



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES –**

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 7:00 PM

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

In-Person/Remote Meeting: <https://meet.google.com/bkm-ynpr-eur>

Present: Councilors Jordan, Basiliere, Sullivan, Ferreira, Michitson, Lewandowski, LePage and Rogers

Remote: Councilor McGonagle

Absent: Councilors Toohey and Diodati

City Clerk: Kaitlin M. Wright-Esposito

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 LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

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 requests to present HC Media's *Declaration of Independence* community reading video 32-i

Lindsay Paris, HC Media and Mayor addressed the council. They presented a video of the readings of the Declaration of Independence by the community.

- 5.2. Mayor Barrett and Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington requests to provide an update to Council on the progress of the Whittier Regional Technical High School - *Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC)* 32-j

Council heard a presentation from Mayor Barrett and Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington regarding ongoing negotiations for a new regional agreement and the proposed construction of a new Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School. Mayor Barrett highlighted the advantages of the NECC site, including lower infrastructure costs, existing utilities, workforce partnership opportunities, and potential state funding, while Neil Harrington outlined a proposed 50/50 hybrid funding formula that balances the current funding method with student enrollment. He noted the compromise would help keep Haverhill's cost near the target. Vice President Michitson expressed support for the proposal as a reasonable starting point, and Councilor Basiliere voiced support for constructing the new school, citing the long-term financial benefits of building. Councilor LePage expressed support for continuing negotiations and indicated he was open to the proposed changes to the regional agreement, including a two-thirds voting requirement with consideration of an opt-out provision to help move the project forward. Councilors Sullivan and Rogers asked questions regarding support among the member communities and the proposed two-thirds voting requirement for future agreement changes. President Jordan commended Mayor Barrett and Harrington for their collaborative efforts and expressed support for the compromise, including the 50/50 funding proposal, hold harmless provision, and partnership with Northern Essex Community College.

- 5.3. Mayor Barrett requests Robert E. Ward, *Director of Water/Wastewater*, to provide an update on the 42" force main sewer break 32-k

Robert Ward and Mayor Barrett addressed the council. Presented a PowerPoint presentation. He provided an update on June 26th force main failure and emergency response efforts. The failure of the 42" force main resulted in untreated wastewater discharge into the Merrimack River, however, drinking water remained safe and emergency measures were implemented immediately. A temporary bypass pumping system was installed and is operating successfully while inspections, evaluations, and repair planning continue. Contractors are assessing repair and replacement options, with the bypass system remaining in place until permanent repairs are complete. He noted that inspections identified



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two pipe failures, including a damaged steel cylinder and areas showing exposed steel wires and corrosion. He stated as of July 1st there was no longer significant discharge to the river and normal sewer service had resumed. He stated the city has also submitted a required force main assessment plan to EPA and DEP and is reviewing long term resiliency improvements to help prevent future sewer overflow events. Vice President Michitson commended everyone involved for their swift response in restoring service during the major infrastructure failure. He also stated he is concerned with the risks associated with aging and vulnerable infrastructure and motioned to refer the matter to the Planning and Development Committee. The motion directs the committee to work with administration and appropriate departments on an initial risk-based assessment of city's critical infrastructure, beginning with the wastewater and drinking water systems. He noted this is a proactive approach aligning with the Mayor's 10-year budget/capital improvement plans and will help with future decisions. He noted that the assessment should identify critical assessments and single points of failures that could significantly impact public health, the environment, essential services and city finances. He also stated the initial phase should be reported to the City Council by the end of the year with a preliminary ranking of the highest risk and then after that provide a scope, schedule and cost for the next phase.

Councilor Basiliere stated that while the exact cause remains undetermined, research on aging sewer infrastructure suggests intense rainfall can create hydraulic pressure that bursts pipes. Councilor Rogers asked if they were leaning towards a temporary fix or replace the whole line? Robert Ward confirmed right now I am leaning towards replacing the whole line. Councilor Rogers stated we wouldn't be able to remove the pumps until we do the major fix. If you do remove the pumps would you keep the old lines above ground for backup. Robert Ward stated no we wouldn't. President Jordan asked about efforts from Congresswoman Trahan and Congressman Moulton to seek potential funding for improvements. Mayor reported that members of the congressional delegation are pursuing potential federal funding. She noted the outcome remains uncertain given the current congressional environment any assistance would help accelerate repairs. She is hopeful there are grant opportunities that the city could apply for.

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON TO SEND TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TO WORK WITH THE ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS ON AN INITIAL RISK BASED ASSESSMENT OF THE CITY'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE BEGINNING WITH THE WASTEWATER AND DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS. SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS 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. Chris Loughnane, *City Assessor*, submits monthly abatement report for the month of June 2026 3-m

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO RECEIVE AND PLACED ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE
PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

8.2. Kaitlin M. Wright Esposito, *City Clerk*, requests approval for several orders regarding changes to designated polling places 22-h

8.2.1. Order – that the following location is hereby established as a Polling Place for all elections this year, in accordance with Chapter 54, Section 24 of the Massachusetts General Laws – Ward 5, Precinct 1 and 1A – Consentino Middle School – 685 Washington St



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MOTION BY COUNCILOR ROGERS, SECOND BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

- 8.2.2. Order – that the following location is hereby established as a Polling Place for all elections this year, in accordance with Chapter 54, Section 24 of the Massachusetts General Laws – Ward 5, Precinct 2 – Julian Steele Community Room – 772 Washington St

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

- 8.2.3. Order – that the following location is hereby established as a Polling Place for all elections this year, in accordance with Chapter 54, Section 24 of the Massachusetts General Laws – Ward 7, Precinct 2A – Consentino Middle School – 685 Washington St

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

- 8.3. Kaitlin M. Wright Esposito, *City Clerk*, submits Election Warrant for the 2026 State Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, the first day of September 2026 from 7 AM to 8 PM 22-i

MOTION BY COUNCILOR ROGERS, SECOND BY COUNCILOR FERREIRA

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

- 8.4. **EROM-26-16** – Lisa DeMeo, *City Engineer*, requests approval to open the roadway to allow for the installation of a fire suppression water service, which requires Kelley Excavation to excavate in the right of way 23-o

- 8.4.1. Order – approve request to excavate at 136 Winter St

MOTION BY COUNCILOR ROGERS, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

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

- 9.1. **Doc 7-E**- Petition from National Grid and Verizon, requesting a joint pole location for South Prospect St WR#31222471

President Jordan opened the hearing.

Dave Boucher, National Grid, 1101 Turnpike Street, North Andover addressed the council. He stated National Grid is requesting approval to install a new utility pole on South Prospect Street to support equipment that will improve reliability and speed power restoration during outages.



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President Jordan asked if anyone would like to speak in favor. No one spoke.

President Jordan asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition. No one spoke.

President Jordan closed the hearing.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

9.2. **Doc 7-F**- Petition from National Grid and Verizon, requesting a joint pole location for Water St WR#31222575

President Jordan opened the hearing.

Dave Boucher, National Grid, 1101 Turnpike Street, North Andover addressed the council. He stated National Grid is requesting approval to install a new utility pole on Water Street to support equipment that will improve reliability and speed power restoration during outages.

President Jordan asked if anyone would like to speak in favor. No one spoke.

President Jordan asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition. No one spoke.

President Jordan closed the hearing.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR FERREIRA

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:

10.1. **Doc 21-A - CCSP-26-1**;; Jony Perez of Davinci Mini Apartments, LLC and Davinci Child Center, LLC requesting to convert a currently unoccupied building to a daycare program on first floor (allowed by right in Zoning Code) and 12 apartments units (six two-bedrooms and six one-bedrooms) on the top three floors at 121 Merrimack St in the Waterfront (WD-C) District

Continued from May 19, 2026

Related communication from Planning Director, Jacki Byerley, stating Planning Board has continued their hearing until September 9th to allow applicant time to submit a traffic study report

President Jordan stated giving that we don't know how that Planning meeting is going to go we are looking for a motion to continue it not to a date certain.

City Clerk Wright-Esposito stated you need some mechanism to bring it back.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO CONTINUE TO ONCE THE PLANNING BOARD HAS MADE A DECISION, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON

PASSED TO CONTINUE

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- 10.2. **Doc 21-B** - Planning Director, Jacki Byerley, requests a hearing for the following Zoning Amendment – Battery Energy Storage Systems

10.2.1 Ordinance: re: Amend Chapter 255 Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map – Battery Energy Storage Systems Overlay District (BESS)– by inserting a new section 7.9 Battery Energy Storage Systems, amending section 3.1.3 Table of Use and Parking regulations by allowing a Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 BESS and amending the Zoning Map to include the BESS Overlay District. The overlay district will be creating regulations for the installation and use of free-standing battery energy storage systems (“BESS”), adding to the table the overlay district with the allowed Tiers and updating the zoning map to include the BESS Overlay District, or take any other action related to

Continued from May 19, 2026

Related communication from Planning and Development Committee Chair, Vice President Michitson, to continue hearing until August 25th

Vice President Michitson stated the city is now undertaking the type of objective site comparison process that the council has requested before selecting a battery energy system overlay, we should understand how each candidate area performs from the perspective of public safety, environmental protections, infrastructure capacity, emergency response, water resources, surrounding land usage and municipal operations. In the future we will also be announcing a planning and development committee meeting to proceed this meeting on August 25th to work out the details.

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON TO CONTINUE TO AUGUST 25TH, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI
PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

- 10.3. **Doc 13-B** - Zoning hearing request from Attorney Paul Magliochetti on behalf of client, Haverhill STEM, LLC (Haverhill STEM) for a zoning change to allow the licensing and operation of Marijuana Social Consumption Establishments

Continued from June 2, 2026

*Related communication from applicant withdrawing application
Planning Board recommendation to allow the withdrawal of the application*

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE
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11. APPOINTMENTS:



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12. PETITIONS:

- 12.1. **CCSP-26-5** – Francis Bevilacqua of Bevi Builds II requests approval to replace existing single-family dwelling and construct a three-family residential dwelling at 16 Margin St in the Residential Urban (RU) zoning district 21-h

Hearing for August 11, 2026

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON, SECOND BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

- 12.2. **CCSP-26-2** – Philip Rice of Rice & Brouillard requests approval to transform an existing 1 ½ story structure into a three-family residential building containing a mix of two and three bedroom units. The renovation will include an interior reconfiguration, structural expansion, and modernization of all building systems to meet current safety, accessibility, and energy-efficiency standards if/as needed 21-i

Hearing for August 25, 2026

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON

PASSED

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- 12.3. **Applications Handicap Parking Sign:** *with Police approval*

- 12.4. **Amusement/Event Application:** *with Police approval*

- 12.4.1. **EVNT-26-20** – Cynthia Morgan of *Cyndie's Methodical Media* requests to hold Woofstock 2026 on Saturday September 19, 2026 from 10 AM to 3 PM at Chris' Farm Stand located at 436 Salem St 29-t

Moved to beginning of meeting.

Cynthia Morgan addressed the council. She stated we are proud to bring this free community event back for the third year. She noted 25 vendors and family activities will be part of this event this year.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

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- 12.5. **Auctioneer License:**

- 12.6. **Tag Days:** *with Police approval*

- 12.6.1. **TAGD-26-9** – Haverhill Lions Club, September 12, 2026 14-j

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR BASILIERE

PASSED

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12.7. One Day Liquor License –with Police and License Commission approval

- 12.7.1. **LCDL-26-15** – Joseph LeBlanc for *Team Haverhill* requests All Alcohol license for *River Ruckus Festival*, Saturday September 12, 2026 from 12 noon to 9 PM in the Riverfront parking lot 33-c

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR FERREIRA

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

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*
12.8.3. **Christmas Tree Vendor** – *with Police approval*
12.8.4. **Taxi Driver Licenses:** *with Police approval*
12.8.5. **Taxi/Limousine License** *with Police approval*

- 12.8.5.1. **TLLB-26-2;** Victor Gonzalez for *New England Health Transportation Inc.*, 143 Essex St Suite 721, 4 vehicles 25-c

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR FERREIRA

PASSED

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- 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 Secondhand Articles** *with Police approval*
12.8.11. **Buy & Sell Secondhand Clothing** *with Police approval*
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 ORDERS:

- 13.1. Order - That \$953,216 will be transferred from various general fund appropriations to fund FY 2026 operating expenses. 31-q



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Transfer to: (Budget Deficits)	
Auditing Services / Expenses	\$ 22,500.00
IT Salaries	\$ 14,215.00
Building Maint. Salaries	\$ 3,800.00
Building Maint. Expenses	\$ 4,000.00
Public Health Salaries	\$ 18,565.00
Snow & Ice Salaries	\$ 7,420.00
Snow & Ice Expenses	\$ 369,342.00
Citizens Center Salaries	\$ 3,264.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 196,183.00
Workers Compensation	\$ 226,014.00
Injured on Duty	\$ 47,448.00
Sick Leave Buyback	\$ 40,001.00
General Liability Insurance	\$ 464.00
	\$ 953,216.00

Transfer from: (Budget Surplus)	
Budget Reserve	\$ 180,000.00
Veterans Expense	\$ 65,000.00
Parks Department Salaries	\$ 40,000.00
Fleet Maintenance Salaries	\$ 85,000.00
Public Works Highway Salaries	\$ 125,000.00
Police Salaries	\$ 300,000.00
Economic Development Salaries	\$ 30,000.00
Inspectional Services Salaries	\$ 25,000.00
City Clerk Salaries	\$ 33,216.00
Constituent Services Salaries	\$ 15,000.00
Treasurer/Collector Salaries	\$ 55,000.00
	\$ 953,216.00

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

14. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS):

15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS:

15.1. Councilor McGonagle wishes to announce the Public Safety subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at 6 PM in Room 202, City Council Chambers

18-u

Councilor McGonagle invites the public to the public and safety meeting on July 29th at 6PM.

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEDING MEETING:

17. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

18. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

19. DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY:

20. LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST:

21. ADJOURN:

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (TOOHEY AND DIODATI)

ADJOURNED:20:47