

City Council Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2022
7:00 PM

City Council President Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Councilor Mandeville led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, and present were Councilor Michael Hogg, Councilor Scott Mandeville, Councilor Peter Frey, Councilor Adrienne Lennon, Councilor Steven Stanganelli, Councilor Anthony Rinaldi, Councilor Roger Deschenes and Council President Nicholas Wheeler.

Also present: City Clerk Amanda Haggstrom, Asst. City Clerk Jennifer Smith

Councilor Jon Hickok absent.

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Minutes for approval

No minutes for approval.

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Mayoral Appointments

2022-088 Appointment of James Nolan as Interim Fire Chief for a term to expire October 29, 2022.

- President Wheeler noted for the record that this appointment was filed on June 29, 2022, and more than 21 days has elapsed since that date. In accordance with Section 2-3 of the City Charter, this appointment has already taken effect. The item is before the council tonight to give councilors the opportunity to be heard, and to give the appointee the opportunity to offer remarks.
- Chief James Nolan expressed his gratitude for his appointment as Fire Chief and the opportunity to serve the City of Amesbury since 1997 as a fire fighter.
- Councilor Lennon thanked Chief Nolan for his service to the city and for stepping up and accepting the role as its new Fire Chief.
- Councilor Deschenes commended the Chief for his professionalism and competency.

Councilor Lennon offered a motion to approve 2022-088 as presented. Councilor Stanganelli seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2022-090 Appointment of Craig Bailey to the position of Chief of Police

- President Wheeler noted for the record that this appointment was filed on July 20, 2022, and more than 21 days has elapsed since that date. In accordance with Section 2-3 of the City Charter, this appointment has already taken effect. The item is before the council tonight to give councilors the opportunity to be heard, and to give the appointee the opportunity to offer remarks.
- Chief Craig Bailey thanked the City Council members for their support.
- Councilor Lennon thanked Chief Bailey for his term as interim Chief of Police and for accepting the permanent appointment.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2022-090 as presented. Councilor Frey seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2022-091 Appointment of Arthur O'Dea to the position of member of the Lakes and Waterways Commission for a term to expire July 20, 2025.

- President Wheeler noted for the record that this appointment was filed on July 20, 2022, and more than 21 days has elapsed since that date. In accordance with Section 2-3 of the City Charter, this appointment has already taken effect. The item is before the council tonight to give councilors the opportunity to be heard, and to give the appointee the opportunity to offer remarks.
- Arthur O'Dea thanked the City Council members for their support.
- Councilor Lennon thanked Mr. O'Dea for his time and energy given to the Lakes and Waterways Commission.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2022-091 as presented. Councilor Lennon seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2022-092 Appointment of Jon Hickok to the position of Ad Hoc member of the Disposition Committee for a term relative to the Former Trader Alan's Parcel.

- President Wheeler noted for the record that this appointment was filed on July 26, 2022, and more than 21 days has elapsed since that date. In accordance with Section 2-3 of the City Charter, this appointment has already taken effect. The item is before the council tonight to give councilors the opportunity to be heard, and to give the appointee the opportunity to offer remarks. Councilor Hickok has been appointed as the District 1 representative to the Disposition Committee.

Councilor Lennon offered a motion to approve 2022-092 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2022-093 Appointment of Scott Kelley to the position of member of the Disposition Committee for a term to expire July 26, 2024.

- President Wheeler noted for the record that this appointment was filed on July 26, 2022, and more than 21 days has elapsed since that date. In accordance with Section 2-3 of the City Charter, this appointment has already taken effect. The item is before the council tonight to give councilors the opportunity to be heard, and to give the appointee the opportunity to offer remarks.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to approve 2022-093 as presented. Councilor Frey seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2022-094 Appointment of Angela Cleveland to the position of member of the Disposition Committee for a term to expire July 26, 2024.

- President Wheeler noted for the record that this appointment was filed on July 26, 2022, and more than 21 days has elapsed since that date. In accordance with Section 2-3 of the City Charter, this appointment has already taken effect. The item is before the council tonight to give councilors the opportunity to be heard, and to give the appointee the opportunity to offer remarks.
- Councilor Deschenes thanked Ms. Cleveland for all she does for the city.

Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to approve 2022-094 as presented. Councilor Hogg seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2022-095 Appointment of Katelyn Lemieux to the position of member of the Amesbury Housing Trust for a term to expire April 30, 2024.

- Katelyn Lemieux gave a brief description of her current and prior housing experience and thanked the City Council members for their consideration.

- President Wheeler stated that the council has been presented with a replacement bill which corrects a spelling error.
- Councilor Lennon thanked Ms. Lemieux for her time and energy.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated that he is looking forward to working with Ms. Lemieux on the Amesbury Housing Trust Committee.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to accept the revision to bill 2022-095 as presented. Councilor Lennon seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to accept amended bill 2022-095 as presented. Councilor Lennon seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2022-096 Appointment of Anne Ferguson to the position of member of the Healthcare Trust Commission for a term to expire August 9, 2025.

- Councilor Deschenes stated that the community is fortunate to have someone like Anne Ferguson serve the city.
- President Wheeler spoke in favor of the appointment.

Councilor Rinaldi offered a motion to approve 2022-096 as presented. Councilor Deschenes seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.

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Late Files:

**2022-97** Reappointment of Michael Jewell to the position of member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire August 17, 2025.

**Councilor Mandeville offered a motion to suspend rule 5D to accept the late file 2022-097 as presented. Councilor Lennon seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.**

- Michael Jewell stated that he is looking forward to serving for the next three years.
- Councilor Lennon recognized that Mr. Jewell is also now a member of the board of directors for the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners and offered her congratulations.

**Councilor Lennon offered a motion to approve 2022-097 as presented. Councilor Frey seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.**

The City Council took a brief recess at 7:23 PM for the City Clerk to swear in the approved appointees.

The meeting resumed at 7:28 PM.

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Licenses and Permits

None presented

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Correspondence

President/Vice President Communications:

- President Wheeler informed the members of the City Council that he had received correspondence from Councilor Deschenes requesting he be removed from the Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee due to a reoccurring scheduling conflict. President

Wheeler stated that he has appointed Councilor Hogg as Councilor Deschenes's replacement. President Wheeler thanked both Councilor Deschenes for his work with the committee and Councilor Hogg for stepping up as his replacement.

**Councilor Lennon offered a motion to approve the updated Addendum L as presented. Councilor Mandeville seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.**

- President Wheeler stated that he recently attended a ribbon cutting for the Maples Crossing Learning Center and offered his congratulations for its completion of Phase 1. President Wheeler further informed the members of the City Council that he had received letters of resignation from Steve Thiel from the Conservation Commission, as well as letters of resignation from the three members of the City's Board of Assessors, Bradford Swanson, Mary Marino and Michelle Branciforte. President Wheeler stated that while these are not City Council appointments, he wanted to express his thanks to those individuals for their service on behalf of the city.
- Councilor Lennon thanked President Wheeler for the Council's extended summer break.

Communications from Elected Officials, Boards, and Commissions:

- President Wheeler read a memo from Councilor Hickok regarding the Traffic and Transportation Committee's recent recommendations. President Wheeler added that he received a supplement from Councilor Hickok to his earlier memo in which he wrote "Mr. Councilor President, the last Traffic and Transportation meeting resulted in 3 recommendations in District 1. Two are regulatory and require Council review and approval. The third motion involves median and crosswalk signage that has been ordered. President Wheeler stated that Councilor Hickok serves as City Council Representative for District 1 and serves as the council representative on the Traffic and Transportation Committee. President Wheeler further stated that the Merrimack River District consultants provided a list of short- and long-term measures to mitigate problems that the Traffic and Transportation Committee has been addressing for years. President Wheeler encouraged anyone wanting more information to reach out to Councilor Hickok.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked for clarification on the status of the Traffic and Transportation Committee (TTC), and under whose authority it still exists as it is not a subcommittee of the City Council. Councilor Stanganelli further stated that the TTC is not listed on Addendum L that was voted on earlier in the meeting.
- President Wheeler responded that there is a City Ordinance that creates the Traffic and Transportation Committee, and it is anticipated that this committee will be restructured and folded into the Planning & Development Committee, and until that happens, the TTC is a constituted board, and Councilor Hickok has not been removed from that committee. The TTC's recommendations are advisory and would need to be sponsored by a council member, or the mayor, to be placed on the City Council agenda.

Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports:

- Councilor Stanganelli announced that the Amesbury Housing Trust met on August 10, 2022, and there were a lot of comments regarding the City's disposition of the properties located on Cynthia Lane from abutters. The committee voted to recommend the matter be moved forward with a Disposition Committee to discuss options. The Housing Trust also finalized acceptance of funds from the North Shore Consortium that have helped fund the emergency rental assistance program.

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Public Comment

- John Stevenson, 439 Main St., expressed his concerns regarding traffic in the Merrimack River district.
- John Curtin, 3 Rocky Hill Rd., expressed his concerns regarding traffic on Rocky Hill Rd.
- Tracy Chalifour, 24 Clarks Rd., asked what the process is for the Traffic and Transportation Committee to file its minutes and how do all the subcommittees' and advisory committees' information all come together at the council level.

Council Response to Public Comment

- President Wheeler stated that the Traffic and Transportation Committee (TTC) is an advisory committee, and their recommendations must be properly sponsored to become a bill. While there is no bill currently before the Council regarding the Merrimack River District, the Mayor and Councilor Hickok are working on creating one based on the committee's proposed recommendations. President Wheeler stated that with regards to Cynthia Lane and similar bills, the City Council makes their final decisions based on the culmination of all recommendations received on a matter from various subcommittees. One subcommittee recommendation does not necessarily affect the City Council's final decision.
 - Councilor Stanganelli stated the Housing Trust informed the City Council that they would like to see Bill 2022-087 sent to a Disposition Committee. A Disposition Committee has not yet been established.
 - Councilor Lennon acknowledged the concerns and frustrations of the residents of the Point Shore community with regards to traffic.
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First Readings

2022-089 Warrant for September 6, 2022, State Primary Election.

- Councilor Lennon read the September 6, 2002, State Primary Election Warrant for the record.
- President Wheeler noted for the record the word "Lieutenant" is missing a "u" and the City Clerk has already made that correction.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated that the city has two districts for representative and questioned if the word "district" should be changed to the plural "districts" on the warrant.

The City Council recessed at 8:04 pm.

The meeting resumed at 8:16 PM

The City Clerk provided the council members with an updated warrant reflecting the requested changes.

- Councilor Stanganelli questioned for the record when the city will be submitting changes to the state reflecting that it has Wards instead of Precincts, as required by the Secretary of State for municipalities operating as cities.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to substitute the original warrant 2022-089 with the revised version correcting the typographical errors, as provided by the City Clerk. Councilor Mandeville seconded and said motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Councilor Stanganelli offered a motion to accept the amended warrant 2022-089 as presented. Councilor Frey seconded and said motion passed unanimously 8-0.

Councilor Lennon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM. Councilor Rinaldi seconded and said motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer E. Smith
Assistant City Clerk