



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 7:00 PM**

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

**In-Person/Remote Meeting**

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

Remote: Councilors Hobbs Everett and Basiliere

Absent: None

City Clerk: Kaitlin M. Wright

**1. OPENING PRAYER**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

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

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

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

PRESIDENT SULLIVAN ASSIGNED THE MINUTES TO COUNCILOR FERREIRA

10.3. Doc 57 of 2022 - 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

*Request by applicant to continue hearing to December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting*

**President Sullivan opened the hearing for the purpose of continuing the hearing.**

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE TO CONTINUE TO DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED TO CONTINUE TO DECEMBER 2, 2025

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

**5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

5.1. Mayor Barrett wishes to announce that the City of Haverhill, Chief Financial Officer Angel Perkins, and Mayor Barrett have been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the City's FY26 Budget

94-T

Mayor Barrett and Councilor Lewandowski recognized Angel Perkins and presented her with official citations in honor of her contributions to the city's FY26 budget.

6.1 Vice President Jordan wishes to introduce and recognize the Haverhill High School Girls' Swim & Dive team upon completing their very successful season that included their first MVC Championship in 30 years and the school's first ever North Sectional Championship

95-G

Mayor Barrett and Vice President Jordan recognized the individuals, the coach, and the team, presenting them with citations for their outstanding achievements this year.

5.2. Mayor Barrett submits an order to designate the position of Special Counsel retained to provide legal advice as a Special Municipal Employee

94-U



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- 5.2.1. Order – that the position of Special Counsel for legal advice regarding the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical District Agreement is designated as a Special Municipal Employee of the City of Haverhill in accordance with G.L. c. 268A, § 17

Mayor Barrett addressed the council. She informed the council since Mead, Talerman and Costa represent other communities the city needs to hire special counsel to provide legal advice in reviewing the regional school agreement. Councilor Lewandowski questioned the hourly rate and total cost. She requested to continue until information was received.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI TO CONTINUE TO DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED TO CONTINUE TO DECEMBER 2, 2025

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 5.3. Mayor Barrett submits an order for the City Council to accept a \$1,000.00 gift as follows:

- 5.4. Order - that the City Council on behalf of the City votes to accept a gift of \$1,000.00 for the *Happy Rides* program at the Citizens Center from the Breakfast Exchange Club of Greater Haverhill, to be used by the Council on Aging Department

35-U

Mayor Barrett thanked the Breakfast Exchange Club of Greater Haverhill for their generous donation.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 5.5. Mayor Barrett submits an order for the City Council to accept donations as follows:

- 5.6. Order - that the City Council on behalf of the City votes to accept the following donations for the Holiday Luncheon at the Citizens Center, to be used by the Council on Aging Department:

35-V

\$250.00	Breakfast Exchange Club of Haverhill
\$250.00	Lowell Five Savings Bank
\$100.00	Scared Hearts Parish
\$25.00	Father John Delaney
\$500.00	Haverhill Bank
\$75.00	Atwood Memorial Inc.
\$200.00	Wingate Residences at Haverhill

Mayor Barrett thanked all the listed for their generous donation.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0



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5.7 Mayor Barrett submits an ordinance to amend the Code of City by adding a new section: §189-16 Sex Offenders

5.6.1. Ordinance Relating to Sex Offenders; Amend Chapter 189 by adding the following: §189-16 Sex Offenders

File 10 Days

94-V

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

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

6.1. Moved to beginning of agenda

95-G

**7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- REQUESTS UNDER COUNCIL RULE 28**

**8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:**

8.1. EROM-25-18; John Pettis, *City Engineer*, requests permission to open the following street: 59-O

8.1.1. Order- permission to excavate at 8 Shapleigh Ave for the installation of new sewer and water line

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

8.2. EROM-25-19; John Pettis, *City Engineer*, requests permission to open the following street: 59-P

8.2.1. Order- permission to excavate on 34 Arlington St for the installation of new 2" fire service

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

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

9.1. Petition from *National Grid* of North Andover, requesting a single pole location on Washington St - WR# 31211878 Hearing December 16, 2025 99-H

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

9.2. Petition from *National Grid* of North Andover, requesting joint pole location on Broadway - WR# 31189058 Hearing December 16, 2025 99-I

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0



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9.3. Petition from *National Grid* and *Verizon*, requesting joint pole location on Carleton St - WR# 31188492                      Hearing December 16, 2025                      99-J

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

9.4. Petition from *National Grid* and *Verizon*, request joint pole location on W. Rochambault St - WR#31201165                      Hearing December 16, 2025                      99-K

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

9.5. Petition from *National Grid* and *Verizon*, requesting joint pole location on Smith St - WR#31193114                      Hearing December 16, 2025                      99-L

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

9.6. Petition from *National Grid* and *Verizon*, requesting a joint pole location on Clydedale Ave - WR#31192816                      Hearing December 16, 2025                      99-M

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

10.2 Doc 99-F - Petition from *National Grid* of North Andover, requesting the installation of underground facilities at Washington St WR# 31167976 99-F

**President Sullivan opened the hearing.**

Brian Sathler, National Grid, 1101 Turnpike Street addressed the council. He stated I am here requesting the installation of 40' of conduit, secondary conduit which will be going underground. This will be on Washington Street. It will be from handhold B15 and it will service a building there.

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

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

**President Sullivan closed the hearing.**

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

12.3.1 EVNT-25-32; Nicholas Disalvo for Boston Boxing Promotions requests to hold Thanksgiving Eve Boxing Spectacular event on November 26<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 11PM at the Haverhill High School gymnasium at



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137 Monument Street

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Nicholas Disalvo addressed the council. He stated the event will be held the night before Thanksgiving and Nicky Tejeda will be boxing.

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

**10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:**

**10.1. *Tax Assessor*, Christine Webb, requests to present the **Tax Classification Hearing for FY 2026****

108

Chris Webb, City Assessor, addressed the council. She noted she was joined by Roy Wright and Steve Gullo of the Board of Assessors and also to the opportunity to thank her staff. She stated she submitted her work to the Department of Revenue for this interim valuation year and they have thoroughly reviewed and approved our new values and growth and has given us the go ahead to conduct tonight's public hearing in conformance with the requirements of Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982. She noted that tonight the council will be asked to vote on six separate items. **She shared her PowerPoint presentation.**

**President Sullivan asked if anyone would like to speak on this matter?**

Katie Cook, President of the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce addressed the council. She would like the council to maintain the 165 commercial tax rate, so the city can stay competitive in attracting businesses. She noted that only 9% of the tax base comes from commercial properties, and she stressed that growing this sector is essential for long term tax relief for residents and economic stability.

**President Sullivan asked if anyone would like to speak on this matter?**

Mayor Barrett addressed the council. She noted that the single-family tax rate increase will be lower than expected. She asked the council to consider a small shift to ease the burden on the homeowners, while expressing concerns about the shrinking commercial/industrial and potential future housing market decline.

**MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO KEEP THE RATE AT 165, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE**

Vice President Jordan opened the discussion by emphasizing the city's heavily unbalanced tax base, with 88.2% residential and 11.8% commercial, noting that businesses already pay 65% more for the same property value and that meaningful tax relief will ultimately require commercial growth. He also reported that the average residential tax bill will decrease this year and moved to keep the tax rate at 165, seconded by Councilor LePage. Councilor Basiliere supported the 165 rate, citing a 95-97% occupancy in the Ward Hill business park and a 21% decrease in crime. Councilor McGonagle encouraged strengthening support for local businesses and volunteered to assist with planning efforts. Councilor Toohey agreed with the economic data but stressed growing affordability challenges, suggesting a smaller tax increase and noting that tax hikes on landlords ultimately fall on renters. Councilor Michitson highlighted the importance of attracting jobs given Massachusetts' high business costs and pointed to 40 acres in Ward Hill as a key opportunity; he supported the 165 rate and noted that major apartment complexes are taxed at the residential rate. Councilor Lewandowski stated she would not support 165, citing the need for immediate relief for struggling residents. Councilor LePage reiterated the importance of maintaining a stable rate to retain businesses. Councilor Hobbs Everett stated that broader, more inclusive economic strategies beyond tax rate



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adjustments are necessary for growth. Councilor Rogers opposed 165 and preferred a rate of 170 to provide residents with greater relief. Councilor Ferreira supported 165, emphasizing predictable budgeting, storefront revitalization, and rent-stabilizing initiatives. President Sullivan concluded by stating he did not support 165 and would have preferred offering more relief to the residential class.

10.1.1. Order- That the residential factor for fiscal year  
of 2026 be adopted as: \_\_

108-B

***MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO KEEP THE RATE AT 165, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE***

President Sullivan stated I think we should go with the motion that was made by Vice President Jordan and seconded by Councilor LePage to go to the 165 which would actually be .9131. City Clerk would you please call the roll at keeping the rate at .9131 which is 165.

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

PASSED

YEAS 6, NAYS 5, ABSENT 0

10.1.2. Order-That the City shall adopt a commercial exemption

108-C

***MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO APPROVE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN***

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-no, Councilor Basiliere-no, Councilor Hobbs Everett-no, Councilor Michitson-no, Councilor Ferreira-no, Councilor Lewandowski-no, Councilor Toohey-no, Councilor McGonagle-no, Councilor LePage-no, Councilor Rogers-no, President Sullivan-no

DOES NOT PASS

YEAS 0, NAYS 11, ABSENT 0

10.1.3. Order- That the City shall adopt a residential exemption

108-D

***MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE***

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-no, Councilor Basiliere-no, Councilor Hobbs Everett-no, Councilor Michitson-no, Councilor Ferreira-no, Councilor Lewandowski-no, Councilor Toohey-no, Councilor McGonagle-no, Councilor LePage-no, Councilor Rogers-no, President Sullivan-no

DOES NOT PASS

YEAS 0, NAYS 11, ABSENT 0

10.1.4. Order- That the City shall select an open space discount factor

108-E

***MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO APPROVE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN***

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-no, Councilor Basiliere-no, Councilor Hobbs Everett-no, Councilor Michitson-no, Councilor Ferreira-no, Councilor Lewandowski-no, Councilor Toohey-no, Councilor McGonagle-no, Councilor LePage-no, Councilor Rogers-no, President Sullivan-no



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**DOES NOT PASS**

**YEAS 0, NAYS 11, ABSENT 0**

10.1.5. Order- That the City Council of the City of Haverhill hereby accepts the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses 17D and 41C with respect to permanent acceptance of the annual C.P.I. (Consumer Price Index) increase to the tax exemption for the elderly 108-F

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-no, Councilor Basiliere-no, Councilor Hobbs Everett-no, Councilor Michitson-no, Councilor Ferreira-no, Councilor Lewandowski-no, Councilor Toohey-no, Councilor McGonagle-no, Councilor LePage-no, Councilor Rogers-no, President Sullivan-no

**DOES NOT PASS**

**YEAS 0, NAYS 11, ABSENT 0**

10.1.6. Order- That the City Council accept 100% of the C.P.I. increase reported by the State for FY2026 Exemptions. The 2026 C.P.I. amount is 2.9% 108-G

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-yes, Councilor Basiliere-yes, Councilor Hobbs Everett-yes, Councilor Michitson-yes, Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor Toohey-yes, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-yes, President Sullivan-yes

**PASSED**

**YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0**

10.2. Moved to beginning of agenda 99-F

10.3. Moved to beginning of agenda

**11.APPOINTMENTS:**

11.1. **Confirming Appointments:**

11.2. **Non-Confirming Appointments:**

11.3. **Constables**

11.4. **Resignations**

**12.PETITIONS:**

12.1. Doc 97 - SPFL-25-3; JT Couch for Creek Brook CML requesting to store 19,000 gallons of Class IIIB edible shortening oil in an above ground storage tank and 12,700 gallons of Class II diesel fuel in above ground storage tanks

Hearing December 2, 2025

City Clerk Wright noted the hearing is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a hearing that had been previously scheduled by the council but the applicant has increased their storage capacity for diesel fuel, so we are required to reannounce and readvertise and renotify the abutters.

President Sullivan stated the hearing will be December 16<sup>th</sup>.



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MOTION BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.2. **Applications Handicap Parking Sign:** *with Police approval*
- 12.3. **Amusement/Event Application:** *with Police approval*
  - 12.3.1 Moved to beginning of agenda
- 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**
    - 12.7.1.1. Michael Fraser of Scarlet Fire BBQ to sell food at Winnekenni Area/Route 110, 1 Castle Road; from 10 am to 4 pm (seasonal) 109

MOTION BY COUNCILOR VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 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 for 2024: 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 previous years and authorize payment from current year departmental appropriations as listed: 10-L

Vendor	Amount	Account
National Grid	\$ 8,367.58	Library
National Grid	\$ 6,903.97	Library
CBIZ	\$ 10,000.00	Auditor's
Registry of Deeds	\$ 945.00	Engineering
Ben's Uniforms	\$ 349.00	Police Dept.
Delta Beckwith	\$ 587.00	Building Dept.
Riverside Veterinary Clinic	\$ 120.75	Police Dept.
Riverside Veterinary Clinic	\$ 40.25	Police Dept.
Riverside Veterinary Clinic	\$ 47.75	Police Dept.
Riverside Veterinary Clinic	\$ 47.75	Police Dept.
Riverside Veterinary Clinic	\$40.25	Police Dept.
Riverside Veterinary Clinic	\$ 80.75	Police Dept.
Riverside Veterinary Clinic	\$ 40.25	Police Dept.
Riverside Veterinary Clinic	\$ 40.25	Police Dept.
Gone Green Electric	\$ 1,180.43	IT
Gone Green Electric	\$ 824.75	IT
		<b>TOTAL - \$29,615.73</b>

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

**14.ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS):**

**15.COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS:**

**16.UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEEDING MEETING:**

**17.RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:**

**18.COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- President Sullivan noted the 61<sup>st</sup> annual VFW Santa Parade is this Sunday at 1PM

**19.DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY:**

**20.LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST:**

**ADJOURN:**

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0 **ADJOURNED: 21:06**