



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 7:00 PM

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

In-Person/Remote Meeting

Present: President Sullivan, Councilors Basiliere, LePage, Ferreira, Hobbs Everett, Michitson, Toohey, Rogers, and Lewandowski

Remote: None

Absent: Vice President Jordan and Councilor McGonagle

City Clerk: Kaitlin M. Wright

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

COUNCILOR TOOHEY STATED HE REVIEWED THE MINUTES AND FINDS THEM IN ORDER.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY TO PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (JORDAN AND MCGONAGLE)

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

PRESIDENT SULLIVAN ASSIGNED THE MINUTES TO COUNCILOR ROGERS

- 10.1 CCSP-22-4; Attorney Donald Borenstein for *Kayrouz Petroleum, LLC* requesting to store 20,000 gallons of Class II diesel fuel in an underground storage tank and 2,500 gallons of DEF (Diesel Exhaust Fluid) in an underground storage tank at
298 Amesbury Rd

57of2022

Continued from hearing in August 2022 (Document 57 of 2022) after Land Court decision (Land Court decision included) and comments from City Departments are included

City Clerk Wright stated we received a letter earlier this afternoon from Attorney Donald Borenstein requesting to reschedule the hearing and have it be continued for at least 30 days.

President Sullivan opened the hearing.

President Sullivan stated would someone like to make a motion to continue this hearing until November 18th.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED TO CONTINUE TO NOVEMBER 18TH

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

- 5.1. Mayor Barrett and Councilor Toohey request to recognize Nicky Tejada of the *Haverhill Downtown Boxing Club* for his outstanding achievement in recently being crowned the WBC USA Silver Super Lightweight Champion

93-D



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 7:00 PM

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

In-Person/Remote Meeting

Mayor Barrett, Councilor Toohey, Peter Zimbor (Brockton, MA), Sean McLaughlin, (Asst. Principal Haverhill High School), Ray Hebert (110 North Avenue, Haverhill, MA) congratulated Nicky Tejada for his achievement.

Mayor Barrett and Councilor Toohey presented citations from the Mayor and City Councilors.

5.2. Mayor Barrett submits several orders relating to property exemptions

- 5.2.1. Order- That the City shall increase the amount of personal property exemption permitted under Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 54 of the Massachusetts General Laws from the previously approved seven thousand dollars to ten thousand dollars, to be effective July 1, 2026

94-E

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

- 5.2.2. Order- That the City votes to adjust the real property assessment exemption permitted under Chapter 59, Section 5N of the Massachusetts General Laws for volunteer services performed by veterans to (1) allow an approved representative, for persons physically unable, to provide such services to the City; and (2) allow the maximum of the real property tax bill to be based on 125 volunteer service hours in a given tax year, or \$1,500, to be effective July 1, 2026

94-F

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

- 5.2.3. Order- That the City shall increase the amount of the additional exemption for property assessment permitted under Chapter 59, Section 5C1/2 of the Massachusetts General Laws from the previously approved forty percent to one hundred percent, to be effective July 1, 2026 for a period of three years

94-G

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

City Assessor Chris Webb presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation to the City Council outlining several updates to the city's tax relief programs for fiscal year 2027. The city plans to increase the additional property tax exemptions for qualifying elderly, blind, widowed, and disabled veteran residents from the current 40% above the state base to 100%, which would raise the maximum exemption amount to \$1,000



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 7:00 PM

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

In-Person/Remote Meeting

or more. This change would result in an added cost of \$182,086 to the city, with no increase to the current \$280,000 state reimbursement. Adjustments were also proposed to the senior and veteran volunteer tax work-off programs, including provision allowing representatives to work on behalf of those unable to participate. However, the number of participants remains capped at 25 due to staffing and budget limitations. Additionally, the city proposes increasing the personal property exemption for small businesses from \$7,000 to \$10,000 which would add another \$13,961 in cost. Angel Perkins clarified that altogether, the total annual cost of exemptions, abatements and tax work off programs would be approximately \$788,777. Of this, about \$592,000 reflects current commitments, with \$195,000 in new proposed costs. Funding will come from the city's overlay account, which holds just under 1.6 million. The overlay is a reserve required by the Department of Revenue to cover anticipated abatements and potential tax appeals, with \$325,000 already earmarked for liabilities. Councilors raised questions about funding, access and program awareness. Chris Webb noted that outreach efforts include annual applications, public meetings, local TV appearances, and mentions in the Voice newsletter. In FY2025, 540 residents took advantage of exemptions and approximately 1,700 small businesses automatically received personal property exemption. There was also a discussion about making the program information available in other languages to ensure broader accessibility.

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

- 6.1. Councilor Ferreira introduces Ward 3 resident Sara Hilinski speak about Governor Healey's DRIVE act and requests the Council consider adopting a resolution to support this legislation 33-S

Sara Hilinski addressed the council. She is requesting support for this resolution about Governor Healey's DRIVE act. She noted that Massachusetts public colleges face rising enrollment but shrinking resources due to federal and state budget cuts. She urges support for Governor Healey's DRIVE act to restore funding and expand it to include student services and research programs. This would use Fair Share funds to restore the lost funding.

Councilor Ferreira read the resolution into the record.

Councilor Michitson, Basiliere, Lewandowski and Hobbs Everett are thankful this is coming forward.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR FERREIRA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE
PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- REQUESTS UNDER COUNCIL RULE 28

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:



CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 7:00 PM

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

In-Person/Remote Meeting

- 8.1. Angel A. Perkins, *City Auditor and Chief Financial Officer*, submits
the revenue and expense reports through August 31, 2025 20-Y

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

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

10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:

- 10.1. Moved to beginning of agenda 57of22

11. APPOINTMENTS:

11.1. **Confirming Appointments:**

- 11.1.1. *Haverhill Cultural Council – Taina Mathurin Janvier, 34
Kennedy Cir Apt. A, expires September 30, 2028* 7-R

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

11.2. **Non-Confirming Appointments:**

11.3. **Constables**

11.4. **Resignations**

12. PETITIONS:

- 12.1. Petition from National Grid and Verizon NE, WR# 31150941,
requesting joint pole location on Garfield St
Hearing October 21st 99-A

MOTION BY COUNCILOR ROGERS, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

- 12.2. Petition from National Grid and Verizon NE, WR# 31188397,
requesting joint pole location on High St
Hearing October 21st 99-B

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 7:00 PM

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

In-Person/Remote Meeting

-
- 12.3. Petition from National Grid and Verizon NE, WR# 31188400,
requesting joint pole location on Rogers Rd
Hearing October 21st 99-C

MOTION BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS
PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

- 12.4. Petition from National Grid and Verizon NE, WR# 31188421,
requesting joint pole location on Ward Hill Ave
Hearing October 21st 99-D

MOTION BY COUNCILOR ROGERS, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI
PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

- 12.5. Petition from National Grid, WR# 31140177, requesting the
installation of underground facilities on Back Ln
Hearing October 21st 99-E

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON
PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

- 12.6. SPFL-25-2; Guy Bresnahan for Broco Energy requests to store
an additional 30,000 gallons of propane in an above ground storage tank,
three additional propane transport trailer trucks with a tank capacity of
12,600 gallons each for a total storage increase of 37,800 gallons of
truck storage, and 8,000 gallons in miscellaneous empty customer tank
- the overall propane storage capacity is being increased by 75,800
gallons at 158 Hale St Hearing December 2nd 100

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY
PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)

- 12.7. Applications Handicap Parking Sign: *with Police approval*
12.8. Amusement/Event Application: *with Police approval*
12.9. Auctioneer License:
12.10. Tag Days: *with Police approval*
12.11. One Day Liquor License –with HPD approval
12.12. ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS:



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 7:00 PM

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

In-Person/Remote Meeting

- 12.12.1. **Hawker Peddlers License- Fixed location – w/Police approval**
- 12.12.2. **Coin-Op License *Renewals* – with Police approval**
- 12.12.3. **Christmas Tree Vendor – with Police approval**
- 12.12.4. **Taxi Driver Licenses for 2024: with Police approval**
- 12.12.5. **Taxi/Limousine License with Police approval**
- 12.12.6. **Junk Dealer /Collector License - with Police approval**
- 12.12.7. **Pool/Billiard**
- 12.12.8. **Bowling**
- 12.12.9. **Sunday Bowling**
- 12.12.10. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles with Police approval**
- 12.12.11. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing with Police approval**
- 12.12.12. **Pawnbroker license - with police approval**
- 12.12.13. **Fortune Teller with - Police approval**
- 12.12.14. **Buy & Sell Old Gold – with Police approval**
- 12.12.15. **Roller Skating Rink**
- 12.12.16. **Sunday Skating**
- 12.12.17. **Exterior Vending Machines/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC**
- 12.12.18. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars with Police approval**

13.MOTIONS AND ORDERS:

14.ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS):

15.COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS:

16.UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEEDING MEETING:

17.RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

- 17.1. Mayor Barrett presents the following proclamation:
September 15 - October 15, 2025, as *Hispanic Heritage Month* in the
City of Haverhill 45-J

Councilor Basiliere read the proclamation into the record.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR BASILIERE TO ACCEPT THE PROCLAMATION, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE
PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 7:00 PM

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

In-Person/Remote Meeting

18.COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

19.DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY:

20.LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST:

21. ADJOURN:

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR FERREIRA

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND JORDAN)**ADJOURNED: 20:08**