



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

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

---

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

Remote: McGonagle

Absent: LePage

City Clerk – Kaitlin M. Wright

*This meeting of Haverhill City Council will be held in-person at the location provided on this notice as its official meeting location pursuant to the Open Meeting Law. As the meeting is held in person at a physical location that is open and accessible to the public, the City Council is not required to provide remote access to the meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting. Please note that a live stream of the meeting is being provided only as a courtesy to the public, and the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly. Those attending tonight's meeting should be aware that the meeting is being audio and video recorded by HCTV, The Eagle Tribune, and WHAV. Any audience members who wish to record any part of the meeting must inform the Council President who will announce the recording. This is to comply with the MA wiretap statute. Thank you.*

**1. Opening Prayer**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Approval of Minutes of prior meeting**

Approval of Minutes of prior meeting held on 9/24-President Sullivan explained these minutes were not yet ready for review. Councilor Lewandowski is assigned those minutes when ready for review.

10/1 - President Sullivan explained these minutes were not yet ready for review. Councilor Toohey is assigned those minutes when ready for review.

**4. Assignment of the minutes and review for the next meeting**

President Sullivan assigned the minutes to Councilor Rogers

President Sullivan, Madam Clerk can we move up document 10.1 please

**10. Hearings and Related orders**

**10.1 Document 84; CCSP 24-10, Melanie Chapman of 98 Brandy Brow Road requests to demolish and reconstruct a two-stall garage in the WSPOD – continued from September 24, 2024**

President Sullivan, I will open this hearing. When you were last here you had to do one test to satisfy



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

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

---

Conservation, an impervious water test. Can you tell us how that went.

**Melanie Chapman**, 98 Brandy Brow Road addressed the council. The following day the surveyor came out and measured the driveway and walkway which was left off the survey.

**President Sullivan:** So, it passed the test and Rob Moore did confirm that. For the councilors you do have updated reports from the remaining departments that did not weigh in. The City Clerk gave them to you tonight. They do all appear to be in order and nobody is opposed to this project. Having said that is there anyone else here who would like to speak in favor of this special permit. Anyone who would like to speak in favor? No one online. Is there anyone opposed to this granting of a special permit for this garage? Anyone opposed? Seeing none, I will close the hearing. Councilors what are your wishes.

*Motion by Councilor Lewandowski for passage, Second by Councilor Rogers*

**President Sullivan** asked if they wanted to amend the motion to add department recommendations and requirements.

*Motion by Councilor Lewandowski, Second by Councilor Rogers.*

**President Sullivan** asked Madam Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-yes, Councilor Basiliere-yes, Councilor Hobbs-Everett-yes, Councilor Mich son-yes, Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Toohey-yes, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor LePage-absent, Councilor Rogers-yes, President Sullivan-yes  
10 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (LePage) *Passed with conditions*

## **5. Communications from the Mayor**

**5.1 Mayor Barrett requests to recognize City Auditor and Chief Financial Officer Angel Perkins on being awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for FY 25  
City Budget** 91E

Mayor Barrett came before the council to honor Angel Perkins and her staff for the second year in a row have achieved which not every community does, received this award. In order to receive this award, the city had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentations. These guidelines are designed to assess how well a community's budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operational guide and a communication device. There has been quite an improvement in these last two years.

Angel Perkins thanked the Mayor for the recognition and noted that we have a great team. When Mayor Barrett took office, the goal was to have transparency and communication, and this started with kickoff of the 2025 budget in January. We really try to tell a story with narratives and benchmarks and forecasts.

President Sullivan thanked Angel for transforming the document into something we can all understand and more importantly the citizens can understand.

**5.2 Mayor Barrett requests to introduce Megan Arivella, Supervisor of the School Counseling with the Haverhill Public Schools and Dr. Randi Schuster from Mass General Center for Addiction Medicine to discuss mental health screening and district survey of substance use and**



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM  
Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, 4 Summer st, Room 202  
In-Person/Remote Meeting**

---

**related risk factors for Haverhill High School SY 2023-2024**

91F

Mayor Barrett addressed the council and stated thank you for allowing me to put this on the agenda. We often think as School Committee items but really they are city items. This helps with where we should allocate funds.

Megan Arivella, Supervisor of School Counseling with the Haverhill Public School, addressed the council. I would like to share some of the support that we have for the students. We continue outreach to students with many events coming up. We provide intervention supports in regard to mental health; we reach out in many grade levels. For our councilors and teachers, we have the Columbia suicide severity rating scale training and other trainings in CBT and ADHD in youth trainings and restorative practices. We have an upcoming event called Drug Story Theater on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the High School at 6:00 pm. The Mayor's Hope Task Force and NFI have collaborated to promote this event. Also, present tonight is Charlie Manzi of NFI and Dr. Maddox who supports a lot of what we do.

Dr. Randy Schuster of Mass General Center for Addiction Medicine as a clinical psychologist I am also an associate professor at Harvard Medical School. We have been working with Haverhill going on three years. My goal is to give you a brief overview of the work we do at our center and open us up as a resource and where more support is needed. We are seeing high rates of use and problematic use in some kids. We did ask kids if you were offered help today how many would want to quit or reduce your use, 46% of kids using cannabis and 71% of kids using vapes said if they were offered help would either stop or reduce their use.

Councilor Basiliere had a few questions regarding what was said tonight. Does substance abuse follow mental illness and is it more corollary or casual. How does problematic cannabis use in adolescents do to the executive function in kids, Megan mentioned CBT are we talking about evidence based cognitive behavior therapy. Last question what does data show about suicidal ideation and the scheme in place to intervene.

Dr. Shuster stated mental illness and substance abuse often goes hand and hand. I believe there is a casual relationship, but not what I am presenting tonight. Regarding the use of cannabis and the executive function in kids is their brain is still developing from a back to front direction. The frontal part of the brain, which is the contributor to executive function is the last to come online. When kids stop using, we see recovery of these benefits.

Megan Arivella addressed the evidence based cognitive behavior therapy stating that was a training for the staff, that doesn't mean that can't utilize some of those practices in their own setting.

Dr. Shuster stated regarding suicidal ideation and the scheme in place to help is we are starting a program hopefully in the next month that only enrolls kids who are using cannabis daily and at risk for suicide to see how their moods change after 8 weeks of incentivized abstinence. The C4 coaches are highly trained peer mentors.

Megan Arivella talked about the I-Decide program and trying to see how that will work in the high school setting. Through a grant we were able to partner with C4 and received another coach.



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

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

---

Vice President Jordan had questions about the SBIRT and how to make it a more robust program. What schools are the coaches located at and how are the at-risk students being identified.

Dr. Shuster stated that for this particular grant for the SBIRT we are looking at three things first, the staffing model, second, enhanced SBIRT and how to make the conversation better during the school day. Third, dialing in on kids with minoritized and marginalized backgrounds. She also stated at risk students are identified via the survey itself one is the get connected button and secondly kids have the option to say they would like to hear about the programming that MGH has to offer.

Megan Arivella stated the coaches are located at the high school and Nettle.

Councilor Ferreira asked are staff in general trained and supported at the schools. Also, does HPS wellness curriculum on a more regular basis reflect what we are seeing in these trends. Also at the high school level is that being rolled into social emotional learning. Are school referrals actually being able to access services. Do we have options in Haverhill other than the emergency room in a crisis situation. And the last question is there a school safety subcommittee for the schools.

Megan Arivella stated a teacher has a big roll and Mr. Downs, the principal, has enforced that connection piece. I feel like things are turning over in a positive way in regards to the staff. We are looking at professional development, who couldn't use more training on how to address these issues. As far as the wellness curriculum it really has to be a comprehensive curriculum. When I started in wellness, I started with standards that were out of date by 25 years and last year we started with new standards. The curriculum that we have in place (UTR) is the most sought after one. Health and wellness starts in 5<sup>th</sup> grade but these things need to be taught younger and younger. The earlier you talk about these things with your kids the better outcome of non-use. As far as options other than the emergency rooms we recommend Lahey in Danvers to be evaluated. We are talking with NFI, and we do have e-referral which branches off to outside agencies, and cartwheel teletherapy.

Dr. Shuster stated we are trying to train teachers to identify early signs and create space and tasking everyone to be an ambassador of wellness. Another piece is prevention programming. I believe substance use curriculum is mental health promotion curriculum.

Mayor Barrett addressed the safety subcommittee stating I believe there is.

Councilor Michitson asked when you say workforce crisis and what the impact is with what you are doing here. Also, the City Council has been promoting youth activities, is that part of your playbook. And does lack of interest in school contribute to substance abuse.

Dr. Shuster stated there are not enough providers to meet the needs of the community. We saw a huge exodus in the behavioral workforce around COVID. It's kind of a perfect storm where we have kids in crisis and then we are looking for referrals out in the community and we are short staffed. One of the main ways we are going to mitigate this crisis is turning the spicket off. As far as promoting youth activities it is very much in line with what we believe. Investing in activities where kids can find space, connection and purpose is 100% in line with a comprehensive mental health promotion stance. As far as



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

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

---

the lack of interest is a risk factor adverse mental health outcomes broadly stated. Feeling community and connected to likeminded people is protective.

Councilor Hobbs-Everett stated as an advocate for dismantling the school prison pipeline whose worked with other districts and with HPS prior to the council, I am particularly interested in restorative practices and I have been advocating for restorative practice pilot since 2014. I am thrilled to see this partnership with MGH. What does restorative spaces look like given the demographic disparities mentioned. Also, is the restorative justice and restorative practice part of the training. My last question, are you tapped into the Art Pharmacy program where they can utilize their insurance for art therapies.

Dr. Shuster stated one way is to train our staff with working with cultural humility, hiring with an eye towards diversity and representation. Bringing in screeners that can actually speak in the language that the student feels most comfortable with and starting to address root causes without judgement. Really put our money where our mouth is with community based research and community based service delivery. As far as the training it is part of the C4 training.

Megan Arivella stated as far as the Art pharmacy program, I haven't heard of that.

Dr. Shuster stated I would love to talk more offline about that program, it sounds fantastic.

Councilor Lewandowski stated I wanted to give kudos for you being involved, the wellness department and what we can do there and some training programs. I know the CDC has funding available, I don't if you looked into that. What struck me is that 42% of kids talk to other kids or parents first. I know Megan is developing a peer advocacy type of program and making that part of curriculum is a huge step in the right direction. Although we hear this and worry, I want to focus on our strengths which are having all these people involved and the \$750,000 we put into youth and mental health programs in the city. My final note social media, mass violence, natural disasters, online bullying, political polarization can seem insurmountable, but it isn't as long as we have the committed, caring and informed individuals. I also wanted to point out I am happy that the school took a step to limit social media during the day.

President Sullivan stated I wanted to extend my thanks for everything you are doing. You can tell with the number of questions the councilors had we are really vested in trying to help with this issue. My understanding is you will be going before the school committee on Thursday to make the same presentation. We appreciate that as well. Mayor thank you for putting this on the agenda.

**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 Andrew K. Herlihy, Community Development Director on behalf of the Haverhill Historical Commission, is pleased to announce that at its meeting held on September 11, 2024, the Massachusetts Historic Commission formally approved the placement of the Powder House (91 Powder House Avenue) onto the National Register of Historic Places and this recommendation has been forwarded to the Department of Interior for registration.**

170

Andrew Herlihy, Community Development Director, addressed the council. I am here on behalf of the



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

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

---

Haverhill Historical Commission. The Commission asked to share this good news that the council previously supported. Since I am here I just to point out some people who helped make this happen. It started a decade ago by Llyod Sanborn. He and other Haverhill residents did some work at the Haverhill Public Library. A Boston University graduate student, David Lewis with interest in military history did research on this and other powder houses around the commonwealth. That formed the basis of our application to Mass Historic. It opens up the door for the city to apply for the mass preservation fund as we look to fix the roof and the bricks in that facility. Last comment, the neighbors have done a nice job in keeping an eye out for that facility.

President Sullivan asked if there was a motion to receive and place on file.

*Motion by Vice President Jordan, Second by Councilor Toohey.*

*Yeas 9, nays 0, Absent 2 (McGonagle-it was noted he left the meeting, LePage)*

**9. Utility Hearing(s) and related order(s):**

**11. Appointments**

- 11.1 Confirming appointments**
- 11.2 Non-Confirming**
- 11.3 Constables to expire December 31, 2024**
- 11.4 Resignations**

**12. Petitions**

- 12.1 Applications handicap parking sign: with police approval**
- 12.2 Amusement/Event Applications – with police approval**
- 12.3 Auctioneer license**
- 12.4 Tag Days with police approval**
- 12.5 One Day Liquor – with license commission and HPD approval**
- 12.6 Annual License Renewals**
  - 12.6.1 Hawker Peddlers License – Fixed location – with police approval**
  - 12.6.2 Coin-op License Renewals – with police approval**
  - 12.6.3 Christmas Tree vendor – with police approval**
  - 12.6.4 Taxi Driver License for 2024- with police approval**
  - 12.6.5 Taxi/Limousine License – with police approval**
  - 12.6.7 Pool/Billiard**
  - 12.6.8 Bowling**
  - 12.6.9 Sunday Bowling**
  - 12.6.10 Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles – with police approval**
  - 12.6.11 Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing**
  - 12.6.12 Pawnbroker license – with police approval**
  - 12.6.13 Fortune Teller – with police approval**
  - 12.6.14 Buy & Sell old gold – with police approval**
  - 12.6.15 Roller Skating Rink**
  - 12.6.16 Sunday Skating**
  - 12.6.17 Exterior vending machine/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC**



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

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

**In-Person/Remote Meeting**

---

**12.6.18 Limousine/livery license/chair cars with police approval**

**13. Motions and Orders:**

**13.1 Order to authorize payment of bills of previous years and to further authorize the payment from current year departmental appropriations as listed:** 23I

Vendor	Amount	Account
Verizon	\$1,503.82	Information Technology
National Grid	\$432.27	Highway Department
National Grid	\$42.67	Highway Department
Total: \$1,978.76		

*Motion by Vice President Jordan, Second by Councilor Lewandowski.  
Yeas 9, nays 0, 2 absent (McGonagle-note he left the meeting, LePage) Passed*

**Ordinances (File 10 Days)**

**14. Communications from Councilors:**

**14.1 Councilor Michitson requests to address how education and work integration can help lower absenteeism in Haverhill Public Schools and help businesses with worker shortage.** 12W

Councilor Michitson started with an introduction of a saying from John Wooden a former UCLA basketball coach. He has 10 NCAA championships in 12 years. "Young people need models, not critics". I want to talk about how this relates to me. My true passion was to be an NCAA basketball coach, that started in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Nettle. John Wooden was my role model. In retrospect I would have benefited from multiply role models and career connected learning. I ultimately chose electrical engineering and community service due to family upbringing and high demand. Unfortunately, many students do not have advocates like parents were for me. Career connected learning can enable a student to find more purpose and interest in the classroom. Data shows it reduces absenteeism and other positive impacts. Both Haverhill High and Whittier Tech have excellent career technical education programs that also prepare students for college. Whittier Tech has highly sought after vocational programs all aimed at integrating learning and future work. Data shows far too many students are unable to attain access to training or information about the careers. He read minutes from two different meetings on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> that were held with the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, HP3, manufacturing companies and the City Council met separately with the superintendents with public schools and also Whittier Vo-Tech along with their teams. 250 Haverhill students are on a waiting list to get into Whittier Tech. Together with the Massachusetts Department of Education stipulation that Haverhill High cannot provide same vocational classes makes it a crisis for students seeking vocational training. I thought it was impressive that both superintendents want to address these issues within their purview and to collaborate as needed. Whittier Tech tries to mitigate the shortage of full times seats with part-time alternatives. Un-employed and under employed adults are also eligible. Whittier also partners with other organizations, where Whittier teaches welding and the non-profit provides language classes; MakeIt Haverhill supports and leverages these programs. Even though 250 kids are on a waiting list there are other paths that are available. Haverhill High is willing to be creative in finding the best career and training for students. They



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

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

---

can extend partnerships with industry, career fairs. Manufacturing companies say it would be great to get kids interested in some of the positions. HP3 was cited for their help in bridging the gap between businesses and schools. The biggest challenge is to find a way to address the disparity between Haverhill High, required to take in all students and Whittier Tech can select students. This is not disparage Whittier but data shows that those with high needs are not getting vocational seats. I think these schools need to be student centric without organizational boundaries. I move to hold a planning and development meeting with a broad cross section of key section of stake holder from all three levels of government, academia, public education leaders, school committee leaders, students, guardians, industry, local businesses, community and non-profits. The goals would be career awareness, discovery of opportunities to gain the skills to pursue desired jobs and barriers students and families face. How do we better help those 250 students on the list.

President Sullivan stated thank you. You made a motion to further address this matter on how education and work integration can help lower absenteeism in Haverhill Public Schools and seconded by Vice President Jordan.

*Motion by Councilor Michitson, Second by Vice President Jordan.*

Vice President Jordan stated Councilor Michitson is a strong advocate for vocational learning and I am glad you pointed out there are a lot of opportunities we do as a community and continue to raise awareness of opportunities that do exist. I agree that there needs to be an interest and if you are not at the school you want to be at its basically a waste of time. I don't know where we stand today of the future of Whittier Tech possibly being at Northern Essex Community College and if that does come to fruition, I would hope it would include an increased enrollment.

Councilor Michitson stated the state is looking at options, 1. Is to incorporate a lottery system. However, that is not a good long-term solution. It's pathetic that it took so long to see how unfair this system really is. Department of Education should take a look at, this day in age limiting to what the high school can do. There are some solutions that won't require major legislation.

President Sullivan stated we have a motion and a second to send this to Planning and Development.

*Motion by Councilor Michitson, Second by Vice President Jordan.*

*Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 (McGonagle- note he left the meeting, LePage) Passed*

**15. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting**

**15.1 Document 11-H Ordinance re: Vehicles and traffic – delete handicap parking at 34 Fountain Street and add handicap parking at 2 Abbott Street – filed 9/26/24**

*Motion by Vice President Jordan, Second by Councilor Rogers*

*Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 (McGonagle-note he left the meeting, LePage) Passed*

**15.2 Document 13-K: White cane awareness day proclamation – October 15, 2024 – postponed from 10/1/24**





**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

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

---

Councilor Rogers read the proclamation from the Mayor's Office.

*Councilor Rogers made a motion to receive and place this proclamation on file. Second by Vice President Jordan.*

*Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 (McGonagle-note he left the meeting, LePage) Passed*

Mayor Barrett gave a copy of the proclamation to Dana a member of our Disability Commission.

**16. Resolutions and Proclamations**

**16.1 Mayor Barrett submits Proclamation to declare September 15 to October 15, 2024, as  
Hispanic Heritage month 13L**

Councilor Basiliere read the proclamation from the Mayor's Office.

*Councilor Basiliere made a motion to receive and place this proclamation on file. Second by Toohey.*

*Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 (McGonagle-note he left the meeting, LePage) Passed*

**17. Council Committee reports and announcements**

**18. Documents referred to committee study**

**19. Long Term Matters Study List**

**20. Adjourn:**

*Vice President Jordan motioned to adjourn. Second by Councilor Rogers*

*Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 (McGonagle-note he left the meeting, LePage)*

*Passed Adjourn: 21:07*