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City of Amesbury
Office of the City Clerk
62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

MEETING NOTICE

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Version 7.1.10

City Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, February 24, 2026
City Hall Auditorium- 62 Friend St.
7:00 PM

The public can view this meeting:

- In person
- ACTV Channel 6
- the ACTV website: <https://www.amesburycvtv.org/public-government-access-television>
- or the ACTV Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/AmesburyCommunityTelevision

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Frederique
3. Roll Call
4. Act on Minutes- February 7, 2026 Budget Workshop Minutes and February 10, 2026 City Council Minutes
5. Mayoral Appointments

2026-054 Reappointment of Paul Cote to the position of member of the Trustees of War Memorials for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-055 Reappointment of James DeMars to the position of member of the Trustees of War Memorials for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-056 Reappointment of Anthony Rinaldi to the position of member of the Amesbury Energy, Environmental and Sustainability Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-057 Reappointment of Joseph Fahey to the position of member of the Amesbury Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-058 Reappointment of Margaret Miller to the position of member of the Council on Aging for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-059 Reappointment of Crystal Hall to the position of member of the Board of Assessors for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-060 Reappointment of Ann McKay to the position of member of the Board of Health for a term to expire February 28, 2029

2026-061 Reappointment of Ann Johnson to the position of member of the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire February 28, 2029

6. Monthly list of licenses – February

7. Correspondence

· President/Vice President Communications

- School committee vacancy: Maryann Welch
- School Committee vacancy: Kate Slater
- Library Board vacancy

· Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

· Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

8. Public Comment- Public comment can be done in person during the meeting, or by emailing your comments to clerk@amesburyma.gov by 12:00 p.m. the Friday before the Council meeting, per City Council Rule 5G. Subject line PUBLIC COMMENT. Your comments will be read aloud at the appropriate time in the agenda and entered into the public record.

9. Council Response to Public Comment

10. Second Readings

2026-025 An order to rescind acceptance of MGL Chap 90 sec 20A and half and replace with MGL Chap 90 sec 20A-2025 – **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: In 1981, the City of Amesbury accepted Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, section 20A ½, which addresses parking violations; tags; appearance; failure to appear; and adjudication by mail. Section 20A ½ does not allow the option for municipalities to issue parking violations by mail, stating “Said tag shall be affixed securely to the motor vehicle...”. Section 20A, however, does not include this requirement. The acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, section 20A would allow the City to explore alternative parking enforcement solutions in the future, that may offer the option to mail parking violations to offenders. Implementation of any parking monitoring and enforcement technologies will require approval of City Council.

2026-034 An Order to accept and expend a Last Call Foundation grant award- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This grant award will be used to purchase 40 Personal Safety Rope Systems (PSS) to equip every uniformed firefighter with NFPA-compliant escape tools for rapid self-rescue from elevated hazards. The new PSS equipment will enhance personal safety, reduce evacuation risks, and align with NFPA 1500 standards.

2026-041 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Code of Ordinances Chapter 237 Cemeteries- Jan 2026- **Mayor Gove and Councilor Haggstrom Sponsors**

Summary: The City of Amesbury voted to accept Article 17, Section 9 via Bill No.2007-041 on June 12, 2007. This Article is now Chapter 237 in Amesbury’s Code of Ordinances. The purpose of this ordinance is to amend Chapter 237 to update various provisions and to codify a fee schedule. Currently, the city outsources the interment, which includes digging of grave, installing liner, backfilling grave, and arranging the date of burial, and these costs are privately funded and managed by the private individual. Through a comparative analysis of area communities’ cemetery lot fees as well as reviewing the November 2021 Comprehensive Review of Municipal Fees by the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, the Cemetery Advisory Commission has provided the included recommended Schedule of Fees.

2026-029 An Order to appropriate \$100,000 from Free Cash- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order proposes an appropriation of \$100,000 from Free Cash to support supplemental and incidental items required following the move into the new City Hall at One Market Street. Additional needs were identified after occupancy to complete the move and ensure the space is functional, welcoming, and sustainable for both staff and the public.

2026-024 An Order to request the City Council vote to authorize the Mayor to enter a five-year contract for one new copier- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: The City seeks to enter into a five-year lease purchase agreement to furnish a new multifunction copier using Sourcewell Contract 112124-KON pricing. This copier contract will be for a period of 60 months at a rate of \$185.57/month. The copier will be located at 62 Friend Street for the use of all city departments at that location.

2026-026 An Order to pay Prior Year Invoices from FY26 General Operating Budget- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: The below listed invoices are for operating expenses related to supplies or services rendered in prior fiscal years but for which funds were not encumbered by the corresponding city department at fiscal year-end. This order requests payment be made to the listed vendors from the corresponding department's current year (FY26) operating budget in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44 s. 64. This vote requires a two thirds approval of the City Council.

2026-027 An Order to transfer from School Capital Accounts to fund the ball field project at AHS- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order requests a budget transfer in the amount of \$37,772.59 from the School capital accounts:

- 120 0300 5861 08 - AMS Boiler Replacement - \$2,017.00
- 120 0300 5861 09 - CES Roof Repairs - \$27,540.00
- 120 0300 5861 10 - CES Cafeteria Tile Floor Replacement - \$8,215.59

We are requesting that these surplus funds be reallocated to support the costs of the Diamond Field project at the Amesbury High School. The original school capital projects have been completed, leaving remaining balances available for reallocation.

2026-028 An Order to appropriate \$200,000 from Free Cash to Stabilization Fund- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order proposes to appropriate \$200,000.00 from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund to replenish the account as stated in Council Order 2025-104. Council Order 2025-104 transferred \$200,000 from the Stabilization fund for the purpose of funding the fiscal year 2026 General Fund operating budget with the intent of having the account replenished once Free Cash was certified (majority vote).

2026-030 An Order to transfer funds from Salary Reserve to Police Sick and Vacation Buyback- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order requests a budget transfer in the amount of \$103,376.95 from the FY26 Salary Reserve account to Police and Treasurer/Collector Sick Leave Buy-Back account to cover the cost of retirement sick and vacation payouts.

2026-031 An Order to appropriate from Sewer Retained Earnings- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order proposes an appropriation from Sewer Retained Earnings to Sewer /Stormwater Enterprise Fund Pipe & Drain Replacement to cover the cost of emergency repairs to Arch Brook Culvert. The Arch Brook Culvert is used in water supply and drainage to manage the watershed surrounding Meadow Brook Pond to the Powwow River.

2026-032 An Order to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order proposes an appropriation from Water Retained Earnings to Water Consulting for the engineering design of the Main Street Water Main Replacement project.

The Main Street Water Main Replacement project includes upgrades to water mains serving both an affordable housing development and general residences. The City of Amesbury was awarded \$959,752 to fund this critical existing infrastructure work through Federal Community Project Funding.

2026-033 An Order to transfer \$231,535 from Streets and Sidewalks Stabilization to DPW Streets and Sidewalks- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This order requests a budget transfer in the amount of \$231,535 from Streets and Sidewalks Stabilization Fund, which has a balance of \$528,483.96 to the DPW Downtown Business District Sidewalks account (100 0422 5395 01). These funds will be used for necessary improvements to approximately 28 crosswalks in the downtown area, including installation of ADA tactile pads and cohesive design. This project has been prioritized and selected by the City of Amesbury Public Works Director as specified in Bill No. 2023-098.

2026-035 An Order to accept and expend a Newburyport Society for the Relief of Aged Women grant- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: These grant funds will be used for the annual compensation of a Council on Aging job trainee to support the Council on Aging's programs and services.

2026-036 An Order to accept and expend FY26 formula grant funding for COA- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This formula grant funding from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) is issued on an annual basis to support all Massachusetts Councils on Aging. Funding is to be used to support older adults, and the yearly award is calculated at \$16 per person aged 60 and older with a minimum contract amount of \$8,000.

Grant amounts are based on a formula, using the 2020 U.S. Census and have been approved by the state legislature and Governor Healey. Amesbury's allocation is based on 4,611 adults aged 60 and older.

2026-037 An Order to accept and expend FY26 MassWorks Grant- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This MassWorks-funded project will improve Route 110 (Macy Street) between Elm Street/Clark's Road and the I-95 southbound off-ramp, including roadway, intersection, and traffic signal upgrades in Amesbury and Salisbury.

The work includes multimodal transportation and utility infrastructure improvements to support the Rocky Hill multi-family residential development at 283 Elm Street and additional housing projects, including roadway widening, water line upgrades, new sidewalks, ADA-compliant curb ramps and crosswalks, shared-use path improvements, paving, signage, and pavement markings.

2026-038 An Order to accept FY26 earmark- Digitization and Preservation of Municipal Documents- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This funding was requested and earmarked by Amesbury's state legislative delegation in the FY26 Budget for "digitization and preservation of municipal documents." The funds will be utilized to support a targeted municipal records preservation and digitization effort.

2026-039 An Order to accept FY26 earmark- Chromebooks- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This funding was requested and earmarked by Amesbury's state legislative delegation in the FY26 Budget for "Chromebook for third-grade students in the Amesbury Public Schools." The earmark will be used to support the purchase of Chromebooks for students in Amesbury Public Schools, with a focus on third grade students.

2026-040 An Order to accept FY26 earmark- Parking Study Phase 2- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This funding was requested and earmarked by Amesbury's state legislative delegation in the FY26 Budget to support a second-phase parking study focused on planning for future parking capacity and demand. The study will build on existing parking conditions to evaluate future needs associated with ongoing and planned development. It will also review paid parking, existing handicapped parking capacity, and provide recommendations for the use and management of surface parking lots.

2026-042 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend the North Shore HOME Consortium grant in the amount of \$91,983- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: This funding will support the City of Amesbury's efforts to oversee and assist homeowners in implementing a Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation Program for income-eligible individuals and/or families or other activities in compliance with the grant program agreement. The Housing Rehabilitation Program will help homeowners complete necessary health- and safety-related repairs to their properties. The North Shore HOME funds are available to municipalities in the region on an annual basis. Funds are allocated on a formula and reimbursement basis

a. Public Hearings

2026-044 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30630076-C Market St.

2026-045 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30628351-C Valley St.

2026-046 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30862343 Winkley St.

2026-047 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30630071-A Center St.

2026-048 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30630071-B Sanborn Terr/Center St.

2026-049 National Grid Pole/Conduit Hearing WR #30884966 Elm St. Underground Conduit

2026-050 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #30884966 Elm St

2026-051 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #31180928 Lake Attitash Rd.

2026-052 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #31227587 Dark Lane

2026-053 National Grid Pole Hearing WR #31199729 Elm St.

11. First Readings

12. Adjourn