



**CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM

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

In-Person/Remote Meeting

Present – President Jordan, Councillors Barrett, Bevilacqua, Sullivan, Michitson, Lewandowski, Rogers, and Toohy

Absent -- Councillor McGonagle

Administrative Assistant – Laurie A. Brown

City Clerk – Linda Koutoulas

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Motion by Councillor Sullivan to accept 10/25/22 minutes, second Councillor Barrett

PASSED Placed on File All in Favor

4. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Councillor Lewandowski assigned the minutes.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

5.1. Mayor Fiorentini submits a “scope and project agreement” for the Consentino Middle School and requests Council approve this and authorize me to send this back to the MA School Building Authority Board and also submits a certificate by City Attorney Bill Cox stating that this is all done correctly

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua to delay 2 weeks, second Councillor Barrett

PASSED Postpone to 11/29/22 Yeas 8, Nay 0 absent 1 127

5.2. Mayor Fiorentini submits communication regarding 2023 Tax Classification

Mayor attended remotely. Recommends changing shift to 170 or 175. 4-Q

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

6.1. Councillor Barrett requests to introduce Tammy Dobrosielski to speak about *Wreaths Across America at Hilldale Cemetery*

Tammy Dobrosielski addressed the Council asking for support of Wreaths Across America. Still in need of 220 wreaths for the December 17th wreath laying at Hilldale Cemetery. Can sponsor a wreath at hilldalewreaths.com. 98-L

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- REQUESTS UNDER COUNCIL RULE 28

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

8.1. Fire Chief, Robert M Brien requests to present commendations to 10 of his firefighters in conjunction with *Haverhill Police Department* and *Trinity Ambulance* who will also be presenting commendations to their employees

Chief Robert O’Brien thanked the Council for the opportunity to do something positive tonight. Speaking on behalf of the Fire Department, presented commendations to 10 firefighters who participated along with the Haverhill Police Dept. and Trinity for a water rescue on October 17th.



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Chief O'Brien presented commendations to each firefighter.

11-W

8.2. Chief of Police, Robert P Pistone requests to present one of his officers a commendation

Chief Pistone addressed the Council. He applauded the great job by Chief O'Brien and the fire department stating the public doesn't hear of this type of enough thing often enough. All the men that just received commendations and Officer Nicole Donnelly who is about to present to, are the type of people that risk their lives to save people without any regard for their own. Very fortunate in the city to have dedicated men and women that we do in public safety.

Chief Pistone read the commendation and presented it to Officer Donnelly. 11-X

John Chemlay and Christopher Dick both of Trinity PrideStar presented thanked everyone for allowing to present citations to their employees. Very proud of the trilogy of services in Haverhill. Presented the three EMT's commendations.

8.3. Angel A Perkins, Chief Financial Officer requests to present *Financial Plan – City Council Fiscal Update, November 2022*

Angel Perkins, CFO, gave a high-level fiscal update presentation of the City to the Council. Mayor Fiorentini recommends changing shift to 170 or 175, use 1.7 million dollars in free cash to pay down first year of school contract. 11-Y

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

10. HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:

10.1. Document 125: City Tax Assessor, Christine Webb, requests to present the Tax Classification Hearing for Fiscal Year 2023, including related Orders and also related communications from City Assessor and Board of Assessors:

President Jordan opened the hearing.

Christine Webb addressed the Council. She thanked her staff for all their hard work. Submitted work to DOR who approved new values and new growth and gave go ahead for conduct tonight's public hearing. Council to vote on six separate items.

Ms. Webb gave tax classification PowerPoint presentation to the Council.

President Jordan confirmed with Mayor his recommendation of 170 or 175. Mayor said either one but if had to choose he would choose 172, anything in between will be acceptable.



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President Jordan asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of Mayor's recommendation to go to 170 to 175? No one spoke.

President Jordan asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition of 170 to 175?

Jeff Linehan addressed the Council. Representing the chamber. Position is jobs and want to talk about Haverhill becoming less of a city and more of a town. Never had good luck with tax classification. It's about selling Haverhill. Compared to Newburyport or Andover they have more commercial property than we do. Understand where the Mayor is coming from at 175 but can't agree with right now. Everything comes down to economics. If you go up on rate, businesses will leave. With 1200 units coming in, you need to bring businesses in. They don't affect schools, more businesses the better off you are. Recommending leave rate at 165.

Alexandria Eberhardt, President, Greater Haverhill Chamber. Here in support of our local business. The chamber serves to bring in new businesses small and large. We put things in place for vibrant and engaging downtown experience. We have roughly the 4th highest business tax rate in the region. Spoken with many small business's owners who voice concern on proposed tax increase. Current downtown does not have a vibrate mix. Smaller businesses are also impacted by inflation, same as residents. Businesses don't send kids to school. We need to come together to move Haverhill forward. We have the chance to make the tax rate more equitable for small businesses.

President Jordan closed the hearing.

10.1.1. Document 125-B: Order - residential factor for FY 2023 be adopted as:

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua to set rate at 170, second Councillor Sullivan

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua to amend original motion to 175, second Councillor Toohey

President Jordan: Madam Clerk please call the roll on 175.

City Clerk Koutoulas: Councillor Michitson-no, Councillor Barrett-no, Councillor Bevilacqua-yes, Councillor Sullivan-no, Councillor Lewandowski-no, Councillor Rogers-no, Toohey-yes, President Jordan-no, 2 Yeas, 6 Nays, 1 Absent (McGonagle)

President Jordan: FAILED

Motion by Councillor Michitson to keep rate at 165, second Councillor Rogers

President Jordan: Madam Clerk please call the roll on 165.

City Clerk Koutoulas: Councillor Michitson-yes, Councillor Barrett-yes, Councillor Bevilacqua-no, Councillor Sullivan-no, Councillor Lewandowski-yes,



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Councillor Rogers-yes, Councillor Toohey-no, President Jordan-yes, 5 Yeas, 3 Nays, 1 Absent (McGonagle)

President Jordan: PASSED Rate kept at 165.

***Councillor Sullivan requested to come back to original motion to vote on residential factor of 165. Asked Christine Webb if the motion needs to include the residential number factor of .9052 as done in past years.*

Christine Webb confirmed the motion needs to include “.9052” for rate 165.

President Jordan asked Vice President Michitson to restate the motion including .9052 for rate 165, and Councillor Rogers to second

Motion by Councillor Michitson, second Councillor Rogers

President Jordan: Calling the same vote as earlier with the correct terminology.

City Clerk Koutoulas: Councillor Michitson-yes, Councillor Barrett-yes, Councillor Bevilacqua-no, Councillor Sullivan-no, Councillor Lewandowski-yes, Councillor Rogers-yes, Toohey-no, President Jordan-yes, 5 Yeas, 3 Nays, 1 Absent (McGonagle)

President Jordan: PASSED

10.1.2. Document 125-C: Order - City shall adopt a commercial exemption

Motion by Councillor Barrett, second Councillor Sullivan

President Jordan: Madam Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Koutoulas: Councillor Michitson-no, Councillor Barrett-no, Councillor Bevilacqua-no, Councillor Sullivan-no, Councillor Lewandowski-no, Councillor Rogers-no, Toohey-no, President Jordan-no, 0 Yeas, 8 Nays, 1 Absent (McGonagle)

President Jordan: FAILED

10.1.3. Document 125-D: Order - City shall adopt a residential exemption

Motion by Councillor Barrett, second Councillor Sullivan

President Jordan: Madam Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Koutoulas: Councillor Michitson-no, Councillor Barrett-no, Councillor Bevilacqua-no, Councillor Sullivan-no, Councillor Lewandowski-no, Councillor Rogers-no, Toohey-no, President Jordan-no, 0 Yeas, 8 Nays, 1 Absent (McGonagle)

President Jordan: FAILED



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10.1.4. Document 125-E: Order - City shall select an open space discount factor

Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Barrett

President Jordan: Madam Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Koutoulas: Councillor Michitson-no, Councillor Barrett-no, Councillor Bevilacqua-no, Councillor Sullivan-no, Councillor Lewandowski-no, Councillor Rogers-no, Toohey-no, President Jordan-no, 0 Yeas, 8 Nays, 1 Absent (McGonagle)

President Jordan: FAILED

10.1.5. Document 125-F: Order-That the City Council of the City of Haverhill hereby accepts the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses 17E and 41D with respect to Permanent acceptance of the annual C.P.I. index increase to the tax exemptions for the elderly.

Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Barrett

President Jordan: Madam Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Koutoulas: Councillor Michitson-no, Councillor Barrett-no, Councillor Bevilacqua-no, Councillor Sullivan-no, Councillor Lewandowski-no, Councillor Rogers-no, Toohey-no, President Jordan-no, 0 Yeas, 8 Nays, 1 Absent (McGonagle)

President Jordan: FAILED

10.1.6. Document 125-G: Order-That the City Council accept 100% of C.P.I. (Consumer Price Index) increase reported by the State for F.Y. 2023 Exemptions. The 2023 C.P.I. amount is 7.0%

Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Barrett

President Jordan: Madam Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Koutoulas: Councillor Michitson-yes, Councillor Barrett-yes, Councillor Bevilacqua-yes, Councillor Sullivan-yes, Councillor Lewandowski-yes, Councillor Rogers-yes, Toohey-yes, President Jordan-yes, 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (McGonagle)

President Jordan: PASSED

10.1.7. Document 125-H: Order – accept Mass General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5C1/2, which provides for an additional real estate exemption for taxpayers who are granted personal exemptions on their domiciles under Mass Chapter Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, including certain blind persons, veterans, surviving spouses and seniors, and to provide that an additional exemption shall be up to forty (40%) percent of the personal exemption, to be effective



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for all the exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2023

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Councillor Barrett

President Jordan: Madam Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Koutoulas: Councillor Michitson-yes, Councillor Barrett-yes, Councillor Bevilacqua-yes, Councillor Sullivan-yes, Councillor Lewandowski-yes, Councillor Rogers-yes, Toohey-yes, President Jordan-yes, 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (McGonagle)

President Jordan: PASSED

11. APPOINTMENTS:

- 11.1. **Confirming Appointments:**
- 11.2. **Non-Confirming:**
- 11.3. **Resignations**

12. PETITIONS:

- 12.1. **Applications Handicap Parking Sign:** *with Police approval*
- 12.2. **Amusement/Event Application** - *with Police approval*

12.2.1. Daniel Plourde Sr, Chairman, *Haverhill Santa Parade Committee* requests permit for the *58th Annual VFW Santa Parade* to begin at *Bradford Fire Station* on So Main st and end at *Boy & Girls Club* on Emerson st; on Sunday, November 20th, to start at 1:00 and end at 4:00 pm and also requests fees be waived

*Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Councillor Rogers
PASSED approved and fees waived All in Favor*

66-S

- 12.3. **Auctioneer License:**
- 12.4. **Tag Days:** *with Police approval*
- 12.5. **One Day Liquor License:**
- 12.6. **Annual License Renewals:**
 - 12.6.1. **Hawker Peddlers License 2022 - Fixed location** – *with approvals*
 - 12.6.2. **Coin-Op License Renewals** - *with Police approvals*
 - 12.6.3. **Drainlayer License Renewals** -*with City Engineer approval*
 - 12.6.3.1. Ben Perez – *new* 16-R
 - 12.6.3.2. Also new license for Ron Concotta 16-S

*Motion by Councillor Barrett, second Councillor Rogers
PASSED Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 (McGonagle)*

- 12.6.4. **Christmas Tree Vendor** – *with Police approval*
- 12.6.5. **Taxi Driver Licenses for 2022:** *with Police approval*
- 12.6.6. **Taxi License:**
- 12.6.7. **Junk Dealer License** *with Police approval*



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- 12.6.8. **Pool Tables**
- 12.6.9. **Sunday Pool**
- 12.6.10. **Bowling**
- 12.6.11. **Sunday Bowling**
- 12.6.12. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles** *with Police approval*
- 12.6.13. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing**
- 12.6.14. **Pawnbroker license**
- 12.6.15. **Fortune Teller** - *pending Police approval*
- 12.6.16. **Buy & Sell Old Gold**
- 12.6.17. **Roller Skating Rink**
- 12.6.18. **Sunday Skating**
- 12.6.19. **Exterior Vending Machines**
- 12.6.20. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars** *with Police approval*

13. MOTIONS AND ORDERS:

- 13.1. Order – transfer \$1,700,000 from free cash and \$120,000 raised from FY 23 estimated local receipts and the total sum of \$1,820,000 be appropriated to the Haverhill School Department in order to fund the Teacher’s Union collective bargaining agreement for Fiscal Year 2023

Motion by Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Barrett

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 (McGonagle)

95-G

14. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS)

15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEDING MEETING:

- 16.1. Document 105-E: Memorandum of Agreement between City of Haverhill and *Haverhill Superior Officers Group* *continued from November 1st*
- 16.2. Document 99-H: Ordinance re: Salaries – *Superior Officers Group* *filed November 2nd*

Captain Tracy addressed the Council. He thanked the Council, Mayor Fiorentini, Chief Pistone for their continued support of the hard-working men and woman of the Haverhill Superior Officers Union.

Motion by Councillor Bevilacqua, second Councillor Toohey

PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 (McGonagle)

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 Councillor Sullivan, second Councillor Rogers

PASSED

All in Favor

Adjourned 21:13