

Municipal Council Meeting Minutes
7:00PM Tuesday, March 9, 2010
Town Hall Auditorium

Call To Order 7:07PM

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Ferguson

Roll Call: Anne Ferguson, Robert Gilday, James Kelcourse, Derek Kimball, Joseph McMilleon, Allen Neale, Mary Chatigny, Stephen Dunford, Robert Lavoie

Act on Minutes: February 9, 2010

Councilor Chatigny motion to accept as submitted, Councilor Ferguson second. – Voted Unanimous

Mayoral Appointments

2010-021 Appoint Cornell Rosiu – Cable Advisory Commission term to expire 6/30/13

Mr. Rosiu was unable to attend the meeting due to his work schedule.

Councilors Ferguson motioned to accept, Councilor Kelcourse second.

Voted - Unanimous

Municipal Council President Appointments

(i) Ordinance Committee

President Lavoie explained that he appointed Christian Scorzoni of 24 Monroe Street to the Ordinance Committee at the February 9th meeting. Councilor Dunford asked that the motion be tabled so that Mr. Scorzoni could attend the March meeting to meet the Council. Mr. Scorzoni attended the meeting and introduced himself.

Councilor Neale moved for affirmation the appointment of Mr. Scorzoni to the Ordinance Committee, Councilor Chatigny second. Voted – Unanimous

President Lavoie asked the councilors to submit names of people who might want to serve on the 3 member Financial Advisory Committee to look at capital matters if it is the will of the council to reconstitute that committee.

(ii) Master Plan Implementation Committee

President Lavoie appointed Councilor McMilleon to the Master Plan Implementation Committee.

Councilor Neale moved the motion, Councilor Ferguson second. Voted - Unanimous

License & Permits

2010-027 Couture Consignment – General Business License

President Lavoie read 2010-027 into the record.

Suzanne Sherman, 81 High Street represented Couture Consignment a consignment shop online.

Councilor Kimball motioned to accept 2010-027, Councilor Gilday second. Voted -Unanimous

Public Comment

Joanne Peatfield, 25 Cedar Street – Ms. Peatfield spoke in support of 2010-014.

Jane Snow, 44 Fern Avenue – Ms. Snow is not in favor of the new MVRTA center, she feels priority should be given to other projects. She does not believe the town can afford it even though it is a golden opportunity.

James Thivierge, 106 Friend Street – Mr. Thivierge is against the MVRTA center.

Debra Murphy, 131 Pleasant Valley Road – Ms. Murphy asked the council to vote no on 2010-014. She feels Mayor Kezer should be working on reducing the tax rate not borrowing to increase it.

Albert Trembley, 15 Whittier Street – Mr. Trembley supports the MVRTA center. He stated the town needs a new Veterans Office.

Marsha Gilmore, 126 Whitehall Road – Ms. Gilmore supports the MVRTA center especially the space for the Senior Center. The Senior Center needs more rooms to provide services and privacy for the seniors.

Council Response to Public Comment

Councilor Kelcourse believes the \$1.5 million investment in the MVRTA center is a good investment for the town now and in the future. The MVRTA center will be located there so whether or not we need it is a moot point. Now is a good opportunity for the town to take advantage of the space to relocate town departments. Given the state of some of the facilities the town owns repairs are not an option. Councilor Ferguson feels if the town does not go for the investment in the MVRTA center it will be a lost opportunity much like the library. Councilor Kimball has found overwhelming support for the MVRTA center. He sees that whole area ripe for redevelopment to broaden the commercial/industrial tax base. Councilor Neale supports the \$1.5 million investment in the MVRTA center. The potential investment in the area is in excess of fifty million dollars.

Public Hearings

2010-020 An Order to Authorize the Mayor to sign and accept the Agreement regarding the Restriction on the Sports Park Land

President Lavoie read 2010-020 into the record and opened the public hearing.

James Thivierge, 106 Friend Street – Mr. Thivierge hopes the restriction keeps adult entertainment out of the area.

President Lavoie closed the public hearing on 2010-020.

Councilor Neale motioned to accept 2010-020, Councilor McMilleon second.

Roll Call Vote – 9 Yes

Second Readings

2010-013 An Order to convey property located at 18 Water Street for the MVRTA Transportation Center – Mayor Kezer sponsor

Summary: The Order intends to transfer .40 acres from the Public Works yard to the MVRTA for the new Transportation Building and to meet local match requirements for federal and state funding for the project.

President Lavoie read 2010-013 into the record.

Councilor Neale read the unanimous recommendation of the Finance Committee for adoption. Councilor Gilday read the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee to discharge back to the Municipal Council and the Finance Committee with a recommendation that they take into consideration 18 Water Street because the assessed value is noted at \$172,000 for FY2010 and also take into consideration any lease provisions because they are not identified in the purchase and sale contract and that maybe a rider be made with it or be addressed within the purchase and sale contract.

Councilor Chatigny motioned to accept 2010-013, Councilor Dunford second.
Roll Call Vote – 9 Yes

2010-014 An Order to request the Municipal Council to vote to appropriate \$1,500,000 for the build out of the MVRTA building located at 68 Elm St and 18 Water St – Mayor Kezer sponsor
Summary: The MVRTA is constructing a new transportation center in the lower milliard as a hub for bus transportation. The Town is responsible for the build out of the space which will house the senior center and health & human services functions.

Councilor McMilleon read 2010-014 into the record: An Order to request the Municipal Council to vote to appropriate \$1,500,000 for the build out of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority building located at 68 Elm Street and 18 Water Street.

Summary: The MVRTA is constructing a new transportation center in the lower millyard as a hub for bus transportation. The Town is responsible for the build out of the space which will house the senior center and health & human services functions.

Be it Ordered by the Municipal Council of the Town of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

That \$1,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of making leasehold improvements to a portion of the transportation facility to be constructed by the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority located at 68 Elm Street and 18 Water Street and leased to the City, which improvements shall be used for general municipal purposes; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow \$1,500,000 under G.L. c.44 §7 or any other enabling authority; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

Councilor Neale read the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve.

Discussion continued by the Councilors on the need to support the veterans and elderly in this town, look long term and still be cognizant of the short term problems.

Councilor Neale moved the adoption of 2010-014 an order to request \$1,500,000 for the build out of the MVRTA a building at 68 Elm Street and 18 Water Street, Councilor Chatigny second.

Roll Call Vote – 9 Yes

Recess 8:30 – 8:40

First Readings

2010-022 Resolution recognizing Dylan Ferguson for his athletic success.

Councilor Ferguson read 2010-22 into the record.

Be it Resolved by the Municipal Council of the Town of Amesbury assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows:

WHEREAS the Municipal Council has become aware of Dylan Ferguson's athletic accomplishments, and wishes to recognize the same; and

WHEREAS Dylan Ferguson is a proud native of Amesbury, Massachusetts and has gone on to great success in freestyle skiing; and

WHEREAS Dylan Ferguson qualified to participate in the freestyle skiing aerial competition at the XXI Winter Olympics held at Vancouver; and

WHEREAS Dylan Ferguson ranked 2nd among American freestyle skier, having qualified for the Vancouver Winter Olympics by performances including his career-best 6th-place finish at the World Cup event in Deer Valley, Utah on January 15, 2010; and

WHEREAS the City of Amesbury wishes to acknowledge Dylan Ferguson's freestyle skiing successes even though health issues prevented him from participating in Olympic competition.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Amesbury Municipal Council congratulates Dylan Ferguson for his many athletic accomplishments, including the honor of qualifying to represent the United States on this year's Olympic Freestyle Skiing Team.

Councilor Ferguson motioned to move 2010-022, Councilor McMilleon second.

Voted - Unanimous

2010-023 An Order to Overspend Snow & Ice – Mayor Kezer sponsor

Summary: M.G.L. allows the Town to overspend the Snow and ice budget with the approval of the Municipal Council. The deficit will be funded through end-of-the-year transfers.

Councilor Dunford motioned to send 2010-023 to the Finance Committee for a public hearing, Councilor Neale second. – Voted Unanimous

2010-024 An Order to transfer \$25,000 from Reserve for unforeseen to Legal Services – Mayor Kezer sponsor

Summary: Transfer \$25,000 from the reserve fund to the Legal budget to cover FY10 expenditures.

Councilor Kelcourse motioned to send 2010-024 to the Finance Committee for a public hearing, Councilor Gilday second. Voted - Unanimous

2010-025 An Order to transfer \$22,400 from Inspection Dept to Health Dept – Mayor Kezer sponsor. Summary: Transfer \$22,400 from the Inspection Dept to Health Dept to cover FY10 expenditures.

Councilor Ferguson motioned to send 2010-025 to the Finance Committee for a public hearing, Councilor Kimball second. Voted - Unanimous

2010-026 An Order to transfer \$18,070 from Inspection Dept to Animal Control – Mayor Kezer sponsor

Summary: Transfer \$18,070 from the Inspection Dept to Animal Control to cover FY10 expenditures.

Councilor McMilleon motioned to send 2010-026 to the Finance Committee for a public hearing, Councilor Ferguson second. Voted - Unanimous

Late File:

2010-028 A Resolution to Extend the Authorization of the Energy Resources Task Force – Councilor McMilleon

Summary: To Extend the authorization of the Task force through December 31, 2010

Councilor Neale motioned to accept 2010-028 as a late file, Councilor Kelcourse second. Voted – Unanimous

Councilor Ferguson motioned to accept 2010-028 as submitted, Councilor Kimball second. – Voted Unanimous

Correspondence

- a. President/Vice President Communications
National Grid Courtesy Notification – Soil Boring Notification
- b. Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions
- c. Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

Councilor Dunford motioned to adjourn, Councilor Chatigny second, 8:55PM
Voted - Unanimous
Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,
Assistant Town Clerk