



City of Haverhill
City Council Minutes
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, 4 Summer St, Room 202
Virtual and In-Person Meeting

Present – President Barrett, Councillors LePage, Michitson, Sullivan, Jordan, McGonagle, Daly O’Brien and Macek. Councillor Bevilacqua participated remotely.

City Clerk – Linda L. Koutoulas

President Barrett read the following statement: This meeting of the Haverhill City Council is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the “COVID-19 Virus”.

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor’s Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely and live so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. This meeting will have hybrid – in person, virtual and call-in.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Baker issued an Emergency Order temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Public bodies otherwise governed by the OML are temporarily relieved from the requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

1. Opening Prayer
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of minutes of prior meeting
The minutes of the Nov. 10 2020 Council meeting were not available.
4. Assignment of the minutes review for the next Meeting
Councillor McGonagle was assigned the minutes.
5. Communications from the Mayor
6. Communications from Councillors to introduce an individual(s) to address the Council:
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)

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MACEK TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO REVIEW APPLICATION FOR VFW SANTA PARADE FOOD AND TOY COLLECTION, SUNDAY, NOV 22 2020, FROM 12NOON TO 3:00PM AT 6 LOCATIONS. PENDING DEPARTMENT APPROVALS.

RULES SUSPENDED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

115*

MR. DAN PLOURDE, SR., CHAIR OF VFW SANTA PARADE COMMITTEE, INFORMED THAT THE PARADE HAS BEEN CANCELLED AS WE KNOW IT DUE TO COVID 19. IN ITS PLACE THERE WILL BE A FOOD AND TOY DRIVE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HAVERHILL FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND ASSISTED BY THE BETSY CONTE FUND AND OZZIE’S KIDS COMMITTEE. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE A FIRE TRUCK, WITH SANTA, DRIVE 30 MILES TO PICK UP UNWRAPPED TOYS AND FOOD AT 6 LOCATIONS. STAFF WILL TAKE ITEMS FROM CARS. EVERYONE IS TO REMAIN IN THEIR CARS. THE “PARADE” WILL START AT NOON. THE SIX LOCATIONS ARE ACADEMY PLAZA, TARGET, PENTUCKET LAKE SCHOOL, TILTON SCHOOL, PARKING LOT LOCATED TO THE RIGHT OF THE STADIUM AND BAILEY BOULEVARD. MR. PLOURDE ASKED FOR THE EVENT FEE TO BE WAIVED.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO WAIVE EVENT FEE.

EVENT FEE WAIVED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

115*

Hearings and Related Orders:

Hearing was held on Document 104 – A communication from Christine Webb, City Tax Assessor, for Tax Classification Fiscal Year 2021, including related information and Orders. Ms. Webb gave a PowerPoint presentation. She informed that she has submitted her work to the Department of Revenue (DOR)

and they have reviewed and approved our new values and new growth. DOR has given them the go ahead to conduct tonight's public hearing in conformance with requirements of Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982. Mayor Fiorentini informed that he had used \$2M in free cash to not lay off any employees. He would like to take a small portion from Free Cash, \$500,000 to help lower taxes and would like to change classification rate to 165. He is proposing to increase small business exemption from \$5K to \$7K; waive outdoor dining fee for upcoming year and waive renewal fees for liquor license renewal and reduce liquor license fees. The Mayor gave a PowerPoint presentation. Speaking to the issue were Christine Webb, Steve Gullo, Mayor Fiorentini, Jeff Grassie and Dougan Sherwood,
HEARING CLOSED

YEAS 9, Nays 0 104

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO ADOPT RESIDENTIAL FACTOR .8995 (165)
PASSED

Yeas 7, Nays 2 (Michitson, Jordan) 104B

ORDERED: That the City shall adopt a commercial exemption
NOT PASSED

Yeas 0, Nays 9 104C

ORDERED: That the City shall adopt a residential exemption
NOT PASSED

Yeas 0, Nays 9 104D

ORDERED: That the City shall select an open space discount factor
NOT PASSED

Yeas 0, Nays 9 104E

ORDERED: 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 increases to the tax exemptions for the elderly.
NOT PASSED

Yeas 2 (LePage, Michitson) Nays 7 104F

ORDERED: That the City Council accepts 100% of C.P.I. (Consumer Price Index) increase reported by the State for F.Y. 2020 Exemptions. The 2020 C.P.I. amount is 2.3%
PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0 104G

Mayor submits related Tax Orders:

ORDERED: That the City appropriate \$100,000 from Free Cash to be used to reduce Fiscal Year 2021 tax rate

On the question of passage the yeas and nays were as follows:

Yeas, - Councillors Bevilacqua, Sullivan, Daly O'Brien and Macek 4

Nays, - Councillors LePage, Michitson, Jordan, McGonagle and President Barrett 5

NOT PASSED 104H

ORDERED: That the City appropriate \$500,000 from Free Cash to be used to reduce Fiscal Year 2021 tax rate

On the question of passage the yeas and nays were as follows:

Yeas, - Councillors Bevilacqua, Sullivan, Daly O'Brien and Macek 4

Nays, - Councillors LePage, Michitson, Jordan, McGonagle and President Barrett 5

NOT PASSED 104I

Mayor submits personal property tax exemption for small businesses:

ORDERED: That Document 129 of 2018 be amended by deleting the figure "\$5,000.00" and by inserting in place thereof the figure "\$7,000". Said exemption of fair cash value on personal property accounts to be taxes shall be effective for fiscal year 2022 beginning on July 1, 2021.

PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 104J

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO DISCUSS VETERANS EXEMPTION.*

RULES SUSPENDED Yeas 9, Nays 0

COUNCILLOR LEPAGE INFORMED THIS MEASURE WAS VOTED ON AT LAST YEAR'S TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE "That the City of Haverhill hereby accepts the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5N which provides for a maximum of \$1,500 additional reduction of property tax obligation for veterans in exchange for volunteer services, to be effective for the exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2021."*

PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0

10. Appointments:

Confirming Appointments:

Non-Confirming Appointments:

11. Petitions:

Petition for Special Permit from Attorney Michael Migliori for applicant Snow Cassell, LLC to build a 3-family home in the RH Zone at 33 Eighth Avenue

REFERRED TO PLANNING BOARD

COUNCIL HEARING JAN 12 2021

Yeas 9, Nays 0

113

Petition from Attorney Paul Magliocchetti for applicant Ernest Coito for revised development – Site Plan Review Major for 48 Condos at 38 Railroad st; Parcel ID:701-630-9

REFERRED TO PLANNING BOARD

COUNCIL HEARING JAN 26 2021

Yeas 9, Nays 0

114

12. Motions and Orders

ORDERED: That the sum of \$56,000.00 be transferred from the General Fund, Reserve for Capital Projects to the following Capital Account: Information Technology – Replace Host Servers \$56,000.00
PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

18W

ORDERED: That the following fees and rates shall be in effect for calendar year 2021:

Section 12 All Alcohol Licenses: \$2000

Section 12 Wine and Malt Licenses: \$1500

Entertainment License: \$50.00

Outdoor dining License: waived

304 Alcohol License Renewal Application Fee: waived

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

110

13. Ordinances (File 10 days)

14. Communications from Councillors:

Communication was received from Councillor Bevilacqua requesting discussion regarding concern over the proposed MBTA service cuts and the negative impacts upon Haverhill residents and businesses.

COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA INFORMED THAT CUTS WILL BE IN THE SPRING OF NEXT YEAR AND THE MBTA IS TAKING COMMENTS NOW. GATEWAY CITIES WILL BE HIT ESPECIALLY HARD AS RESIDENTS NEED TO USE SERVICES.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO SEND LETTER TO STATE DELEGATION EXPRESSING OUR CONCERNS.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

101R

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO DISCUSS SENDING A LETTER TO MAYOR TO FUND DIVERSITY OFFICER POSITION.

RULES SUSPENDED

Yeas 8, Nays 1 (Daly O'Brien)

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO SEND COMMUNICATION TO MAYOR TO CONSIDER UTILIZING FUNDS FROM CDBG TO FUND POSITION OF DIVERSITY OFFICER LETTER TO MAYOR

Yeas 8, Nays 1 (Daly O'Brien)

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MACEK TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO APPROVE APPLICATION FROM ELKS FOR CHRISTMAS TREE VENDOR PERMIT*

RULES SUSPENDED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

109

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN TO APPROVE THE ELKS APPLICATION FOR CHRISTMAS TREE PERMIT EFFECTIVE 11/22 THRU 12/24. HAS POLICE APPROVAL
PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

109

15. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting:

16. RESOLUTIONS and PROCLAMATIONS:

17. Council Committee Reports and Announcements:

18. Documents referred to committee study

19. Long term matters study list

Meeting adjourned 9:45 o'clock P.M.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Attest: Linda Koutoulas

City Clerk

- *Suspension – 11/13/20 Email from Councillor LePage regarding Veterans exemption
- *Doc.115 – Suspension – Email from Councillor Sullivan regarding VFW Santa Parade
- *Doc.109 – Suspension – Haverhill Elks Christmas Tree Vendor Permit application