



# CITY OF HAVERHILL

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, May 21, 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, Michitson, Ferreira, Jordan, Lewandowski, Toohey, and Rogers

Attending Remotely – Councilor McGonagle

Absent – Councilor LePage

Assistant City Clerk – Rose Leonard Flynn

**1. OPENING PRAYER**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

*Motion by Councilor Ferreira to approve May 7<sup>th</sup> minutes, second Councilor Jordan*

*PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 (McGonagle, LePage)*

**4. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Councilor Jordan assigned the minutes.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

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

- 6.1. Council President Sullivan requests to introduce Julio Mejia, *Merrimack Valley Project*, to discuss the *Steward Healthcare* crisis and some potential next steps to ensure continuation of care at *Holy Family Haverhill*

Julio Mejia, 1080 Essex Street Lawrence, Organizer with the Merrimack Valley Project addressed the Council to talk about the Steward Health Care Crisis representing the concerned citizens, nurses, doctors, SCIU committee for interns and residents, and the citizens. The potential closing of the hospital due to bankruptcy is a matter of deep concern for us all. This potential closure threatens the wellbeing of countless residents who rely on these essential services and is a beacon of hope where folks get compassionate life saving care. This would create a public health crisis of immense proportions. It will strip away the critical access to healthcare for many in our community, especially the most vulnerable, and place an enormous strain on our entire healthcare system, especially in the Merrimack Valley. Our community deserves better, we deserve access to quality healthcare, we deserve to keep these institutions open that have served us so well for so long. It demands our immediate attention and action and urges all of you to take a stand in preserving Holy Family Hospital.

Speakers from Merrimack Valley Project, the MNA and the SCIU committee for interns and residents, and residents of the community appeared before the Council. All expressing their concerns with possibility of hospital closure, all deserve quality healthcare, core concern now is what is the State Administration doing including the health office, governor and attorney general offices. Public statements seem to be softening as time goes on. Want a statement directed to the Healy administration and Attorney



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General office saying it is not either politically, morally or ethically acceptable that any of these hospitals close. No community is less important than any other community.

Councilors agreed with the concern of the hospital closing, an acute care hospital is as basic as you get for quality of life, concerned with rumors that the Governor may not be prioritizing Haverhill and need to know what is being done.

Councilor Jordan would like to make a motion to send a letter from the Council to Governor Healy, inviting Mayor Barrett and our State Delegation to join with us in the language of the letter. The language suggestion paraphrasing what was said by Dana Simmons that it is “not either politically, morally or ethically acceptable” that the closing of any one hospital is not right for any one city. All of our cities are vitally important, and all our cities need to have local health options for all the reasons stated.

Councilor Lewandowski would like to add to the motion suggesting in the letter to state consideration of Eminent Domain of the hospital. There is no question that this is for a public purpose.

Mayor Barrett stated any communication she has with the state delegation urges them that we must maintain an acute care hospital with full care not just an emergency room, need services for almost 70K residents and cannot be collateral damage.

*Motion by Councilor Jordan to send a letter to the Governor, Attorney General, Legislative Delegation and Secretary of Health and Human Services, second Councilor Michitson*  
*PASSED* *Yeas 10, Nays 0, Absent 1* 31-L

**7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- REQUESTS UNDER COUNCIL RULE 28**

**8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:**

8.1. William Pillsbury, Jr, *Communication Development Director*, requests approval of  
Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit the FY’2025 (Program Year 2024)  
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for the City 49

8.1.1. Resolution – Authorize the Mayor to submit the Amended CDBG Application

William Pillsbury addressed the Council stating we are an entitlement community under the HUD block grant, the program is entering its 50th year in which we have been successfully involved for all those years. This resolution will authorize us to submit, annual allocation is \$947,975 down from past years. The city has a strong program that it continues to implement.

*Motion by Councilor Michitson, second Councilor Toohey*  
*PASSED* *Yeas 10, Nays 0, Abstain 1 (McGonagle), Absent 1(LePage)* 49-B



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

- 9.1. Petition from National Grid for Pole location on Dudley st; Plan # 30890057  
Hearing June 25, 2024

*Motion by Councilor Jordan, second Councilor Lewandowski*

*PASSED to be heard June 25, 2024*

*Yeas 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 (LePage)*

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### 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 Application – with Police approval

#### 12.3. Auctioneer License:

#### 12.4. Tag Days: with Police approval

#### 12.5. One Day Liquor License – with License Commission & Police approval

#### 12.6. ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS:

##### 12.6.1. Hawker Peddlers License- Fixed location – w/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 Licenses for 2023: with Police approval

##### 12.6.5. Taxi/Limousine License with Police approval:

##### 12.6.6. Junk Dealer /Collector License with Police approval

- 12.6.6.1. JUNK 24-3; T & R Salvage, Jack Gouldsbrough for 99 Newark  
st

*Motion by Councilor Jordan, second Councilor Rogers*

*PASSED*

*Yeas 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 (LePage)*

45-C



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- 12.6.7. Sunday Pool
- 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*
- 12.6.13. 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 Machines/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC
- 12.6.18. Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars *with Police approval*

#### 13. MOTIONS AND ORDERS:

- 13.1. Order - \$30,000 be transferred from Engineering-Salaries & Wages to the Engineering Inspection Fees – Clerk of Works

*Motion by Councilor Jordan, second Councilor Rogers*

*PASSED*

*Yeas 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 (LePage)*

27-D

#### 14. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS):

- 14.1. Ordinance re: Playgrounds, Parks, and Recreation Areas; Amend Chapter 193, Article III Swimming File 10 days *Related communication from Vincent Ouellette, Human Services Director*

*Motion by Councilor Jordan, second Councilor Rogers*

*PASSED*

*Yeas 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 (LePage)*

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#### 15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:

- 15.1. Councillors Ferreira and Hobbs Everett request to discuss sending a letter of support for Senator Payano's Amendment #758 to increase funding for school districts in Gateway Communities in the State FY 25 Budget

Councilors Ferreira stated her, and Councilor Hobbs Everett are hoping to send a letter of support for Senator Payano's budget amendment #758 which is the inflation relieve fund for school districts in Gateway municipalities which would help stem the shortfalls in our budgets especially in Gateway communities.

*Councilor Hobbs Everett would like to motion to send a letter supporting Senator Payano's Amendment #758 regarding this relief fund to increase funds to school districts in Gateway municipalities in the State FY25 Budget to the Senate President, Chair of Ways and Means Committee, Senate and House, Speaker of the House, and our Legislative Delegation*



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*Motion by Councilor Hobb Everett, second Councilor Jordan*

**PASSED**

*Yeas 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 (LePage)*

**12-P**

15.2. Council Vice President Jordan and Councilor Lewandowski request a discussion about possible conditions on new development and potential changes to our zoning ordinances

Councilor Jordan states he has been receiving many emails, constituents coming up to him, as he sure all Councilors have been, concerned about the amount of development, ones already been approved, asking if going to keep continuing to approve all these projects, etc. Think it is important to consider what types of developments we want in the city. Think it is critical to consider what the long-term impact will be of each project being asked to approve. Imperative that each project we approve be revenue neutral. Have had conversations with Bill Pillsbury, Bob Ward, Mayor Barrett, Rob Moore suggesting having a meeting where these things can be “flushed out” and think City Solicitor should also be involved.

Councilor Lewandowski stated as part of this referral, we need to look at our density bonus program where it should and should be and take a global look at zoning. Of particular urgency is the waterfront district and the old paper board site which is 30-40 acres. The zoning as it is now allowing a density bonus in that area which would have a traumatic impact on our city. Density bonuses work in some areas but not all. Would like to make a separate motion to immediately send to our city solicitors for some type of rewording to highlight that particular area/district and come back in a couple of weeks and vote on a change to that particular part of the zoning as it relates to the waterfront district. If we wait and something gets in, you can't change the zoning retroactively and have it have any impact on something that is proposed close to 1000 units in that area. A working group to talk about our zoning and talk about incentivizing for developers is a really good idea. Also think we should take another look at our ADU's. Discussed a report to be given after a year and coming up on that date. Mayor Barrett would be happy to provide a report on ADU's at the next meeting. Concur completely that this is something that we need to do. I am a little leery of having the solicitor make, with my direction, changes to the parcel that used to be the paper board. I will do it, but I would like the Council to have input also.

Councilor Lewandowski stated can send to P&D so long as we get a quick turnaround. Councilor Michitson would like to include the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and see what kind of models they have.

Councilor Toohey stated he has done some research and data on this and as a body, glad working as a Council and a community going forward on development. See and talk to contractors and developers and the opinion right now is Haverhill is not open for business. Looking forward to sitting in on these discussions. Part of the discussion should include that the Governor is asking communities like ours to build more housing and at the same time, take away the hospital.



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Councilor Jordan stating the purpose of the meeting is to think about not only the short-term impact but the long-term impact. At the minimum projects have to be a revenue neutral situation. The meeting will be great to hear from all the department heads.

Dana Lovell, 21 Wingate Street, appeared before the Council thanking them for bringing issues up and speaking of infrastructure. Main concern is we need to watch our development in two different ways, first if we do not have a hospital are people going to want to move here, need closure about Holy Family Haverhill. Support commitments to get behind to keep the hospital here.

*Motion by Councilor Jordan to refer to Planning and Development Committee, second Council Lewandowski*

*PASSED refer to P&D Committee Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 (LePage, McGonagle) 12-Q*

#### 16. UNFINISHED BUISINESS OF PRECEEDING MEETING:

16.1. Document 2-OO, Ordinance amending Chapter 70, Officers and Employees, Article XI. Constables Appointment; Compensation  
*Filed 5/8/2024*

*Motion by Councilor Michitson, second Councilor Toohey*

*PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 (LePage, McGonagle)*

#### 17. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

#### 18. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Basiliere reminder Thursday is the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Haverhill hometown heroes at GAR park at 2 PM.

President Sullivan reminder at 1 PM Eammon's Heart will be dedicating flag pole in Monument Square.

No meeting next week due to the Memorial day holiday, the next meeting is June 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### 19. DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY

#### 20. LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST

#### 21. ADJOURN :

*Motion by Councilor Jordan, second Councilor Lewandowski*

*PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 (LePage, McGonagle) Adjourned 20:05*