



CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, June 3, 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, Michitson, Toohey, Rogers and Lewandowski

Remote: None

Absent: Councilor McGonagle

City Clerk: Kaitlin M. Wright

**1. OPENING PRAYER**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI STATED SHE REVIEWED THE MINUTES AND FINDS THEM IN ORDER.

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

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

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

PRESIDENT SULLIVAN ASSIGNED THE MINUTES TO COUNCILOR TOOHEY

**5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

- 5.1. Mayor Barrett and Councilor Ferreira request to introduce Kim Ocasio from *Ocasio's Martial Arts* and present her with a citation in recognition of celebrating 40 years in business in the City of Haverhill

12-N

Mayor Barrett and Councilor Ferreira presented citations to Kim and Herman Ocasio on behalf of the Mayor's Office and City Council.

- 5.2. Mayor Barrett requests to introduce Public Works Director Robert E Ward to provide a brief update on the current drought status in the City of Haverhill

12-O

Robert Ward, DPW Director, addressed the council. He stated as of today Kenoza Lake is near full capacity at 112 feet, just below the full level of 114'. The area is expected to exit drought watch status within days returning to normal conditions for this time of year. Outdoor watering restrictions and voluntary conservation measures have been lifted. He noted residents are still encouraged to use water wisely. Councilor Ferreira asked if pumping from other reservoirs a consistent practice. Robert Ward confirmed it is a consistent practice.

- 5.3. Mayor Barrett submits the *Memorandum of Agreement for the Water Purification Group (Teamsters)*

- 5.3.1. Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Haverhill and the *Water Purification Group-Teamsters Local 170*

File 10 days

31-D

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)



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**6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS 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:**

8.1. John H Pettis, *City Engineer*, submits a street opening request for  
45 Research dr, EROM 25-2 77

8.1.1. Order – City Council approve the request to excavate at  
45 Research dr for the installation of underground utilities 77-B

MOTION BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

8.2. John H Pettis, *City Engineer* submits a street opening request for  
117 Corliss Hill rd, EROM 25-3 78

8.2.1. Order – City Council approve the request to excavate at  
117 Corliss Hill rd for the Raise and Replacement of 2 Wire Test  
Stations 78-B

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

8.3. Angel A Perkins, *City Auditor & Chief Financial Officer*, submits the  
revenue and expense reports for the City's general and enterprise  
operating budgets for April 2025 20-N

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

8.4. Christine Webb, *City Assessor*, submits the abatement report for the  
month of April 2025 14-F

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

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

9.1. Document 62, Petition from National Grid of North Andover to  
construct a line of underground electric conduits on Main st/Woodman  
av WR# 31071447



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9.1.1. Order – grant National Grid permission for underground  
electric conduits on Main st/Woodman av 62-B

City Clerk Wright stated earlier today we were in receipt of letter from National Grid indicating that this is no longer necessary and requesting that we cancel this petition.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO CANCEL THIS PETITION, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN  
PASSED TO CANCEL THIS PETITION. YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

9.2. Petition from National Grid & Verizon NE requesting joint pole  
location for Lewis & Winter st, No# 31042144  
Hearing June 24, 2025 79

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE  
PASSED YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

**10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:**

- 10.1. CCSP 25-1, Document 32; Attorney Magliochetti representing  
*Astro Enterprise LLC*, requests to build a 4-unit condo building at  
0 Nichols st in the RU Zone – (residential urban density)  
*Rescheduled from May 20, 2025 Related communication from*  
*Economic Development and Planning Director, William Pillsbury,*  
*recommending to keep the hearing open and continue the matter to a*  
*future date*

City Clerk Wright stated she received a letter from the applicant requesting we continue the hearing until June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**President Sullivan opened the hearing.**

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO CONTINUE UNTIL JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY  
PASSED TO CONTINUE TO JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

- 10.2. Document 5, Economic Development and Planning Director,  
William Pillsbury requests Zoning Amendment – Battery Energy  
Storage Systems *continued from April 29, 2025*

- 10.2.1. Document 5-B, Ordinance re: Zoning – Add a new  
section 7.9 Battery Energy Storage Systems  
*filed February 20, 2025*



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City Clerk Wright stated we received a request from the City Solicitor today requesting that this hearing be continued until the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**President Sullivan opened the hearing.**

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO CONTINUE UNTIL JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN  
PASSED TO CONTINUE TO JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

**11.APPOINTMENTS:**

11.1. **Confirming Appointments - reappointment**

- 11.1.1. *Central Business Parking District Commission, Matt Gaiero, 108 Washington st #4 expires 5/31/2026*  
To be confirmed 7-P

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE  
PASSED YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

11.2. **Non-Confirming Appointments:**

11.3. **Constables**

11.4. **Resignations:**

**12.PETITIONS:**

- 12.1.1. CCSP 25-4, Special Permit application from Jennifer Colon for *Hertz Corporation*, requesting to move their existing commercial car rental business from 1184 Main st, across the street to 1187 Main st Hearing June 24, 2025 80

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY  
PASSED YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

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

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

- 12.3.1. EVNT 25-17, Hailey Pearson, Haverhill Art Walk Director for *Creative Haverhill* requests to hold *Haverhill Art Walk*, being held in Businesses, alleyways and public spaces along Washington st and parts of Wingate st, on September 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, and requests to close half of Wingate st (up to



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the parking lot so it will be accessible for parking), and also  
requests any additional fees be waived

26-S

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

- 12.4. **Auctioneer License:**
- 12.5. **Tag Days:** *with Police approval*
- 12.6. **One Day Liquor License** – *with License Commission & HPD approval*
- 12.7. **ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS:**
  - 12.7.1. **Hawker Peddlers License, Fixed location** *-with HPD 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** *with HPD approval*
  - 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**
  - 12.7.18. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars** *with HPD approval*



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**13. MOTIONS AND ORDERS:**

- 13.1. Order – Transfer \$500,000 from Salaries & Wages-Wastewater to the listed **Wastewater Capital Funds:**

<u>Transfer to</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Wastewater Capital Outlay	\$250,000.00	
Sewer Rehab & Repair	250,000.00	
<i>Related communication from Robert E Ward, DPW Director</i>		30-D

Robert Ward, DPW Director, addressed the council. He stated this is an end of the year financial transfer due to several unfilled positions in the department. The funds will be reallocated to two accounts one is designed for equipment upgrades and the other for sewer pipe repairs.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

- 13.2 Order – Transfer \$1,320,000 from the listed accounts in the water budget to the listed **Water Capital Funds:**

<u>Transfer From</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Electricity	\$50,000.00	
Treatment Chemicals	50,000.00	
Salaries & Wages Water Maintenance	100,000.00	
Future Carb Repel Filters	320,000.00	
Water Capital Outlay	200,000.00	
Health Insurance	100,000.00	
Principal on Long Term Debt	500,000.00	
<u>Transfer To</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Water Carbon Filters	\$320,000.00	
Water Supply Fee Expenditures	1,000,000.00	
<i>Related communication from Robert E Ward, DPW Director</i>		30-E

Robert Ward, DPW Director, addressed the council. He stated this is another year end transfer. The funds for the carbon filter replacement budgeted for FY25 are being moved to a capital account since the filter is lasting longer than expected, ensuring the money remains available past year end. Another major item is a delayed loan payment for a large project, now expected in FY26. The remaining funds are being allocated to water supply fee expenditures, particularly for the upcoming design phase of the Merrimack River well project. Vice President Jordan asked if it's fair to say you are trying to do everything you can to minimize the rate that we are paying. Robert Ward confirmed we have taken steps similar in the past.

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

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

**15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS:**

- 15.1. Councillor Michitson requests to provide an update on the State's proposed Vo-Tech lottery and Haverhill's Career Connected Learning Initiative 33-K

Councilor Michitson cited WBUR for their concise summary of the vocational lottery issues which he paraphrased. He noted his take on the subject is for all students to have access to both college prep and career pathways, noting that students perform better academically when engaged in career training. Full implementation of a comprehensive system may take 5-10 years due to limited resources and bureaucracy. He noted a proposed solution is a career connected learning consortium to help find students alternative career paths. He noted the district is working to expand these efforts through stronger coordination and community partnerships. He addressed his take on the state first of all we lack information. He stated the top priority being the addition of seats along with adequate funding and space. Another priority he noted was establishing a career connected learning consortium. He stated he has concerns with the potential implementation of a lottery system for program admission.

Councilor Toohey questioned if the lottery system could have a potential impact on high achieving students from Haverhill. He noted that sometimes kids from Haverhill get in mid-year after demonstrating their commitment. Councilor Michitson stated I don't think that has been discussed yet but it is a possibility depending on what they implement for rules. Vice President Jordan noted the need for more vocational seats. Councilors Hobbs Everett and Lewandowski agreed that non-traditional students is no longer the average more than 70% of our students are high needs. Councilor Lewandowski noted the need for creative solutions in order to bridge the gap.

**16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEEDING MEETING:**

- 16.1. Document 49-D, Corrected Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic  
No Parking – Bridge st both sides, entire length (Merrimack st/Water st  
to Middlesex st) *filed 5/22/25*

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY  
PASSED YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

- 16.2. Document 11-H, Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic – Add  
Handicap Parking for 9 Bartlett st *filed 5/22/25*

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI  
PASSED YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)



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- 16.3. Document 69-B, Ordinance re: Amending Chapter 80  
Purchasing and Contracts *filed 5/15/25* –

*Moved 16.7/16.7.1 up to this part of the agenda.*

*City Clerk Wright noted this is meant to go together. The ordinance was not included in the agenda packet, the agenda was amended to add the order.*

16.7 Doc 69, Order – authorize amendment to modify the bond  
requirement in Chapter 80, Section 8, Sub-section B of the  
Code of the City of Haverhill

16.7.1 Ordinance re: To Amending Chapter 80 Purchasing  
and Contracts

*Filed 5/15/2025*

President Sullivan stated do we have a motion to approve the ordinance as well as the order

MOTION BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

16.8 Document 70, Ordinance re: Dogs and Other Animals, Amend  
Chapter 137-4 of the City Code Article II, Kennels; Dog  
Licensing

*filed 5/15/25 Related communication from Lisa Mead, City Solicitor*

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

16.9 Document 72, Ordinance re: Article III Council on Youth  
Needs, Amend Chapter 25, Article 3, Sections 14 thru 18  
*filed 5/22/2025*

Mayor Barrett stated this group was active and met regularly before Covid. The council on youth needs provides a platform for youth to discuss city related issues directly. She noted it allows the youth to share their perspectives and report back to the City Council. She stated that Councilor Hobbs Everett proposed revisiting the initiative some time ago. We have streamlined the body, but a broader participation is still encouraged.

Councilor Hobbs Everett stated it is important for youth involvement in city matters, noting that the past group of young participants was particularly impressive and active. She emphasized the current lack of youth representation in civic discussion and is thankful the Mayor is bringing the youth council back.





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President Sullivan asked how many youths will be on this council? The Mayor confirmed five. Vice President Jordan asked is it five students and one city councilor? Councilor Hobbs Everett confirmed, city council member, city rec department member, school department member. The five students are the only voting members. Councilor Lewandowski agreed this is a great idea. She had a suggestion for page 2 – Section C that one of the youths on this particular council would be included in our youth and mental health committee. The Mayor thinks this is a great idea, she noted it may not be able to be done because it is late in the season. She noted it is a great idea to have that representation.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR HOBBS EVERETT, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

16.10      Document 19-D, Robert Ward, PDW Director, submits several documents for approval relative to funding the engineering and construction of Phase 2 of the Locke st area  
*Combined Sewer Separation Project*

16.10.1 Loan Order – Appropriate \$14,667,000 to finance  
Phase 2 Locke Street Sewer, Water and Drain  
Improvements                      *filed 5/15/2025*

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

16.10.1.1 Document 71, Authority to File –  
Authorize Mayor on behalf of the  
applicant to file applications and  
execute any pertinent agreements as  
needed

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

Robert Ward, DPW addressed the council. There are two documents for your vote one to appropriate funds for phase 2 of the Locke Street Combined Sewer Separation Project and the other is to authorize the Mayor to file and execute loan-related documents. He noted that this is currently in the second of three planned phases. This project was mandated by a consent decree issued in 2016 by the US Department of Justice, The Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. He noted that in prior to 1960's combined sewer systems were built to handle both sewer and stormwater. Today, although a costly project it is a good thing. He noted in order to remain eligible for the low interest loan program, the approved loan order must be submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The loan currently carries a 2% loan. In addition, the project qualifies for the principal forgiveness program which offers a minimum of 6.6% for wastewater projects. It translates to approximately \$968,000-and-results-in-savings of \$59,000 per year over the 20-year loan. He noted that the five-year financial forecast. The rate impact is about \$35.00 a year average rate impact per household. Watermain upgrades will be evaluated but



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aren't yet funded. Design continues this year, lasting about two years with debt payments beginning in fiscal year 2028.

Vice President Jordan stated I support it because we have to do it. He agrees to look at the watermain at the same time. He questioned when phase 3 would begin? Robert Ward stated a little beyond FY31. The estimated cost is 11-12 million.

**16.7 Doc 69, Order – authorize amendment to modify the bond requirement in Chapter 80, Section 8, Sub-section B of the Code of the City of Haverhill**

**16.7.1 Ordinance re: To Amending Chapter 80 Purchasing and Contracts**

**Filed 5/15/2025**

69-B

*Moved up to 16.3*

**17 RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:**

**18 COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT**

- Mayor Barrett read a proclamation for Pride month into the record.

President Sullivan stated a flag raising ceremony will be held at City Hall at 12:30PM rain or shine, If weather prevents it from being held outdoors, the event will move to City Hall auditorium, approved by the Mayor. The parade is scheduled for 1:30PM and will proceed rain or shine. The artwalk will take place as much as the conditions allow. Councilor Ferreira noted for all the pride festivities information can be found on [haverhillpride.org](http://haverhillpride.org) website. The artwalk information can be found on Creative Haverhill website.

Councilor Michitson asked if you wanted the council to suspend the rules to adopt the proclamation.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO SUSPEND THE RULES, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY  
PASSED YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO ACCEPT THE PROCLAMATION, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN  
PASSED YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE)

- Vice President Jordan stated Team Haverhill – Clean and Green downtown Haverhill will meet tomorrow night at 5:30 to clean in advance of the artwalk. They will meet at 59 Washington Street. Following the cleanup, they will meet at 7PM to meet the lead artist James Tafel Shuster of the Essex Street gateway mural at the Peddler's Daughter.

**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 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MCGONAGLE) **ADJOURNED: 20:14**