



City of Haverhill
City Council Minutes
Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Virtual

Present – President Barrett, Councillors LePage, Bevilacqua, Michitson, Sullivan, Jordan, McGonagle, Daly O'Brien and Macek.

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 call-in for hearing.

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 were approved Yeas 9, Nays
4. Assignment of the minutes review for the next Meeting
Councillor LePage was assigned the minutes
5. Communications from the Mayor
Mayor Fiorentini requests to give (COVID-19) crisis update

The Mayor informed that it's been a very tough week, the worse week ever. In the past 7 days there have been 480 new cases, 83 today. Last week 2 were hospitalized and there were 2 deaths. He implored people to stay "in your bubble". Stay with the people you live with. Family gatherings account for 210 infections last week. The Governor has issued new restrictions effective Dec. 13. Gyms – masks must be worn at all times. Restaurants – table capacity limited to 6 – must wear mask at all times unless you are eating. The Mayor is working on getting a testing site in Haverhill. Help is on the way. We are very close to getting the vaccine in the next couple of weeks. 89O

Mayor Fiorentini requests to introduce John Burke, our Parking Consultant who will give a presentation on the proposed changes to our paid parking ordinance. John Burke, parking consultant, informed that the parking program started 8 years ago and things have changed. They have received a number of complaints about inconsistency of hours and signage. He recommends consistent on/off street hours – Monday thru Saturday 10AM to 8PM and increasing monthly parking permit fee in off-street lots. Currently there is free parking on Saturday and during the week free until 3PM. Most cities charge on Saturdays and also lunchtime during week days. This will improve traffic congestion and make it more pedestrian friendly. Saturday is peak parking day. There have been 3 evaluations since 2012. He recommends starting paid parking at 10AM. Off-street lots – the typical monthly rate is \$20. This has fallen well below the market rate – recommends \$25 monthly rate. Karl Brunelle, Chair of Parking Commission and Josiah Morrow, commission member, support the recommended parking rates. The Mayor informed that he wants to hold off on increasing the monthly rate and will work with the MVRTA. He will probably implement new rates effective Feb.1, 2021. 89P

6. Communications from Councillors to introduce an individual(s) to address the council:
Communication from Councillor Colin LePage requesting to introduce Chief DeNaro for discussion on mental health response for assistance from the Police Department

CHIEF DENARO INFORMED THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS THRUST INTO A MYRIAD OF MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES. SOCIAL WORKERS CAN BE HUGE ASSISTANCE. HAVING MENTAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN TO ASSIST POLICE IS GROWING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. STATISTICS PROVIDED EARLIER INDICATE THE INCREASE IN MENTAL HEALTH CALLS. HE HAS HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH LAHEY. THE COST TO HAVE A LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, 40 HOURS A WEEK, IS \$75,000. THIS CLINICIAN WOULD BE IN THE PATROL CAR GOING ON CALLS WITH THE OFFICER ON DUTY. CHIEF DENARO WANTED TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE UPCOMING POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CALEA INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION EVALUATION IN MARCH.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO SEND A LETTER TO THE MAYOR ABOUT FUNDING A LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER POSITION Yeas 9, Nays 0 101V

7. Public Participation- Requests under Council Rule 28

Melanie Francois requests to address the Council regarding traffic on Hilldale/Monument Streets
 PLACED ON FILE AS MS. FRANCOIS WAS NOT PRESENT 103B

8. Communications and Reports from City Officers and Employees:

Communication from City Council President, Melinda E Barrett, cancelling the City Council meeting scheduled for December 29, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Theodore Pelosi, Jr. City Council Chambers
 ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE TO CANCEL DEC. 29 COUNCIL MEETING
 MEETING CANCELLED Yeas 9, Nays 0 64D

City Assessor, Christine Webb submits abatement report for the month of November 2020
 PLACED ON FILE Yeas 9, Nays 0 32K

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

Hearing was held on Document 105, petition from Mass Electric Company d/b/a National Grid & Verizon NE requesting a Joint Pole Location on Crystal Street; Plan 29226065. With Paulo Sathler from National Grid appearing in favor. He informed that a new house is being built on Crystal Street. No one was opposed.
 Hearing closed. 105

ORDERED: Grant Mass Electric Company d/b/a National Grid & Verizon permission for Joint Pole Location on Crystal Street
 GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 105B

Hearings and Related Orders:

10. Appointments:

Confirming Appointments:

Non-Confirming Appointments:

11. Petitions:

12. Motions and Orders

ORDERED: That in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 64, authorize the payment of bills of the previous years and to further authorize the payment from current year departmental appropriations as listed:

Vendor	Amount	Account	
AECOM	\$600.00	Wastewater Department	
Wise/Mallory Safety & Environmental	\$615.00	Wastewater Department	
Employee Reimbursement	\$166.37	Fire Dept	
PASSED		Yeas 9, Nays 0	17D

13. Ordinances (File 10 days)

14. Communications from Councillors:

Communication was received from Councillor Michitson requesting to recognize the outstanding achievements of John Cuneo during his rewarding career at Community Action, Inc serving Haverhill's most vulnerable citizens.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MICHITSON TO POSTPONE ONE WEEK
 POSTPONED TO DEC 15 2020 Yeas 9, Nays 0 101O

15. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting:

Document 8-F:

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 240
 An Ordinance Relating to Vehicles and Traffic

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Haverhill that the Code of the City of Haverhill, Chapter 240-108, ARTICLE XVI. Parking Fees, Rates and Terms is hereby amended as follows:

By deleting the figures and words "8.00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.", "8:00 a.m. to "8:00 p.m." "3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.", under the heading "Hours of Operation" on the **CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT PARKING FEES, RATES AND TERMS** chart, and, by inserting the figures and works "Monday thru Saturday –

10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.” in place thereof.

PASSED

Yeas 7, Nays 0, Abstain 2 (Bevilacqua, McGonagle)

8F

Document 8-G:

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 240
An Ordinance Relating to Vehicles and Traffic

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Haverhill that the Code of the City of Haverhill, Chapter 240-108, ARTICLE XVI. Parking Fees, Rates and Terms is hereby amended as follows:

By deleting the figure “\$20.00” under the heading “Monthly Rate” on the **CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT PARKING FEES, RATES AND TERMS** chart, and by inserting the figure “\$25.00” in place thereof.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO TABLE AT THE MAYOR’S REQUEST

TABLED

Yeas 7, Nays 0, Abstain 2 (Bevilacqua, McGonagle)

8G

Document 8-H:

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 240
An Ordinance Relating to Vehicles and Traffic

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Haverhill that the Code of the City of Haverhill, Chapter 240-108, ARTICLE XVI. Parking Fees, Rates and Terms is hereby amended as follows:

By adding the following at the end of “NOTES:***”: “Employees of the Central Business District shall not be allowed to use their Parking Permits in the Washington & Wingate Parking lots at any time.”

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO TABLE AT THE MAYOR’S REQUEST

TABLED

Yeas 7, Nays 0, Abstain 2 (Bevilacqua, McGonagle)

8H

Document 8-K:

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 240
An Ordinance Relating to Vehicles and Traffic

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Haverhill that the Code of the City of Haverhill, Chapter 240-95 Schedule L: Stop Streets, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding the following:

Stop Street	Direction of Travel	At intersection of
Grand View Rd.	West	Klondike Avenue

Further, that said Schedule L shall be amended by deleting the word “Grandview” and inserting in place thereof the words “Grand View”.

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

8K

Document 86-Q: Communication from Councillor Colin LePage requesting a discussion on homelessness in Haverhill and potential strategies to address it
COUNCILLOR LEPAGE INTRODUCED JEANINE MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF EMMAUS AND GRETCHEN ARNTZ, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR. MS. MURPHY SPOKE ABOUT THE INCEPTION AND PROGRESSION OF THE EMMAUS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. SHE THANKED THE MAYOR FOR THE CITY’S INVOLVEMENT AND TEAMWORK APPROACH. THE TENT ON HOW STREET IS OPEN 24/7 AND NO RESIDENTS TO DATE HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19. ACROSS THE STATE 75% OF HOMELESS TEST POSITIVE. EMMAUS OWNS AND MANAGES 99 UNITS. SHE MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS AFFORDABLE HOUSING. AUBRIE CAMPBELL, PROGRAM COORDINATOR, EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE INFORMED THAT THE CITY HAS HELPED OVER 200 FAMILIES STAY IN THEIR APARTMENTS. COUNCILLOR LEPAGE GAVE A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION. HE REFERENCED HAVERHILL’S AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS; WORCESTER’S PARTNERSHIP WITH MASS HOUSING THAT HELPED FUND MODULAR MICRO-UNITS FOR CHRONICALLY HOMELESS. HE INVITED CHIEF DENARO TO SPEAK ABOUT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT’S INVOLVEMENT WITH EMMAUS PROGRAMS AND CLIENTS. MAYOR FIORENTINI THANKED EMMAUS FOR THEIR GREAT WORK AND ADDED THAT HAVERHILL DOES MORE THAN OTHER COMMUNITIES DO. HE IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT HOMELESSNESS AND THE POTENTIAL EVICTION EPIDEMIC WHEN THE MORATORIUM ENDS. THE EVICTION FUNDING IS RUNNING OUT AND THE PROGRAM ENDS DEC. 30TH. HE WILL ESTABLISH AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE AND WILL ASK COUNCILLOR LEPAGE AND JEANINE MURPHY TO BE PART OF IT. GRETCHEN ARTNZ INFORMED THAT MITCH’S PLACE IS A WET SHELTER AND THAT THEY HAD TO CHANGE PROCEDURES DURING COVID, CAPACITY IS REDUCED. IT IS NOT STAFFED WITH A MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN.
ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO SEND LETTER TO MAYOR RESTATING HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDER HAVING A MAYOR/COUNCIL CONFERENCE ON THIS

TOPIC. ALSO, SEND LETTER TO LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION INFORMING THEM OF THIS DISCUSSION.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Document 86-Z: Communication from Council President Barrett and Councillor LePage requesting status on Downtown Parking Management contract as well as Parking Commission recommendations as previously discussed at Council meeting held May 19 2020; *postponed from October 6th*
ITEM WAS DISCUSSED WITH JOHN BURKE'S PRESENTATION.
PLACED ON FILE

16. RESOLUTIONS and PROCLAMATIONS:

17. Council Committee Reports and Announcements:

18. Documents referred to committee study

19. Long term matters study list

Meeting adjourned 9:30 o'clock P.M.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Attest: Linda Koutoulas
City Clerk