



City of Haverhill
City Council Minutes
Tuesday, March 31, 2020
Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, Room 202
4 Summer Street

Present – President Barrett, Councillors LePage, Bevilacqua, Michitson, Sullivan, Jordan, McGonagle, Daly O’Brien and Macek.
City Clerk – Linda L. Koutoulas

President Barrett, Vice President LePage and City Clerk Koutoulas participated from the City Council office.

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 so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will not feature 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 McGonagle was assigned the minutes

5. Communications from the Mayor

President Barrett announced that the Mayor would give an update on the current situation in the community and the City’s efforts.

The Mayor informed that there are 55 diagnosed with COVID-19. He urged the public to stay calm, focused and to stay inside and to limit visits to grocery stores. He thanked the first responders. He informed that barbershops and beauticians were allowed to stay open but that was superseded by Governor Baker’s order that all non-essential businesses are to be closed. He has suspended pay for parking downtown, effective immediately, but 2-hour time limit needs to be observed. The state is extending time to pay excise taxes to April 23 and the city is extending real estate payments with no penalties and interest to June 1st and giving an extra month to pay water and wastewater bills. City Hall will be closed until at least May 4th. The Mayor is working on a program to call seniors and hopes to set up a program for high risk elders. He urged the public to follow social distancing.

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

Communication from Councillor John Michitson requesting to introduce Chris White from Haverhill’s Creatorpult to address needs to continue 3D printing of COVID-19 masks and face shields

MR. CHRIS WHITE INFORMED THAT HE HAS A 3D PRINT SHOP. HE STARTED PRINTING MASKS WITH FILTERS THAT CAN BE SANITIZED. HE HAS PRINTED OVER 400 MASKS. HE ASKED THE CITY FOR ASSISTANCE WITH NAMES OF ORGANIZATIONS/PLACES TO DONATE MASKS.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR MASKS. COUNCILLOR MICHITSON SUGGESTED SOCIAL NETWORKS. MR. WHITE INFORMED THAT HE STARTED A GOFUNDME ACCOUNT, AMAZON WISH LIST FOR SUPPLIES; VISIT HIS WEBSITE CREATORPULT3D.COM FOR ADDITIONAL INFO. THE COUNCIL THANKED MR. WHITE FOR HIS COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE.

PLACED ON FILE

55

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:

No schedule

12. Petitions:

No schedule

13. Motions and Orders

ORDERED: That the sum of \$273,758.78 be transferred from balance of the following Capital Project accounts to the Capital Account COVID-19 Emergency:

2012 Traffic Signal Improvement	\$14,135.50
2014 Water St Greenway	10,500.00
2017 Main st Improvement	44,444.00
2017 Bucket Truck	17,854.00
City Hall Retaining Wall	143,733.75
City Hall Document Management	43,091.53

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MACEK TO REMOVE RETAINING WALL ITEM \$143,733.75 FROM THE LIST. THE AMENDED AMOUNT IS \$130,025.03

PASSED AS AMENDED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

18J

14. Ordinances (File 10 days)

15. Communications from Councillors:

Communication was received from Councillor William Macek requesting a discussion relative to the State extending this year's State Tax filing deadline of April 15, 2020 for 90 days until July 15, 2020 so that both State and Federal Tax Returns are due on the same date as usual

COUNCILLOR MACEK INFORMED THAT SINCE HE PUT THIS ITEM ON THE AGENDA, GOVERNOR BAKER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE DATE FOR FILING STATE RETURNS WOULD ALIGN WITH THE FEDERAL GUIDELINE OF JULY 15, 2020 AND WANTED TO NOTIFY THE PUBLIC OF THIS NEW CHANGE.

PLACED ON FILE

3V

Communication was received from Councillor Timothy Jordan requesting a discussion regarding the need for isolation center/housing for the local homeless population and possibly some first responders
COUNCILLOR JORDAN EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF HOMELESS PERSON(S) BECOMING INFECTED WITH COVID-19 VIRUS AS WELL AS FIRST RESPONDER(S) AND HOW THE CITY WOULD HANDLE THIS SITUATION. THE MAYOR INFORMED THAT THE CITY HAS SECURED HAMPTON INN AS THEY HAVE AN UNUSED WING AND THE BACK UP TO THE BACK UP COULD BE ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL AND CONSIDERING USE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GYM. THIS IS A STATE-WIDE ISSUE. COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA SUGGESTED USING TRAILERS AT A PARK SIMILAR TO WHAT WAS DONE IN LAWRENCE DURING GAS DISASTER. ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR JORDAN TO SEND A LETTER TO GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO WORK ON A REGIONAL PLAN FOR SHELTER. Yeas 9, Nays 0

34W

Communication was received from Councillor Mary Ellen Daly O'Brien requesting to discuss smoking near outdoor dining

COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN INFORMED THAT SHE HAD THIS ITEM ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA 2 YEARS AGO AND THAT THE PROBLEM STILL PERSISTS AT OUTDOOR DINING AREAS. SHE ASKED THE COUNCIL TO SUPPORT HER IN SENDING THIS MATTER TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH TO RESTRICT SMOKING NEAR OUTDOOR EATING ESTABLISHMENTS UNTIL AFTER 10PM AND HAVE BOARD OF HEALTH ESTABLISH DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS. LETTER TO BOARD OF HEALTH

Yeas 9, Nays 0

34X

Communication was received from Councillor Joseph Bevilacqua requesting a discussion regarding City Councillor filing of agenda item requested to be on City Council agenda

COUNCILLOR BEVIACAQUA QUESTIONED THE PROCESS FOR FILING AGENDA ITEMS SINCE HIS EMAILS WERE SUBMITTED BEFORE 11AM AS STATED IN THE COUNCIL RULES & REGS. HE WAS REMINDED THAT THE AGENDA ITEM HAS TO BE PROPERLY PRESENTED TO THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

PLACED ON FILE

34Y

16. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting:

Document 11-N: Communication from Councillor Colin LePage requesting a discussion regarding the Central Business District Parking Program, including the financial solvency of the program and the existing and future parking space capacity and boundaries of the district, and the disparate regulations regarding Merrimack st and Washington st; postponed from February 25

Councillors McGonagle and Bevilacqua left the meeting

COUNCILLOR LEPAGE RECOMMENDED THAT THE ITEM BE POSTPONED TO MAY 26 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

POSTPONED TO MAY 26 2020

Yeas 7, Nays 0, Abstain 2

11N

Councillors McGonagle and Bevilacqua returned to the meeting

Document 21-J: Communication from Mayor Fiorentini submitting proposed ballot question to be placed on the ballot for Tuesday, November 3, 2020, State Election asking whether or not we should petition the legislature to allow us to change our Charter to elect seven Councillors by ward and four Councillors at large; postponed from March 17

MAYOR FIORENTINI URGED THE COUNCIL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PLACING THE QUESTION ON THE BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER 3 2020 ELECTION
COUNCILLORS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN WITH HAVING MORE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE MATER AND POSSIBLE CHARTER REVIEW WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO INCLUDE WARD REPRESENTATION FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE & CHARTER REVIEW.
ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN AND SECOND FROM DALY O'BRIEN TO POSTPONE TO MAY 19 2020

POSTPONED TO MAY 19 2020

Yeas 9, Nays 0

21J

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MICHITSON TO HAVE THE SOLICITOR PREPARE DOCUMENTS FOR CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE WARD REPRESENTATION FOR MAY 19 COUNCIL MEETING
LETTER TO SOLICITOR

Yeas 8, Nays 1(Bevilacqua)

Document 27-E:

ORDERED: Pursuant to the provisions of §C-43 of the Charter of the City of Haverhill the following question shall be submitted to a vote of the registered voters of the city for adoption or rejection at a special city election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020:

“Shall the following Home Rule Petition providing for the election of at large and ward councilors be adopted and forwarded to the General Court for enactment?

_____Yes

_____No

Home Rule Petition

An Act Providing for the Election of At Large and Ward Councilors in the City of Haverhill.

(see document for complete text)

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN AND SECOND FROM DALY O'BRIEN TO POSTPONE TO MAY 19 2020

POSTPONED TO MAY 19 2020

Yeas 9, Nays 0

27E

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN FOR RECONSIDERATION OF DOCUMENT 11N

Councillors McGonagle and Bevilacqua left the meeting

RECONSIDERATION PASSED

Yeas 7, Nays 0, Abstain 2

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MACEK TO AMEND THE DATE FROM MAY 26 TO MAY 19 2020

POSTPONEMENT DATE AMENDED TO MAY 19 2020

Yeas 7, Nays 0, Abstain 2

11N

Councillors McGonagle and Bevilacqua returned to the meeting

Document 34-O: Communication from Councillor Michael McGonagle requesting to introduce Donald Jarvis to discuss tax reduction for veteran; postponed from March 17

POSTPONED TO APRIL 7 2020

Yeas 9, Nays 0

34O

Document 52: Communication from William Pillsbury, Economic Development & Planning Director requesting approval for documents related to redevelopment of market rate/mixed use project at 21-27 Washington Street, previously granted approval for this project and asking Council to approve the related Resolution. Both postponed from March 24

WILLIAM PILLSBURY INFORMED THIS IS A STANDARD FORMAT FOR 5 YEAR TIF FOR STATE TAX CREDITS, IT STARTS AT 25% FOR THE FIRST YEAR AND GOES DOWN AT 5% INCREMENT PER YEAR. THIS ENABLES THE PROJECT TO GO FORWARD. CONSTRUCTION COSTS ARE STILL BEING CALCULATED.
PLACED ON FILE

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Abstain 1 (Bevilacqua)

52

Document 53:

CITY OF HAVERHILL RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE City Council of the City of Haverhill:

- (a) Authorizes the Mayor to approve and execute a TIF agreement, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws HDIP Program between 27 Washington Street LLC and the City of Haverhill

on the basis of the development of the 21-27 Washington Street parcel, number map 301, block 53 lot 5 and 6; and

- (b) Authorized the Mayor or his designee to take such other and further actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this resolution, or take any other action relative thereto

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MACEK TO PASS THE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION PASSED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Abstain 1 (Bevilacqua)

53

17. Council Committee Reports and Announcements:

Councillor McGonagle announced that yesterday was National Doctor's Day but that he wanted to salute and give a big shout out to all healthcare professionals in every aspect for all their good work on behalf of the City

18. Documents referred to committee study

19. Long term matters study list

Meeting adjourned 9:35 o'clock P.M.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Attest: Linda Koutoulas
City Clerk