



CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 7:00 PM

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

Present: President Jordan, Councilors Michitson, Basiliere, Diodati, Sullivan, Ferreira, Lewandowski, Toohey, McGonagle, LePage and Rogers

Remote: None

Absent: None

City Clerk: Kaitlin M. Wright

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

COUNCILOR LEPAGE STATED HE REVIEWED THE MINUTES AND FINDS THEM IN ORDER, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

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

PRESIDENT JORDAN ASSIGNED THE MINUTES TO COUNCILOR ROGERS

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

- 5.1. Mayor Barrett wishes to introduce *Fire Chief* Chris Cesati and *Assistant Chief* Eric Tarcy to discuss winter fire safety measures 1d

Fire Chief Chris Cesati and Assistant Chief Eric Tarcy addressed the council. Chief Cesati emphasized storm related safety, including keeping home heating and hot water vents clear of snow. He also urged residents to clear nearby fire hydrants and sidewalks, as buried hydrants and blocked access can delay emergency response and increase the risk. Councilor Lewandowski mentioned the adopt a hydrant program. Chief Cesati informed the public they can call the Fire Department office to find out more information. Councilor Lewandowski also mentioned a fire on Gile Street and provided a go-fund me link that can be found on Facebook to help the family out.

- 5.2. Mayor Barrett wishes to introduce Deyanarah Gutierrez and recognize her for completing her internship in the Mayor's office 1e

Mayor Barrett introduced Deyanarah Gutierrez and thanked her for her dedication and contributions during her three-year internship with the Mayor's Office. She and Council President Jordan then presented her with a citation on behalf of both the Mayor's Office and the City Council.

- 5.3. Mayor Barrett wishes to introduce *DPW Director* Robert E. Ward to discuss continuing drought conditions 1f

Robert Ward, DPW Director, presented his PowerPoint presentation on the drought conditions.

Motion by Councilor Lewandowski to send for discussion relative to establishing or formalizing an ordinance regarding water conservation program to planning and development committee. Second by Vice President Michitson

Councilors discussed water supply conditions, potential drought restrictions and conservation measures. Robert Ward stated if the city enters the critical water zone, additional restrictions would be imposed, and outdoor water use such as lawn irrigation would be eliminated first. He also mentioned raising the possibility of suspending wastewater billing credits for irrigation deduct meters. Councilor Lewandowski mentioned other communities' water neutral growth ordinances which was discussed with Kate Emery from the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. Councilor Rogers asked about leak detection and Robert Ward described the use of meter data and acoustic monitoring. Councilor Ferreira asked about bilingual notices and a program that allows residents to review their water usage..



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Robert Ward noted there is not a lot of space on the bill and maybe a Q-R code could be used. The Mayor reiterated the reason why they were discussing this item tonight is because there is concern.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI TO SEND FOR DISCUSSION RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING OR FORMALIZING AN ORDINANCE REGARDING WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

5.4. Mayor Barrett submits an order to accept a gift of \$5,000.00 from Broco Energy for use by the Police Department to acquire a new service comfort dog

5.4.1. Order-That the City Council on behalf of the City votes to accept a gift of \$5,000.00 dollars from Broco Energy. The gift shall be used exclusively toward the purchase of new service comfort dog for the Haverhill Police Department

4a

Mayor Barrett, Officer Boyle and Officer Graham addressed the council and thanked Broco for the generous gift. They noted a comfort dog will be purchased with the money.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

5.5. Mayor Barrett submits an order to authorize expense of funds in excess of the FY26 snow and ice appropriation

5.5.1. Order- That the City is authorized in accordance with MGL Ch.44, § 31D, to overspend the fiscal 2026 snow and ice appropriation in order to protect the life and safety of its inhabitants

1g

Mayor Barrett and Robert Ward addressed the council. The Mayor noted by state law that we are allowed to overspend this line item.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSTENTION 2 (BASILIERE & ROGERS), ABSENT 0

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

6.1. President Jordan requests to introduce Tracy Fuller, the *Executive Director* of the Haverhill YMCA, to discuss the Preschool Resource Fair being held at Haverhill High School on Thursday, January 29th

5a

Tracy Fuller, YMCA addressed the council. She spoke on behalf of the Early Learning Leadership Team about a community early learning event for families with children aged 0-5. The event will provide preschool and kindergarten resources and is supported by multiple local organizations.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- REQUESTS UNDER COUNCIL RULE 28



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8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

- 8.1. *City Clerk*, Kaitlin M. Wright, requests to address the Council to announce that the 2026 annual street listing will be mailed to homes beginning on January 26th 3d

City Clerk Wright stated the annual census was mailed last week. Residents should review, sign and return in mail, drop box, or in person. Households with no changes may submit it online through the Q-R code provided or through the city's website. Returning is essential for funding, planning, voter records and proof of residency. Questions can be directed to the City Clerk's Office at 978-374-2312 or email cityclerk@haverhillma.gov

- 8.2. *City Clerk*, Kaitlin M. Wright, requests approval of the following items, with Board of Registrars approval: 3e
1. List of 2026 Polling Locations (see attached)
 2. List of 2026 Poll Workers (see attached)
 3. Designation of Early Voting Room in the basement of City Hall to be designated as the Early Voting Location for all 2026 Elections
 4. Approval of 4 additional hours of Early Voting on Thursdays for State Primary and 8 additional hours of Early Voting on Thursdays during General Election

City Clerk Wright noted this is the annual approval for polling locations, which are unchanged this year, the election will be staffed by 200 election workers whose service is essential. Early voting will continue in the former RMV room in the basement. We are also seeking approval for extending early voting hours on Thursday with the office remaining open until 8PM to accommodate voters with limited availability.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

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

10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:

- 10.1. **Doc 5-B of 2025** - Bill Pillsbury, Economic Development and Planning Director, requests Zoning Amendment - Battery Energy Storage System

Continued from December 2, 2025

Related Communication from Planning Director, Jacki Byerley, to continue to February 24, 2026

President Jordan opened the hearing.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE
President Jordan closed the hearing.



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MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE
PASSED TO CONTINUE TO 2/24/26 YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSTENTION 1 (ROGERS) ABSENT 0

11.APPOINTMENTS:

- 11.1. **Confirming Appointments:**
- 11.2. **Non-Confirming Appointments:**
expire December 31, 2026

12a

- Lynn Spitalere, *Treasurer and Collector of Taxes*
- Lisa Mead, *City Solicitor*
- Kaitlin Wright, *City Clerk*
- Christine Lindberg, *Chief of Staff to the Mayor*
- Josselyn DeLeon-Estrada, *Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor*
- Eleftheria Miscowski, *Mayor's Executive Assistant*
- Wayne Tracy, *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*
- Douglas Russell, *Information Technology Director*
- Jeffrey Hollett, *Soldiers' Relief and Burial Agent*

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 11.3. **Constables**
- 11.4. **Resignations**

12.PETITIONS:

- 12.1. Zoning hearing request from Robert DeNisco on behalf *Leach Street, LLC* for a zoning change of MBL 534-5-135 from Commercial Highway (CH) zone to the abutting Residential Urban (RU) zone
Refer to Planning Board and Council Hearing for March 24, 2026

13a

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.2. Petition from National Grid and Verizon, requesting a joint pole location for Golden St WR # 31232805

7b

Hearing on February 24, 2026



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PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.3. **Applications Handicap Parking Sign:** *with Police approval*
- 12.4. **Amusement/Event Application:** *with Police approval*
- 12.5. **Auctioneer License:**
- 12.6. **Tag Days:** *with Police approval*
 - 12.6.1. **TAGD-26-1;** *Haverhill High School Crew Parents Association – Boys Rowing Team, September 18, 19, and 20th* 14a

MOTION BY COUNCILOR ROGERS, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.6.2. **TAGD-26-2;** *Haverhill High School Crew Parents Association – Girls Rowing Team, April 10, 11, and 12th* 14b

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.7. **One Day Liquor License –with HPD approval**
- 12.8. **ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS:**
 - 12.8.1. **Hawker Peddlers License- Fixed location – w/Police approval**
 - 12.8.2. **Coin-Op License Renewals – with Police approval**
 - 12.8.2.1. *Academy Lanes, 725 South Main St, 12 Coin-Ops* 8e

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.8.3. **Christmas Tree Vendor – with Police approval**
- 12.8.4. **Taxi Driver Licenses for 2024: with Police approval**
- 12.8.5. **Taxi/Limousine License with Police approval**
- 12.8.6. **Junk Dealer /Collector License - with Police approval**
- 12.8.7. **Pool/Billiard**
- 12.8.8. **Bowling**
- 12.8.9. **Sunday Bowling**
- 12.8.10. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles with Police approval**



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12.8.10.1. *In a Blue Moon*, 99 Merrimack St, Maria Turchi 15a

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

12.8.11. Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing with Police approval

12.8.11.1. *In a Blue Moon*, 99 Merrimack St, Maria Turchi

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.8.12. **Pawnbroker license - with police approval**
- 12.8.13. **Fortune Teller with - Police approval**
- 12.8.14. **Buy & Sell Old Gold – with Police approval**
- 12.8.15. **Roller Skating Rink**
- 12.8.16. **Sunday Skating**
- 12.8.17. **Exterior Vending Machines/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC**
- 12.8.18. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars with Police approval**

13.MOTIONS AND ORDER:

13.1. Order- Pay bills of the previous years and authorize payment from the current year departmental appropriations as listed: 9b

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ACCOUNT</u>
PEST END	\$115.00	POLICE
PEST END	\$102.00	POLICE
W.B. MASON	\$210.27	CITY CLERK
W.B. MASON	\$94.44	CITIZEN'S CENTER
W.B. MASON	\$65.15	AUDITOR
W.B. MASON	\$25.44	HIGHWAY
W.B. MASON	\$25.44	HIGHWAY
W.B. MASON	\$25.44	HIGHWAY
W.B. MASON	(\$2.71)	HIGHWAY
W.B. MASON	\$86.58	IT
W.B. MASON	\$43.94	IT
W.B. MASON	\$47.98	IT
W.B. MASON	\$47.98	IT



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W.B. MASON	(\$12.00)	IT
W.B. MASON	(\$12.00)	IT
W.B. MASON	(\$12.00)	IT
TOTAL: \$850.95		

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

14. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS):

14.1. Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic; Amend Ch 240, be further amended by ADDING the following to § 240-85 schedule B: Parking Restrictions and Prohibitions: 10c

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>	<u>HOURS/ DAYS</u>
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<i>13 Seventeenth Ave</i>	<i>No Parking</i>	<i>24-Hrs</i>
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*(except for 1 24-hr
handicap parking space)*

File 10 Days

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS:

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEDING MEETING:

16.1. Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic; Amend Ch 240, be further amended by ADDING the following to § 240-85 schedule B: Parking Restrictions and Prohibitions: 10a

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>	<u>HOURS/ DAYS</u>
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<i>60 Franklin St</i>	<i>No Parking</i>	<i>24-Hrs</i>
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*(except for 1 24-hr
handicap parking space)*

Filed January 14, 2026

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

