



City of Haverhill  
City Council Minutes  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021  
4 Summer Street  
Theodore Pelosi Jr. City Council Chambers, Room 202  
In Person and Remote

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

Assistant City Clerk – James Blatchford

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. 18. 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
4. Assignment of the minutes review for the next Meeting  
Councillor Daly O'Brien 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.

Councillor Daly O'Brien gave an update as the Mayor was not available. Haverhill is offering clinics this week that are being held at the Citizens Center, Amvets, and Saturday at the Calvary Baptist Church. The Moderna vaccine is for 18 and older, Pfizer for 16 and older. J&J is available with caution to women under 50 years. She thanked Public Health Nurse Mary Connolly and her staff for their great work. Call 311 for assistance with vaccine sign up.

PLACED ON FILE

5L

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

Councillor McGonagle requests to introduce Brigitte Hamel regarding a Home Rule Petition on her behalf. MS. BRIGETTE HAMEL INTRODUCED HERSELF AND ASKED FOR THE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR A HOME RULE PETITION AS SHE IS 32 YEARS OLD.

PLACED ON FILE

7H

Home Rule Petition - An Act authorizing Brigitte Hamel to take the Civil Service Examination for the position of Police Officer 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

33B

Councillor Jordan requests to introduce Irene Haley, President/CEO of the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, to address the Council and share some of the things that the Haverhill Chamber is working on. MS. IRENE HALEY STATED THAT MOST OF THE PROGRAMMING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY LAST YEAR AND THANKED THE MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE. THE ANNUAL CHAMBER DINNER WILL BE HELD JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> AT THE BRADFORD COUNTRY CLUB. UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE THE LONGEST TABLE AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> IN PARTNERSHIP WITH L'ARCHE.

RESTAURANT WEEK WILL BE HELD AUGUST 19-26 AND THE GOLF TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>.

PLACED ON FILE

7I

7. Public Participation- Requests under Council Rule 28

8. Communications and Reports from City Officers and Employees:

City Auditor Charles Benevento submits preliminary financial reports for the month of February 2021.

PLACED ON FILE

Yeas 9, Nays 0

53B

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

10. Hearings and Related Orders:

Document 34: Application; CCSP 21-5 from Attorney Robert Harb for Mazraany Construction, LLC, Owner/Applicant for a Special Permit to renovate existing home and convert existing garage to create a three Family Dwelling to be sold as condominiums for property located at 52 Salem st (former funeral home) Assessor's Map 728-704-1A; *Favorable conditional recommendation from William Pillsbury, Economic Development & Planning Director*

HEARING OPENED

ATTORNEY ROBERT HARB INFORMED THAT HE WAS REPRESENTING MAZRANNY CONSTRUCTION AND THAT JOHN SAVA, THE ARCHITECT, WAS IN ATTENDANCE WITH MR. MAZRANNY AND OTHER PRINCIPLES OF MAZRANNY CONSTRUCTION. THIS PROJECT WILL PRESERVE A 100-YEAR-OLD BUILDING. IT WAS BUILT AROUND 1920. IT WAS A FORMER FUNERAL HOME. THEY PLAN ON CONVERTING THE EXISTING HOME TO TWO UNITS AND CONVERT THE EXISTING GARAGE BY RAISING THE ROOF TO MAKE A THIRD UNIT. THEY WILL LEAVE THE GREEN SPACE ON THE RIGHT. THERE IS AN EXISTING CURB CUT /DRIVEWAY ON THE LEFT. TO THE LEFT OF THE PROPERTY THERE ARE OTHER 3 FAMILY HOMES. THE PARKING REQUIRES 5 SPACES AND THEY WILL PROVIDE 7. FOUR ON THE SIDE AND THREE IN THE BACK WITH A PERGOLA. THE DEPARTMENTS ARE IN FAVOR AND WILL MEET THE SPRINKLER REQUESTS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. THERE WILL BE NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT SYSTEMS.

MR. SAVA INFORMED THEY WILL MAINTAIN THE LOOK OF THE BUILDING BUT WILL CHANGE THE COLOR. THE ROOF IS IN GOOD SHAPE. THEY WILL BRING SPRINKLER SYSTEM INTO THE HOUSE. THERE IS AN EXISTING CURB CUT TO THE LEFT. THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL PLANTINGS ON THE LEFT. HE DISTRIBUTED PHOTOS OF THE EXISTING LOT\*. NO ONE SPOKE IN FAVOR. MS CORRINE BOUTIN WAS OPPOSED. SHE QUESTIONED GREEN SPACE, CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE, NOISE AND TRAFFIC. ATTORNEY HARB INFORMED THEY WILL KEEP THE GRASS AS IS. IT WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 3 MONTHS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT, IF APPROVED. WORK WILL START AT 9AM AND FINISH BY 3/4PM. THEY TAKE NEIGHBORS INTO CONSIDERATION. IF THE HOME CONTINUED TO BE USED AS A FUNERAL HOME, IT WOULD GENERATE MORE TRAFFIC.

HEARING CLOSED.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL PERMIT. COUNCILLOR MACEK WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILOR DALY O'BRIEN ADDED, TO INCLUDE THE CONDITIONS AS STATED IN WILLIAM PILLSBURY'S LETTER DATED APRIL 23, 2021 TO INCLUDE ANY CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS AND THE ABOVE STIPULATIONS.

COUNCILLORS SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL. NO VARIANCES WERE REQUESTED. THE PROJECT PROVIDES NEEDED HOUSING. FORMER USE OF FUNERAL HOME GENERATED MORE TRAFFIC.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MACEK TO CONDITION SPECIAL PERMIT THAT ON THE LEFT SIDE, PROVIDE PERMANENT BUFFER BY WAY OF GREENERY OR SOLID FENCE TO THE END OF THE NEIGHBORS PROPERTY.

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

PASSED AS AMENDED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

34

11. Appointments:

Confirming Appointments

Non-Confirming Appointments

Community Affairs Advisory Board - Marlene Grant of 615 River st. to fill the unexpired term of Gabriela Peixoto Twaalfhoven; Appointment effective immediately to expire December 31 2021

MS. MARLENE GRANT INTRODUCED HERSELF.

PLACED ON FILE

Yeas 9, Nays 0

1-0

12. Petitions:

Petition for Special Permit CCSP 21-8, from Attorney Robert Harb for applicant and leasee Solar Smart LLC for Special Permit for Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Energy System at 139 Amesbury Line Rd. HEARING SCHEDULED JUNE 15 2021

Yeas 9, Nays 0

32C

Petition for Special Permit CCSP 21-9, from Attorney Robert Harb for applicant and leasee Solar Smart LLC Water Supply Protection Overlay District (WSPOD) Special Permit at 139 Amesbury Line Rd

HEARING SCHEDULED JUNE 15 2021

Yeas 9, Nays 0

32D

Petition from Haverhill Garden Club and First Church of Christ for the Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 22nd on the Bradford Common, 8AM-11AM; *Letter of permission and sponsorship from First Church of Christ*

GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 48B

Petition from Jeff Grassie, 1153 West Lowell ave, for Creative Haverhill/Haverhill Farmer's Market. Saturdays from June 26 to October 30 from 9AM – 1PM –51 Merrimack st; *Pending Department approvals and conditions*

MR. JEFF GRASSIE INFORMED THAT THEY HELD THE FARMER'S MARKET LAST YEAR AND THEY HAVE NEW VENDORS THIS YEAR. HE THANKED THE VOLUNTEERS AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE.

GRANTED PENDING DEPARTMENT APPROVALS & CONDITIONS Yeas 8, Abstain 1(Jordan) 48

### Councillor Bevilacqua left the chambers

#### Applications Handicap Parking Sign

Philomena Bruno, 74 Pecker st, - *renewal*

GRANTED Yeas 8, Absent 1 2K

#### Annual License Renewals:

Drainlayer License for 2021 - with City Engineer approval

Robert Kimball – *new – bond on file*

GRANTED Yeas 8, Absent 1 19P

### Councillor Bevilacqua returned

John Jablonski – *renewal – bond on file*

GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 19Q

Taxi Driver Licenses for 2021

Alexander M Holmes, 25 High st – *renewal; Has Police approval*

GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 51C

Junk Dealer License

Jonathan Costa of Vantage Trading LLC, 81 Hale st; *Has Police approval and letter of permission from landowner*

GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 45B

Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing

Christine Tayag, Little Star Consignment, 76 Merrimack st; *Has Police approval*

GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 35

### 13. Motions and Orders

### 14. Ordinances (File 10 days)

### 15. Communications from Councillors:

Councillor McGonagle requests the Traffic and Safety Committee review a constituent request to make Pentucket Street no parking on one side.

REFERRED TO TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE Yeas 9, Nays 0 50G

Councillor Michitson seeks update on Rescue Plan guidelines and associated Mayor-Council conference.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MICHITSON TO POSTPONE TO MAY 4 DUE TO MAYOR'S ABSENCE

POSTPONED TO MAY 4 2021 Yeas 9, Nays 0 50F

Councillor Michitson seeks update on Cyber Ransomware "hit" and plan for better cyber protection.

MR. PETER KARLSON, HAVERHILL'S IT CONSULTANT, GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF MEASURES TAKEN BY CITY AND IMPACT TO CITY. HE INFORMED THAT A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF MACHINES WERE IMPACTED BY RANSOMWARE AND THAT THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CAUGHT IT EARLY. DOUG RUSSELL WILL ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE THIS WEEK. MR. KARLSON PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF DOUG'S TEAM.

PLACED ON FILE 50H

Councillor Bevilacqua requests recognition of Earth Day and its importance to our City.

COUNCILLOR BEVIACQUA SPOKE ABOUT THE START OF EARTH DAY IN 1970 AND THANKED VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON EARTH DAY APRIL 22. COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN ANNOUNCED CLEANUP OF WINNEKENNI PARK ON MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 9-12NOON. COUNCILLOR JORDAN ANNOUNCED CLEANUP OF DOWNTOWN MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 6PM, MEETING IN FRONT OF HAVERHILL EYECARE.

PLACED ON FILE 50I

Councillor Bevilacqua requests stop sign on Highland ave where it meets Kenoza ave.

REFERRED TO TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE Yeas 9, Nays 0 50J

Councillor Sullivan would like to discuss the report and findings to date regarding the Hannah Duston Statue.

SEE ITEM 18 DISCUSSION. PLACED ON FILE 50K

### 16. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting:

Document 26-B: Mayor Fiorentini submits Bond Order to borrow \$363,874.00 to purchase parking kiosks for the Central Business Parking District.

PLACED ON FILE 26B

Document 26-BB: **BOND**

ORDERED: That Three Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$368,874) is appropriated to purchase parking kiosks for the Central Business District, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet his 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 issues bonds or notes of the City therefor. (see document for complete text)  
*Communication from Mike Stankovich, DPW director*

PASSED Yeas 7, Abstain 2 (Bevilacqua, McGonagle) 26BB

Document 20-B: Mayor Fiorentini submits the following Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and salary ordinance between the City of Haverhill and the Haverhill Water Purification Group.

PLACED ON FILE 20B

Document 21-B:

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE CHAPTER  
An Ordinance Relating to Salaries Water Purification Group  
(see document for complete text)

PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 21B

**17. RESOLUTIONS and PROCLAMATIONS:**

Proclamation - Children's Mental Health Awareness Week – May 2-8, 2021

COUNCILLOR LEPAGE READ THE PROCLAMATION INTO THE RECORD

ADOPTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 6K

**18. Council Committee Reports and Announcements:**

Councillor Sullivan presented the minutes and recommendation of the Natural Resources and Public Property Committee meeting that was held October 7 2020 regarding the Hannah Duston Monument in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Park.

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN READ THE MINUTES INTO THE RECORD AND MOTIONED TO HAVE THE MINUTES ACCEPTED AND PLACED ON FILE. HE INFORMED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST OF TWO MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE HANNAH DUSTON STATUE CURRENTLY LOCATED AT G.A.R. PARK. THE SECOND MEETING WOULD FOCUS ON A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MAYOR.

PLACED ON FILE Yeas 9, Nays 0 56

Councillor Sullivan presented the minutes and recommendations of the Natural Resources and Public Property Committee meeting that was held on November 5 2020 regarding the Hannah Duston Monument in GAR Park.

The Committee motioned to recommend to City Council that the statue remain where it is in GAR Park and also, the City provide the Abenaki an opportunity to erect their own Memorial, with the City to provide land and site work in GAR Park.

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN READ THE MINUTES INTO THE RECORD AND MOTIONED TO HAVE THE MINUTES ACCEPTED AND PLACED ON FILE. Yeas 9, Nays 0 56B

Councillor Sullivan also read the minutes and recommendations into the record from the November 18 2020 meeting of the Haverhill Historic Commission. Councillors felt that the statue should remain in G.A.R. Park and offered the following recommendations to the Mayor: Paint a two-sided mural on the bandshell of prominent Native Americans; remove/cover the objectionable language (savages) at the base of the statue; remove the hatchet from her hand; develop a QR code type information source for a broader telling of the story at the base. Mr. Dan Speers spoke and asked the Council to remove the statue to another location.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN TO SEND LETTER TO MAYOR RECOMMENDING THAT THE STATUE REMAIN WHERE IT IS IN G.A.R. PARK AND ALSO, THE CITY PROVIDE THE ABENAKI AN OPPORTUNITY TO ERECT THEIR OWN MEMORIAL, WITH THE CITY TO PROVIDE LAND AND SITE WORK IN G.A.R. PARK. ALSO, TO REMOVE THE OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE AT THE BASE OF THE STATUE. Yeas 9, Nays 0 56C

**19. Documents referred to committee study**

**20. Long term matters study list**

Meeting adjourned 9:11 o'clock P.M. Yeas 9, Nays 0

Attest: James Blatchford  
Assistant City Clerk