



CITY OF HAVERHILL

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, 4 Summer St., Room 202
In-Person/Remote Meeting

Present – President Sullivan, Councilors Basiliere, Hobbs Everett, Michitson, Ferreira, Jordan, Lewandowski, Toohey, McGonagle, LePage and Rogers
Assistant City Clerk – Rose Flynn Leonard
City Clerk – Kaitlin M. Wright

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Motion by Councilor Michitson to approve December 12th minutes, second Councilor Lewandowski
PASSED All in Favor

Motion by Councilor Lewandowski to approve December 19th minutes, second Councilor Jordan
PASSED All in Favor

4. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Councilor Basiliere assigned the minutes.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

5.1. Mayor Melinda E Barrett requests to introduce Thea Tsagaris and Jen Matthews to discuss the *Hometown Heroes Program*

Mayor Barrett appeared before the Council to introduce Thea and Jen to talk about the Hometown Heroes which is in its fourth year.

Thea Tsagaris and Jen Matthews appeared before the Council on behalf of Hometown Heroes requesting approval and support for the 2024 program which is a community event to help remember all our veterans and service members past and present. Also thanked the support of the DPW, police, fire and all various departments. January 16th is the start date, and the deadline is April 1st.

Vice President Jordan asked the cost of a banner and how long they are displayed. Jen Matthews stated they cost the same as last year which is \$250 and they are on display from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. You can register through the Haverhill Exchange Club website.

Motion by Vice President Jordan to approve, second Councilor Lewandowski
PASSED Yeas 11, Nays 0

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5.2. Mayor Melinda E Barrett requests City Council consider authorizing the Owner's Project Manager (The Vertex Companies) and Design firm (NV5) to begin work on the Construction and Bidding Documents related to the Massachusetts School Building Authority's boiler replacement project at Moody School utilizing an "At-Risk" approach

Motion by Vice President Jordan, second Councilor Basiliere

PASSED

Yeas 11, Nays 0

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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:

8.1. City Clerk, Kaitlin M Wright requests approval of the following items, all pending Board of Registrars approval:

- 8.1.1.1.1. List of 2024 Polling Locations (see attached)
- 8.1.1.1.2. List of 2024 Poll Workers (see attached)
- 8.1.1.1.3. Designation of Early Voting Room in basement of City Hall to be designated as the Early Voting Location for all 2024 Elections

Motion by Councilor Michitson, second Councilor McGonagle

PASSED

Yeas 11, Nays 0

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8.2. Abatement report from Christine Webb, City Assessor for month of December 2023

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Toohey

PASSED

Yeas 11, Nays 0

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

9.1. Document 106; Petition from Mass Electric Company d/b/a National Grid & Verizon New England requesting joint pole locations at intersection of Walnut st and Locust st – Plan 30758569

9.1.1. Document 106-B; Order – joint pole locations for plan marked Walnut st
postponed from December 19th

President Sullivan opened the hearing.



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Veasna Eang appearing remotely on behalf of National Grid. Requesting to install two jointly owned poles on Walnut Street in the public way. The first pole will be installed approximately +/-300 feet from the intersection of Locust Street and Walnut Street. The second pole will be installed 400 feet from the intersection of Locust Street and Walnut Street. The poles are needed to provide service at 66 Emerson Street.

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 Councilor Toohey

Madam Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-yes, Councilor Basiliere-yes, Councilor Hobbs Everett-yes, Councilor Michitson-yes, Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor Toohey-yes, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-yes, President Sullivan-yes
11Yeas, 0 Nays **PASSED**

10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:

- 10.1.Document 109; Petition 110726 from TJ Melvin on behalf of Steve Paquette requesting to have O'Leary Way accepted as a public way *Comments from City Depts are included*
10.1.1. Document 109-B; Order – accept O'Leary Way as a public way

President Sullivan opened the hearing.

TJ Melvin, Millennium Engineering, appearing remotely before the Council. The subdivision was approved in 2021. Have been to the Planning Board for their recommendation for street acceptance. We received the Certificate of Compliance from the Conservation Commission certifying the work has been completed in the buffer zone. Engineering has also signed off. Will be happy to answer any questions the Council may have.

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 Jordan, second Councilor Toohey

Madam Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-yes, Councilor Basiliere-yes, Councilor Hobbs Everett-yes, Councilor Michitson-yes, Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor Toohey-yes, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-yes, President Sullivan-yes
11Yeas, 0 Nays

President Sullivan: PASSED



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11. APPOINTMENTS:

11.1. Confirming Appointments:

11.2. Non-Confirming to expire December 31, 2024

- 11.2.1. Yenize Rozon, Treasurer & Collector of Taxes
Eleftheria Miscowski, Mayor's Executive Assistant
Robert Pistone, Lock-Up Keeper
Robert Ward, Tree Warden
Robert Ward, Gypsy Moth Control Superintendent
Robert Ward, Fence Viewer
Alexa Carvalho, Poundkeeper
Karin Devlin, Inspector of Animals
Thomas Bridgewater, Inspector of Buildings

Motion by Councilor Rogers, second Councilor Basiliere

PASSED Yeas 11, Nays 0

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11.3. Resignations:

11.4. PETITIONS:

- 11.4.1. Mass Electric Co d/b/a National Grid requests underground electric conduit
location for Bridge st & Main st; Plan 30849716 Hearing Jan 30, 2024

Motion by Councilor Michitson, second Councilor Toohey

PASSED to be heard January 30th All in Favor

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- 11.4.2. Mass Electric C d/b/a National Grid requests underground electric conduit
location for Middlesex st & So Main st; Plan 30849716 Hearing Jan 30, 2024

Motion by Councilor Michitson, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED to be heard January 30th All in Favor

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11.5. Applications Handicap Parking Sign: with Police approval

11.6. Amusement/Event Application - with Police approval

11.7. Auctioneer License:

11.8. Tag Days: with Police approval

11.9. One Day Liquor License – with License Commission & Police approval

11.10. Annual License Renewals:

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

11.10.2. Coin-Op License Renewals – with Police approval

11.10.3. Christmas Tree Vendor – with Police approval

11.10.4. Taxi Driver Licenses for 2023: with Police approval



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- 11.10.5. **Taxi/Limousine License** *with Police approval:*
- 11.10.6. **Junk Dealer /Collector License** *with Police approval*
- 11.10.7. **Sunday Pool**
- 11.10.8. **Bowling**
- 11.10.9. **Sunday Bowling**
- 11.10.10. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles** *with Police approval*
 - 11.10.10.1. Charles Morgridge; *Queen's Gambit Games*, to sell board games, table top role-playing games, tactical miniature games & trading card games at 38 Emerson st

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Jordan
PASSED *All in Favor*

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- 11.10.11. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing**
- 11.10.12. **Pawnbroker license** - *with police approval*
- 11.10.13. **Fortune Teller** *with - Police approval*
- 11.10.14. **Buy & Sell Old Gold** – *with Police approval*
 - 11.10.14.1. *Javier's Jewelry Repair, 741 So Main st Unit A*

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Toohey
PASSED *All in Favor*

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- 11.10.15. **Roller Skating Rink**
- 11.10.16. **Sunday Skating**
- 11.10.17. **Exterior Vending Machines/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC**
- 11.10.18. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars** *with Police approval*

12. MOTIONS AND ORDERS:

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

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>
Allied Paving Corp	6,709.95	Water Dept
KP Law	425.00	Legal Dept
KP Law	3,779.00	Legal Dept
KP Law	4,975.00	Legal Dept
KP Law	5,637.00	Legal dept

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Jordan
PASSED *Yeas 11, Nays 0*

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13. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS)

13.1. Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic – Add handicap parking at 5 Abbott st
File 10 days

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED Placed on file Yeas 11, Nays 0

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14. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:

14.1. Councilor Michitson and Council President Sullivan request a discussion about pedestrian safety issues on Main st

Councilor Michitson summarized the events of an accident involving a child which occurred on Main Street, and other serious accidents in the city. A concerned citizen mentioned certain areas as hot spots that do not have crosswalks, markers, lights, or notifications. Some suggestions include no parking in low visibility areas, changing bus routes, bus drivers with notebooks for identifying offenders. Would like to motion to send a letter to the Mayor but she is present, perhaps she can speak to this. Think besides looking at Main Street would like to take a city-wide comprehensive strategy because we know we have situations elsewhere.

Councilor McGonagle knows firsthand that Sgt. Lynch does a great job with any traffic and safety items sent over from the Council. Unfortunately, people drive erratically, drive distracted and it's hard to catch them all. In this case there were extenuating circumstances. Police review policies continually, especially around schools and bus routes. They monitor and add extra patrols. They also run speed studies when requested. Think it's a good plan to send a letter, the Mayor is here, and she has always been a supporter of getting public safety people involved early and getting recommendations from the experts.

Councilor Jordan agrees with what has been said. Like the comprehensive idea. The flashing lights at crosswalks are great, but the cost is an issue. Perhaps illuminating or solar activated lighting. Suggests looking into grants that may be available for public safety.

Mayor Barrett stated she believes grant money has been awarded for Main Street. The Columbia Park area is the next for improvements. Have had conversations with John Pettis about safety on that road, sidewalks need to be marked as required by MassDOT. Will need to work on funding and pursue additional grants. All crosswalks need to be ADA compliant on both sides. Agrees, a comprehensive plan is needed.

Councilor Ferreira wanted to clarify if Main Street/125 is a state road, can state help with funding? Also asked about the mobile speed signs for that area and recommend an immediate response when situations happen.

Mayor Barrett confirmed the grant received is a state grant. The mobile speed signs are available. Suggests as a first step to foregoing letter to her and send directly to Traffic and Safety being the



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professionals and perhaps instead sending to Public Safety committee for a meeting in the evening for all to attend. Also suggests budgeting now for capital planning.

Councilor Basiliere wanted to bring attention to the top of 5th and Main Street as an example of an area the works well and can be applied possibly elsewhere throughout the city.

Councilor Lewandowski stated sending to Traffic and Safety is a great idea to start brainstorming ideas, but to touch on what Madam Mayor said, the most recent incident, which is tragic, came about as a result by someone driving under the influence. There is no amount of signage that is going to stop that from happening. It is a good idea for signage of course. At a bare minimum right now would be lighting in that area. What is the cost for street lights? It is a dark stretch of road. This would be a good first step and then we could work back from that in terms of making more detailed structural changes.

Mayor Barrett stated she does not know the cost but will look into it. Does not believe it will be prohibitive and stresses capital planning during this budget session.

President Sullivan agrees with everything said. This is a huge problem. Like the comprehensive approach. Spoke with Sgt. Lynch who mentioned a number of streets that should have better pedestrian crossing including Merrimack Street next to Harbor Place, Kenoza Avenue at Winnekinni and at Rte. 108, people just don't stop. A number of streets and main roads mainly need significant traffic and safety improvements. Will probably take a couple of budget cycles to chip away. Also, the possibility of bus safety training for the students, etc.

Councilor Hobbs-Everett appreciates the conversation and is also looking forward to a comprehensive approach mentioning River Street is busy street as well and states many older siblings pick up younger ones so fond of suggestion of safety training.

Motion by Councilor McGonagle to send directly to Traffic and Safety for a comprehensive approach to pedestrian crossing improvements, second Councilor Michitson

PASSED

Yeas 11, Nays 0

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15. UNFINISHED BUISINESS OF PRECEEDING MEETING:

15.1. Document 35-J/2023; Ordinance re: Salaries – Water Group
Filed 12/20/2023

Motion by Councilor Lewandowski, second Councilor Toohey

PASSED

Yeas 11, Nays 0

16. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

17. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Councilor Basiliere announced Inner City Boxing Club in Lafayette Square open house Wednesday, January 10th

Madam Clerk Wright reminded the public of the Whittier Tech election on Tuesday, January 23rd with poles open 11am-7pm.

18. DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY

19. LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST

20. ADJOURN :

Motion by Councilor Jordan, second Councilor Lewandowski

PASSED

All in Favor

Adjourned 19:49