



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES –**

**Tuesday, September 15, at 7:00 PM**

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

**In-Person/Remote Meeting: <https://meet.google.com/tgx-adkt-yto>**

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

Remote: None

Absent: None

City Clerk: Kaitlin M. Wright-Esposito

**1. OPENING PRAYER**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

COUNCILOR SULLIVAN STATED HE REVIEWED THE MINUTES AND FINDS THEM IN ORDER, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

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

PRESIDENT JORDAN ASSIGNED THE MINUTES TO COUNCILOR FERREIRA

**5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

5.1. Mayor Barrett wishes to introduce Robert Ward, Director of Water/ Wastewater to provide an update on the Drought Emergency 32-0

Mayor Barrett addressed the council. She stated the city has fallen into the critical zone. Robert Ward addressed the council. He presented a PowerPoint presentation.

Bob Ward updated the Council on the ongoing drought, noting that Kenoza Lake is at its lowest level since 1995 and that water restrictions have significantly reduced usage. Vice President Michitson asked about connecting to Methuen. Mr. Ward stated that the City needs the additional water supply, but Methuen is awaiting DEP approval to change its treatment chemicals, with a response expected by the end of October. Councilor Toohey asked about recovery and whether an outside engineering review would be beneficial. Mr. Ward stated that several months of above-average rainfall would be needed for recovery and that he would discuss an engineering review with the Mayor. Councilor Basiliere noted that water usage has decreased over the past 10 years due to leak detection, plumbing upgrades and conservation efforts. Councilor Diodati asked about the proposed Methuen connection. Mr. Ward stated that approximately 400 feet of temporary pipe would be required and that rates had been discussed but not finalized. Councilor Ferreira asked about water usage tracking. Mr. Ward stated that usage is reported to DEP and that Haverhill generally remains below the state's 10% benchmark for unaccounted-for water. Councilor Lewandowski asked about additional restrictions and tiered rates. Mr. Ward stated that all nonessential outdoor water use would be prohibited effective the following day and that tiered rates would require further analysis. President Jordan emphasized the importance of conservation and noted that the drought is affecting the region.

Michael Jacobs (Amesbury Road) expressed concern that residents may feel unfairly targeted by the water restrictions while businesses and other high-volume users continue to use significant amounts of water. Councilors McGonagle and Basiliere responded regarding the need for the restrictions. President Jordan stated that all residents are affected and expressed support for Mr. Ward's efforts.

Chris Heywood (2 Fairview Farm Road) questioned the timing and cost of using a temporary connection and purchasing water from Methuen. Mr. Ward cited water chemistry issues, limited supply and insufficient flow into Millvale Reservoir. President Jordan stated that the matter would be better discussed with Mr. Ward at a later date.



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MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI TO HAVE BOB WARD CONSULT THE WATER/WASTEWATER FINANCIAL COMPANY REGARDING TIERED PRICING AND REPORT BACK TO US IN 4 WEEKS AS TO IMPACT OF TIERED PRICING ON WATER CONSERVATION, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE  
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

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

6.1. Councilors Lewandowski, LePage, Toohey, and Basiliere wish to recognize President Craig Bourgeois and Immediate Past President Suzanne Gates of the *Haverhill Exchange Club* for being honored with the prestigious “Big E Award”, the Exchange Club’s highest national honor earned by very strict service, education, and auditing criteria 5-t

Mayor Barrett and the City Council presented citations and offered congratulations.

6.2. President Jordan and Councilors LePage and Ferreira request to introduce members of the *Haverhill Community Playground* to provide an update on the progress and status of the project 5-u

Karina Larson, Brittney Safi, Caroline Pineau, and Christopher Harry addressed the Council and presented a PowerPoint on the proposed 7,000-square-foot playground. Larson stated the group of parents is seeking skilled and unskilled volunteers to assist with construction. Councilors commended their efforts and encouraged residents to volunteer.

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

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

8.1. Chris Loughnane, *City Assessor*, announces FY2027 Tax Classification hearing for November 17, 2026 42-a

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY  
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

8.2. Chris Loughnane, *City Assessor*, submits monthly abatement report for the month of August 3-p

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI  
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

8.3. **FROM-26-20-** Lisa DeMeo, *City Engineer*, requests approval to open the roadway to allow for a gas leak repair at 628 Main St, which requires National Grid to excavate in the right of way



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8.4.Order- Approve request to excavate at 628 Main St

23-r

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

8.5.**EROM- 26-21-** Lisa DeMeo, *City Engineer*, requests approval to open the roadway to allow for a gas leak repair at 1 Macon Ave, which requires National Grid to excavate in the right of way

8.6.Order- Approve request to excavate at 1 Macon Ave

23-s

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

8.7.**EROM- 26-22-** Lisa DeMeo, *City Engineer*, requests approval to open the roadway to allow for a gas cut off at the main due to exposed plastic at 36 Arlington St, which requires National Grid to excavate in the right of way

8.8.Order- Approve request to excavate at 36 Arlington St

23-t

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

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

9.1. **Doc 7-J** - Petition from National Grid and Verizon, requesting a joint pole location for Emerson St WR#31224561

**President Jordan opened the hearing.**

Dave Boucher, National Grid, 1101 Turnpike Street, North Andover addressed the council. He stated there is new construction at 94 Emerson Street. He stated this company is requesting 3 phase power. He noted the one pole there is already being used.

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

**President Jordan asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition.**

Al Perreira (Smith Street) addressed the council. He commented that there a lot of poles that are being attached to other poles throughout the city and we should start looking into that.

Dave Boucher clarified that this request is to add one new pole, while removal of the existing pole is a separate process that may take weeks to months. He noted that each utility is allotted a specific timeframe for transferring to the new pole and that the City and Towns share a program with the Fire Department tracking the transfer schedule.

**President Jordan closed the hearing.**

Councilor Sullivan stated it makes a lot of sense what Al said. He noted we should look into it.



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MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR FERREIRA

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

**10. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:**

- 10.1. **Doc 21-J- CCSP-26-7** –Matt Silva for Sterling Commonwealth Builders requests approval to demolish existing single-family residence and construct three (3) attached townhouse condominium units on a single parcel at 27 Marshland St in the RH (Residential High) Zone. Each unit is proposed to contain three (3) bedrooms, 2 and one-half bathrooms, and an attached two-car garage

*Related communication from applicant requesting to continue hearing until October 6, 2026*

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR BASILIERE

PASSED TO CONTINUE TO 10/6/26

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 10.2. **Doc 21-A - CCSP-26-1**; Jony Perez of Davinci Mini Apartments, LLC and Davinci Child Center, LLC requesting to convert a currently unoccupied building to a daycare program on first floor (allowed by right in Zoning Code) and 12 apartments units (six two-bedrooms and six one-bedrooms) on the top three floors at 121 Merrimack St in the Waterfront (WD-C) District

*Related communication from applicant requesting to withdraw the special permit application and related communication from the Planning Board*

**Continued from July 14, 2026**

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO WITHDRAW, SECOND BY COUNCILOR FERREIRA

PASSED TO WITHDRAW

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0, ABSTENTION 1 (MCGONAGLE)

- 10.3. **Doc 21-B** - Planning Director, Jacki Byerley, requests a hearing for the following Zoning Amendment – Battery Energy Storage Systems Ordinance: re: Amend Chapter 255 Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map – Battery Energy Storage Systems Overlay District (BESS)– by inserting a new section 7.9 Battery Energy Storage Systems, amending section 3.1.3 Table of Use and Parking regulations by allowing a Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 BESS and amending the Zoning Map to include the BESS Overlay District. The overlay district will be creating regulations for the installation and use of free-standing battery energy storage systems (“BESS”), adding to the table the overlay district with the allowed Tiers and updating the zoning map to include the BESS Overlay District, or take any other action related to

**Continued from August 25, 2026**



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City Clerk Wright Esposito stated I received a communication from Planning Director, Jacki Byerley to continue this item until October 27, 2026.

Joanne Bilmazes (18 Morningside Drive) addressed the Council and asked whether Hilldale Avenue is the only property currently being considered. Vice President Michitson stated that the Planning and Development Committee is bringing its recommendation regarding Hilldale Avenue to the full City Council, noting that the full Council could vote to take a different action. He added that Computer Drive is valuable land.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED TO CONTINUE

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

**11. APPOINTMENTS:**

**11.1. Confirming Appointments:**

- 11.2. *Washington Street Historic Shoe District Commission*, Mary Grise, 18 Essex Street, expires September 30, 2028 24-h

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 11.3. *Haverhill Historical Commission*, Wendy Sczechowicz, 40 Locke Street, expires September 30, 2029 24-i

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0, ABSTENTION 1 (TOOHEY)

**11.4. Non-Confirming Appointments:**

**12. PETITIONS:**

- 12.1. Jacki Byerley, *Planning Director*, submits proposed amendments to Chapter 255, Zoning, for review and consideration 24-k

*Related communication from Jacki Byerley, Planning Director*

**Hearing for October 27, 2026**

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

12.2.

12.3. Applications Handicap Parking Sign: *with Police approval*

12.4. Amusement/Event Application: *with Police approval*

- 12.5. EVNT-26-23- Kathy McCormick for *Rocks Village Memorial Association, Inc* request to hold an Art Show to coincide with Essex Heritage Trails and Sails on



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September 12th & 13th, September 19th & 20<sup>th</sup>, September 26th & 27st, and October  
3 & 4 from 10 AM to 5 PM 29-v

Stacy Houghton addressed the council. She noted the show will have a variety of artwork. At 1PM on each of the dates listed above there will be an artist talk. She noted the proceeds from the sale will go towards the ongoing preservation of the historic site. She stated people can find more information at rocksvillage.org or on our Facebook page.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR FERREIRA  
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.6. **EVNT-26-25-** Jennifer Silva for *Fresh Start Brew Co. DBA Aroma Joe's* requests to hold a Free Fall Event for all on October 30th from 3:30 – 8 PM at 727 South Main St in the building and parking lot. 29-w

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR BASILIERE  
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.6.1. **EVNT-26-27-** Devon Allen for *Vintage Bazaar New England* requesting to hold the Vintage Bazaar Fall Festival at Crescent Farm for a vintage and craft show with live music and food to be held on Saturday October 3rd from 8:30 AM to 4 PM and Sunday October 4th from 10 AM to 3 PM. 29-x

Devon Allen addressed the council. I am here to apply for our 15<sup>th</sup> annual vintage bazaar festival at Crescent Farms. She noted there will be 180 vendors.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON  
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.7. **Auctioneer License:**

- 12.8. **Tag Days:** with Police approval

- 12.9. *Haverhill High Wrestling, September 26 & September 27* 14-m

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE  
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.10. *Haverhill High Girls Varsity Field Hockey Team, October 23, 24, and 25* 14-n

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY  
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0



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12.11. **One Day Liquor License –with Police and License Commission approval**

12.12. **ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS:**

- 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: with Police approval**
- 12.12.5. **Taxi/Limousine License with Police approval**
- 12.12.6. **Junk Dealer /Collector License - with Police approval**

12.13. **Junk-26-3** Jack Gouldsbrough, T&R Salvage (**Renewal**) 99 Newark St 28-e

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE  
PASSED YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 12.13.1. **Pool/Billiard**
- 12.13.2. **Bowling**
- 12.13.3. **Sunday Bowling**
- 12.13.4. **Buy & Sell Secondhand Articles with Police approval**
- 12.13.5. **Buy & Sell Secondhand Clothing with Police approval**
- 12.13.6. **Pawnbroker license - with police approval**
- 12.13.7. **Fortune Teller with - Police approval**
- 12.13.8. **Buy & Sell Old Gold – with Police approval**
- 12.13.9. **Roller Skating Rink**
- 12.13.10. **Sunday Skating**
- 12.13.11. **Exterior Vending Machines/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC**
- 12.13.12. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars with Police approval**

**13. MOTIONS AND ORDERS:**

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

- 14.1. Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic; Amend Ch 24; be further amended by  
ADDING the following to § 240-85 Schedule B: Parking Restrictions and  
Prohibitions: 10-q

| <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>REGULATION</u>                                                | <u>HOURS/ DAYS</u>  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 12 Blaisdell St | NO PARKING<br>(except for 1 24- hours<br>Handicap parking space) | 24 HRS              |
|                 |                                                                  | <u>File 10 Days</u> |



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MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MICHITSON)

- 14.2. Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic; Amend Ch 24; be further amended by  
ADDING the following to § 240-85 Schedule B: Parking Restrictions and  
Prohibitions: 10-r

| <u>LOCATION</u>     | <u>REGULATION</u>                                                | <u>HOURS/DAYS</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 16 Forest Ave       | NO PARKING<br>(except for 1 24- hours<br>Handicap parking space) | 24 HRS            |
| <u>File 10 Days</u> |                                                                  |                   |

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR DIODATI

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MICHITSON)

- 14.3. Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic; Amend Ch 24; be further amended by  
DELETING the following to § 240-85 Schedule B: Parking Restrictions and  
Prohibitions: 40-b

| <u>LOCATION</u>     | <u>REGULATION</u>                                                | <u>HOURS/DAYS</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 9 Varum St          | NO PARKING<br>(except for 1 24- hours<br>Handicap parking space) | 24 HRS            |
| <u>File 10 Days</u> |                                                                  |                   |

MOTION BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR DIODATI

PASSED

YEAS 10, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1 (MICHITSON)

**15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS:**

- 15.1. Vice President Michitson submits the summary of minutes and  
recommendations of the Planning and Development Committee held on August 24,  
2026 for acceptance and approval 41-b

Vice President Michitson read the minutes into the record.

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES, SECOND BY COUNCILOR  
LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0



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MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHITSON TO CONTINUE THIS ITEM FOR A HEARING ON OCTOBER 27, 2026,  
SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

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

- 16.1. **Doc 32-N-** Mayor Barrett submits a loan order appropriating \$26,190,000.000 for the engineering and construction of improvements to the South Mill Street Pumping Station and Force Main

- 16.1.1. Order-That Twenty-Six Million One Hundred and Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$26,190,000) is appropriated for the purpose of financing the costs of engineering and construction of improvements to the South Mill Street Pumping Station and Force Main, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended ("Chapter 29C")

**Filed August 26, 2026**

Mayor Barrett addressed the council. She stated on June 26, 2026 we had a 42" force main break in two spots. She noted with the approval of DEP and EPA we are still under a decent decree that we have been under for many years now, they have a say in everything we do in this matter She stated they have recommended a dual system for redundancy. She noted we are going to go with 2 (36") mains. The Mayor noted this will take care of two of capital improvement list items the main and moving parts in the pump station. Bob Ward provided an overview of the 42" sewer force main break and proposed loan order.

Councilor Sullivan said the projects are long overdue and that the city cannot continue relying on the temporary bypass system. Councilor Michitson questioned the preliminary cost estimate and asked about cost risks, timing, and whether funding could be approved in stages. Bob Ward said contractor pricing and soil disposal are the biggest risks and recommended appropriating the full amount, noting potential SRF funding. Councilor Diodati asked about site conditions and costs; Bob Ward said the majority of the cost is for the pumping station and that a monetary incentive to speed completion is not permitted. President Jordan asked about funding and the overall cost of the consent decree work. Bob Ward said approximately \$35 million is currently under construction, with about \$25 million already spent, and estimated another \$60–70 million for wastewater treatment plant upgrades plus \$36 million for Phase III of Locke Street. President Jordan also raised concerns about future infrastructure failures and proactive prevention. Councilor Diodati asked whether the 18% increase for ratepayers is in addition to the 13%. Bob Ward stated that the five-year rate increase is 18% and said he would clarify the information. Councilor Basiliere stated I ran an AI model and to completely fix our aging water sewer and get rid of combined overflows with today's dollars are 1.7-1.9 billion dollars. He noted we will need federal funding to fix these problems.

Rebecca Carlson (98 Essex Street) addressed the council and raised concerns about persistent wastewater odors along Essex Street. She asked whether the proposed project would address the issue and whether replacing the existing pipe would affect capacity. Bob Ward clarified that the existing pipe will be replaced with two 36-inch pipes and asked Ms. Carlson to contact his office the following day to discuss her concerns.

Cory O'Neill, (Haverhill resident) asked whether the current water projects address issues identified in the 2010 and 2012 assessments, including locations on Water, Groveland and Lock Street. Bob Ward stated the city completed a drinking water system master plan in 2010. Corey O'Neill asked about the 2022 phase ii master plan, and Bob Ward stated the Lock Street project is currently under construction.



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MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR BASILIERE

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

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- 16.2. **Doc 10-P-** Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic; Amend Ch 24; be further amended by ADDING the following to § 240-85 Schedule B: Parking Restrictions and Prohibitions:

| <u>LOCATION</u>                                  | <u>REGULATION</u> | <u>HOURS/ DAYS</u>                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>MOHAWK TRAIL</b><br>Both sides, entire length | <b>NO PARKING</b> | <b>24 HRS</b>                       |
|                                                  |                   | <b><u>Filed August 26, 2026</u></b> |

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MCGONAGLE FOR PASSAGE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEPAGE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

**17. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:**

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

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

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

**21. ADJOURN:**

MOTION BY COUNCILOR SULLIVAN TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR BASILIERE

PASSED

YEAS 11, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

**ADJOURNED: 22:20**