladder. We are in a wonderful time right now; we have wonderful people in our department. We have more work to do and we need that Route 97 fire station.

**6.3 Councilor Hobbs-Everett requests to introduce Javier Vargas who is seeking a home rule age waiver petition for the position of firefighter in the City of Haverhill. 93G**

**6.3.1 Order-Home Rule Petition – An Act Authorizing Javier Vargas to take civil service exam for the position of firefighter in the City of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement. 73K**

*Javier Vargas addressed the council stating he is seeking an age waiver requirement to take the firefighter exam.*

*Motion to accept by Councilor Hobbs-Everett, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*



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**7. Public Participation-Requests under Council Rule 28**

**8. Communications and reports from City Officers and employees**

**8.1 Angel A. Perkins, City Auditor & Chief Financial Officer, submits the September 2024 revenue and expense reports for the City's general and enterprise operating budgets** 17P

*Motion to receive and place on file by Councilor LePage, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

**8.2 Christine Webb, Assessor, submits the abatement report for the month of September 2024** 4I

*Motion to receive and place on file by Councilor LePage, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

**8.3 John Pettis, City Engineer, requests to open 373 North Avenue** 32I

**8.3.1 Order-grant request to open 373 North Avenue for work on underground utilities** 32II

*Motion to grant by Councilor LePage, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

**9. Utility Hearing(s) and related order(s)**

**10. Hearings and Related Orders**

**11. Appointments**

**11.1 Confirming Appointments**

**11.2 Non-Confirming**

**11.3 Constables to expire December 31, 2024**

**11.4 Resignations**

**12. Petitions**

**12.1 Applications handicap parking sign: with police approval**

**12.2 Amusement/Event Applications – with police approval**

**12.3 Auctioneer license**

**12.4 Tag Days with police approval**

**12.4.1 HHS Girls Volleyball Boosters, October 26<sup>th</sup>** 20M

*Motion to grant by Councilor LePage, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

**12.4.2 HHS Unified Boosters, November 16<sup>th</sup>** 20N

*Motion to grant by Councilor LePage, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

**12.4.3 HHS Football Team, November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>** 20O

*Motion to grant by Councilor LePage, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

**12.5 One Day Liquor – with license commission and HPD approval**

**12.6 Annual License Renewals**

**12.6.1 Hawker Peddlers License – Fixed location – with police approval**

**12.6.2 Coin-op License Renewals – with police approval**

**12.6.3 Christmas Tree vendor – with police approval**

**12.6.4 Taxi Driver License for 2024- with police approval**



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12.6.5 Taxi/Limousine License – with police approval

12.6.7 Pool/Billiard

12.6.8 Bowling

12.6.9 Sunday Bowling

12.6.10 Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles – with police approval

12.6.11 Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing

12.6.12 Pawnbroker license – with police approval

12.6.12.1 PAWN 24-1, Freddy Rodriguez for Javier's Jewelry Repair at 741

South Main Street – Monday – Friday, 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday 10 am to 3 pm 97

*Motion to grant by Councilor LePage, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

12.6.13 Fortune Teller – with police approval

12.6.14 Buy & Sell old gold – with police approval

12.6.15 Roller Skating Rink

12.6.16 Sunday Skating

12.6.17 Exterior vending machine/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC

12.6.18 Limousine/livery license/chair cars with police approval

**13. Motions and Orders:**

13.1 Order – New Rates for plowing, clearing and hauling snow related communication  
from Robert Ward, DPW Director 98

Councilor Basiliere stated I will have to abstain myself from this item.

*Motion to continue to October 29<sup>th</sup> by Councilor LePage, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

13.2 Order – Authorize payment of bills of the previous years and further authorize  
payment from current year departmental appropriations as listed: 23J

Vendor	Amount	Account
Howard Consulting	\$2,892.00	Fire Department
National Grid	26.00	Highway Department
National Grid	118.83	Highway Department
WB Mason	12.72	Human Resources
WB Mason	54.99	Human Resources
Brox Industries	1,405.76	Highway Department
National Grid	370.50	Water/Wastewater Dept.
Total: \$4,880.80		

**14. Ordinances (File 10 Days)**

14.1 Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic – Add Handicap parking: 113 Laurel Avenue, 60  
Pilling Street and 48 Portland Street File 10 days 11I

*Motion to receive and place on file by Councilor LePage, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle) PASSED*

**15. Communications from Councillors:**

**16. Unfinished Business of preceeding meeting:**

**17. Resolutions and Proclamations:**



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**18. Council Committee Reports and Announcements**

- City Clerk Kaitlin Wright stated Frank Novak and I did a piece on 'Point of Reference' collaborated together to provide information on the 2024 Voting Procedures to help the community understand the ballot questions. This show is being broadcasted on Channel 22 as well as the Government Channel.
- Councilor LePage wanted to inform the public about the Mayor's Hope Task Force presenting Drug Story Theater tomorrow night at the Haverhill High School auditorium 6:00-8:00 pm – free to the public
- President Sullivan welcomed new administrative assistant to the City Council, Lori Robertson

**19. Documents referred to committee study**

**20. Long term matters study list**

**21. Adjourn**

*Motion to adjourn by Councilor Basiliere, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.*

*Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 5 (Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey and McGonagle)*

Adjourn: 20:15