



City of Amesbury
Office of the City Clerk
62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2022
Virtual
7:00 PM

City Council President Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Councilor Stanganelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, and present were Councilor Hogg, Councilor Frey, Councilor Lennon, Councilor Stanganelli, Councilor Deschenes, Councilor Hickok, and Councilor Wheeler.

Councilor Rinaldi and Councilor Mandeville were absent.

President Wheeler reported the passing of former Councilor-At-Large Allen Neale (2008-2013) and asked for a moment of silence.

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Minutes for approval

April 12, 2022

**Councilor Lennon moved to approve the minutes of April 12, 2022. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 4-0-3 (Councilors Stanganelli, Deschenes and Frey abstained).**

May 10, 2022

**Councilor Lennon moved to approve the minutes of May 10, 2022. Councilor Hickok seconded, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0-2 (Councilor Stanganelli and Councilor Deschenes abstained).**

- Councilor Deschenes stated that he would be abstaining from voting during this meeting as he was unable to review the backup materials on matters being discussed this evening.

Councilor Rinaldi joined the meeting at 7:10pm

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Mayoral Appointments

No submissions.

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Licenses and Permits

No submissions.

Correspondence

President/Vice President Communications:

- President Wheeler reminded councilors that bill 2022-001 FY23 Budget is scheduled for a public hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council to be held on June 14, 2022, that there is a meeting of the Ad Hoc Budget Committee immediately after this meeting tonight, the AES School Building Committee will have its monthly meeting on May 26, 2022 at 6pm, and that councilors are invited to the graduation ceremonies for Amesbury High School, June 3, 2022 at 7pm, and Amesbury Innovation High School taking place on June 10, 2022 at 5:30pm.
- Councilor Lennon stated that she and Sheila Beach, of the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce, will be planting flowers in the City Council's Adopt -A-Spot outside City Hall this weekend. Councilor Lennon invited her fellow councilors to join her.

Communications from Elected Officials, Boards, and Commissions:

- No matters were discussed

Communications from Elected Officials, Boards, and Commissions:

- Councilor Stanganelli read the poem "America is a Gun" and offered his thoughts and prayers for the victims and families of the Uvalde, Texas shooting.

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Public Comment

- No public comments were offered.

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Public Hearings

**2022-057** An Order to authorize the mayor to participate in the 2022 LEED for Cities Local Government Leadership Program – Mayor sponsor

- Councilor Lennon read the summary of the bill.
- City Clerk Haggstrom read the Planning & Development Committee's favorable recommendation.
- Councilor Frey read the Ordinance & Administration Committee's favorable recommendation.
- Councilor Hickok stated the item was not included on the Budget & Finance Committee's agenda, so no action was taken.

**Councilor Rinaldi offered a motion to discharge the item from the Budget & Finance Committee. Councilor Lennon seconded, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 6-0-2 (Councilor Stanganelli and Councilor Deschenes abstained).**

- Councilor Wheeler opened and closed the public hearing.
- Councilor Stanganelli noted under program fees there is an \$8,000 potential cost and further expressed his surprise that this matter was not heard before the Budget & Finance Committee. Councilor Stanganelli asked if someone from the administration could explain how these funds are to be handled in the future, and why this matter is being reviewed now when the deadline to commit was March 31, 2022.

- Ann Marie Casey, Chief of Staff, responded that it is her understanding that there is no cost this year. There will be an expense for recertification next year and the program will be brought back to the City Council for reevaluation at that time. The approval letter for this program was issued in between council deadline filings. It was addressed at the Ordinance Committee level earlier.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked if the council could receive a detailed report from the Ordinance Committee showing that an extension to commit was allowed.
- Councilor Rinaldi stated that Amesbury was one of 14 cities in the country that was selected for this program. There was an extension allowed because the city was not made aware of its being selected prior to the March deadline. There is no cost unless the city chooses to be re-certified.
- President Wheeler questioned whether re-certification will be done automatically.
- Ms. Casey responded that it is her belief that this will not be done automatically, and this matter will be revisited before re-certification.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated he did not receive an email with the backup documentation and questioned whether the materials have been uploaded in One Drive.
- Amanda Haggstrom, City Clerk, responded that nothing further than the original bill was submitted. Clerk Haggstrom further stated that Angie Cleveland, Director of Community & Economic Development, spoke before the Ordinance & Administration and Planning & Development subcommittees, but no additional back up material was presented.

**Councilor Lennon moved to approve bill 2022-057 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 6-1-1 (Councilor Stanganelli opposed and Councilor Deschenes abstained).**

**2022-058** An Order to transfer \$107,000 from Department of Public Works Salaries & Wages to Department of Public Works Other Expenses. -Mayor sponsor

- Councilor Lennon read the summary of the bill.
- Councilor Hickok read the Budget & Finance Committee's favorable recommendation.
- Councilor Wheeler opened and closed the public hearing.

**Councilor Lennon moved to approve bill 2022-058 as presented. Councilor Rinaldi seconded the motion.**

- Councilor Stanganelli stated that he does not foresee the vacant DPW positions being filled during such a tight labor market and it would seem the monies are being reallocated to the wrong department.
- Councilor Frey stated in the mayor's summary on page 22 of the proposed FY23 Budget, there is a bullet point stating that DPW is eliminating two positions as they have not been able to fill them. Councilor Frey questioned if this means the positions will not be filled.
- Marissa Baptista, City of Amesbury CFO, stated there are multiple positions that DPW has been unable to fill, but not all those positions have been removed from the FY23 Budget.

**The City Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 7-0-1 (Councilor Deschenes abstained).**

**2022-059** An Order to create five (5) new, permanent fifteen (15) minute parking spaces throughout downtown Amesbury. -Mayor sponsor

- Councilor Lennon read the summary of the bill.
- City Clerk Haggstrom read the Planning & Development Committee's favorable recommendation with the stipulation that the spot for Busy Bee be moved back in front of the open space where the fire hydrant is.
- Councilor Frey stated the Ordinance & Administration Committee's voted to continue the matter to their next regularly scheduled meeting. It was noted that the order should be revised to read as an ordinance.
- President Wheeler opened the public hearing.

**Councilor Lennon moved to continue the public hearing on bill 2022-059 to the June 28, 2022, City Council meeting. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0-1 (Councilor Deschenes abstained).**

**2022-060** An Order to request the City Council vote to authorize the mayor to enter into five-year or less lease purchase Agreements for the purchase of replacement copiers. -Mayor sponsor

- Councilor Lennon read the summary of the bill.
- Councilor Hickok read the Budget & Finance Committee's favorable recommendation.
- Councilor Wheeler opened and closed the public hearing.

**Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve bill 2022-060 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0-1 (Councilor Deschenes abstained).**

**2022-061** An Order to establish spending limits for departmental revolving funds pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L.c. 44, § 53E1/2. -Mayor sponsor

- Councilor Lennon read the summary of the bill.
- Councilor Hickok read the Budget & Finance Committee's favorable recommendation.
- Councilor Wheeler opened and closed the public hearing.

**Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve bill 2022-061 as presented. Councilor Lennon seconded, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0-1 (Councilor Deschenes abstained).**

**2022-063** An Order to authorize a transfer of \$179,953.50 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to Water Enterprise Operating Budget.

- Councilor Lennon read the summary of the bill.
- Councilor Hickok read the Budget & Finance Committee's favorable recommendation.
- Councilor Wheeler opened and closed the public hearing.
- Councilor Stanganelli questioned if there are any anticipated carbon changes that will need to be done again this year.
- Ms. Casey responded that it is her understanding that there is usually one carbon change per fiscal year, and it was an anomaly that there were two. There was a problem with the supplier and the change could not be done before the summer flows, resulting in two changes taking place in September. The city does not expect multiple carbon changes in FY23.

**Councilor Lennon moved to approve bill 2022-063 as presented. Councilor Hickok seconded, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0-1 (Councilor Deschenes abstained).**

- Councilor Stanganelli questioned why the City Council was still meeting remotely and asked when public meetings would be returning to in person.
  - President Wheeler responded that it is anticipated that the council will return to in person meetings at its next regularly scheduled meeting in June. Presently, several councilors either have Covid or have been exposed to Covid through family members. This evening's meeting was held virtually in order to have a quorum.
  - Councilor Deschenes questioned why the bill he sponsored regarding the exterior growth of cannabis was not included on this meeting's agenda.
  - President Wheeler stated that on May 10<sup>th</sup>, the City Council voted to send the bill to subcommittee and to order a public hearing for June.
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**Councilor Stanganelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM. Councilor Lennon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer E. Smith  
Assistant City Clerk