



CITY OF HAVERHILL

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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

In-Person/Remote Meeting

Present – President Jordan, Councillors Barrett, Bevilacqua, Sullivan, Michitson, Lewandowski, Rogers, and Toohey

Absent – Councillor McGonagle

City Clerk – Kaitlin Wright

Assistant Clerk – Rose Leonard-Flynn

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Motion by Councillor Sullivan to approve April 4, 2023, second Councillor Barrett

PASSED

All in Favor

4. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Councillor Michitson assigned minutes.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

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

- 6.1. Councillor Barrett requests to introduce Nomsa Ncube to discuss the volunteer work done by *Somebody Cares* and their upcoming Spring Fundraiser on Saturday, April 22nd

Councillor Barrett introduced Nomsa and Marlene Yeo to discuss *Somebody Cares* volunteer work.

Nomsa Ncube and Marlene Yeo addressed the Council. *Somebody Cares* is located in the Mount Washington area. In 2022 had fed over 200K pounds of food throughout the city. Run a youth center with 124 youth participating in 2022. Upcoming events include Spring Ahead Fundraiser, Saturday April 22, tickets can be purchased online at somebodycaresne.org. Events on April 29th are the Second Annual Car Show in support of Veterans Northeast Outreach at NECC from 10-1, Comedy night at Hellenic Orthodox Church from 7-midnight and Walk-A-Palooza Celebration at TD Bank parking lot at 1pm.

19-N

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- REQUESTS UNDER COUNCIL RULE 28

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

- 8.1. City Clerk, Kaitlin M Wright, submits June 6 2023 Special Election Warrant and requests approval

Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Toohey

PASSED Placed on File

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

10-J



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8.2. William Pillsbury, Jr., Community Development Director, requests approval of Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit the FY 2024 (Program Year 2023) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for the City 43

8.2.1. Resolution – authorize the Mayor to submit the Amended CDBG Application

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Councillor Barrett

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

43-B

William Pillsbury addressed the Council stating program started 1974. CDBG is involved in trying to deal with neighborhood stabilizing from the point of view of having housing rehabilitation funds, to fixing up owner occupied housing, working on code enforcement, fixing public improvements like sidewalks, streets and trees in the area, have to spend money on low- and moderate-income families. Andrew and Matt do a great job with that. We had a reduction this year as population fluctuates, lost about \$17K this year. Doing as much as we can with what we have working within the guidelines.

Councillor Sullivan commented happy with funds but disappointed with being reduced. Think legislators need to be reminded that we are watching and our CDBG funds should be increased. Need is greater, funds are not keeping up with the need.

Councillor Bevilacqua commented how they do so much with so little and would think federal government would increase because it provides the real services to help rebuild neighborhoods. It is a critically important program.

Councillor Barrett commented that she served on the CAB board 30 years ago, eyes opened to see all the things people are trying to do to help. Agree it is a shame funding is going down. Will second Sullivan motion to send letter.

President Jordan agrees with comments and frustrating numbers going down while needs going up and will support both motions.

Motion by Councillor Sullivan to send a letter to state and federal delegation asking to increase allocation , second Councillor Barrett

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1



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8.3.Christine Webb, City Assessor submits the abatement report for the month of March 2023

Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Barrett

PASSED Placed on File All in Favor

11-D

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

10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:

10.1. Document 2: CCSP 22-15: from Attorney Martin Murphy for applicant JV Hostetter Family LLC, for property located at 261 River st that is in two different zones; IG Zone and RU zone. Owner requests to build an addition 80' x 130' to one of its existing on-site buildings, in IG Zone to be used for warehouse purposes with a portion to be used as an ancillary commercial office

Related communication from Attorney Martin Murphy requesting for applicant JV Hostetter Family LLC, to withdraw this Special Permit application

Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Lewandowski

PASSED withdrawn Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

11. APPOINTMENTS:

11.1. Confirming Appointments:

11.2. Non-Confirming:

11.3. Resignations:

12. PETITIONS:

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

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

12.2.1. Ronald Paradise for *Veterans Outreach Center Inc* requesting permission for a fundraising Car Show at Northern Essex Community College, 100 Elliott st, on Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and also requests fees be waived

Bill Kelly, Executive Director of Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, addressed the Council. The car show is their big fundraiser as a non-profit also asking for fees be waived.

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Councillor Michitson

PASSED Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

29-E



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12.2.2. Maria Syrniotis for *Hellenic Orthodox Community Inc.*, requesting permission for Comedian Show at the Hellenic Orthodox Church, 154 Winter st; on Saturday, April 29th. From 7:00 pm to 12:00 am and also requests fees be waived

Maria Syrniotis appeared remotely explaining fundraiser on April 29th with a Greek American comedian for a great night.

Motion by Councillor Michitson, second Councillor Barrett

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

29-F

12.2.3. Melissa deFriesse for *Boys & Girls Club of Greater Haverhill*, requesting permission for their *Walk-A-Palooza Celebration* to be held in the TD bank parking lot on Bailey Blvd, on Saturday, April 29th, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and also requests fees be waived

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Councillor Rogers

PASSED

All in Favor

29-G

12.3. **Auctioneer License:**

12.4. **Tag Days:** *pending Police approval*

12.4.1. *HHS Boys Lacrosse, May 6 & 7*

Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Toohey

PASSED

All in Favor

3-F

12.5. **One Day Liquor License:**

12.6. **Annual License Renewals:**

12.6.1. **Hawker Peddlers License 2023 - Fixed location** – *with approvals*

12.6.2. **Coin-Op License Renewals** - *pending Police approval*

12.6.3. **Christmas Tree Vendor** – *with Police approval*

12.6.4. **Taxi Driver Licenses for 2023:** *with Police approval*

12.6.4.1. Monique Lefebvre, 24 7th Avenue

30-K

12.6.4.2. Chelsea Corthell, 12 Albion st, Lowell

30-L

Motion by Councillor Rogers, second Councillor Sullivan

PASSED

All in Favor

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

12.6.6. **Junk Dealer License** *with Police approval*



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- 12.6.7. **Pool Tables**
- 12.6.8. **Sunday Pool**
- 12.6.9. **Bowling**
- 12.6.10. **Sunday Bowling**
- 12.6.11. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles** *with Police approval*
- 12.6.12. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing**
- 12.6.13. **Pawnbroker license**
- 12.6.14. **Fortune Teller** - *pending Police approval*
- 12.6.15. **Buy & Sell Old Gold**
- 12.6.16. **Roller Skating Rink**
- 12.6.17. **Sunday Skating**
- 12.6.18. **Exterior Vending Machines/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC**
- 12.6.19. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars** *with Police approval*

13. MOTIONS AND ORDERS:

- 13.1. Order – transfer \$15,000 from Pension Assessments to Auditor’s Audit and Actuarial Services for the required OPEB actuarial valuation

Motion by Councillor Barrett, second Councillor Sullivan

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

7-Q

- 13.2. Order – transfer \$170,000 from Accounts as listed in the Water Fund to the accounts listed in the Water Fund:

Transfer from:

Salaries & Wages – Water Treatment \$100,000

Health Insurance \$ 70,000

Transfer to:

Electricity \$133,000

Pumping Fuel and Heat \$ 37,000

Funds will be used to pay increased heating and electricity costs at the Water Treatment Plant for the remainder of the fiscal year

Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Rogers

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

7-R

14. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS)

15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEDING MEETING:



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16.1. Document 34-C; Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Haverhill and the Highway-Park Group

16.1.1. Document 35-B; Ordinance re: Salaries – Highway/Park Group
filed March 29th

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Councillor Barrett

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

16.2. Document 39; Ordinance re: Boards and Commissions : Amend by adding: Article XIX. Haverhill Affordable Housing *filed March 29th*

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Councillor Barrett

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

16.3. Document 40; Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic: prohibit overnight parking on a portion of Railroad Square *filed March 29th*

Motion by Councillor Rogers, second Councillor Bevilacqua

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

17. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

17.1. PROCLAMATION – ARMENIAN HOLY MARTYRS' DAY, April 24th

Councillor Lewandowski read the Proclamation into record.

44

18. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next City Council meeting will be April 25, 2023

19. DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY

20. LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST

21. ADJOURN :

Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Lewandowski

PASSED

All in Favor

Adjourned 19:56 PM

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS – AMENDED AGENDA

- Councilors Michitson, Lewandowski, and Jordan wish to address the urgent need for a Mental Health Crisis Center in Haverhill.



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Councillor Michitson stated in January 2023 the state introduced a new type of service called a community behavioral health center. They provide urgent mental health and substance abuse disorder treatments for youth, families, and adults 24/7. The problem is the state has designated a company, Eliot, as Haverhill's CBHC which unfortunately the facility is located in Danvers.

Patient gets immediate care when walking through the doors at Eliot. Different ways patients are addressed in a timely manner include: crisis team with mobile clinicians but is very unreliable at this time; transportation from round trip from Haverhill to Danvers. Eliot has cab service but also unreliable and erratic.

The city needs to find solutions for both short term and long term.

An immediate solution would be to guarantee access to reliable and timely mobile units and also transportation services in both directions. Long term solution would be to have a facility in Haverhill. Eliot would have to run the facility and work with other health care providers in the region.

Possible ways to do that is to help Eliot get a new facility in Haverhill by making a capital investment with ARPA funding or with other grants. Possible places would be the Med Express building in Monument Square but Mayor stated another medical place purchasing. Eliot stated has a building in Ward Hill business park but not a full center. Eliot will be providing a youth crisis center for youth 12-17 years of age later this year in Haverhill.

Would like to make a recommendation to send a letter to the Mayor and State Delegation to help find a short-term and long-term solution.

Councillor Lewandowski stated a federal grant is available through SAMHSA specifically for community mental health clinics. The application date is May 17th with a budget of \$1M per behavioral health clinic if awarded. Many people suffer in silence until they have the courage to ask for help. If talking about the availability of just a ride, it's something as a short-term gap we need to look at and address. Have to find solutions while waiting for other things to come through. Great if a mental health facility takes over MedExpress, not sure of time frame, Eliot is in Danvers, and there is a clinic in Lawrence which Haverhill residents can walk-in. It is Beth Israel Lahey Health Behavioral Services, 12 Methuen Street, Lawrence. Emergency services are available for Haverhill residents at this location. ARPA funds are a way to address this as well but do not know the deadline.



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Christine Lindberg, Chief of Staff, addressed the Council stating the Mayor agrees that this needs to be addressed and looks forward to working with the Council to find the solutions. ARPA funds are ranked so a form needs to be filled out to be considered but there is only a certain amount of money to go around.

Councillor Lewandowski asked if there could be some kind of funding source, perhaps a capital source, for transportation taking into account liability issues.

Christine Lindberg stated there are always grants and have grant writers at disposal to look into state and federal ones available.

Councillor Lewandowski offered an additional resource of Behavioral Health Help Line at 833-773-2445 which provides immediate help 24/7.

Councillor Sullivan supports a mental health clinic in Haverhill. Would like to have an update from the Mayor on NFI contract, etc. Would like a synopsis of what services they are providing.

Christine confirmed contracts had been signed. Waiting for them the pickup and get started. Suggests NFI come back before the Council with updates.

Councillor Bevilacqua asked about sustainability. ARPA will go away and wonder where the funding will come from. Number of mental health services in the city that have all gone away and wonders if this is better as a regional effort.

President Jordan thanked for email chain with great dialog and critical people pulling together. The need for a facility in Haverhill was unanimous. Ranking is difficult but this is a matter of life and death. We need to have sustainable funding which a vote yes on June 6th would free up \$5 million a year for budget.

Motion by Councillor Michitson to send letter to Mayor and State and Federal Delegation to help find both short-term and long-term solution for a mental health facility in Haverhill, second Councillor Barrett

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1