



City of Haverhill
City Council Minutes
Tuesday, February 23, 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 not have public comment.

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 0
4. Assignment of the minutes review for the next Meeting
Councillor Macek was assigned the minutes

Councillor Sullivan asked for a moment of silence for the recent passing of former CDBG Director John Nazaretian for his decades of service with the city; passing of Peter Boisselle, retired former Public Works Supervisor for many years and the sudden passing of Kate Sherwood, wife of former President of Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce Dougan Sherwood.

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 there is a gradual decline. The state positivity rate is under 2% and that we were at 5% last week. The big news is that the vaccine is available to those 65 years and older and to people with 2 or more underlying medical issues. People who live in housing projects are also eligible. The state is steering people to the Mass. Vaccine sites. Some places get their doses directly from the federal government. He urged folks to go to the Mass. Vaccine site in Danvers. Veterans can go to the Bedford VA if they are 50 or older. Contact Luis Santiago, Haverhill Veterans Officer for assistance and/or sign up at Haverhillrec.com, 978 374-2390. There will be a Veterans clinic at Consentino School on March 21st. Councillor Daly O'Brien attended Public Health Task Force meeting last Friday. There are numerous challenges associated with getting people vaccinated, i.e. disabled, those that can't drive and need rides to sites, people who work traditional work hours. Mayor Fiorentini informed that transportation will be provided. Plans are being made to get vaccines to elderly, low income housing projects, homebound and consideration of having vaccines given on the weekend. The city is not ready. He reminded folks to keep masking, observing social distancing and washing hands. Councillor Daly O'Brien continued to ask for patience.

PLACED ON FILE

5E

Mayor Fiorentini requests to file an amendment to expand the geographic limits of the City's "Downtown Market Rate Incentive Zone" under the Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) under Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) Chapter 40V, as detailed on accompanying maps

MAYOR FIORENTINI INTRODUCED ANDREW HERLIHY, CDBG DIVISION DIRECTOR TO EXPLAIN THE AMENDMENT. MR. HERLIHY INFORMED THAT THE ZONE WAS BEING EXPANDED TO INCLUDE LAFAYETTE SQUARE AND LOWER RIVER STREET AND THAT THERE WERE NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MACEK TO FILE AN AMENDMENT TO EXPAND THE GEOGRAPHIC LIMITS OF THE CITY'S "DOWNTOWN MARKET RATE INCENTIVE ZONE" (see amendment for complete text)

PASSED Yeas 9. Nays 0 5F

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

Councillor Bevilacqua requests to introduce Bobby Brown, Secretary/Treasurer Merrimack Valley Central Labor Council and Cal Williams, United Way Merrimack Valley Region Director to discuss February 27 Merrimack Valley Central Labor Council/United Way/Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Food Drive to benefit Haverhill Food Pantries

MR. BROWN HIGHLIGHTED THE ISSUE OF FOOD INSECURTY AND THAT A FOOD DRIVE WILL BE HELD THIS SATURDAY, FEB. 27 IN THE HAVERHILL CITY HALL PARKING LOT FROM 9AM-1PM AND REVIEWED THE TYPES OF ITEMS THAT ARE NEEDED. MR. WILLIAMS INFORMED THAT THE UNITED WAY OF THE MERRIMACK VALLELY REGION SUPPORTS 162 CITIES AND TOWNS AND THAT THE FOOD DRIVE IS IN COORDINATION WITH BILL LAPPIERE. ALL ITEMS COLLECTED WILL BE FOR HAVERHILL PROGRAMS. HE ALSO ENCOURAGED DONATIONS TO THE HAVERHILL ONE FUND.

PLACED ON FILE 7C

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:

11. Appointments:

Confirming Appointments:

Non-Confirming Appointments:

12. Petitions:

CCSP-21-3; Attorney Paul Magliocchetti submits application for a special permit hearing for the owner/applicant David O'Leary, Boston Haverhill, LLC to create a 7-lot subdivision consisting of 6 lots for Triplex townhouse style condos and 1 lot for the existing single-family home of Mr. O'Leary at 1240 Boston rd

COUNCIL HEARING MARCH 30 2021 Yeas 9, Nays 0 24

Applications Handicap Parking Sign - renewals

Celia Sullivan for 11 17th Avenue

GRANTED Yeas 8, Abstain 1(Sullivan) 2E

June Childs for 8 LeBlanc st

GRANTED Yeas 8, Abstain 1(Sullivan) 2F

Edward Menzigian for 19 Arch av

GRANTED Yeas 8, Abstain 1(Sullivan) 2G

Drainlayer License Renewals for 2021 - with City Engineer approval:

John Enos

GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 19I

Joseph Phelan

GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 19J

Mark Viens

GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 19K

Michael Macura - new

GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 19IL

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO INTRODUCE REQUEST FROM CITY ENGINEER PETTIS FOR DRAINLAYER LICENSE FOR THOMAS ROHAN

SUSPENSION PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 19M

DRAINLAYER LICENSE (New) THOMAS ROHAN, 70 Creeperhill Rd., N. Grafton

GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 19M

13. Motions and Orders

ORDERED: That the City of Haverhill hereby accepts so much of the provisions of G.L. Chapter 152, Section 69, which provides that "An employee who is entitled to any sick leave allowance may take such of his sick leave allowance payment as, when added to the amount of any disability compensation herein provided, will result in the payment to him of his full salary or wages"

Related communication from Margaret Marotta, Superintendent of Schools

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR JORDAN TO PASS THE PROVISION.

COUNCILLOR LEPAGE READ SUPERINTENDENT MAROTTA'S LETTER DATED FEB 16 2021 INTO THE RECORD. SOLICITOR WILLIAM COX INFORMED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECEIVED A GRIEVANCE FROM AN EMPLOYEE AND IN RESEARCHING THE MASSACHUSETTS STATUTE ORIGINALLY ADOPTED IN 1913 AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED TO ALLOW EMPLOYEES TO USE AVAILABLE SICK LEAVE TO RECEIVE THE SAME SALARY THEY WERE RECEIVING WHEN THEY WENT OUT ON WORKERS COMP. HAVERHILL HAD NOT YET ADOPTED THE PROVISIONS. HE ALSO ADDED AN AMENDMENT TO INDICATE EFFECTIVE DATE MARCH 1, 2021.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MICHITSON WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE TO AMEND THE MOTION TO REFLECT EFFECTIVE DATE MARCH 1, 2021.

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

25

ORDERED: That the City appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand (\$60,000.00) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of the feasibility Study/Schematic Design of the Partial Haverhill High School Roof Replacement Project at Haverhill High School located at 137 Monument Street, Haverhill, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the City. The City acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City incurs in excess of any grant the may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of funding authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City and the MSBA.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR JORDAN TO APPROVE ORDER

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

10E

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

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	
Desman Design Management	\$5,921.69	Parking Deck Engineering	
Gallagher Benefit Services	\$3,208.33	HR/Emp Benefits	

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

18C

14. Ordinances (File 10 days)

Bond Order

ORDERED: \$184,810 DPW Truck Bonds

That One Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ten Dollars (\$184,810) is appropriated to acquire a dump/sander/plow truck for the Department of Public Works, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor. (see document for complete text)

PLACED ON FILE for at least 10 days

Yeas 9, Nays 0

26

15. Communications from Councillors:

Communication was received from Council President Barrett requesting to discuss the recent issues at the Goecke parking garage east side

PRESIDENT BARRETT INFORMED THAT SHE HAD SEEN POLICE TAPE AND BARRELS AROUND A CRACKED PORTION OF CEMENT IN THE UPPER DECK OF THE GARAGE AND WANTED TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE STATUS. ROBERT WARD, ACTING PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, INFORMED THAT AT THE NORTHEAST ENTRANCE NEAREAST TO PENTUCKET MEDICAL ENTRANCE THERE WAS A 2-FOOT-WIDE BY 20 FOOT LONG PORTION THAT BROKE FREE AND WAS HANGING THERE. THE DPW CREW PUT STEEL PLATES TO COVER THE AREA AND A CONTRACTOR CUT THE CONCRETE OUT. APPROXIMATE SIZE OF AREA 2X35 FEET. THE CITY IS IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING A PROPOSAL TO ESTIMATE THE COST TO REPAIR. MR. WARD WILL GIVE AN UPDATE TO COUNCIL WHEN PROPOSAL IS RECEIVED

4Y

Communication was received from Council President Barrett and Vice President LePage requesting a status update from the Mayor regarding ongoing City and School building maintenance projects including the Organizational Roles and Responsibilities of the "newly combined" Facilities Maintenance Department

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO TABLE TO MARCH 16 COUNCIL MEETING

TABLED TO MARCH 16

Yeas 8, Absent 1(Sullivan)

4Z

