



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 24, 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, Ferreira, Jordan, Michitson, and Lewandowski

Remote: Councilors Hobbs Everett, Rogers and McGonagle

Absent: Councilor Toohey and LePage

City Clerk: Kaitlin M. Wright

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

JUNE 10, 2025

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

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

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

JUNE 17, 2025

COUNCILOR LEPAGE HAD THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2025 AND HE IS ABSENT THIS EVENING. THESE WILL BE APPROVED AT THE JULY 8TH MEETING.

4. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING

PRESIDENT SULLIVAN ASSIGNED THE MINUTES TO COUNCILOR ROGERS

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

5.1. Mayor Barrett submits an Order to Authorize a Contract in Excess of Three Years *related communication from Robert E Ward, DPW Director*

5.1.1. Order – Multi-year Sludge Disposal Contract 23-H

5.1.2.

Mayor Barrett addressed the council. She stated this is a multi-year contract. She noted that Mr. Ward conducted a market review, and as a result an agreement was reached and approved by the City Solicitor.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

5.2. Mayor Barrett submits Orders for Salaries and Longevity for

Administrative/Professional Positions and Non-union Employees for FY 2026

5.2.1. Order-Longevity - Administrative/Professional Positions and Non-union Employees

File 10 days 82

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)



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**5.2.2. Ordinance-Salaries - Administrative/Professional
File 10 days**

82-B

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

**5.2.3. Ordinance-Salaries - Non-Union Positions
File 10 days**

82-C

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

**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. William Pillsbury, Jr., *Community Development Director*, requests approval of the *Resolution* authorizing the Mayor to submit the FY'2026 (Program Year 2025) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for the City

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

60-B

William Pillsbury, Economic Development Director, addressed the council. This evening, we are requesting approval of the annual resolution for our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. As an entitlement community, we receive federal funding each year and are required to submit a detailed plan outlining how those funds will be used. Despite delays at the federal level, we have finalized this year's plan, which reflects a modest 3.3% increase in funding. However, strict regulations limit only 15% of the funds for public services—such as food pantries, heating assistance, and homelessness prevention—despite increasing demand. The majority of the funding will continue to support housing rehabilitation, code enforcement, and public improvements in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, as 80% of funds must benefit these populations. We've identified 26 programs for funding this year, and while we've prioritized sustaining critical services, we are also planning cautiously for potential federal cuts in the future. Approval of this resolution will allow us to submit all required documentation and move forward with program implementation.

During the discussion councilors raised concerns about the \$15,000 allocated to first time homebuyer program, asking whether any of the funding is used. William Pillsbury responded that usage had been minimal due to strict income limits. It was asked if unused funds could be put in the Housing Trust Fund. William Pillsbury stated the funds don't disappear; any reallocation would need to comply with CDBG regulations. It was noted by the council that if they lose CDBG funding the food banks would suffer.



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MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON

PASSED YEAS 8, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY) 1 ABSTENTION (MCGONAGLE)

- 15.1 Communication from Councillor Lewandowski requesting to discuss House Bill 3660 An Act Enabling a Local Option Empty Homes Tax on Vacant Units in Residential Buildings and request a letter in support be sent to delegation 33-L

Councilor Lewandowski addressed the council. She noted she has been discussing Bill 3660 with Representative Vargas which would allow Massachusetts cities to adopt a vacancy tax on residential units left unoccupied for a set period, with exemptions for valid cases like renovations or medical issues. The goal is to encourage occupancy, increase housing availability, and generate revenue for affordable housing. Even without state approval, municipalities could pursue local versions through a ballot initiative. This could be a valuable tool to support housing efforts and should be considered for further review by subcommittee.

Planning Director William Pillsbury stated from a planning perspective, if we consider using tax revenue for a trust, that money would need to go through the usual appropriation process. He noted it is worth considering especially in the context of the looming federal cuts.

Councilor Lewandowski also noted the need for a multifaceted approach to addressing commercial vacancy and revitalizing downtown areas. She highlighted the potential value of the Massachusetts vacant storefront program. A state initiative that offers up to \$50,000 on refundable tax credits to businesses that occupy long vacant storefronts. The program requires municipalities to apply through Community One Stop for Growth portal.

Motion by Councilor Lewandowski to refer the local option vacancy tax on residential properties as well as a second look at the MVSP relative to commercial to the Planning and Development Subcommittee for further review. Second by Vice President Jordan.

Councilor Michitson and Vice President Jordan thanked Councilor Lewandowski for bringing this forward. They noted both proposals are worth exploring.

Motion by Councilor Lewandowski to refer the local option vacancy tax on residential properties as well as a second look at the MVSP relative to commercial to the Planning and Development Subcommittee for further review. Second by Vice President Jordan.

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

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

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)



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

9.1. Document 79; Petition from National Grid & Verizon requesting joint pole location for Lewis & Winter st, WR#31042144

9.1.1. Document 79-B; Order-grant joint pole location for Lewis & Winter st

President Sullivan opened the hearing.

Alec Birdsong of National Grid, 1101 Turnpike Road, North Andover addressed the council. I am here on behalf of National Grid asking to install a pole on Lewis Street between pole 2 and 3. It will be 224' north and 12' west of the center line of Winter and Lewis Street. He noted that a resident is installing a new solar on Lewis Street, we need to install a transformer on it.

President Sullivan asked if anyone would like to speak in favor? No one spoke.

President Sullivan asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition? No one spoke.

President Sullivan closed the hearing.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

President Sullivan: **That Passes.**

10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:

10.1. Document 57; City Engineer John Pettis submits request that the City accept Harbor Drive as a Public Way, #126571

10.1.1. Document 57-B; Order – Harbor Drive be accepted as a Public Way *Favorable recommendation from Planning Board & Planning Director*

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

President Sullivan stated the council needs to make sure that not only authorize this public way, but we also authorize the Mayor to take the road as well. It is a two-step process.

President Sullivan asked if anyone would like to speak in favor? No one spoke.

President Sullivan asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition? No one spoke.

President Sullivan closed the hearing.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

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President Sullivan: **That Passes.**



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10.2. Document 58; City Engineer John Pettis submits request that the City accept Mohawk Trail as a Public Way, #127614

10.2.1. Document 58-B; Order – Mohawk Trail be accepted as a Public Way *Favorable recommendation from Planning Board & Planning Director*

President Sullivan asked if anyone would like to speak in favor? No one spoke.

President Sullivan asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition? No one spoke.

President Sullivan closed the hearing.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

President Sullivan: **That Passes.**

10.3. CCSP 25-4; Special Permit Application from Jennifer Colon for *Hertz Corp* requesting to move their existing commercial car rental business from 1184 Main st, across the street to 1187 Main st – Map 638, Block 5, Lot 22 & Lots 23-29 (property is in the CH Zone, Commercial Highway) 80

President Sullivan opened the hearing.

Jennifer Colon for Hertz Corporation, 8501 Williams Road, Estero, FL addressed the council. She noted the Hertz team was present this evening for any questions. We have been in the city since 2006. We have provided amenities to the community. We have employed people from the community. Unfortunately, we have lost our lease. The space that we are in currently is being redeveloped. We had this great opportunity to move across the street and I understand that we have to go through this permit process. There will be no land disturbance, no major construction. We are primarily doing just FF and Es (fixtures, furniture and equipment). We have a pending application for a signage permit. We have not submitted that yet, pending the outcome of this hearing. There is a copy of the signage in the packet. It's just a continuation of what we have been doing in the community the last 20 years.

President Sullivan asked if anyone would like to speak in favor? No one spoke.

President Sullivan asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition? No one spoke.

President Sullivan closed the hearing.

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

President Sullivan stated **that PASSES.**

11.APPOINTMENTS:

11.1. **Confirming Appointments**

11.2. **Non-Confirming Appointments:**

11.3. **Constables**



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11.4. Resignations:

12. PETITIONS:

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

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

12.2.1. EVNT 25-19; Marlene Stasinos requests to hold a Dog Day afternoon at her farm on 436 Salem st, on September 27th, from 10 am to 3 pm

comments from City Depts are included

26-V

Marlene Stasinos and Cindy Morgan addressed the council. We will be holding Woofstock this year. It will be held on Saturday September 27th 10AM-3PM (rain date Sunday, September 28th). There will be many vendors and we will be holding an apple baking contest this year.

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

12.2.2. EVNT 25-21; Anthony Pepe for *Food Truck Festivals of America LLC*, requests to hold a food truck and craft beverage Festival, October 25th, at *Kimball Farm*, 791 East Broadway, from 11 am to 6 pm
comments from City Depts are included

26-W

President Sullivan stated I am going to ask that we postpone this matter to the July 8th meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR BASILIERE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN.

President Sullivan stated the reason being there are some issues at the farm right now that are being investigated by Inspectional Services and trying to be worked out. We are going to hold this until July 8th and hopefully we will have better answers from Inspectional Services and the City Solicitor about this.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR BASILIERE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN.

PASSED TO CONTINUE TO JULY 8, 2025 YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

12.3. Auctioneer License:

12.4. Tag Days: *with Police approval*

12.5. One Day Liquor License – *with License Commission & HPD 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*



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- 12.6.4. **Taxi Driver Licenses for 2024:** *with Police approval*
- 12.6.5. **Taxi/Limousine License** *with Police approval*
- 12.6.5.1. TDL 25-2; Peter Loring, 98 Broadway 83
- 12.6.5.2. TDL 25-3; Lynette Sylvester,
21 Observatory av 83-B
- 12.6.5.3. TDL 25-4; Heather Lee, 132 South Elm st 83-C
- 12.6.5.4. TDL 25-5; Richard Ploof, 145 Winter st 83-D
- 12.6.5.5. TDL 25-6; Wisvel Joseph, 43 Greenough st 83-E
- 12.6.5.6. TDL 25-7; Windy Smith, 115 Lowell av 83-F
- 12.6.5.7. TDL 25-8; Daniel Merchant, 103 Freemont st 83-G
- 12.6.5.8. TDL 25-9; Steven Pefine, 52 Washington st 4B 83-H
- 12.6.5.9. TDL 25-10; Rachael Trongeau, 52 Newcomb st 83-I
- 12.6.5.10. TDL 25-11; David McLaughlin, 15 Grandview rd 83-J
- 12.6.5.11. TDL 25-12; Monica Christopher, 99 E Broadway
Salem, NH 83-K
- 12.6.5.12. TDL 25-13; Jayshawn Gomez, 115 Lowell av 83-L
- 12.6.5.13. TDL 25-14; Eric Sayers, 762 B Washington st 83-M

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

- 12.6.6. **Junk Dealer /Collector 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** *with Police approval*
- 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:



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14. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS)

15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS:

- 15.1. Moved to beginning of meeting 33-L
15.2. Communication from Councillor Michitson requesting to address
Haverhill's affordability housing issue and upward mobility gaps 33-M

Councilor Michitson noted at the recent Planning and Development Committee meeting, members discussed the city's housing production plan and its link to Haverhill's growing upward mobility crisis. With 52% of renters and 28% of homeowners cost-burdened, and low-income student rates rising (56% in high school, 69% in kindergarten), concern was raised about long-term impacts. A focus was recommended on workforce development, quality education, and inclusive schools—key pillars of upward mobility. Whittier Tech's proposed 200-seat expansion was deemed insufficient given high demand, with roughly 800 students annually missing out on vocational education. A cross-sector career training and awareness initiative was proposed, involving Haverhill High, Whittier Tech, NECC, nonprofits, businesses, and state programs. Additional recommendations included better funding, access to MassHire, and employer incentives.

Motion by Councilor Michitson to send to Planning and Development Subcommittee meeting to get feedback on cross-cutting career training event from various participants. Second, Vice President Jordan.

Vice President Jordan voiced concerns that vocational education is too limited, even with the added seats, Haverhill students may lose out with the lottery system. We need the state support to expand programs and ensure more local kids get the opportunities they need. Councilor Lewandowski noted MakeIT Haverhill is having a job fair, it is great that we can bring these jobs to young people. Councilor McGonagle noted not enough money from the state.

Motion by Councilor McGonagle to send a letter to the delegation to go to the governor and get us the money to help our kids, get us the money to help Whittier Vo-Tech open up the number of students they can take.

City Clerk Wright stated I think by Robert's Rules you need to make that motion first. You need a second.

President Sullivan stated we didn't get a second.

Motion by Councilor Michitson to send to Planning and Development Subcommittee meeting to get feedback on cross-cutting career training event from various participants. Second, Vice President Jordan.

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY)

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEEDING MEETING:

17. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

18. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Sullivan stated the fireworks will be held on July 1st at 9:15PM

19. DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY

20. LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST

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

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (LEPAGE AND TOOHEY) **ADJOURNED: 20:07**