

City Council Minutes
Tuesday, July 14, 2015
City Hall Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Lavoie
3. Members present were: Councilor Lavoie, Councilor McClure, Councilor Moavenzadeh, Councilor Sickorez, Councilor Bartley, Councilor Bezanson, Councilor Ferguson and Councilor McMilleon. Councilor Sherwood had an excused absence.
4. **Act on minutes – Councilor Ferguson moved to accept the minutes of June 9, 2015 as submitted. Councilor Sickorez seconded and it was voted Unanimous.**

5. **Correspondence**

a. President/Vice President Communications

b. Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

2015-050 Warrant for 2015 City Preliminary Election – Board of Registrars

City Clerk, Bonnijo Kitchen stated that she would like the Council to vote to schedule the election for September 1, 2015 with a little lead way as to modify the bill as needed right up until the actual time that it needs to be posted because right now all offices are on the warrant and until all papers are returned we don't have a final list of who is running for each seat and for the preliminary we may not need an election for some of the offices.

Councilor Lavoie moved to adopt the bill with the proviso that the City Clerk is authorized to adjust the scheduling of the preliminary election in accordance with needs and state law. Councilor Bartley seconded and it was vote Unanimous.

c. Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

6. **Mayoral Appointments**

2015-051 Appointment of Matthew Healy Amesbury Lakes and Waterways Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

Councilor McMilleon stated that Mr. Healy was not able to be present tonight and that each councilor should have that notification in front of them. He asked for a motion or comments.

Councilor Ferguson stated that she read through his application and she feels he is well qualified and moved to accept 2015-051, the appointment of Matthew Healy to the Lakes and Waterways Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2017. Councilor McClure seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2015-052 Appointment of Cliff Entrican to Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

Mr. Entrican stated that he is a 12 year resident and is the current President of the Amesbury Girls Youth Softball League and has been working with the Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission, Mike Buetow, maintaining the fields during the season, they share the parks and Mr. Buetow approached him when they were working on the Town Park.

Councilor Ferguson moved to accept 2015-052 the appointment of Mr. Entrican to the Parks and Recreation Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2020. Councilor McClure seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2015-053 Appointment of David Grover to the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

Mr. Grover stated that he has been a professional photographer for the last 13 years and helped out with photography for last year's Open Studio Tour and Carley asked him if he was interested and he feels he can help out with some of the visual aspects of what they do.

Councilor Lavoie moved to approve 2015-053 the appointment of David Grover to the Cultural Council with a term to expire June 30, 2017. Councilor Bartley seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

7. Licenses & Permits – FYI-attached list

8 Public Comment

Jim Thivierge of 8 School St. spoke regarding an article on collective bargaining agreements that were negotiated at 1%. There were a number of other fact based items in the contracts. He stated that 1% is not 1% unless you have total new money. He commented on e-mails that he sent to the Council over the weekend regarding Free Cash and that it is not a dedicated Revenue stream.

9. Council Response to Public Comment

10. Public Hearings:

2015-045 An Order to authorize a transfer between General Department Funds - Mayor Sponsor
Summary: Transfer \$39,800 between General Department funds to cover FY15 expenditures.

Councilor McMilleon opened the public hearing.

Mr. Thivierge reviewed the statute regarding extraordinary and unforeseen expenditures. He states that this transfer is \$4,400 over the fund amount. He argues that they do not satisfy the statute and that the council vote it down as 3 to 5 of the requests do not satisfy the first line of the statute. If it is voted he will be writing letters to make sure it is correct.

Councilor McMilleon closed the public hearing.

Councilor McClure read the Finance Committee recommendations. She stated that within the bill 2015-045 there has been a correction under #220 the Fire Department. It was \$30,000 and it is now \$25,600. So the total Reserve Fund is \$35,400.

Councilor Ferguson moved to approve 2015-045 as amended here with the Reserve Fund of \$35,400 and the Fire Department change of \$25,600. Councilor Sickorez seconded.

Councilor Lavoie clarified that the Reserve Fund had been used earlier and left the account balance at \$35,400 so that the five line items with Fire revised does total that number and is in balance. He commented that this is a customary set of transfers that we go through every year.

A roll call vote was taken. Councilor Lavoie – Yes; Councilor McClure – Yes; Councilor Moavenzadeh – Yes; Councilor Sickorez – Yes; Councilor Bartley – Yes; Councilor Bezanson – Yes; Councilor Ferguson – Yes and Councilor McMilleon – Yes. Unanimous (8)

2015-049 An Order of the City Council to authorize a transfer of the care, custody, and control of certain property, known as the Titcomb Pit Landfill, as currently held by the Mayor, to the Mayor for the purpose for which it is currently held and for the additional purpose of leasing for renewable energy installation. Summary: The Mayor seeks to lease and encourage redevelopment of the underutilized and vacant property to remove the obligation of maintenance costs and liability with respect to the former landfill located thereon and to increase revenue to the City while encouraging the use of renewable energy sources. This project will increase revenues through the negotiation of energy savings and other means using industry standard methodologies for solar leasing projects.

Councilor McMilleon opened the public hearing.

Jim Thivierge of 8 School St spoke about the property being bought by the City and becoming a tax exempt property. He stated that the pilot agreement has to be equal to the total high taxes paid by Yankee Trust or its predecessor and he does not think they are able to pass this unless they have that understanding.

Councilor McMilleon closed the public hearing.

Councilor McClure read the Finance Committee recommendation.

Tom Barrasso gave an update on new events that have occurred. A Green Community Grant that was applied for has been awarded on July 8, 2015. We received from Mass. DOER \$225,865.00 to do several projects at the Middle School which will include an energy management system, steam trap repair, destratification fans and energy misers. All those will be put in after we have put out an RFP to construct those projects at the Middle School and hopefully we can complete those in about a year.

He then gave a short presentation on the Titcomb Pit; (copy attached) and introduced Mr. LaChance of Sun Edison who has been working with Tom on this project. Mr. LaChance stated that Sun Energy is an international publicly traded Wind and Solar Energy Development and System Financier. They were founded in 2003 to bring renewal energy on line with no capital outlay from customers. They were the first company and the originator of the Solar Power purchase agreement. They have worked on these systems for the last 12 years and have recently launched a yield company which allows them to be the long term owner and operator of the system so when you are into an agreement with them they are not going to develop the system, permit it and then sell it to someone else, They are the long term owner and they provide O & M for the life of the contract. He is looking forward to working with the City on this project.

Councilor Bezanson stated that he wanted the public to be aware that it is our property and we will be receiving \$45,000 per year in tax revenue and the net metering so the community makes out and the city is taking care of itself.

Councilor McMilleon closed the public hearing.

Councilor McClure moved to authorize 2015-049, authorize a transfer of the care, custody, and control of certain property, known as the Titcomb Pit Landfill, as currently held by the Mayor, to the Mayor for the purpose for which it is currently held and for the additional purpose of leasing for renewable energy installation.

Councilor Sickorez seconded. A Roll call vote was taken - Councilor Lavoie – Yes; Councilor McClure – Yes; Councilor Moavenzadeh – Yes; Councilor Sickorez – Yes; Councilor Bartley – Yes; Councilor Bezanson – Yes; Councilor Ferguson – Yes and Councilor McMilleon – Yes. Unanimous (8)

11. First Readings

2015-048 An Order to Establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund – Councilor Bezanson and Councilor Lavoie sponsor

Summary: The Special Education Stabilization Fund would help offset extraordinary costs related to special education. Because special education funding is difficult to project given the changing nature of mandated special educational services, and especially for out-of-district tuition and transportation expenses, this new fund will be an important planning tool for the City of Amesbury to proactively manage local budget impacts. Establishment of the fund would require a 2/3 vote of the Municipal Council. This reserve account will be funded as needed with one-time available revenue, which would also require a 2/3 vote of the Municipal Council.

Councilor McClure moved to send this to the Finance Committee for a recommendation and to the next City Council meeting on September 8, 2015 for a public hearing. Councilor Sickorez seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

12. Late Files

Councilor McClure moved to accept 2015-054 as a late file. Councilor Sickorez seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2015-054 An Order to request the City Council to vote to authorize the establishment of a revolving fund with an annual budget for the Council on Aging. – Mayor sponsor

Summary: This order will provide the establishment of a revolving fund under MGL Ch. 44 §53E ½ for the Council on Aging.

Councilor Ferguson moved to send 2015-04 to the Finance Committee for a recommendation and to the City Council on September 8, 2015 for a public hearing.

Councilor McMilleon stated that this is a revolving fund that happens every year and this just renews it.

A vote was taken and it was voted Unanimous.

Councilor Sickorez moved to accept 2015-055 as a late file. Councilor McClure seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2015-055 A Resolution that the Amesbury City Council strongly supports the Massachusetts Fair Share initiative to increase the state investment in early education and care, in order to improve and expand programs for children ages 0-5 so that every child can access a high quality early learning program.

Councilor McMilleon stated that this is a resolution that can be voted tonight and everyone has a copy of the bill.

Councilor Sickorez read the bill into the record.

Councilor Bartley asked if this is State Funded.

Councilor McMilleon stated that he had contact with the head of the organization and this initiative is something that they are doing nationally; it is not just in Massachusetts and this is specifically to encourage legislature in Boston to increase the aide for Early Childhood Education. This is money that would come from the State and Fair Share is trying to get additional federal money to go toward Early Childhood Education.

Councilor Ferguson stated that she also spoke with the gentleman that they all got e-mail from and essentially this is a lobbying group that is fighting for early education and funding for early education in Massachusetts. This resolution is just encouraging them and we are backing the work that they are doing. There is not any specific money at this time from them but they are lobbying legislatures to include funding for this early education in their budgets and we are backing that up.

Councilor McMilleon stated that there is a significant amount of evidence of research that early childhood education 0-5 is critical to how children perform later on in school. He feels this is an essential resolution.

Councilor Bartley stated that this is an excellent idea that we should back.

Councilor McClure moved to approve 2015-055 as written. Councilor Sickorez seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

13. Adjourn

Councilor Sickorez moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Councilor McClure seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Dunning
Assistant City Clerk