



City of Haverhill
City Council Minutes
Tuesday, March 9, 2021
4 Summer Street
Theodore Pelosi Jr. City Council Chambers, Room 202
In Person and Remote

Present – President Barrett, Councillors LePage, Bevilacqua, Michitson, Sullivan, Jordan, and Daly O’Brien.
Councillors McGonagle and Macek 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 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 Bevilacqua was assigned the minutes
5. Communications from the Mayor:
Mayor Fiorentini requests to give an update on Haverhill’s efforts regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis along with Councillor Daly O’Brien
Mayor Fiorentini informed that we are coming up to the one year anniversary of the coronavirus pandemic, March 15, 2020 and that we will commemorate that day on Monday. We are still in the red zone. There was a holiday surge. In terms of the vaccine, there will be 2 additional vaccine clinics in Haverhill. The goal is to have everyone vaccinated by the end of summer and 75 % by July 4th. Vaccines will be given at the Citizens Center by the health department. Starting next week we will receive 600 doses a week. He thanked Mary Connolly and her team. These vaccines are for Haverhill residents 65+ with 2 or more underlying conditions. There is no link yet. They are working on a back log of 75 years and older. When the link is available it will be posted. The Mayor hopes to get a mobile unit out to Mt. Washington/acre area for those without transportation. The other clinic will be offered by Haverhill Family Health owned by Gr. Lawrence Family Health Clinic located in Central Plaza, next to Market Basket formerly Rite Aid. This will be open to anyone who lives or works in Haverhill or surrounding region. They are working on a link. Go to GLFHC.org to watch for announcement. He is working on a grand opening next week with the assistance of Rep. Vargas. Also, working on 1 or 2 Saturday clinics for teachers and support personnel. If you have a computer, sign up for notification when the vaccine is available at Haverhillrec.com. Call 978 374-2390 if you don’t have a computer. Trinity Ambulance will be giving vaccines at Haverhill housing properties. PMA is notifying its patients directly. He encouraged the use of the state website for Mass vaccine site in Danvers. Councillor Daly O’Brien informed that the indoor capacity has changed and schools will start to reopen in April. CVS will receive 25,000 doses for teachers in the next 3 days. Sign up on the CVS app.
PLACED ON FILE 5G

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:
City Assessor, Christine Webb submits abatement report for the month of February 2021
PLACED ON FILE Yeas 9, Nays 0 11C

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

10. Hearings and Related Orders:

Document 22

William Pillsbury, Director of Economic Development & Planning requests a Hearing regarding further amendments to Zoning Act Chapter 255 and submits related Zoning Ordinance

PRESIDENT BARRETT OPENED THE HEARING

PLANNING DIRECTOR PILLSBURY DEFERRED TO SOLICITOR COX TO GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE CHANGES/AMENDMENTS. SOLICITOR COX INFORMED THAT MOST OF THE AMENDMENTS WERE TECHNICAL AND CORRECTIVE IN NATURE CONTINUING THE REVISION TO THE ZONING ACT WHICH WAS REVISED LAST YEAR. (SEE SOLICITOR COX LETTER DATED FEB 5 2021 FOR EXPLANATION.)

SOLICITOR COX ALSO REQUESTED TWO AMENDMENTS TO THE PENDING ORDINANCE WHICH WERE DETAILED IN HIS LETTER DATED FEB 26 2021.

OTHER THAN MR. PILLSBURY AND SOLICITOR COX, NO OTHER PERSONS APPEARED TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OR IN OPPOSITION TO THE CHANGES TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE. HEARING CLOSED

22

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE
An Ordinance Relating to Zoning

CHAPTER 255

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Haverhill that the Code of the City of Haverhill, Chapter 255, Zoning, as amended, be and is hereby further amended as follows:

By deleting the words ‘‘Special Rural’’ and the initials ‘‘SR’’ in section 2.1.1 and wherever they may appear in reference to zoning districts, and, by inserting in place thereof the words ‘‘Rural Special,’’ and the initials ‘‘RS’’, respectively; (see document for complete text)

Favorable recommendation from Planning Board and Director; Related communication from William Cox, City Solicitor & William Pillsbury, Director of Economic Development & Planning

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ZONING ACT

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MICHITSON TO AMEND THE DOCUMENT TO INCLUDE THE AMENDMENTS AS REFERENCED IN SOLICITOR COX’S LETTER DATED FEB 26 2021

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

PASSED AS AMENDED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

22B

11. Appointments:

Confirming Appointments:

Non-Confirming Appointments – re-appointment

Community Action Inc. Board, City’s Representative; Nomsa Ncube, 67 Washington st #102P; Reappointment effective immediately and to expire December 31 2021

PLACED ON FILE

Yeas 9, Nays 0

1T

Councillor Bevilacqua left the Chambers

12. Petitions:

Application from Attorney Michael Migliori for applicant/owner DSF Water Streety LLC for modification of a pre-existing special permit/Project built in 1970 for property located in the Waterfront District sub-zone D, at 1 Water st; Assessor’s map 200, block 4, Lot 2 to convert existing commercial area on first floor into 8 residential units from a total of 164 to 172

COUNCIL HEARING APRIL 6 2021

Yeas 8, Absent 1

32

13. Motions and Orders

Councillor Bevilacqua returned

14. Ordinances (File 10 days)

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE
An Ordinance Relating to Vehicles and Traffic

CHAPTER 240

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Haverhill that the Code of the City of Haverhill, Chapter 240, § 240-85, Schedule B: Parking Restrictions and Prohibitions, as amended, be and is hereby further amended as follows:

Curtis Street:

From its intersection with Arch Street

Easterly to end, both sides	No Parking	24 hours	
PLACED ON FILE for at least 10 days		Yeas 9, Nays 0	30B

15. Communications from Councillors:

Communication from Council President Barrett and Vice President LePage requesting a discussion on the roll out of the pending new parking plan for downtown

COUNCILLOR LEPAGE INFORMED THAT HE ATTENDED A DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMISSION MEETING BUT IT WAS INFORMATIVE DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR MANY OUTSTANDING ITEMS TO BE IN PLACE BEFORE RESTARTING THE MAYOR’S REVISED PARKING PLAN. COUNCILLORS AGREED THAT IT WAS PREMATURE AND THAT IT WOULD CAUSE CONFUSION. AT LEAST 3 MONTHS ARE NEEDED FOR NEW KIOSKS AND SIGNAGE.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN TO SEND LETTER TO MAYOR ASKING HIM TO DELAY NEW PARKING PLAN Yeas 9, Nays 0 27H

Communication from Councillor McGonagle requesting a discussion about a Home Rule Petition on behalf of Eric M Cyr

MR. ERIC CYR INTRODUCED HIMSELF AND STATED HIS INTEREST IN BECOMING A FIRE-FIGHTER.

PLACED ON FILE 27I

Home Rule Petition – An Act Authorizing Eric M Cyr to take the Civil Service Exam for the Position of Firefighter in the City of Haverhill Notwithstanding the Maximum Age Requirement (see document for complete text)

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN TO SEND THE HOME RULE PETITION TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR ADOPTION

Yeas 9, Nays 0 33

Communication from Councillor Michitson requesting to re-start discussion on way ahead for residential zoning in Haverhill

COUNCILLOR MICHITSON STATED LAST YEAR THE CITY COUNCIL DID NOT APPROVE PROPOSED RURAL ZONING CHANGE PROPOSED BY MAYOR TO CUT IN HALF RURAL LOT SIZE FROM 2 ACRES TO 1 ACRE. THE COUNCIL AGREED TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MICHITSON TO REFER TO CITY COUNCIL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REFERRED TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE Yeas 9, Nays 0 27J

Communication from Councillor Bevilacqua requesting a discussion on the availability of a prioritized watershed protection purchase plan

COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR THE CITY TO HAVE A PRIORITIZED WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN FOR THE ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE THAT WOULD BE OF BENEFIT FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CITY’S WATERSHED.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO SEND LETTER TO MAYOR TO INCLUDE PERTINENT DEPARTMENTS TO CONSIDER DEVELOPING SUCH PLAN

Yeas 9, Nays 0 27K

Communication from Councillor Bevilacqua requesting to recognize March 8th as International Women’s Day 2021 dedicated to honoring the achievements of women

PLACED ON FILE 27L

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO PRESENT MAYOR’S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY PROCLAMATION

RULES SUSPENDED Yeas 9, Nays 0 6C

COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA READ THE PROCLAMATION INTO THE RECORD

ADOPTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 6C

Communication from Councillor Macek requesting a discussion relative to excessive debris in the downtown area

COUNCILLOR MACEK REVIEWED A LETTER FROM A CONSTITUENT SHOWING PHOTOS OF TRASH IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA AND VICINITY

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO SEND LETTER TO MAYOR Yeas 9, Nays 0 27M

Communication from Councillor Bevilacqua requesting to recognize March as Irish American Heritage month

PLACED ON FILE 27N

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO PRESENT MAYOR’S IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

RULES SUSPENDED Yeas 9, Nays 0 6D

COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN READ THE PROCLAMATION INTO THE RECORD

ADOPTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 6D

16. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting:

Document 26 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)
PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 26

17. RESOLUTIONS and PROCLAMATIONS:

18. Council Committee Reports and Announcements:

President Barrett announced the March 23 City Council meeting has been cancelled due to Mayor Fiorentini's State of the City Address

19. Documents referred to committee study

20. Long term matters study list

Meeting adjourned 8:53 o'clock P.M.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Attest: Linda Koutoulas
City Clerk