

Municipal Council Meeting
Minutes of May 30, 2006
Town Hall Auditorium
6:30 p.m.

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and a roll call.

Members present: Councilor Lindstrom, Councilor McClure, Councilor Pinierio, Councilor Thone, Councilor Brennick, Councilor King, Councilor Lavoie, Councilor Lawrence.

Councilor Benson had an excused absence.

Councilor Lawrence: The reason we are here is to act on the Mayor's Veto of 2006-009; an Act to establish a Tourism Promotion Fund. We had the public comment on this item already and it is really not up for discussion at all. This is for the Council to make an action either way. However, we do have a request from the Mayor, if you would like to speak we will give you three minutes.

Mayor Kezer: I have already given you a message with the main reasons why I vetoed this. I also spoke at the last meeting as to my position on this. My primary objection is not about tourism or the money. The primary objection is the fact that I believe that the decision makers that are spending the taxpayer's money should be directly accountable to the voters of Amesbury. To set up an appointed independent board which will have automatic appropriation if the legislation go through to approve this, bypasses the normal budgetary process between the Mayor and the Council who are both directly accountable to the voters and give the board the authority to spend money as it sees fit and that there really is no recourse by anyone unless the members of the board are appointed and therefore no accountability. I am here to provide the Council with the opportunity to ask questions.

Councilor Pinierio: When the School Building Committee spends money, no one on that board is an elected official yet they spend tax dollars, what is the difference?

Mayor Kezer: The decision to spend a certain amount of money on the High School was already made between the Council and the Mayor. The High School Committee is working on behalf of the Mayor overseeing the project so there is still the ability of the Mayor to step in and make decisions. There is still direct oversight by the Mayor after appropriation by the Council. This body would have an automatic appropriation and would be able to spend. There is no recall provision. There is no power for the Mayor or the Council to step in and reverse or to change the direction that this board may be going.

Councilor Thone motioned to re-adopt 2006-009 and to override the Mayor's veto.

Councilor Brennick seconded. The vote was taken by roll call as follows:

Councilor Lindstrom: Yes

Councilor McClure: Yes

Councilor Pinierio: Yes
Councilor Thone: Yes
Councilor Brennick: Yes
Councilor Connolly-King: No
Councilor Lavoie: Yes
Councilor Lawrence: Yes.

Councilor Lawrence stated that the motion carries to override the Mayor' veto of 2006-009 and entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilor McClure motioned to adjourn and Councilor Brennick seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Dunning
Administrative Assistant