



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, 4 Summer st, Room 202

In-Person/Remote Meeting

Present: President Sullivan, Councilors Basiliere, LePage, Ferreira, Jordan, Hobbs Everett, Toohey, and Lewandowski

Remote: Councilor Michitson

Absent: Councilors McGonagle and Rogers

City Clerk: Kaitlin M. Wright

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

COUNCILOR LEPAGE STATED HE REVIEWED THE MINUTES AND FINDS THEM IN ORDER.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

4. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING

PRESIDENT SULLIVAN ASSIGNED THE MINUTES TO COUNCILOR BASILIERE

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

- 5.1. Mayor Barrett and Councilor Michitson request to announce a Mayor/Council Conference with Ashley Stolba, *MA Undersecretary, Executive Office of Economic Development* to discuss efforts to spur economic development across the Commonwealth. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 6:00 PM and the location of the meeting is to be determined. 12-B

Mayor Barrett addressed the council, suggesting that the current agenda item be tabled due to the cancellation of the Mayor/Council meeting with the Undersecretary on March 5th. Instead, the plan is for the city's economic development team and the Mayor's office to meet with the Undersecretary and her team to discuss how the city can help businesses access the four billion dollars available in the act. This initial meeting may lead to future discussions and a broader Mayor/Council meeting.

Councilor Michitson agreed, noting that the Undersecretary will work with a smaller group from the Mayor's Office before any public meetings, likely as part of her usual approach to handling such matters.

- 5.2. Mayor Barrett submits the following Gift Orders for the St. Patrick's Day party at the *Citizens Center*, to the *Council on Aging Department*:

- 5.2.1. Order authorizing the City Council to accept a gift of \$100.00 from Melinda Barrett 35

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO ACCEPT THE GIFT, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

- 5.2.2. Order authorizing the City Council to accept a gift of \$500.00 from *Haverhill Bank* 35-B

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO ACCEPT THE GIFT, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED YEAS 8, NAYS 0, ABSTENTION 1 (JORDAN), ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)



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5.2.3. Order authorizing the City Council to accept a gift of \$100.00
from *Sarah's Place Adult Day Health Center* 35-C

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO ACCEPT THE GIFT, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

5.2.4. Order authorizing the City Council to accept a gift of \$200.00
from *Bethany Community Services* 35-D

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO ACCEPT THE GIFT, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

President Sullivan and Mayor Barrett thanked all the donors who are participating in funding the St. Patrick's Day party at the Council on Aging.

5.3. City Clerk, Kaitlin M Wright submits several requests for City fees as follows:

Related communication from Lisa Mead and Benjamin Roberts, City Solicitors 20-E

5.3.1. Order – Relating to Fees for Administering Oath of Office for
Notary Public, Justice of the Peace, and Other Public Offices
(\$20.00) and for Home Birth Registrations (\$35.00) 36

City Clerk Wright discussed the current process for notary and justice of the peace swearing-in, which are charged at \$10.00. Unlike many surrounding communities that require appointments and have extended wait times, our office does not require appointments, allowing people to be sworn in immediately. Due to increased traffic in the office, there is a proposal to raise the fee to \$20.00 for swearing-in. Additionally, Wright proposed introducing a new fee for recording home births, suggesting it should be similar to the \$35.00 fee charged for amending vital records, as the workload for both processes is similar. If approved, the home birth recording fee would also be \$35.00.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

5.3.2. Ordinance re: Amendment of License Fees for Flammable
Material Storage
File 10 days 37

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

5.4. Communication from Lisa Mead and Joseph Rutolo, City Solicitors
submitting an Order to authorize the Mayor to execute any documents
needed to allow MassDot to take permanent and temporary easements



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and fee interests in eight parcels of land along Route 125 over the
Merrimack River for the purposes of constructing
a State Highway 20-F

5.4.1. Order – relating to MassDot Taking for State Highway 38

Mayor Barrett addressed the council. She stated this is part of the bridge project. In order to do the replacement they need to extend the bridge on either side. She noted that these documents allow MassDOT to do that.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

**6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO INTRODUCE AN INDIVIDUAL(S) TO
ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:**

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- REQUESTS UNDER COUNCIL RULE 28

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

9. UTILITY HEARING(S) AND RELATED ORDER(S):

10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:

10.1. CCSP 24-11; Hearing application from Brian Moses to keep a
permanent storage container at his home at 84 Madison st_ 21

City Clerk Wright stated earlier today we were in receipt of a communication from Brian Moses requesting to have the hearing continued until March 18th in the hope of having a full council.

President Sullivan opened the hearing.

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO CONTINUE TO 3/18/25, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED CONTINUED TO MARCH 18TH.

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

11.APPOINTMENTS:

11.1. Confirming Appointments

11.2. Non-Confirming Appointments

11.3. Constables

11.4. Resignations:

12.PETITIONS:

12.1. CCSP 25-2; Hearing application from Attorney Robert Harb for
WP Acquisition Sub, LLC, to construct an addition to the *Haverhill
Pavillion* on 76 Summer st that will add a new 24-bed geriatric unit
Hearing April 8th 39

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO HEAR ON 4/8/25, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

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12.2. Applications Handicap Parking Sign: *with Police approval*

12.3. Amusement/Event Application: *with Police approval*

12.3.1. EVNT 25-1, Anastasia Dimopoulos, for the *Hellenic Orthodox Church* requesting to hold a Greek Dinner Dance with music on March 1st, at 154-156 Winter st from 7 pm to 1 am and requests that any *additional* fees be waived 26-B

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED YEAS 8, NAYS 0, ABSTENTION 1 (MICHITSON), ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

12.4. Auctioneer License:

12.5. Tag Days: *pending Police approval*

12.5.1. TAGD 25-4, *HHS Boys Baseball*, March 8th 8-E

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO APPROVE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

12.6. One Day Liquor License – *with License Commission & HPD approval*

12.7. ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS:

12.7.1. Hawker Peddlers License- Fixed location – *w/Police approval*

12.7.2. Coin-Op License Renewals – *with Police approval*

12.7.3. Christmas Tree Vendor – *with Police approval*

12.7.4. Taxi Driver Licenses for 2024: *with Police approval*

12.7.5. Taxi/Limousine License *with Police approval*

12.7.6. Junk Dealer /Collector License *with Police approval*

12.7.7. Pool/Billiard

12.7.8. Bowling

12.7.9. Sunday Bowling

12.7.10. Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles *with Police approval*

12.7.11. Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing

12.7.12. Pawnbroker license - *with police approval*

12.7.13. Fortune Teller *with - Police approval*

12.7.14. Buy & Sell Old Gold – *with Police approval*

12.7.15. Roller Skating Rink

12.7.16. Sunday Skating

12.7.17. Exterior Vending Machines/Redbox Automated

Retail, LLC



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12.7.18. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars with Police approval**

13.MOTIONS AND ORDERS:

- 13.1. Order – authorize payment of bills of previous years and authorize payment from current year departmental appropriations as listed below:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>
City of Methuen	\$1,010.60	Highway

Total: \$1,010.60

26-B

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO APPROVE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

14.ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS)

15.COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:

- 15.1. Councillor Michitson requests to address Governor Healy's proposal of Lottery System for admission to Vocational Technical Schools and associated increase in seats 33-B

Councilor Michitson provided an update on state-level activities impacting all students getting a career. Governor Healey's supplemental budget proposes a \$75 million grant for CTE schools, aiming to add 3,000 new Vo-Tech seats across Massachusetts over a three-year period. The proposal also includes a lottery system for admission, where only excessive unexcused absences or disciplinary issues would serve as selective criteria. While Councilor Michitson supports the intent of the lottery, he expressed concerns about whether it would truly solve equity issues for underserved students. He also highlighted other initiatives, such as middle schools being required to promote awareness of CTE and in the supplemental budget there is a \$100 million for skills capital grants that support high schools, colleges and educational institutions. He hopes Haverhill can serve as a model for these initiatives and is working with Representative Vargas to track hearings on the bill.

Vice President Jordan expressed support for the addition of 3,000 new Vo-Tech seats but questioned the effectiveness of the lottery system. He also inquired about updates regarding Whittier Vo-Tech and Northern Essex Community College.

Mayor Barrett responded that discussions are ongoing with Northern Essex and Whittier Vo-Tech, and they are exploring four potential models for collaboration. One model includes using separate campuses for different age groups, similar to the early college program. More information will be available in the coming month, and a feasibility study will need the approval of 11 communities.



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Councilor Toohey raised concerns about the potential impact of the lottery on Haverhill students, specifically whether it could lead to a loss of students if the lottery is implemented without expanding the building. He asked if this could affect assessments.

Councilor Michitson clarified that the state plans to add 3,000 new seats statewide, and Whittier Vo-Tech would receive a share of those. However, if the demand exceeds available seats, a lottery system would be used.

Councilor Basiliere asked if the feasibility study required unanimous approval from all communities, and Mayor Barrett confirmed it does. She also mentioned that one community is not participating, and it may require legislative intervention to proceed.

15.2. Councillor Ferreira requests to speak about the *Historic House Plaque Program* as a result of the *Administration and Finance Committee* meeting held on February 18, 2025

33-C

Councilor Ferreira addressed the council regarding the development of a citywide program for homeowners with historic properties in Haverhill. The program allows homeowners to purchase a white, scroll-shaped sign denoting their house as historic. The sign will include key information such as the original owner, architect, occupation, or year the home was built. These signs have the potential to be used for walking tours and community marketing.

Councilor Ferreira also mentioned that the signs would be designed using a template from a local company, though homeowners could opt to have them made elsewhere. The city does not require a permit for affixing the sign. Information for ordering signs will be available on the city's website, with the Highlands Neighborhood Association verifying the accuracy of research submitted by homeowners.

Becky Geller, Head of Special Collections and Archives at the Haverhill Public Library, outlined resources available to help homeowners research the history of their properties, such as historical data sheets, photographs, maps, and city directories. She also provided details about library hours and upcoming open house events where people could seek assistance with research. Those hours are: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Thursdays 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. On March 7th I am doing an open house from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Our next Saturday hours are March 15th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Councilor Ferreira explained the process for ordering a sign through the city website. Vice President Jordan inquired about the sign-making process, and Councilor Ferreira confirmed that a local company would handle production, though homeowners could use a different vendor if desired.

President Sullivan thanked Councilor Ferreira for leading the initiative and expressed support for the idea.



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16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEEDING MEETING:

16.1. Mayor Barrett submits the Memorandum of Agreement for the
Water/Wastewater Office & Technical Group (Teamsters)

16.1.1. Document 31; Memorandum of Agreement between the City
of Haverhill and the *Water/Wastewater Office & Technical Group*
– *Teamsters Local #170* *Filed 2/13/25*

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2, (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

17.RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

18.COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Councilor Ferreira stated it's Haverhill Restaurant week. There are some great deals and all information can be found online.
- Councilor Basiliere stated Haverhill Exchange is having its largest fundraiser its annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast held on 3/17/25. There are tickets and sponsorships available.
- City Clerk Wright reminds everyone it's not too late to enter the top dog contest. Information can be found on the website.

19.DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY

20.LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST

21.ADJOURN:

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND ROGERS)

ADJOURNED: 19:43