

## City of Haverhill City Council Minutes

## Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, Room 202 4 Summer Street

Present – President Michitson, Councillors Barrett, Vargas, McGonagle, Bevilacqua, LePage, Daly O'Brien, Macek and Sullivan.

City Clerk – Linda L. Koutoulas

- 1. Opening Prayer
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance
- 3. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

The minutes were approved

Yeas 9, Nays 0

**4.** Assignment of the minutes review for the next Meeting Councillor Macek was assigned the minutes

Councillor Macek requested a moment of silence for the passing of Drucilla Dekeon, wife of former Councillor George Dekeon.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO HAVE CHIEF DENARO GIVE AN UPDATE ON RECENT SHOOTINGS.

**RULES SUSPENDED** 

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Chief DeNaro informed that 5 subjects were arrested, 3 from Haverhill and 2 from Lawrence with 2 guns in the vehicle. Shootings attributed to gang activity. Victims are not cooperative. Mass. State Police are assisting. Mobile Video Unit is being used.

PLACED ON FILE

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BARRETT TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO INTRODUCE \$2,000,000 BOND ORDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GIRLS SOFTBALL FIELD.

RULES SUSPENDED Yeas 9, Nays 0 44E

ORDERED: That \$2,000,000 is appropriated to pay costs of the construction of a girls softball field, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 (1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor. (see document for complete text)

PLACED ON FILE for at least 10 days

Yeas 9, Nays 0

44E

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO INTRODUCE \$1,561,216 BOND ORDER FOR POLICE RADIO SYSTEM

RULES SUSPENDED Yeas 9, Nays 0

ORDERED: That \$1,561,216 is appropriated to pay costs of the police radio system, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 (1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor. (see document for complete text)

PLACED ON FILE for at least 10 days

Yeas 9, Nays 0

44F

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO INTRODUCE ORDER TO APPROPRIATE \$1,088,450 FROM FREE CASH TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS; (see document for projects)

**RULES SUSPENDED** 

Yeas 9, Nays 0

116B

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO PLACE DOCUMENT 116B (Order to appropriate \$1,088,450 from Free Cash) on the agenda. Yeas 9, Nays 0

THE MAYOR REVIEWED THE LIST OF PROJECTS AND ASKED TO AMEND ORDER TO HIRE ANOTHER POLICE OFFICER AND REDUCE THE MASTER PLAN LINE ITEM BY \$12,000 ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO ADD LINE ITEM, POLICE DEPARTMENT, \$12,000,

1 POLICE OFFICER AND REDUCE MASTER PLAN LINE ITEM TO \$188,000

PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 116B

- **5.** Communications from the Mayor
- **6.** Communications and Reports from City Officers and Employees
- 7. Utility Hearing(s) and Related Order(s)
- **8.** Hearings and Related Order

Hearing was held on Document 118 – A communication from Stephen Gullo, Tax Assessor for Board of Assessors for Tax Classification Fiscal Year 2018. Speaking to the issue were Stephen Gullo, Mayor Fiorentini, Jeff Grassie, Gail Sullivan and Hartell Johnson. Mr. Gullo stated this was a revaluation year and the residential class increased in value by 10%.

HEARING CLOSED 118

ORDERED: That \$1,000,000 is appropriated from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate

Related communication from Mayor Fiorentini regarding free cash opportunities and challenges

THE MAYOR THANKED STEVEN GULLO, RETIRED ASSESSOR FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY AND INTRODUCED HIS REPLACEMENT, CHRISTINE WEBB. MR. GULLO WILL BE ON THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS.

THE MAYOR PRESENTED HIS PROPOSAL FOR USE OF THE FREE CASH WHICH INCLUDED POLICE BYRNE GRANT STAFFING, POLICE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE REPLACEMENT VEHICLE, NEW ONE-TON DUMP TRUCK, BELLY PLOWS FOR HIGHWAY VEHICLES, SIDEWALKS, CITY HALL PHONE SYSTEM & ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see document for complete text). THERE WAS A LENGTHY DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW MUCH MONEY TO TAKE FROM FREE CASH TO REDUCE TAX RATE

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO APPROPRIATE \$1,000,000 FROM FREE CASH TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

On the question of passage the year and nays were as follows:

Yeas,-Councillors Bevilacqua, Macek and Sullivan 3

Nays,-Councillors Barrett, Vargas, McGonagle, LePage, Daly O'Brien and President Michitson 6 NOT PASSED

## ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO APPROPRIATE \$500,000 FROM FREE CASH TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

On the question of passage the yeas and nays were as follows:

Yeas,-Councillors Bevilacqua, Daly O'Brien, Macek and Sullivan 4

Nays,-Councillors Barrett, Vargas, McGonagle, LePage and President Michitson 5

**NOT PASSED** 

# ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO APPROPRIATE \$300,000 FROM FREE CASH TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

PASSED AS AMENDED Yeas 9, Nays 0 118A

ORDERED: That the residential factor for fiscal year 2018 be adopted as:

#### ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO ADOPT NUMBER .900293 (159)

On the question of passage the yeas and nays were as follows:

Yeas,-Councillors Vargas, McGonagle, Bevilacqua, Daly O'Brien, LePage, Macek and Sullivan 7 Nays,-Councillors Barrett and President Michitson 2

PASSED 118B

ORDERED: That the City shall adopt a commercial exemption

NOT PASSED Yeas 0, Nays 9 118C

ORDERED: That the City shall adopt a residential exemption

NOT PASSED Yeas 0, Nays 9 118D

ORDERED: That the City shall select an open space discount factor

NOT PASSED Yeas 0, Nays 9 118E

ORDERED: That the City Council of the City of Haverhill hereby accepts the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses 17E and 41D with respect to Permanent acceptance of the annual C.P.I. index increase to the tax exemptions for the elderly.

NOT PASSED Yeas 0, Nays 9 118F

ORDERED: That the City Council accepts 100% of C.P.I. (Consumer Price Index) increase reported by the State for F.Y. 2018 Exemptions. The 2018 C.P.I. amount is 1.48%

PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 118G

### Document 112

Petition from Joseph DiFraia requesting hearing for minor modification of plans previously Approved With Conditions by City Council September 13 2016; building project at the Chit Chat building 101-103 Washington st Map 301, Block 52, Lot 10 *Comments from Departments are included* HEARING OPENED

JOSEPH DIFRAIA EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO PUT IN A BAR ON THE SECOND FLOOR, INSTEAD, HE WANTED TO CLOSE THE SECOND FLOOR AND ADD 2 APARTMENTS. 4 APARTMENTS WERE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED. TOTAL WOULD BE 6 APARTMENTS. PARKING WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE MVRTA PARKING LOT WITH 8 SPACES. ANGELO PETROZZELLI ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT PARKING AND EFFORTS TO LESSEN SOUND FROM BAR. TRASH REMOVAL WAS ALSO DISCUSSED

HEARING CLOSED

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO APPROVE THE MODIFICATION TO INCLUDE LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND THE MVRTA LEASE FOR 8 SPACES.

PASSED WITH CONDITIONS Yeas 8, Nays 1(Barrett) 112

#### 9. Public Participation- Requests under Council Rule 28

No Schedule

**10.** Appointments:

No Schedule

**11.** Petitions:

Petition for pole and wire location from National Grid, North Andover for Jackson st; Plan 24806624 HEARING SCHEDULED FOR DEC 19, 2017 Yeas 9, Nays 0 124

**Applications:** 

No Schedule

#### 12. Motions and Orders

ORDERED: That in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 64, authorize the payment of bills of the previous years and to further authorize payment from current year departmental appropriations as listed:

VendorAmountAccountEastern Bank\$129.72TreasurerEJ Riemitis Co Inc\$492.80School Dept

PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 17N

#### 13. ORDINANCES (File 10 days)

No Schedule

#### **Monthly Reports**

No Schedule

#### **14.** Communications from Councillors

Communication was received from Councillors Barrett and Macek requesting to discuss a zoning change that would remove the bottom line regarding Nursery Schools in Zoning 255 1 – Table of Use and Parking Regulations – and to remove "or nursery school" at the end of the line that starts with "Nonprofit educational facility"

JANET BEGIN ADVOCATED FOR THIS ORDINANCE CHANGE

LETTER TO SOLICITOR COX

Yeas 9, Navs 0

120J

Communication was received from Councillor Joseph Bevilacqua requesting to recognize Hilldale Cemetery Association for Wreaths Across America

TAMMY DOBROSIELSKI & TOM SPITALERE SPOKE ABOUT THE WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PROGRAM WITH A WREATH LAYING CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE DEC 16, 11AM, AT HILLDALE CEMETERY. DEADLINE TO PURCHASE WREATHS (\$15) HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO 12/1\* PLACED ON FILE Yeas 9, Nays 0 120K

### 15. Unfinished Business of preceding Meetings

Document 120-F

Communication from Councillor LePage requesting a discussion on FY 2018 Free Cash, the Tax Rate and the 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Program

COUNCILLOR LEPAGE GAVE A SUMMARY REPORT ON THE 4 YEAR ACCUMULATION OF \$8MILLION IN FUNDS TO BECOMING \$10MILLION IN FREE CASH. HE INFORMED THAT THE CITY HAS TAXED A TOTAL OF \$1.5MILLION BELOW THE LEVY FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS AND THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT RECEIVING \$2.4 MILLION IN HALE HOSPITAL DEBT AID IN THE FUTURE FROM THE STATE. ADDITIONALLY, HE RECOMMENDED FOLLOWING THE FUNDING SCHEDULE PRESENTED IN THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2018-2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

PLACED ON FILE Yeas 9, Nays 0 121F

Document 120-G

Communication from Councillor Daly O'Brien requesting a discussion about a crosswalk on Washington st in front of Wang's Table

Communication from Councillor Daly O'Brien requesting a discussion about a crosswalk on Carleton st in front of the entrance to Casablanca condominiums

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN TO REFER TO PUBLIC WORKS Yeas 9, Nays 0 120H Document 121-A

Communication from Robert Ward, Deputy DPW Director submitting Ordinance for proposed amendment to Chapter 219 of City Code

ROBERT WARD GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT. ORDINANCE WOULD APPLY TO CONSTRUCTION SITES OF 1 ACRE OR GREATER WHEN A PARCEL IS DISTURBED. CONSENT DECREE REQUIRES CITY TO DEVELOP STORMWATER MANAGEMENT EFFORT PLACED ON FILE

Yeas 9, Nays 0 121A

Document 121

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE

CHAPTER 219

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Haverhill that Code of the City of Haverhill, Chapter 219, As amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

By Deleting Chapter 219 in its entirety and inserting the following in place thereof:

Chapter 219. Storm Water Management (see document for complete text)

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO REFER TO ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE & SEND LETTER TO MAYOR SEEKING ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO HAVING RATE PAYERS COVERING INCREASED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH AMENDMENT Yeas 8, Nays 1(Bevilacqua) 121

16. Resolutions And Proclamation

No Schedule

17. Council Committee Reports and Announcements

No Schedule

18. Documents Referred To Committee Study

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 o'clock P.M.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Attest: <u>Linda Koutoulas</u>

City Clerk

\*Doc. 120-K – Handout from Tammy Dobrosielski – Wreaths Across America flyer