



City of Haverhill
City Council Minutes
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Present – President Melinda 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 Sullivan was assigned the minutes
5. Communications from the Mayor
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:

Communication from Andrew K Herlihy, Division Director, Community Development Department requesting on behalf of Emmaus, Inc, the temporary relocation of two handicapped parking spaces on How Street to be in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week until the COVID-19 pandemic is over
CLERK KOUTOULAS INFORMED THAT CITY SOLICITOR ADVISED HER THE COMMUNICATION FOR THE TEMPORARY HANDICAP PARKING SPACES WERE NOT ENFORCEABLE AS WRITTEN. AN OFFICIAL ORDINANCE NEEDS TO BE DRAFTED. THERE WAS DISCUSSION ABOUT THE EMERGENCY PURPOSE FOR SPACES AS EMMAUS HAS INSTALLED TEMPORARY SHELTER IN THEIR PARKING LOT DUE TO COVID-19 AND HP SPACES NO LONGER EXIST. COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION ABOUT PROCESS FOR DRAFTING ORDINANCES. COUNCLLOR LEPAGE WILL ADVISE.

REFERRED TO TRAFFIC & SAFETY AND CITY ENGINEER FOR ORDINANCE

64

Communication from Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations submitting the Massachusetts School Building Authority’s (MSBA) Feasibility Study Agreement for the *A. B. Consentino School*, and requests Council vote for Mayor to sign agreement
PLACED ON FILE

61C

CITY CLERK KOUTOULAS READ THE FOLLOWING FEASIBILITY STUDY AGREEMENT INTO THE RECORD:

Resolved: Having convened an open meeting on May 12, 2020, prior to the Feasibility Study Agreement submission date, the City Council of Haverhill, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, hereby authorizes the Mayor to sign the Massachusetts School Building Authority Feasibility Agreement for the *A. B. Consentino School* located at 685 Washington Street, Haverhill, MA 01832, a copy of which is attached and included herein.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MACEK TO APPROVE THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AGREEMENT

FEASIBILITY STUDY AGREEMENT PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 61C

Abatement report from Christine Webb, Assessor for month of April 2020
 PLACED ON FILE Yeas 9, Nays 0 33D

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

10. Hearings and Related Orders:

Communication from Lisa Ayres, for National Grid requesting to reschedule the following joint pole and conduit petitions along with their Orders, for Park st & Park pl, plans # 29010579:

PLACED ON FILE Yeas 9, Nays 0 41A

Document 41; Petition from Mass Electric Co d/b/a National Grid of North Andover, MA requesting to construct a line of underground electric conduits for Park st and Park pl; Plan 29010579

HEARING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 9 2020 Yeas 9, Nays 0 41

Document 41-B; Order-grant permission to Mass Electric Co for electric conduit location at intersection of Park st and Park pl

HEARING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 9 2020 Yeas 9, Nays 0 41B

Document 42; Petition from Mass Electric Co d/b/a National Grid of North Andover, MA and Verizon NE requesting joint pole locations for Park st and Park pl; Plan 29010579

HEARING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 9 2020 Yeas 9, Nays 0 42

Document 42-B; Order-grant permission to Mass Electric Co and Verizon NE for joint pole locations at intersection of Park st and Park pl

HEARING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 9 2020 Yeas 9, Nays 0 42B

11. Appointments:

Confirming Appointments

No Schedule

Non-Confirming Appointments

12. Petitions:

Applications Handicap Parking Sign:

William Belkus for 2 Irving av – renewal
 GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 4F

Carol DeBlois for 30 Bellevue av – new
 REFERRED TO PLANNING Yeas 9, Nays 0 4G

Joe Dul for 24 Arch st – new
 REFERRED TO PLANNING Yeas 9, Nays 0 4H

13. Motions and Orders

14. Ordinances (File 10 days)

Mayor Fiorentini asked to give an update on COVID-19. He informed there are over 919 cases in Haverhill and 29 deaths. The trend is going downward in Haverhill and throughout state. It looks like we are opening on May 18. There are no COVID cases at Merrimack Valley Hospital in Haverhill. We are partnering with Partners in Health via phone to do contact tracing. If you get a call on your phone and it indicates MA COVID 19 please take the call. On May 18th the governor will reveal what businesses will first be allowed to open. Guidelines and checklist will be issued. Social distancing will be required of 6' between people. Restaurants will have distancing/capacity requirements and will not be in first round of openings. The Mayor thanked all for shared sacrifices as this has helped in flattening the curve. This will be a slow and gradual process. Councillors raised questions/concerns about PPE for businesses, clean air/air flow for city hall and schools, ADA compliance, farmer's market status, making Washington Street one-way, assistance for restaurants in terms of extending sidewalks. The Mayor indicated possibility of using parking lots to assist with dining and state to issue guidelines for farmer's market.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MICHITSON TO SEND LETTER TO MASS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION AND MASS RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION TO ASK FOR BEST PRACTICES FOR RESTAURANTS IN THESE TIMES
 Yeas 9, Nays 0

15. Communications from Councillors:

Communication was received from Councillor McGonagle requesting the removal of a handicap parking space at 25 Vine st that is no longer needed

REFERRED TO PLANNING Yeas 9, Nays 0 63E

16. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting:

Document 26-B

BOND ORDER: That Eight Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Dollars (\$853,000) is appropriated for engineering services for the development of plans and specification for road and bridge reconstruction on North Avenue, including the payment of 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(7) 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)

CITY ENGINEER PETTIS INFORMED THIS IS ONE OF THE GATEWAY PROJECTS WITH WATER STREET TO FOLLOW. PROJECT IS FUNDED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (80%) AND FROM STATE (20%). CITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DESIGN. SLATED FOR CONSTRUCTION 2023 AND TRYING TO USE 2022 FUNDS

PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 26B

Document 63; Communication from Councillor Colin LePage requesting a discussion regarding the communities' general mental health coping strategies and supports during the COVID-19 Pandemic
POSTPONED TO MAY 19 2020

Yeas 9, Nays 0 63

17. RESOLUTIONS and PROCLAMATIONS:

PROCLAMATION - *NATIONAL SKILLED NURSING CARE WEEK, May 10 to 16, 2020*
ADOPTED

Yeas 9, Nays 0 33H

PROCLAMATION – *APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY, May 14 2020*
ADOPTED

Yeas 9, Nays 0 33I

18. Council Committee Reports and Announcements:

19. Documents referred to committee study

20. Long term matters study list

Meeting adjourned 8:10 o'clock P.M.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Attest: Linda Koutoulas
City Clerk