

Amesbury Special City Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 26, 2013  
5 p.m. City Hall Auditorium

Meeting called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Councilor McMilleon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call: Councilor McClure, Councilor McMilleon, Councilor Neale, Councilor Gilday, Councilor Kelcourse, Councilor Kimball, Councilor Ferguson, Councilor Scorzoni and Councilor Lavoie arrived at 5:30 p.m.

**2013-068** – An order to provide for salary increases

Summary: The purpose of this ordinance is to increase the annual salary for City Councilors from \$3,000 per year to \$7,500 per year except that the Council President's annual salary shall always be \$2,000 higher than the salary of the other City Councilors.

Councilor Ferguson opened the public hearing on **2013-068**.

Jane Snow presented a report that included the population of the area towns. She is hard pressed to support this at this time; and added that the City Council should limit it to a 2-3 % raise.

Councilor Ferguson closed the public hearing.

Councilor Neale presented the Finance Committee's recommendation.

Councilor McClure commented on the committees in the community who don't receive compensation, and thinks that the timing is wrong.

Councilor Scorzoni spoke about his views on the raises for the City Councilors and also thinks that what is being presented accurately reflects the existing workload that they've been dealing with.

Councilor Gilday is for the increases.

Councilor Kelcourse asked that his fellow Councilors not pass this, he thinks sends the wrong message.

Councilor Kimball has made decision not to seek reelection for personal reasons. He is for the raises.

Councilor Neale noted the last time that salaries were raised was six (6) years ago, he feels it is not out of line.

Councilor Lavoie stated that it shouldn't cost him to do this job, since it does; it results in the lack of candidates for the position.

Councilor Ferguson did this bill on her own; she wanted to bring this subject up to be discussed in the only way it can be, within the City Charter. She supports this.

Councilor McMilleon motioned to approve **2013-068** as recommended by the Finance Committee from \$3,000 to \$5,200 per year and that the Council President's annual salary be \$6,500 per year. Councilor Gilday seconded. Councilor McClure objected.

Councilor Lavoie motioned to hold a **Special City Council** meeting on **Friday, June 28 at 6 p.m.** at the Transportation Center. Councilor Gilday seconded.

There was a discussion regarding who can meet and when.

Councilor McMilleon excused himself from the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken: **(7-Y) (1-N, Kelcourse)** Councilor Kimball – Y, Councilor Kelcourse – N, Councilor Lavoie – Y, Councilor McClure – Y, Councilor Scorzoni – Y, Councilor Ferguson – Y, Councilor Gilday – Y, Councilor Neale – Y

Councilor Ferguson called for a 5 (five) minute recess.

**2013-069** – An ordinance to establish an increased annual salary for the Mayor  
Summary: the purpose of this ordinance is to increase the annual salary for the Mayor from \$80,000 per year to \$97,000 per year.

Councilor Ferguson opened the public hearing on **2013-069**.

Jane Snow spoke about her feelings on the Mayor's pay raise; she does not support this at this time.

Claude Gonthier discussed the reasons he is against the Mayor's pay raise.

Councilor Ferguson closed the public hearing portion of the meeting, and asked to entertain a motion.

Councilor Lavoie moved to adopt the recommendation of the Finance Committee, that this ordinance be adopted with an annual salary for the Mayor to go to \$90,000 per year, starting with the term commencing after the November 2013 election. Councilor Gilday seconded the motion.

Councilor McClure would like to know the Mayor's position on his raise.

Eric Gregoire responded on the Mayor's behalf.

Councilor McClure and Councilor Ferguson discussed what was communicated between the Mayor and Councilor Ferguson.

Councilor Kelcourse said there is never a good time for raises; and also commented about public scrutiny.

Councilor Ferguson called for a roll call vote. Councilor McClure objected.

Councilor Neale motioned to move **2013-069** to the **Special City Council Meeting** to be held on **Friday, June 28 at 6 p.m.** at the Transportation Center. Councilor Gilday seconded.

A roll vote was taken: **(7-Y) (1-N, Kelcourse)** Councilor Kimball – Y, Councilor Kelcourse – N, Councilor Lavoie – Y, Councilor McClure – Y, Councilor Scorzoni – Y, Councilor Ferguson – Y, Councilor Gilday – Y, Councilor Neale – Y

Councilor Neale motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Councilor McClure seconded, and it was voted unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawne Warren  
Administrative Assistant  
City Clerks Office