

### CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

## Tuesday, November 16, at 7:00 PM

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

Present – President Barrett, Councillors Bevilacqua, Michitson, Jordan, McGonagle, Daly O'Brien and Macek. Attending Virtually – Councillor Sullivan

Absent - Councillor LePage

City Council Administrative Assistant – Laurie A. Brown

City Clerk – Linda L. Koutoulas

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Baker issued an Emergency Order temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 18. Public bodies otherwise governed by the OML are temporarily relieved from the requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

- 1. OPENING PRAYER
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Motion by Councillor Macek for approval 9/28 minutes, second Daly O'Brien PASSED Placed on File Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

- 4. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING
- 5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:
  - 5.1. Mayor Fiorentini requests to give an update on Haverhill's efforts regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19 crisis)

Motion by Councillor McGonagle to move to November 30, 2021 meeting, second Bevilacqua
PASSED Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 83-D

- 6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS 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:
- 9. UTILITY HEARING(S) AND RELATED ORDER(S):
- 10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:
  - 10.1. <u>Document 97:</u> City Tax Assessor, Christine Webb requests to present the Tax Classification Hearing for Fiscal Year 2022, including related Orders:

President Barrett opened the hearing.

Christine Webb, Assessor for City of Haverhill. Annual Tax Classification hearing for FY2022. Joined by our Board of Assessors Chairman, Steve Gullo and Board Member Roy Wright. Thanked Steve and Roy for sharing wisdom and continued education on Haverhill history. Also thanked her hard-working assessor team, Sue Powell, Daniella Cederman and Maria Jones. During the pandemic you all have been very helpful and flexible while adjusting to our challenging working environment.

We have submitted our work to the Department of Revenue (DOR) and they have reviewed and approved our new values and new growth. DOR has given us the go ahead to conduct tonight's public hearing in conformance with requirements of Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982. This evening you will be asked to vote on four separate items. A minimum residential factor, a small commercial exemption,



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a residential exemption, and an open space discount. I prepared brief PowerPoint I would like at this time to present to the Council.

Council President asked if Ms. Webb wanted to speak on the levy or have people speak on the tax shift first. Christine Webb asked if the Mayor or City Council has a preference. No one spoke.

Councillor Bevilacqua asked if we took 1 million of free cash, how would that effect the levy and how would that impact the residential factor and the commercial factor?

Christine Webb stated if 1 million was taken off the levy, it would be an average of \$40 savings for single family, it would add \$140 for average commercial bill and \$210 to the industrial bill.

Councillor Bevilacqua made a motion to take 1 million of free cash.

Councillor McGonagle called point of order, asking if we were still in the hearing.

Council President Barrett confirmed we are still in hearing and was hoping for some participation from the public and thought the council was just asking questions.

Christine Webb concluded her presentation.

Council President Barrett asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the shift? No one spoke. Council President Barrett asked if anyone wanted to speak in opposition of the shift? No one spoke. Council President Barrett confirmed if hearing is closed on shift, can still speak of the levy.

Council President Barrett closed the hearing on the shift.

Councillor Jordan motion to remain at 165 shift, second by Councillor Michitson. Clarification by Christine Webb that the actual vote needs to be on the residential factor which at 165 would be 0.900800. Councillor Jordan and Councillor Michitson both agreed.

Councillor Bevilacqua asked if it made more sense to vote on the levy question first then that will determine how much money the city needs to raise and that may impact the shift, so it seems to be doing it backwards.

Council President Barrett confirmed she yielded to the accessor and Mr. Gullo as to how to proceed as far as that since she thought the same.

Charles Benevento states whether you vote any money to reduce the tax levy or whatever shift you choose to go to are all policy decisions that the council and mayor make. They intermingle but are not dependent on each other. You could pick this shift and rate and then lower the tax levy. It would still have the same shift, it would just change things a little. Doesn't matter which order, same thing is going to happen. They are policy related not financially related.



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- 10.1.1. <u>Document 97-B</u>: Order residential factor for FY 2022 be adopted as:
  ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR JORDAN TO ADOPT RESIDENTIAL FACTOR
  0.900800 (165), SECOND COUNCILLOR MICHISTON
  PASSED
  Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 (LePage)
- 10.1.2. <u>Document 97-C</u>: Order City shall adopt a commercial exemption ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND COUNCILLOR MACEK FAILED Yeas 0, Nays 8 Absent 1 (LePage)
- 10.1.3. <u>Document 97-D</u>: Order City shall adopt a residential exemption ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND COUNCILLOR MACEK FAILED

  Yeas 0, Nays 8, Absent 1 (LePage)
- 10.1.4. <u>Document 97-E</u>: Order City shall select an open space discount factor ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN
  FAILED

  Yeas 0, Nays 8, Absent 1 (LePage)

10.1.5. <u>Document 97-F</u>: Order – 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.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND COUNCILLOR MACEK FAILED Yeas 0, Nays 8, Absent 1 (LePage)

10.1.6. <u>Document 97-G</u>: Order – That the City Council accept 100% of C.P.I, (Consumer Price Index) increase reported by the State for F.Y. 2022 Exemptions. The 2022 C.P.I. amount is 1.4%.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK, SECOND COUNCILLOR JORDAN PASSED Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 (LePage)

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua to suspend the rules to revisit the tax levy, second Daly O'Brien FAILED Yeas 2 (Bevilacqua, Macek), Nays 6, Absent 1 (LePage)

#### 11. APPOINTMENTS:

- 11.1. Confirming Appointments:
- 11.2. Non-Confirming Appointments:
- 11.3. **Resignations:**

#### 12. PETITIONS:

- 12.1. Applications Handicap Parking Sign: with police approval
- 12.2. Amusement/Event Applications:
- 12.3. Auctioneer License:
- 12.4. **Tag Days:**
- 12.5. One Day Liquor License:
- 12.6. **Annual License Renewals:** 
  - 12.6.1. Hawker Peddlers License 2021 Fixed location



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- 12.6.2. Coin-Op License Renewals 2021
- 12.6.3. Drainlayer License for 2021 -with City Engineer approval
- 12.6.4. Christmas Tree Vendor:
- 12.6.5. Taxi Driver Licenses for 2021:
- 12.6.6. Taxi License
- 12.6.7. **Junk Dealer License**
- 12.6.8. **Pool Tables**
- 12.6.9. Sunday Pool
- 12.6.10. **Bowling**
- 12.6.11.Sunday Bowling
- 12.6.12.Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles
- 12.6.13.Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing
- 12.6.14. Pawnbroker license
- 12.6.15.Fortune Teller
- 12.6.16.**Buy & Sell Old Gold**
- 12.6.17. Roller Skating Rink
- 12.6.18. Sunday Skating
- 12.6.19. Exterior Vending Machines
- 12.6.20.Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars:
- 13. MOTIONS AND ORDERS:
- 14. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS)
- 15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:
- 16. Unfinished Business Of Preceding Meeting
- 17. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:
- 18. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Sullivan says the Santa parade is ready to go and is hopeful for a successful traditional parade. Parade starts at 1 o'clock.

- 19. DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY
- 20. LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST
- 21. ADJOURN

Motion by Councillor Jordan, second Daly O'Brien

Adjourned 19:50 pm Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 (LePage)



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#### AMENDED AGENDA

1. AUCTIONEER LICENSE - STEPHEN CYR, NOV 28 - ALL APPROVALS RECEIVED

Motion by Councillor Macek, second Jordan

PASSED Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

2.Announcement of Public Hearing - Property Located at 97 Corliss Hill Road – Assignment of purchase option to Greenbelt. Public Hearing scheduled for December 7, 2021

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Daly O'Brien

PASSED Placed on File Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 105

95-B