



# CITY OF HAVERHILL

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, April 4, 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

#### 1. OPENING PRAYER

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

*Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Councillor Barrett*

*PASSED*

*All in Favor*

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

Councillor Sullivan assigned minutes.

#### 5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

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

6.1.Councillor Bevilacqua requests to introduce David LaBrode and Lynda Brown to discuss *Earth Day City Wide Clean Up* held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 19-M

Councillor Bevilacqua, part of the Earth Day celebration committee along with Councillor Sullivan, introduced David LaBrode and encouraged all to be a part by volunteering on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

David LaBrode, Highland Ave., appeared before the Council. Volunteer with Haverhill Brightside and coordinator of Earth Day. Announced the theme for this year is “*Invest in our Planet, Start with Haverhill*”. Earth Day cleanup event is April 22<sup>nd</sup> which falls on Earth Day itself, 8-4 pm meet at the Citizens Center. Can sign up with QR code, Facebook, or haverhillrec.com. You can sign up individually or as a group.

#### 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 responses for *Right of First Refusal* for land on Broadway, Parcel 539-439-9A consisting of 31.84 Acres – Notice of Intent to Convert to Residential Usage Hearing May 9 2023

*Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Barrett*

*PASSED to be heard May 9<sup>th</sup>*

*All in Favor*

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

**10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:**

**11. APPOINTMENTS:**

11.1. **Confirming Appointments:**

11.2. **Non-Confirming:**

11.3. **Resignations:**

**12. PETITIONS:**

- 12.1. Petition from Guy Bresnahan for *Broco Oil* requesting permission to fabricate and install three roadway wayfinding signs directing traffic, particularly truck traffic, to our fuel terminal entrance at 161 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The first sign is proposed in front of the DPW yard on Primrose st alerting southbound vehicles to turn right on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in ½ mile. The second sign is proposed for the municipal right of way in front of 306 Primrose at the corner of Primrose and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave (turn right and proceed to end of street). The third sign is proposed for the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Ave and Hale st directing trucks to proceed 400' on the right for the terminal truck entrance or go right for Broco's business office.

Clerk Wright announced received two comments from departments this afternoon. The Police Department stated they have received multiple complaints from neighbors who are requesting a Truck Exclusion, table until decided. John Pettis, Engineer, commented to strongly recommend against sign 1, 2 and 3 (see notes and maps for specifics).

Guy Bresnahan, Broco Energy, appeared before the Council requesting signage be placed at different locations in order for truck traffic to locate Broco Energy fuel terminal entrance. Was asked to look into useful signage to direct trucks from Rte. 495 to the facility. Aware of the exclusion on Burke Street and have been abiding by that but that has led to going down 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. GPS sends you to Burke Street, which is not allowed. Our location is tucked away and hard to find. We thought wayfinding signage would be of use and help with safety issues. Originally told a permit was needed. Did not hear anything so spoke with Solicitor Cox who suggested to come before the Council. The police comments are not encouraging to us or the other businesses who use 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue such as Joseph's and Pistone Container.

Councillor Sullivan stated given that we have recommendations against approving the three signs from John Pettis and a request from Sgt. Lynch that we should table the matter at least until the matter of a truck exclusion is decided. It would be best to table the matter and speak with engineering over opposition of signs first and should wait until the no truck exclusion is decided. We don't overrule the recommendations of the



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departments, we should table and let everyone discuss, look into truck exclusion and look into alternative sign locations and then come back.

Councillor Toohey asked how many trucks per day travel down the residential neighborhood on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue; if other trucks fuel up at Broco and would that bring the number of trucks to 50-70; do clients have a key code to enter; what are the hours of operation allowed to fuel; can two trucks travel 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue if residents are parked on the street; why couldn't truck drive down Primrose to Winter to Hale which are all commercial routes.

Guy Bresnahan responding stating he did not have the number but could come back with it but guessing 12-15 trucks; 50-70 trucks is on the high side; typically allowed up to 6-7PM to fuel but can be later during winter months; key code is required to enter and easy to track trucks in and out of facility; two trucks could not pass at the same time; can travel to Primrose to Winter but it is difficult for trucks with traffic.

Councillor Barrett concurs with Councillor Toohey and the easy solution for this would be for transport go to Winter Street, take a right, take a right. Asked with key code can't you give companies directions. I would not be supportive of signs as John Pettis recommended; it sets a bad precedent and would have signs everywhere.

Councillor Bevilacqua concurs with Councillor Sullivan and his suggestion is to table enabling you to review these discussions and meet with the Police and City Engineer to see what the best alternative may be.

Guy Bresnahan asked for his information, the specific comment is "until we conduct further study", assuming talking about a traffic study including car and truck counting. Would suggest a formal traffic study that would be done by a regional planning commission because that could be very telling to have something done with car counts, etc. It sounds like some of the members have already made up their minds to use Winter Street and truck exclusion will go in effect with or without a study. Just need to know which way we are going.

President Jordan stated he suggests following what Councillor Sullivan stated and Councillor Bevilacqua agreed with which is work with the City Engineer and Sgt. Lynch. It's rare we go against department heads and their recommendations. That's their professional job not ours. It's unfortunate you are here before those steps happened, but work it out with them is best. They will guide you to what is reasonable and what can be done so that when it comes back to us, it's with a recommendation from them for whatever it is going to be.



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*Motion by Councillor Sullivan to table, second Councillor Bevilacqua*

*PASSED tabled*

*Yeas 7, Nays 1 (Barrett), Absent 1*

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Council President Jordan announced brief interruption in regular agenda to allow Councillor Sullivan to speak.

Councillor Sullivan requested a moment of silence for someone very prominent in our community and fortunate enough to have his daughter with us this evening, Katrina Hobbs-Everett. Many know lost a legend a few days ago, Bishop Franklin Hobbs. He served as Bishop and Pastor of Rehoboth Lighthouse Full Gospel Church for 66 years. Asked Katrina to say some words about her father.

Katrina Hobbs-Everett addressed the Council stating her father was the greatest. He served the City and Merrimack Valley area at large very well, not just by preaching but also by visiting hospitals, emergency rooms, funerals, weddings, etc. Wanted to extend the invitation to the community for his services on Saturday at the church which is open to the public.

Councillors offered their deepest sympathies to the Hobbs family.

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

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

12.4. **Auctioneer License:**

12.5. **Tag Days:** *with Police approval*

12.5.1. Haverhill Elite Cheer, April 15,16,17

3-C

12.5.2. HHS Girls Lacrosse, April 22 & 23

3-D

12.5.3. Knights of Columbus, June 9 & 10

3-E

*Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Councillor Toohey*

*PASSED*

*All in Favor*

12.6. **One Day Liquor License:**

12.7. **Annual License Renewals:**

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

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

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

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



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- 12.7.5. **Taxi/Limousine License** *with Police approval:*
- 12.7.6. **Junk Dealer License** *with Police approval*
- 12.7.7. **Pool Tables**
- 12.7.8. **Sunday Pool**
- 12.7.9. **Bowling**
- 12.7.10. **Sunday Bowling**
- 12.7.11. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles** *with Police approval*
- 12.7.12. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing**
- 12.7.13. **Pawnbroker license**
- 12.7.14. **Fortune Teller** - *pending Police approval*
- 12.7.15. **Buy & Sell Old Gold**
- 12.7.16. **Roller Skating Rink**
- 12.7.17. **Sunday Skating**
- 12.7.18. **Exterior Vending Machines/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC**
- 12.7.19. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars** *with Police approval*

#### 13. MOTIONS AND ORDERS:

- 13.1. Order – transfer \$40,000 from the Water Enterprise, Interest on Long Term Debt account to Water Admin-Vehicles Expense in order to fund costs for fuel and repairs to vehicles

*Motion by Councillor Michitson, second Councillor Barrett*

**PASSED**

*Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1*

7-P

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

#### 15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:

- 15.1. Council President Jordan is placing on file the recommendations from the salary/compensation review committee to be voted on the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting

*Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Barrett*

**PASSED**

*All in Favor*

8-O

- 15.2. Councillor Bevilacqua requests for Mill st area residents, to discuss crosswalk upgrade with reflective markings at Mill & Boardman sts, an additional safe crossing point on Mill st and sidewalks along Mill st for benefit of school kids, walkers and Plug Pond users



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Councillor Bevilacqua attending the Highlands neighborhood meeting where several issues were discussed. The issue of concern was safe street crossings, especially at Mill Street and Boardman Street with children and Plug Ponds activity. Ideas that would like to see are reflective crosswalk markings, solar lighting at crosswalks, and an additional crossing point at Plug's Pond and sidewalks at the same location.

*Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua to send to appropriate departments including DPW, engineering, police and the mayor in hope they take action, second Councillor Sullivan*

*PASSED*

*Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1*

8-P

Councillor Sullivan concurs and agrees. It is a beautiful area but unfortunately does not have complete sidewalks around all of it. There are things that we can do like improvement sidewalks around the cemetery on Boardman and Mill Street side; we can figure out a better way for crossing access from Golden Hill School which Councillor Barrett previously mentioned multiple times in the past; need safer exit when departing Golden Hill School especially the walkers. Fully support the traffic crossing improvements, reflective markings, have to do a better job marking our crosswalks.

15.3. Council Vice President Michitson requests to provide a summary of the Boston Life Sciences Real Estate Conference that he attended last week

Councillor Michitson, as you know the city is trying to attract more life science businesses. Attended Boston Life Sciences Conference. Found trend started before economic slowdown. Smaller labs are active where larger ones are on hold. Looking for smarter lease options; amenities outside the building forwarding communities for work, live, and play; easier commutes; moving away from metro Boston areas; areas where can go from lab to manufacturing. Haverhill already has many life science workers living here so we are on the right track.

8-Q

#### 16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEDING MEETING:

16.1. Document 19-D; Councillor Lewandowski to introduce Matthew Juros formerly of Fishbrook Design Studio on Wingate st about change in his design studio and maintaining connection to the Merrimack Valley  
*Request from Councillor Lewandowski to continue to April 11<sup>th</sup>*

Councillor Lewandowski stated originally to be heard on April 11<sup>th</sup> but Mr. Juros is here today.



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*Motion by Councillor Lewandowski, second Councillor Barrett*

*PASSED*

*All in Favor*

Councillor Lewandowski introduced Mr. Juros who is here tonight to talk about a change in his studio and talk about maintaining his connection to the Merrimack Valley.

Mathew Juros, Cambridge, thanked the Council for giving him time this evening. Expressed the city and work he has done is important to him. Ran Fishbrook design for 18 years in Haverhill. He gave a summary of his work over the years in Haverhill and explained the merging of his studio with a new company.

#### **17. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:**

#### **18. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Clerk Wright announced the Clerk's office will hold two information sessions: Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> both at 5:00 PM in the Chambers. Good chance to for voters, public, potential candidates and anyone who would like to learn about new ward representation, etc. and ask questions.

#### **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 19:54 PM