



City of Haverhill  
City Council Minutes  
Tuesday, May 4, 2021  
4 Summer Street

Theodore Pelosi Jr. City Council Chambers, Room 202  
In Person and Remote

---

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

Absent – Councillor LePage

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. 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

The minutes were approved

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

4. Assignment of the minutes review for the next Meeting

Councillor Macek was assigned the minutes

5. Communications from the Mayor:

Mayor Fiorentini submits license agreement between City of Haverhill and Mary F. Paszko for parcel of land, Map 722, Block 655, Lot 4, (land between Sky Dragon and Oh Daddy buildings) to be used as outdoor picnic area.

COUNCILLOR JORDAN INFORMED THAT A BRADFORD RESIDENT APPROACHED HIM ABOUT CLEANING UP THE AREA AND USING IT AS AN OUTDOOR PICNIC AREA. BRIGHTSIDE WILL BE ASSISTING. THERE WILL BE 3 PICNIC TABLES WITH UMBRELLAS, HILLIE MURAL, PLANTER AND TRASH CONTAINER. MAYOR FIORENTINI ADDED THIS WILL BE FOR A TRIAL PERIOD TO THE END OF THE SEASON.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN TO APPROVE THE LICENSE AGREEMENT. Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 57

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ALLOW MAYOR FIORENTINI TO GIVE A COVID-19 UPDATE RULES SUSPENDED Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 5M

Mayor Fiorentini informed that as of April 29, 2,500,000 vaccines have been given in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts is the 5<sup>th</sup> in the country for vaccine distribution. 20,000 have been fully vaccinated in Haverhill. That is 34% of the population, 38% of eligible and 77% 75 and older, 83% of those between the ages of 65 to 74. The Latino population is 9.5% and he has concentrated efforts to improve this vaccine rate. Allison Heartquist informed that the Pfizer vaccine will be given Monday-Friday at the Amvets, 10-2pm. This is a walk-in clinic. Appointments not necessary. This will continue for the foreseeable future. They are working on getting vaccine at Whittier Vocation Tech High School and Haverhill High School. The Pfizer vaccine for 12-16 year old should be approved. Testing is available at the Locke/Essex Street site. Councillor Daly O’Brien added that there is vaccine hesitancy outside of New England.

Mayor Fiorentini submits the following Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and salary ordinance between the City of Haverhill and the Haverhill Police Patrolman’s Association. (See document for complete text.)

PLACED ON FILE

20B



PROJECT. THE PROPOSED BUILDING COMPLEMENTS HARBOR PLACE AND HAVERHILL HEIGHTS. A TRAFFIC STUDY WAS DONE, IT SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 1 TO 4 VEHICLES DURING PEAK HOURS. APPROXIMATE EQUIVALENT TO 1 VEHICLE IN EVERY 30 MINUTES. THE IMPACT IS MINISCULE. THOSE IN FAVOR WERE STEVEN HAGINICOLAS AND TED GAIERO CALLED IN HIS SUPPORT. NO ONE WAS OPPOSED.  
HEARING CLOSED.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL PERMIT.  
COUNCILLORS ASKED ATTORNEY MIGLIORI ABOUT THE PUBLIC PARKING FOR ACCESS TO THE RAIL TRAIL. ATTORNEY MIGLIORI INFORMED THERE WILL BE DEDICATED EASEMENT TO ACCESS THE RAIL TRAIL. THERE WILL BE SPACES FOR THE PUBLIC TO PARK DURING THE DAY ON THE PREMISES IF THEY ARE SO INCLINED. THE PUBLIC CAN ALSO PARK ON THE STREET. COUNCILLORS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT ALLOWING THE PUBLIC TO PARK ON SITE WHEN THERE ARE ONLY 18 SPACES AND DID NOT SUPPORT THE IDEA. THEY SUGGESTED MAKING AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE ROMA FOR USE OF THE LOT ACROSS THE STREET IN THE EVENING WHEN THE RESTAURANT IS CLOSED.

MR. ALAN SFEIR INFORMED THAT IF THE APPLICATION IS APPROVED, THEY WILL START IN 6 TO 8 MONTHS WITH CONSTRUCTION TO TAKE A YEAR, YEAR AND A HALF. HE ANTICIPATES THE RENTAL PRICE TO BE \$2,000-\$2,200 PER MONTH. HE SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS BUT NOT PARKING. HE WAS AGAINST HAVING THE PUBLIC PARKING ON THE PROPERTY. MR. SFEIR SPOKE ABOUT WHO THIS PROPERTY WOULD ATTRACT AND WHY. COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA DID NOT SUPPORT THE PROJECT BECAUSE OF THE REQUESTED 3 WAIVERS WHERE 5 UNITS ARE ALLOWED AND DEVELOPER IS ASKING FOR 18; 27 PARKING SPACES ARE REQUIRED BUT THEY ARE ASKING FOR 18; HEIGHT REQUIREMENT OF 55' – PROPOSED BUILDING 91'. THE BUILDING IS TOO TALL FOR THE SITE. PRESIDENT BARRETT AGREED WITH COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN TO ADD AS A CONDITION OF THE SITE PLAN APPROVAL THAT ROBERT WARD'S LETTER DATED MAY 4, 2021 STATING "SEWER SERVICE MUST BE CONNECTED INTO THE EXISTING SEWER MAIN DOWNSTREAM OF THE BUILDING (TOWARD THE ROMA RESTAURANT). NOT THE MANHOLE AS PROPOSED ON THE PLAN. THE WASTEWATER DIVISION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADD DETAILED COMMENTS DURING THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS SHOULD THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THIS SPECIAL PERMIT".

CONDITION PASSED Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1  
 MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED  
 PASSED AS AMENDED Yeas 6, Nays 2 (Bevilacqua and President Barrett), Absent 1 35

**11. Appointments:**

- Confirming Appointments
- Non-Confirming Appointments

Board of Assessors- Christine Webb, 33 Exeter Farms rd, Exeter NH; Appointment effective immediately to expire May 4, 2024.  
 PLACED ON FILE Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 1P

**12. Petitions:**

Petition from Phil Rice, Sanders Currier Real Estate. Applicant requests permission to replace existing deck at 116-122 Washington st and construct a new larger deck on rear of building above Phoenix Row. MR. PHIL RICE INFORMED THAT THE DECK WAS BUILT IN 1988/89. HE HAS A NEW TENANT TAKING OVER THE SPACE WHERE THE LASTING ROOM WAS. HE PLANS TO HAVE HIS PROPOSED DECK LOOK LIKE THE OTHER EXISTING DECKS AND WILL USE THE SAME MATERIALS. HE STILL HAS TO GET APPROVAL FROM THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION. ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MACEK TO APPROVE THE PETITION.  
 PASSED Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 58

**Councillor Bevilacqua left the chambers**

- Applications Handicap Parking Sign
- Cristina Perez, 81 Bellevue st #3 – *renewal, Police approval received*  
 GRANTED Yeas 7, Nays 0, Absent 2 2L
- Eleanor Raymond – 13 Hancock st, - *renewal, Police approval received*  
 GRANTED Yeas 7, Nays 0, Absent 2 2M
- Annual License Renewals:
- Drainlayer License for 2021 - with City Engineer approval
- Charles Zaher – *renewal*  
 GRANTED Yeas 7, Nays 0, Absent 2 19R
- James Boraczek – *renewal (Bonds on file)*  
 GRANTED Yeas 7, Nays 0, Absent 2 19S

**Councillor Bevilacqua returned**

Taxi Driver Licenses for 2021

William A House, 22 Justin st – <i>renewal</i>		
GRANTED	Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1	51D
Peter Loring , Jr., 235A River st – <i>renewal</i>		
GRANTED	Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1	51E
Ann Marie Lindberg, 27 Observatory ave- <i>renewal</i>		
GRANTED	Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1	51F
Stephanie Jutras, 32 Nichols st #1 – <i>new; Police approval received</i>		
GRANTED	Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1	51G
<u>Junk Dealer License</u>		
TJS Metals, James Smith, 39 Hale St - <i>renewal; Police approval received</i>		
GRANTED	Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1	45C

**13. Motions and Orders**

**14. Ordinances (File 10 days)**

**15. Communications from Councillors:**

Communication from Councillor Daly O’Brien to recognize the week of May 9-15 as National Hospital Week, National Skilled Nursing Care Week as well as National Police Week. Also, National Nurses day on May 6th.

PLACED ON FILE (See item 17) 50L

Councillor McGonagle requests the Traffic and Safety Committee review a constituent request for a stop sign at Glendale and Dodge Streets.

REFERRED TO TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 50M

Councillor Bevilacqua proposed the City paint jersey barriers if placed within the downtown or other public streets to assist with outdoor dining locations for a more festive and welcoming appearance.

COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA INFORMED THAT HE WAS SENT PHOTOS OF PAINTED CONCRETE BARRIERS AND SUGGESTED THAT WE USE THE TALENTS OF STUDENTS TO PAINT NON-POLITICAL SCENES/DESIGNS

LETTER TO MAYOR AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 50N

Councillor Bevilacqua wishes to recognize all Haverhill public and private teachers and school staff, principals and most important, parents and students, who support our teachers during National Teacher Day, May 4, and Teachers Appreciation Week.

PLACED ON FILE Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 50O

Councillor Michitson wishes to discuss digital equity in Haverhill 101 in a nutshell.

COUNCILLOR MICHITSON GAVE A POWERPOINT AND VIDEO PRESENTATION. HE INFORMED THAT FIBER NETWORKS IS THE ANSWER TO TECHNOLOGY THAT WE NEED. MOST HOME CONNECTIONS USE COAX CABLE AND IT IS NOT THE SAME BANDWIDTH AS FIBER. 5G IS THE FUTURE BUT THAT’S YEARS AWAY. FIBER TO HOME IS THE FASTEST. A TRANSMITTER/RECEIVER IS PLACED ON A TELEPHONE POLE IN FRONT OF YOUR HOME. THE CITY IS LOOKING AT SIFI NETWORKS. THEY WILL PUT IN FIBER TO EVERY SINGLE HOUSE AND BUSINESS. THE MAYOR HAS POSTED A RFP FOR FIBER. MAYOR DRISCOLL OF SALEM IS DOING A PILOT USING SIFI. COUNCILLOR MICHITSON IS RESEARCHING FUNDING FOR FIBER.  
PLACED ON FILE 50P

**16. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting:**

Document 41: Petition from National Grid for Pole and Wire Location Hearing to place 1 pole & two anchors on Crosby St. Ext to provide electric service to two new homes on Crosby St. Ext. (Plan # 30319017) *There is an associated letter from National Grid requesting postponement.*

CLERK KOUTOULAS READ A MAY 3, 2021 EMAIL FROM LISA AYRES INTO THE RECORD. NATIONAL GRID IS REDESIGNING THE PROJECT TO AN UNDERGROUND CONDUIT AND JOINTLY OWNED POLE PETITION. THE PETITION IS BEING SENT TO VERIZON FOR APPROVAL. COUNCILLOR MACEK INFORMED THAT HE WAS WORKING WITH THE NEIGHBORS.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILOR MACEK WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILOR DALY O’BRIEN TO TABLE ITEM Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 41

Order – grant Mass Electric Company d/b/a National Grid & Verizon permission for Joint Pole Location on Crosby st Ext

ON MOTION OF COUNCILOR MACEK WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILOR DALY O’BRIEN TO TABLE ITEM Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 41B

**17. RESOLUTIONS and PROCLAMATIONS:**

Proclamation- National Nurses Day, May 6, 2021

COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN READ THE PROCLAMATION INTO THE RECORD  
ADOPTED Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 6L

Proclamation- National Skilled Nursing Care Week, May 9-15, 2021

COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN READ THE PROCLAMATION INTO THE RECORD  
ADOPTED Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1 6M

Proclamation – National Hospital Week, May 9-15, 2021

COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN READ THE PROCLAMATION INTO THE RECORD

ADOPTED

Yeas 8, Nays 0, Absent 1

6N

- 18. Council Committee Reports and Announcements:
- 19. Documents referred to committee study
- 20. Long term matters study list

Meeting adjourned 9:30 o'clock P.M.

Yeas 8, Absent 1

Attest: Linda Koutoulas  
City Clerk