



City of Haverhill
City Council Minutes
Tuesday, February 2, 2021

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 public comment for the special permit 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 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

Councillor Macek had technical difficulties

4. Assignment of the minutes review for the next Meeting

Councillor McGonagle was assigned the minutes

5. Communications from the Mayor

Mayor Fiorentini requests to give Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis update along with Councillor Mary Ellen Daly O'Brien

Mayor Fiorentini informed that the numbers are going down but that they are still too high. He expressed concern about Super Bowl parties and urged folks not to go outside their household to celebrate with others. Vaccine clinics for those 75 years and older starts this week. Sign ups for vaccine is frustrating. Walgreens in Bradford will have the vaccine. Trinity will be vaccinating those in senior housing. He explained the use of the state website for the vaccine and referenced the city's website. The toll free number – 211 – is available for scheduling appointments is available but there is a long wait. Mary Connolly, public health nurse, has hired 2 people to help with contact tracing. Councillor Daly O'Brien asked for patience. 5C

6. Communications from Councillors to introduce an individual(s) to address the council:

Communication from Councillor Colin Lepage requesting to introduce Rocky Morrison of the Clean River Project to give a progress report on their clean-up efforts of the Merrimack River

MR. ROCKY MORRISON INFORMED THAT THE CLEAN RIVER PROGRAM PULLED 20.61 TON OF DEBRIS FROM HAVERHILL IN 2020. HE GAVE A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION. THEY CLEANED UP 23 HOMELESSS CAMPS. THE CLEAN RIVER PROJECT RECEIVED A STATE MET GRANT FOR \$4,000. MR. MORRISON WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIS CONTRACT EXTENDED SO THEY CAN TACKLE THE WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE BEHIND RIVERSIDE PLAZA.

PLACED ON FILE

7B

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:

Document 116/2020: Petition for Special Permit from Timothy Woodland for applicant Washington 149 LLC to build 5 residential units at 149 Washington st; *Favorable conditional recommendation from Planning Board & Planning Director*

HEARING OPENED

PRESIDENT BARRETT INFORMED THAT THE PUBLIC WOULD BE ABLE TO CALL IN BY USING THE PHONE NUMBER THAT WILL SCROLL ON THE TV.

MR. TIMOTHY WOODLAND INTRODUCED HIMSELF AND ASKED HIS ATTORNEY TO REVIEW THE PROPOSAL. ATTORNEY ROBERT PETERSON INFORMED THAT MR. WOODLAND BECAME THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY IN OCTOBER 2020. THERE IS ONE COMMERCIAL UNIT AND TWO EXISTING RESIDENTIAL 2 BEDROOM UNITS ON THE SECOND FLOOR. HE WANTS TO REDEVELOP THE PROPERTY BY REMOVING THE COMMERCIAL ON THE FIRST FLOOR AND IS PROPOSING 3 ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL UNITS – 1 TWO-BEDROOM, 1 STUDIO AND 1 ONE-BEDROOM. THE ABUTTING BUILDING IS ALL RESIDENTIAL.

NO ONE SPOKE IN FAVOR OR AGAINST THE PROPOSAL.

HEARING CLOSED.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN TO MOVE FOR PASSAGE.

EACH COUNCILLOR EXPRESSED THEIR VIEW ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. SOME FELT THAT THE FIRST FLOOR SHOULD REMAIN COMMERCIAL. OTHERS SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL AS THIS BUILDING IS NOT LOCATED IN THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN AND THE ABUTTING BUILDING IS ALL RESIDENTIAL.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE PLANNING DIRECTOR WILLIAM PILLSBURY'S LETTER DATED JANUARY 29, 2021 AND DEPARTMENT HEAD LETTERS WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

On the question of passage with amendment, the yeas and nays are as follows:

Yeas, - Councillors LePage, Michitson, Sullivan, Jordan, McGonagle and Daly O'Brien, 6

Nays, - Councillors Bevilacqua, Macek and President Barrett 3

PASSED WITH CONDITIONS

Yeas 6, Nays 3

116/2020

Document 117/2020: Petition for a Watershed Special Permit from Attorney Donald Borenstein for applicant D & D Realty Trust for 11 single family homes at 0 Brandy Brow Road; *Favorable conditional recommendation from Planning Board and Planning Director*

Request from Attorney Donald Borenstein for applicant to continue hearing to the meeting of March 2, 2021
ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN TO CONTINUE TO MARCH 2, 2021.

CONTINUED TO MARCH 2, 2021

Yeas 9, Nays 0

117/2020

11. Appointments:

Confirming Appointments:

Non-Confirming Appointments:

Mayor's Task Force on Public Health:

Dr. John Maddox, MD, Haverhill Public Schools, District Physician

Katie Vozeolas BSN, RN, NCSN, Haverhill Public Schools, Director of Health & Nursing Services

Adrienne Gladden-Young, 63 Juniper Wood Drive, Haverhill

Appointments effective immediately and all expire December 31 2021

PLACED ON FILE

Yeas 9, Nays 0

1F

Plug Pond Advisory Committee:

Maria Betances, 54 Thomas av, Haverhill

Victoria Torres, 162 Grove st, Haverhill

Appointments effective immediately and will expire automatically on January 22, 2023 unless otherwise extended by the Mayor

Yeas 9, Nays 0

1G

12. Petitions:

Annual License Renewals:

Drainlayer License Renewals for 2021 - with City Engineer approval:

The following were all granted:

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Daniel Briscoe

19

Paul D Busby

19B

David Deloury

19C

Thomas Hodgson

19D

Scott Karpinski

19E

Fred Ramey

19F

John Russo

19G

Michael McCarthy

19H

13. Motions and Orders

14. Ordinances (File 10 days)

15. Communications from Councillors:

Communication was received from Council President Barrett requesting to have the Parking Commission review the parking spaces in the Goecke Parking Garage resulting from the closure of the VA clinic on Merrimack st

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MICHITSON TO HAVE THE VETERANS PARKING SPACES AT THE GOECKE PARKING GARAGE REVIEWED BY THE PARKING COMMISSION AND SUBMIT RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL REFERRED TO PARKING COMMISSION Yeas 9, Nays 0 40

Communication was received from Council Vice President LePage and President Barrett requesting an update from the Mayor on the proposed mixed-use development project at 14 Stevens st
COUNCILLOR LEPAGE ASKED THE MAYOR TO ADDRESS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BUILDING. THE MAYOR INFORMED THAT THE OWNERS REFUSE TO FIX UP THE BUILDING AND THEY LIVE IN FLORIDA. AS SOON AS THE CITY BOARDS IT UP VANDALS GET IN. HE HAS USED CDBG FUNDS TO TRY AND MAINTAIN IT. ARCH DEVELOPMENT HAS INDICATED THAT THE PROJECT IS NOT DOABLE WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL STATE SUBSIDIES. THE WHOLE PACKAGE IS KNOWN AS ONE STOP PERMITTING. THE CITY IS LOOKING INTO TAKING OVER THE DAM PORTION AS ARCH DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT WANT THE DAM. THE MAYOR IS EXPLORING GRANT FUNDING AND LIABILITY ISSUES.
PLACED ON FILE 4P

Communication was received from Councillor Macek requesting a discussion on parking space requirements per zoning regulations throughout the City
COUNCILLOR MACEK INFORMED THAT THE PARKING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS HAVE NOT CHANGED FOR 50+ YEARS AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE POLICIES REVIEWED.
REFERRED TO ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE Yeas 9, Nays 0 4Q

Communication was received from Councillor Michitson requesting to address House Bill 663 "An Act protecting internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic"
COUNCILLOR MICHITSON ASKED TO DISCUSS PROGRESS ON BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS FOR HAVERHILL AND INTRODUCED REP. ANDY VARGAS TO SPEAK ABOUT THE BILL HE FILED. REP. VARGAS GAVE A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION. REP. VARGAS INFORMED THAT IN DECEMBER COMCAST ANNOUNCED DATA CAP RESTRICTIONS AND THAT THEY WOULD BE CHARGING AN ADDITIONAL \$10 TO \$100. HE FILED THE BILL WITH BI-PARTISION SUPPORT FOR ACCESS PROTECTIONS AND DATA CAPS. COMCAST HAS DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION UNTIL AUGUST FOR MASS CUSTOMERS. THE NEXT STEP IS TO ESTABLISH REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (ISP) IN MASSACHUSETTS AND GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR HOTSPOT SPACES. THE MAYOR INFORMED THAT HE WILL BE PUTTING OUT RFP FOR FIBER NETWORK FOR CITY.
PLACED ON FILE 4R

16. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting:

Document 3-C:
MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 240
An Ordinance Relating to Parking

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Haverhill that the Code of the City of Haverhill, Chapter 240, as amended, be further amended by ADDING the following in §240-85 Schedule B: Parking Restrictions and Prohibitions:

LOCATION	REGULATION	HOURS/DAYS	
Summer Street In front of No. 103 except for 1-24 hour handicap parking space	No Parking	24 hours	
PASSED		Yeas 9, Nays 0	3C

Document 3-D:
MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 240
An Ordinance Relating to Parking

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Haverhill that the Code of the City of Haverhill, Chapter 240, as amended, be further amended by ADDING the following in §240-85 Schedule B: Parking Restrictions and Prohibitions:

LOCATION	REGULATION	HOURS/DAYS	
Summer Street In front of No. 58 except for 1-24 hour handicap parking space at No. 58 Webster St.	No Parking	24 hours	
PASSED		Yeas 9, Nays 0	3D

Document 4-M: Communication from Councillor Joseph Bevilacqua requesting to recognize the COVID Assistance Volunteer Grocery Shopping Program

VOLUNTEER NOMSA NCUBE SPOKE ABOUT THE WORK SHE IS DOING WITH TEAM EAST TO DELIVER MEALS, GROCERIES AND OTHER THINGS FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY COVID-19. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE MARY CONNOLLY SPOKE ABOUT THE COLLABORATION WITH CITY GROUPS THAT WAS INITIATED BY ALLISON HEARTQUIST, MAYOR'S CHIEF OF STAFF. MAYOR FIORENTINI THANKED ALL OF THOSE INVOLVED WITH THESE EFFORTS AND MENTIONED THAT THE PUBLIC CAN MAKE DONATIONS TO THE ONE FUND RUN BY THE UNITED WAY.

PLACED ON FILE

4M

Document 4-N: Communication from Councillor Joseph Bevilacqua requesting a discussion regarding the recently enacted 2-hour Sewerage Notification Bill and its benefit to Haverhill residents and the Merrimack River

COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA INFORMED THAT GOVERNOR BAKER SIGNED A BILL THAT MANDATES A 2 HOUR SEWER NOTIFICATION IF THERE IS A SPILL. REP. LINDA DEAN CAMPBELL WAS ONE OF THE LEAD SPONSORS OF THE BILL. HE WANTED TO INFORM THE PUBLIC.

PLACED ON FILE

4N

17. RESOLUTIONS and PROCLAMATIONS:

Proclamation – Black History Month – February 2021

COUNCILLOR LEPAGE READ THE PROCLAMATION INTO THE RECORD

ADOPTED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

6B

18. Council Committee Reports and Announcements:

19. Documents referred to committee study

20. Long term matters study list

Meeting adjourned 9:20 o'clock P.M.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Attest: Linda Koutoulas

City Clerk