



CITY OF HAVERHILL

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, July 23, 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, McGonagle, and LePage

Absent – Councilors Lewandowski and Rogers

City Clerk – Kaitlin M. Wright

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Motion by Councilor LePage, second Councilor McGonagle

PASSED

All in Favor

4. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Councilor Basiliere assigned the minutes.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

- 5.1. Mayor Melinda Barrett requests to introduce Executive Director Matthew Belfiore from *HC Media* to discuss closed captioning of all government meeting broadcasts and other news from HC Media 2-W

Mayor Barrett introduced Matt Belfiore and his team to give updates and happenings at HC Media including closed captioning.

Matt Belfiore, Executive Director HC Media, addressed the Council stating working on providing closed captioning for all government meetings for the city. Closed captioning will be for all meetings, will be in English and Spanish on Comcast channel, live stream, and video on demand, it is an AI based system. HC Media is in the process of restructuring how things are done in order to be more efficient; tracking the value of programs; striving to bring new and better offerings to the city; separated operations to PEG and Creative; and upgrading of facilities and equipment.

Chris Bowden, Director of PEG Operations, addressed the Council highlighting his department Public access, Education and Government (PEG). Lindsay Paris, Director of Creative Operations, also addressed the Council highlighting the new creative services department.

- 5.2. Mayor Melinda Barrett submits Order to *approve* and *accept* the Conservation Restriction for the protection of the land described at 117 Corliss Hill rd, to protect the conservation values of 19 acres of land within the East Meadow River watershed *Related communications from Robert Moore Jr., Environmental Health Technician and City Solicitors Lisa Mead and Ryan S Clemens* 2-X



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Mayor Barrett stated Rob Moore was here but had a conflict and had to leave and thanked Leslie and Richard Salach for the open space they are providing.

Vanessa Johnson-Hall, Essex County Greenbelt, attended remotely stating this will double the protected land on top of Corliss Hill Road protecting important rare species habit, water shed land and working farm land.

- 5.2.1. Order – *approve* Conservation Restriction on 19 acres at 117 Corliss Hill rd – Lot 71, Assessors Map 462 Block 204

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2

64-B

- 5.3. Communication from Mayor Barrett to *waive* option to purchase property in accordance with Chapter 61A; parcels 463-206-6, 463-626-16 and 428-628-12 off Lovers Lane
Related communication from City Solicitors, Lisa L Mead and Ryan S Clemens
Comments from City departments are included

2-Y

- 5.3.1. Order – Relating to the Notice of Intent to Convert Assessor's Parcels No; 463-206-6 and Parcels 463-626-16 and 428-628-12; and City ought to *waive* its statutory right to purchase these parcels off Lovers Lane, Haverhill, in accordance with Section 14 of Chapter 61 A if General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Mayor Barrett stated the owners have this opportunity. Department heads have weighed in and don't think this area is needed for the water shed or any other areas we sometimes want land for. This maintains some of the land in chapter, and other part will have solar panels. We will get payment in lieu of for some of this.

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Toohey

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2

74-B

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

- 6.1. Councilor Basiliere requests to introduce Dante Perella who is seeking an age waiver home rule petition for the position of Police Officer in the City of Haverhil 31-S

- 6.1.1. Home Rule Petition – An Act authorizing Dante Perella to take the Civil Service examination for the position of Police Officer in the City of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement



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Councilor Basiliere stated it is a pleasure for putting this on this evening. Mr. Perella is exactly what Ward 1 and our City need. People haven't forgotten where they come from, strive to do better and are determined to give back.

Dante Parella addressed the Council stating in 2023 finished in 8 years in the Army National Guard, grew up in the Haverhill Boys and Girls Club since a little boy and in 2010 awarded youth of the year. Since then, I graduated from high school I like to give back. I now sponsor all the basketball leagues available and coach them as well.

Councilor Jordan stated he is very impressed reading resume, wonderful homegrown guy who is giving back to his community and agrees he is the type of person would love to see serving our community in a different capacity.

Motion by Councilor Basiliere, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2

73-F

- 6.2. Council President Sullivan and Councilor Michitson request to introduce Tracy Fuller, Executive Director of the Haverhill YMCA, to request City Council support for the "Touch a Truck Book Drive"

Councilor Michitson introduced Tracy Fuller of the YMCA to discuss needs from the city on the upcoming Touch a Truck Book Drive in partnership with YMCA and Haverhill Promise.

Tracy Fuller, 81 Winter Street, will have for second year in a row a Touch a Truck book drive at the DPW on Primrose Street in partnership with the City of Haverhill, Haverhill Police, Haverhill Fire, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce and Crescent Farms. Great opportunity for kids to climb on the equipment and to drop off gently used books which will be repurposed for kids who don't have books. Friday, July 26 from 3-6 PM.

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2

31-T

- 6.3. Councilors Ferreira and Basiliere wish to introduce Michael Schroth to speak about his efforts, observations, and thoughts on street trees in the inner-city neighborhoods 31-U

Councilor Basiliere announced Mr. Schroth would not be attending this evening. A great deal of progress has been made since he called, he attended a subcommittee meeting getting questions answered and needs met and feels strongly that the Council has heard him. With the help of Mr. Ward, there are two different spots he is able to get water and can offer material support that he needs. Mr. Schroth wanted the most was to be the tree ambassador for all the street trees on White Street. So today, I made him the White Street Tree Ambassador.



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Councilor Ferreira stated White Street is a busy gateway street through the neighborhoods with bus stops and businesses, etc. Huge addition when anyone wants to spend their time and energy taking care of the street trees we plant but don't always maintain beyond the first year in the ground. This is what he wants to do, and we appreciate it.

Mayor Barrett stated the city has a tree commission and Kathleen Lambert oversees the tree grant and would welcome Mr. Schroth.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- REQUESTS UNDER COUNCIL RULE 28

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

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

10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:

10.1. Document 53, petition for Special Permit Major Modification from Christos Eliopoulos seeking approval for modification to a residential development (Residences at Kenoza) initially approved by City Council in 2023, located at 7-13 Kenoza av
Continued from June 4, 2024, Related communication from Attorney Michael Migliori requesting to continue the hearing to August 6th

Motion by Councilor Michitson, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED continued to August 6

Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2

11. APPOINTMENTS:

11.1. Confirming Appointments:

11.2. Non-Confirming

11.2.1. Harbor Commission – Philip Wysocki, 8 Philip st expires July 31, 2024 5-Y

11.2.2. Harbor Commission – Alan Foucault, 124 Kenoza st, expires July 31, 2024 5-Z

Councilor Jordan stated date should be 2025 not 2024.

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED

All in Favor

11.3. Constables to expire December 31, 2024

11.4. Resignations:

12. PETITIONS:

12.1. CCSP 24-9, request from Craig Pascoe to keep an 8' X 30' storage container on his property at 2 Woodman av Hearing August 20 2024

Motion by Councilor Michitson, second Councilor McGonagle

PASSED to be heard August 20th

All in Favor

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- 12.2. 117019 – Hearing request from Steve Defeo president of Bradford Unlimited Corp to accept a portion of *South Central st*

Refer to Planning Board & Council Hearing
September 17, 2024

Motion by Councilor Michitson, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED to be heard September 17

All in Favor

79

- 12.3. 117020 – Hearing request from Steve Defeo, president of Bradford Unlimited Corp to accept a portion of *Greenough st* Refer to Planning Board & Council Hearing
September 17, 2024

Motion by Councilor Jordan, second Councilor McGonagle

PASSED to be heard September 17

All in Favor

80

- 12.4. Applications Handicap Parking Sign: with Police approval

- 12.5. Amusement/Event Application – with Police approval

- 12.6. Auctioneer License:

- 12.7. Tag Days: with Police approval

- 12.7.1. *Knights of Columbus, August 17th*

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED

All in Favor

20-J

- 12.8. One Day Liquor License – with License Commission & Police approval

- 12.9.

- 12.10. ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS:

- 12.10.1. Hawker Peddlers License- Fixed location – w/Police approval

- 12.10.2. Coin-Op License Renewals – with Police approval

- 12.10.3. Christmas Tree Vendor – with Police approval

- 12.10.4. Taxi Driver Licenses for 2023: with Police approval

- 12.10.4.1. Jason Sampson, 21 Broadway

Motion by Councilor Michitson, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED

All in Favor

63-L

- 12.10.5. Taxi/Limousine License with Police approval

- 12.10.5.1. *New England Health Transportation Inc, 143 Essex st, Victor Gonzalez*



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Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Toohey

PASSED

All in Favor

46-C

12.10.6. **Junk Dealer /Collector License** with Police approval

12.10.7.**Pool/Billiard**

12.10.8.**Bowling**

12.10.9.**Sunday Bowling**

12.10.10. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles** with Police approval

12.10.10.1. *In A Blue Moon*, 99 Merrimack st, Maria Turchi

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED

All in Favor

8-C

12.10.11. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing**

12.10.11.1. *In a Blue Moon*, 99 Merrimack st, Maria Turchi

Motion by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Toohey

PASSED

All in Favor

55-C

12.10.12. **Pawnbroker license** - with police approval

12.10.13. **Fortune Teller** with - Police approval

12.10.14. **Buy & Sell Old Gold** – with Police approval

12.10.15. **Roller Skating Rink**

12.10.16. **Sunday Skating**

12.10.17. **Exterior Vending Machines/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC**

12.10.18. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars** with Police approval

13. MOTIONS AND ORDERS:

14. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS)

15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:

16. UNFINISHED BUISINESS OF PRECEEDING MEETING:

16.1.Document 2-W; Communication from Mayor Barrett to waive option to purchase property in accordance with Chapter 61A off Lover's Lane Assessor's Parcel 436-206-6

Motion to place on file by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED Placed on File

All in Favor



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16.2. Document 74; Order relating to Notice of Intent relative to Parcel 436-206-6 City Waive right to purchase Land off Lover's Lane in accordance with Chapter 61A

Both continued from July 9, 2024

Motion to place on file by Councilor McGonagle, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED Placed on File

All in Favor

17. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

18. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

18.1. Councillor Michitson submits Minutes of the *Planning and Development Committee* meeting held on July 16, 2024, for acceptance

Councilor Michitson stated he would read the minutes and then make four motions. He read the P&D minutes into the record.

Motion by Councilor Michitson to accept minutes, second Councilor McGonagle

PASSED

Placed on File

Councilor Michitson proposes four additional motions:

Motion by Councilor Michitson that City Councilors receive training on this new approach to leverage development agreements and to determine impacts on City services and infrastructure, second Councilor McGonagle

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2

Councilor McGonagle stated cannot get trained on this until the consultant comes in to lay out which path we are going to go, is this correct? Councilor Michitson stated not necessarily, there is part we can do tomorrow. Mayor Barrett stated City Solicitor Mead can start training on what the Council's powers are. That is like a separate unit compared to giving a base line for what value and cost. Those are kind of two separate things on the same track. Attorney Mead had a completely different view on how we go through the special permit process than what those of us who have been on the council before had experienced. Councilor McGonagle confirmed that this is dealing with special permits. Mayor Barrett confirmed this is the special permit process. It's power the Council has had but never used, perhaps we used it in not a way that made for a nicely formed package that if you were challenged in court you could defend. This training and check list of items the city solicitor will provide. We have found with the current city solicitor with contract work we are doing now, there is a check list of things she wants to see in each contract for consistency and think this would work well with special permits and will be available to you. Councilor Jordan stated Attorney Mead gave great examples of what we could make as criteria.



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Motion by Councilor Michitson that the City hire a consultant to develop comprehensive fiscal impact analysis for the City and assist Department Heads in assessing development proposals as needed, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2

Motion by Councilor Michitson that a Harbor Development Plan be undertaken, second Councilor Jordan

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2

Mayor Barrett stated that this is in the roll of the Harbor Commission, and they are a capable group that will flush that out and come to whatever needs and approval needed. The core is already with the Harbor Commission and will explore other ways to get more involved.

Motion by Councilor Michitson to invite Community Development to update the City Council on the status of affordable housing and ADU's, second Councilor McGonagle

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0, Absent 2

**Councilor McGonagle asked if this invite would be in a form of a letter? Councilor Michitson stated yes, a letter to the Mayor. Mayor Barrett spoke to this, but audio could not be heard.

Councilor Basiliere commented he was unable to attend the meeting but had conversations with Councilor Lewandowski, Councilor Ferreira and the Mayor and not really surprised what the city solicitor has ruled here. The message isn't pro or anti-development, the message is that the Council and not the rapacious princes of development are in charge. The days of the city taking crumbs should be over, the council can and only should approve the projects that are most beneficial to the city moving forward.

Councilor Ferreria announced on behalf of Councilor Lewandowski, Chair of the Natural Resource and Public Property Committee, that we will be meeting on Wednesday, July 31st at 6 PM in Council Chambers to discuss the following items: Ordinances presented to the Council at the July 9th meeting including but not limited to ordinances regarding our conservation areas, parks, and playgrounds and our swimming ordinance. Everyone is welcome to join.

19. DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY

20. LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST

21. ADJOURN:

Motion by Councilor Jordan, second Councilor Michitson

PASSED

All in Favor

Adjourned 19:58