



**CITY OF HAVERHILL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 29, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

**Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, 4 Summer st, Room 202  
In-Person/Remote Meeting**

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Present: President Sullivan, Councilors Basiliere, Hobbs-Everett, Ferreira, Rogers, Michitson, Jordan, Toohey McGonagle and LePage

Remote: Lewandowski

Absent: None

City Clerk – Kaitlin M. Wright

*This meeting of Haverhill City Council will be held in-person at the location provided on this notice as its official meeting location pursuant to the Open Meeting Law. As the meeting is held in person at a physical location that is open and accessible to the public, the City Council is not required to provide remote access to the meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting. Please note that a live stream of the meeting is being provided only as a courtesy to the public, and the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly. Those attending tonight's meeting should be aware that the meeting is being audio and video recorded by HCTV, The Eagle Tribune, and WHAV. Any audience members who wish to record any part of the meeting must inform the Council President who will announce the recording. This is to comply with the MA wiretap statute. Thank you.*

**1. Opening Prayer**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Approval of Minutes of prior meetings**

**October 1, 2024**

*Councilor Toohey stated he reviewed the minutes and finds them in order.*

*Motion to approve by Councilor Toohey, Second by Councilor McGonagle.*

*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

**PASSED**

**October 8, 2024**

*Councilor Rogers reviewing the minutes.*

*No action.*

**October 22, 2024**

*Councilor LePage stated he reviewed the minutes and finds them in order.*

*Motion to approve by Councilor LePage, Second by Vice President Jordan.*

*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

**PASSED**

**4. Assignment of the minutes and review for the next meeting**

*President Sullivan assigned the minutes to Councilor McGonagle.*



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**16.1 Order – New Rates for plowing, clearing and hauling snow related communication from Robert Ward, DPW Director - continued from October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

98

Robert Ward addressed the council. He stated you have an order before you that will increase the hourly rate that we pay our private salters and snowplowing contractors. It has been three years since we raised the rates. The proposed rates reflect 9%, which is average, 3% over the last three years. We have also added a couple of equipment categories. We made adjustments on the gross vehicle weights of the equipment. In order to make sure we get enough contractors for the winter we added an early signup bonus. Small class trucks would be \$3.00 a hour and \$5.00 for bigger equipment. The bonus doesn't apply to the trucks hauling snow from downtown, front end loaders and clearing parking lots. The order has November 21<sup>st</sup> as a signup deadline. Since this is a week late could we bump the deadline for just 2024.

President Sullivan stated you would like to amend this order to have the deadline November 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion to amend the order for 2024 by Councilor McGonagle, Second by Councilor Toohey.*

Vice President Jordan asked if this brings us competitive with other neighboring cities and towns. Robert Ward stated yes, we did call surrounding cities and towns. We are much more competitive. We are in the middle.

Councilor Basiliere and Rogers will be abstaining from the vote.

Councilor Michitson asked if contractors ask the city to help with insurance. If there are no snow days and they pay a lot for insurance, you are not going to have a good year. Maybe this is something we can look at next time.

Robert Ward stated it has not been brought up to me. What has been brought to my attention is the additional insurance. The rates here cover the insurance.

Vice President Jordan asked if there was a typo on the spreadsheet for plow size under 10 feet.

Robert Ward stated when comparing rates what we had been paying them looked to be on the high side. We didn't want to take away money so we kept them at \$137.00. There will be no \$5.00 bonus.

President Sullivan stated we will need a motion to correct that. The tractor plow size under 10 feet will have no \$5.00 early sign up bonus. It will be a flat fee of \$137.00 per hour.

*Motion to amend the order by Vice President Jordan, Second by Councilor Michitson.*

*Motion by Councilor McGonagle to amend the order for 2024 sign up bonus deadline to November 28<sup>th</sup> Second by Councilor Toohey.*

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-yes, Councilor Basiliere-abstain, Councilor Hobbs-Everett-yes, Councilor Michitson-yes, Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Toohey-yes, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-abstain, President Sullivan-yes  
9 yeas, 0 nays, 2 abstentions 0 absent

**PASSED**



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*Motion by Vice President Jordan to amend the order --tractor plow size under 10 feet will have no \$5.00 sign-up bonus. Second by Councilor Michitson.*

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-yes, Councilor Basiliere-abstain, Councilor Hobbs-Everett-yes, Councilor Mich son-yes, Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Toohey-yes, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-abstain, President Sullivan-yes  
9 yeas, 0 nays, 2 abstentions 0 absent  
**PASSED**

*Motion by Councilor Michitson to approve the amended order. Second by Vice President Jordan.*

City Clerk Wright: Vice President Jordan-yes, Councilor Basiliere-abstain, Councilor Hobbs-Everett-yes, Councilor Mich son-yes, Councilor Ferreira-yes, Councilor Toohey-yes, Councilor McGonagle-yes, Councilor Lewandowski-yes, Councilor LePage-yes, Councilor Rogers-abstain, President Sullivan-yes  
9 yeas, 0 nays, 2 abstentions 0 absent  
**PASSED**

**8.1 Robert Pistone, Chief of Police, requests to address the Council regarding their Heroes and Helpers program to help less fortunate children and families.**

Police Chief Robert Pistone addressed the council. He stated the event which incorporates help from the Police Department, School Department, Fire Department, PrideStar Trinty. The event will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup>. If anybody in the community is interested in donating a check can be sent to the attention of Wendy Duff (Police Department, 40 Bailey Blvd.) made out to The Friends of Haverhill Police. On a different note, we had cruisers out a different Market Baskets this weekend collecting food for the food pantries in the area.

17-Q

**5. Communications from the Mayor:**

5.1. Mayor Barrett requests approval for Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 221 Code of the City of Haverhill which is to be placed on file for 10 days

5.1.1. **Authorize and Accept Hero Act Ordinance** File 10 days

*Motion by Councilor McGonagle to accept and place on file for 10 days. Second by Councilor Rogers.*  
Yeas 11, Nays 0  
**PASSED to place on file** 99

**6. Communications from Councillors to introduce individual(s) to address the Council:**

6.1. **Councilor Hobbs Everett requests to introduce Stephen Justice who is seeking a home rule age waiver petition for the position of firefighter in the City.** 93-H

6.1.1. **Home Rule Petition- An Act Authorizing Stephen Justice to take the Civil Service Exam for Firefighter in the City of Haverhill** 73-H  
*Stephen Justice addressed the council stating he is seeking an age waiver requirement to take the firefighter exam.*

*Motion to accept by Councilor Hobbs-Everett, Second by Councilor McGonagle.*  
Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0  
**PASSED**

6.2. **Councillor McGonagle requests to introduce Brittany Sproule who is seeking a home rule age waiver petition for the position of firefighter in the City** 93-I



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**6.2.1 Home Rule Petition – An Act Authorizing Brittany Sproule to take the Civil Service Exam for Firefighter in the City of Haverhill** 73-I  
*Councilor McGonagle and President Sullivan stated they each interviewed Brittany over the phone since unfortunately she works nights and could not be here this evening. She is seeking an age waiver requirement to take the firefighter exam.*  
*Motion to accept by Councilor McGonagle, Second by Vice President Jordan.*  
*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0* *PASSED*

**7. Public Participation – Requests under Council Rule 28**

**7.1 Jonathan Plumb, 102 Chestnut Street, requests to discuss the Hannah Duston Statue in the City.** 100

Jonathan Plumb, 132 Chestnut Street addressed the council. He stated in this time of genocide I have been taught the pain of complicity through silence and inaction. I feel compelled to speak out against generations of willed ignorance. You have a statute across the street that commemorates the Mass Colonial Government paying money for indigenous children's scalps. This was built in 1879 when our current national government was conducting or just finishing conducting campaigns of indigenous dispossession and exterminations. I marvel at the lengths this city has gone in the last few years to not tear her down. There is a word in Arabic smud, which means to practice resilience, to remain steadfast, to hold onto your land. I know they will but I don't know if you all will take responsibility for removing this monument to ongoing colonial violence and genocide. If you won't someone else should.

President Sullivan stated we will have another meeting where the Native American Indigenous Task Force will give an update on establishing a memorial for Native Americans at First Landing Park and also at GAR Park. The council previously recommended removing the offensive language from the base of the statue. There is no will from the council to remove the statute from public property. We have to compromise.

Councilor Hobbs Everett asked if there was a request or question.

Jonathan Plumb stated I don't have anything to ask. I think it's shameful.

Councilor Ferreira asked what was the timeframe of the task force work, when was it formed? I would love to see this statue go and maybe there are different feelings in our community now that it has been 2 years.

President Sullivan stated it was formed in 2021-2022. The task force should be coming in December or January. You could ask them those questions then.

**8. Communication and reports from the City Officers and Employees:**

**8.2. Christine Webb, Chairman of the Board of Assessors announces the FY2025 Tax Classification Hearing for Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> in the City Council Chambers at 7 pm. Hearing Nov 19 2024** 101

*Motion to place on file by Councilor Michitson, Second by Councilor Toohey.*  
*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0* *PASSED*

**9. Utility Hearing(s) and Related Order(s):**

**9.1 Document 96; petition from Mass Electric d/b/a National Grid to construct a line of underground electric conduits on Amesbury Line Road as shown on plan WR 26764118**

**9.1.1 Document 96-B; Order – grant National Grid permission for underground**



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**electric conduits on Amesbury Line Road**

President Sullivan opened the hearing.

David Boucher, Senior Designer from National Grid, 1101 Turnpike Street, North Andover addressed the council. He stated I am here tonight to petition for two new underground lines on Amesbury Line Road. Coming from existing poles 34 and 35. Pole 34 we are asking for 120' +/- two conduits of 3" diameter to refeed an existing customer at 119 Amesbury Line Road. This would put their entire service underground. Pole 35 we are asking for 117' +/- two conduits of 4" diameter to service a new solar field. There will be two new pole boxes also.

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 Vice President Jordan, Second by Councilor Toohey.*

*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

*PASSED*

**10. Hearings and Related Orders:**

**10.1 Document 83; CCSP-23-16; applicant Christopher Anderson of Hannigan Engineering, Inc. for SPI Solar, Inc. requests to construct a large scale solar field off Lovers Lane *continued from October 1, 2024***

*Related communication from Attorney Robert Harb for applicant requesting hearing to December 3, 2024.*

*Motion by Councilor Michitson, Second by Councilor Basiliere.*

*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

*PASSED to continue December 3, 2024*

**11. Appointments:**

**11.1 Confirming Appointments**

**11.2 Non-Confirming:**

**11.2.1. Board of Health – Barbara Costello, expires October 31, 2027**

*Motion by Councilor Basiliere, Second by McGonagle.*

*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

*PASSED to place on file.*

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**11.3 Constables to expire December 31, 2024**

**11.4 Resignations**

**11.4.1 Board of Health – Diana Sherlock, effective October 3, 2024**

*Motion by Vice President Jordan, Second by Councilor Toohey.*

*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

*PASSED place on file.*

41-F

**12. Petitions**

**12.1 Applications handicap parking sign: with police approval**

**12.2 Amusement/Event Applications – with police approval**

**12.3 Auctioneer license**

**12.4 Tag Days with police approval**

**12.5 One Day Liquor – with license commission and HPD approval**



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**12.6 Annual License Renewals**

12.6.1 Hawker Peddlers License – Fixed location – with police approval

12.6.2 Coin-op License Renewals – with police approval

12.6.3 Christmas Tree vendor – with police approval

12.6.3.1 Thomas Copeland for 24 Summer Street; November 17 to December 22<sup>nd</sup>; Monday-Friday, 3 pm to 9 pm and Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 8 pm; at the Haverhill Elks

*Motion by Councilor McGonagle, Second by Councilor Toohey.*

*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

*PASSED.*

21-F

12.6.4 Taxi Driver License for 2024- with police approval

12.6.5 Taxi/Limousine License – with police approval

12.6.7 Pool/Billiard

12.6.8 Bowling

12.6.9 Sunday Bowling

12.6.10 Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles – with police approval

12.6.11 Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing

12.6.12 Pawnbroker license – with police approval

12.6.13 Fortune Teller – with police approval

12.6.14 Buy & Sell old gold – with police approval

12.6.15 Roller Skating Rink

12.6.16 Sunday Skating

12.6.17 Exterior vending machine/Redbox Automated Retail, LLC

12.6.18 Limousine/livery license/chair cars with police approval

**13. Motions and Orders:**

**14. Ordinances (File 10 days)**

**14.1 Municipal Ordinance – Amend Chapter 240 Commercial Vehicles – parking restrictions and prohibitions – and parking fines – further regulation of commercial vehicles in residential areas and increasing fines for parking fines** File 10 days

*Motion by Councilor McGonagle, Second by Vice President Jordan.*

*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

*PASSED to place on file.*

88-C

**15. Communications from Councillors**

**15.1 Council President Sullivan requests to announce 2025 City Council meeting schedule**  
President Sullivan stated this is always subject to change.

*Motion by Councilor Rogers, Second by Councilor LePage.*

*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

*PASSED to place on file.*

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**15.2 Councillor Rogers requests a discussion relative to Amazon trucks parking on public ways in the Ward Hill area**

12-X

Councilor Rogers stated she has heard from residents about Ward Hill becoming a truck stop for Amazon trucks. They are parked everywhere in Ward Hill including Duffy's, Dunkin Donuts along the connector and Neck Road. They park there overnight. On the side of the Amazon property there is a ton of signage



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that says no truck parking.

The Mayor and I were on a meeting today with Amazon and representatives from the legislative delegation. Amazon had a representative attend the meeting and they had talking points about the truck parking. Amazon typically gives them a list where it is safe to park around the area. The Mayor has asked for that list. The Police Department has been out there ticketing but we are only allowed to ticket \$25.00 at a time.

Mayor Barrett stated right now the ordinance states \$25.00. Mass General Law prohibits it from being higher. We have an ordinance on file for 10 days that will raise it to \$50.00. I have asked our legislative delegation to look into raising it.

Mayor Barrett stated we do not want to inhibit commerce, but we do want to maintain a quality of life and safety for the neighbors. Amazon will be reaching out for a tour and we will let you know so you may attend.

Councilors agreed that Amazon is being a bad neighbor, and things need to be done, such as raising the amount of tickets.

President Sullivan stated there will be more fighting to resolve this issue. Could we have a motion to send a letter to the Governor and Legislative Delegation requesting their immediate assistance in resolving this issue

*Motion by Councilor Rogers, Second by Councilor LePage.  
Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

*PASSED.*

**16. Unfinished Business of preceeding meeting:**

**17. Resolution and Proclamations:**

**18. Council Committee reports and announcements**

**18.1 Councilor Michitson requests to announce the Planning and Development Committee meeting on "Building Student Education and Career Opportunities and Support System without Boundaries" on November 18, 6 pm in the City Council Chamber** 25-E

Councilor Michitson stated the meeting has been moved to December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00PM, City Council Chambers. We have invited a wide array of stakeholders and the public to help better the system to better align student passions and needs with education and career opportunities.

- Councilor McGonagle stated I want to remind and invite the public to the Veteran's Alliance Pre-Election Breakfast on November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00-11:00 am.
- Vice President Jordan announced the Rotary Club Veteran Breakfast, November 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30-9:30 am at the Haverhill Country Club. Tickets are \$50.00 and all proceeds go to local non-profits.
- City Clerk Wright wanted to remind people there are three days left of early voting. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> with polls opening 7 AM to 8 PM. Call the Clerk's Office for information on your polling location. If you have a mail-in ballot Secretary Galvin is advising people to not put it in the mail. IT should be placed into a dropbox, located on the Main Street side of the building.
- President Sullivan announced that everybody is invited to participate in the Veteran's Day Parade, Monday November 11<sup>th</sup> parade forms at 9 AM at Mill Brook Park. If you are going to participate,



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we are asked to be there before 10:00. The parade starts at 10:15. After the parade the Veteran's Day Ceremony will take place in Washington Square. After the ceremony there will be a buffet luncheon that will be held at the American Legion Farm.

**19. Documents referred to committee study**

**20. Long Term Matter Study List**

**21. Adjourn**

*Motion by Vice President Jordan, Second by Councilor Rogers.*

*Yeas 11, Nays 0, Absent 0*

*Adjourned: 20:05*