



CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES - AMENDED

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM

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

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

Remote: None

Absent: Councilor Toohey

City Clerk: Kaitlin M. Wright

Administrative Assistant to Council: Lori Robertson

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON STATED HE REVIEWED THE MINUTES AND FINDS THEM IN ORDER, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

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

PRESIDENT JORDAN ASSIGNED THE MINUTES TO COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

5.1. Mayor Barrett submits an order to Accept G.L. c. 138 § 12 authorizing the issuance of a Malt and Wine License with Cordials/ Liqueurs permit for on-premises consumption

5.1.1. Order- That the City of Haverhill accepts the provision of G.L. c. 138 § 12, authorizing the issuance of a Malt and Wine License with Cordials/ Liqueurs Permit and further that the Local Licensing Authority is authorized to charge an annual fee of \$2,185.00 for the issuance or renewal of said license and permit

Mayor Barrett addressed the council. She noted this item gives people another opportunity to enter the alcohol sales business in the city and recommends approving it. Councilor Ferreira asked if we looked at other community fees. Mayor confirmed other communities were looked at.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR DIODATI

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

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. Kaitlin M. Wright, *City Clerk*, wishes to address the City Council to announce the winners of the 5th Annual Top Dog Contest

City Clerk Wright addressed the council. She announced this year's contest has 183 entries, nearly 100 more than last year. Voting took place on Facebook. Dante, a one-year-old golden retriever, one first place, followed by Watson, a five-year-old terrier, and Monty a one-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog. She reminded residents dog licensing runs from March 1st to May 31st, costing \$15 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$20 for dogs not fixed, late fees after May 31st. Licenses can be obtained at city hall or through online permitting portal.



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

10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:

11. APPOINTMENTS:

- 11.1. Confirming Appointments – Reappointments:
- 11.2. Non-Confirming Appointments:
- 11.3. Constables
- 11.4. Resignations

12. PETITIONS:

- 12.1. Petition from National Grid and Verizon, requesting a joint pole location for Lincoln Ave WR#31279266

Hearing for April 14, 2026

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

- 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*
- 12.6. One Day Liquor License –with HPD approval
- 12.7. ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS:
 - 12.7.1. **Hawker Peddlers License- Fixed location – w/Police approval**
 - 12.7.2. **Coin-Op License Renewals – with Police approval**
 - 12.7.3. **Christmas Tree Vendor – with Police approval**
 - 12.7.4. **Taxi Driver Licenses: with Police approval**
 - 12.7.5. **Taxi/Limousine License with Police approval**
 - 12.7.6. **Junk Dealer /Collector License - with Police approval**
 - 12.7.7. **Pool/Billiard**
 - 12.7.8. **Bowling**
 - 12.7.9. **Sunday Bowling**
 - 12.7.10. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles with Police approval**
 - 12.7.11. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing with Police approval**
 - 12.7.12. **Pawnbroker license - with police approval**
 - 12.7.13. **Fortune Teller with - Police approval**
 - 12.7.14. **Buy & Sell Old Gold – with Police approval**
 - 12.7.15. **Roller Skating Rink**
 - 12.7.16. **Sunday Skating**
 - 12.7.17. **Exterior Vending Machines/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC**
 - 12.7.18. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars with Police approval**



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13. MOTIONS AND ORDER:

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

Vendors	Amount	Account
Advantage	\$613.59	Police

Total: \$613.59

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

14. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS):

15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS:

- 15.1. Councilor Sullivan requests to discuss and send a letter to Haverhill’s legislative delegation and Chairpersons of both the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees outlining Fiscal Year 2027 budget challenges and funding priorities for Haverhill

Councilor Sullivan read the letter into the record. He stated just as background I received like everyone else a notification from MMA (Massachusetts Municipal Association). They always try to guide us as to what issues we should be looking at. He noted this was template letter from the MMA that we customized with the help of Angel Perkins, CFO for the city and Clancy Main, CFO for the School Department.

Vice President Michitson expressed general support for the letter and asked whether Mayor Barrett and the Auditor agreed with the priorities. Mayor Barrett stated the letter accurately reflects the challenges the city faces, particularly noting that losing authority to withhold from the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles would make collections difficult. Vice President Michitson suggested adding language asking the legislative delegation for guidance on the best strategy to secure funding, especially given that gateway cities already receive significant aid and may face competition from smaller towns seeking a larger share. Councilor Sullivan agreed to add the sentence, and Mayor Barrett recommended wording that the city looks forward to the delegation’s guidance on the best process. Councilor Ferreira raised concerns about the impact of the RMV marking process on low-wage workers whose licenses may be blocked for non-renewal due to unpaid fines or administrative issues. Several councilors, including Councilor McGonagle, Councilor Diodati, and President Jordan, acknowledged the concern but opposed removing the paragraph, emphasizing that excise taxes and related collections are critical revenue sources and that residents must pay their fair share.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR FERREIRA TO STRIKE THE PARAGRAPH RELATED TO THE MARKINGS, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON

FAILED

YEAS 1 (FERREIRA), NAYS 9, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)



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MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO ADOPT THE SENTENCE AT THE END STATING THE BEST STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, SECOND BY COUNCILOR DIODATI

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO SEND THE LETTER AS AMENDED. SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 1, (FERREIRA), ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEDING MEETING:

16.1. **Doc 1-I** - Mayor Barrett submits an Ordinance Relating to Fire Prevention.

16.1.1. Ordinance Re: Fire Prevention: Amend 150-2, §150-3(A), §150-7 (A), and §150-7(C)

Filed February 11, 2026

Continued from February 24, 2026

Mayor Barrett and Chief Cesati addressed the council. Chief Cesati stated this will be updated to align with general laws, clarifying procedures and eliminating gray areas. The change also addresses fee schedules and billing for fire details, allowing situations such as a sprinkler failure in an apartment building to be managed by assisting with a paid fire detail instead of displacing residents.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR DIODATI, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

16.2. **Doc 1-K** - Mayor Barrett submits an Ordinance Relating to Sex Offenders which amends the previously accepted ordinance

16.2.1. Order Re: Sex Offenders: Amend §189-16

Filed February 25, 2026

Councilor Lewandowski stated I am going to make a motion that we continue this until the next meeting which will be March 17th. There is going to be modification of the language, and I would like to allow time for the City Solicitor to do that.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI TO CONTINUE TO 3/17/26, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED TO CONTINUE TO 3/17/26

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

16.3. **Doc 107-A** - Ordinance re: Boards and Commissions – Article XX
Agricultural Commission

16.3.1. Ordinance re: Amendment to Chapter 11 of the Haverhill City Ordinances

Filed March 4, 2026

File 10 Days



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MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

16.4. Executive Session: Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A § 21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property regarding the property located at 309 East Broadway. The City Council will reconvene in Open Session.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR BASILIERE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21 (A) (6) TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 309 EAST BROADWAY THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF WHICH WILL HAVE A DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON THE NEGOTIATION POSITION OF THE BOARD AS DECLARED BY THE CHAIR. SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON.

President Jordan stated and again, we will come back to open session after convening in executive session.

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Michitson-yes, Councilor Basiliere-yes, Councilor Diodati-yes, Councilor Sullivan-yes, Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-yes, President Jordan-yes.

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

President Jordan stated we will now go into executive session – 19:36

16.5. Doc 20-A - Mayor Barrett submits an Order to Authorize the Taking of Portion of 309 East Broadway

16.5.1. Order- That the City Council on behalf of the City votes to authorize the Mayor to acquire, purchase, take by eminent domain or otherwise a certain parcel of land located at 309 East Broadway, Haverhill, MA 01830, and containing approximately 5.3 acres being shown as “lot 2”, and permanent easement shown as “20’ Wide Access & Utility Easement Area = 1,990 S.F.” on that certain Plan of Land entitled “Plan of Land Located in Haverhill, Mass” dated January 8, 2025, and revised December 9, 2025, prepared by the Morin-Cameron Group, Inc. (the “Plan”) appended hereto, under the care, custody and control of the Department of Public Works, Water Division, for water supply purposes, from Joyce E. Hill, for the amount of \$917,019.00; And further to authorize the Mayor to grant an access easement to the record owner of said property shown as “20’ Wide Easement Area” on the Plan;” And further to authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents and to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this.”

Continued from February 10, 2026

Came back in chambers -- 21:07

President Jordan asked do we have a motion.

Councilor Rogers stated I would like to make a motion to table it for a week. Councilor Lewandowski stated second.



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Vice President Michitson asked why do you want to table.

Councilor Rogers stated just time to think about it for another week.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR ROGERS TO TABLE FOR A WEEK, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Michitson-no, Councilor Basiliere-no, Councilor Diodati-yes, Councilor Sullivan-no, Councilor Ferreira-no, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor McGonagle-no, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-yes, President Jordan-no.

FAILED

YEAS 4, NAYS 6, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

PRESIDENT JORDAN STATED THAT FAILS.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE THE TAKING, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Michitson-yes Councilor Basiliere-yes, Councilor Diodati-no, Councilor Sullivan-yes Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-no, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-no, President Jordan-yes.

FAILED

YEAS 7, NAYS 3, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

PRESIDENT JORDAN STATED THAT FAILS. WE DON'T HAVE THE 2/3RDS MAJORITY.

Councilor Ferreira stated can we move to continue until next week, hoping for full attendance.

President Jordan asked can we get some thoughts from our City Solicitor because I do not know the answer to that.

Attorney Mead stated someone from the prevailing side has to vote to reconsider and then move to table it.

President Jordan asked do we have any councilors from the winning side that would like to make a motion to reconsider.

Councilor Rogers stated I will make the motion. Councilor LePage stated second.

President Jordan asked if the second needed to be someone from the winning side, no? okay. We are just taking a vote to reconsider and continue for one week.

City Clerk Wright stated just to be clear.

President Jordan stated vote to reconsider.

City Clerk Wright stated the first vote is to reconsider the item.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR ROGERS, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Michitson-yes Councilor Basiliere-yes, Councilor Diodati-no, Councilor Sullivan-yes Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-yes, President Jordan-yes.



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PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 1 (DIODATI), ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

President Jordan stated the reconsideration passes.

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON TO TABLE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

City Clerk stated and to be clear the tabling is for?

President Jordan stated one week.

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Michitson-yes Councilor Basiliere-yes, Councilor Diodati-no, Councilor Sullivan-yes Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-yes, President Jordan-yes.

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 1 (DIODATI), ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

President Jordan stated that is tabled and continued for one week.

17. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

Moved above 16.4

- 17.1. Mayor Barrett presents the following proclamation:
Recognizing March 2026 as *Women's History Month* in the City of Haverhill

Councilor Lewandowski read the proclamation into the record.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

18. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

19. DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY:

20. LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST:

21. ADJOURN:

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (TOOHEY)

ADJOURNED: 21:11