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City of Amesbury
Office of the City Clerk
1 Market Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Budget & Finance Subcommittee Minutes
February 17, 2026, at 6:30 PM
City Hall 62 Friend St.

City Clerk Jennifer Smith called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

Roll was called and present were: Councilor Frederique, Councilor Redfern, and Councilor Stanganelli

Also Present: Mayor Kassandra Gove, Chief Financial Officer Marisa Batista, Director of DPW Joseph Buckley, , Director of OCED Nicholas Cracknell, City Clerk Jennifer Smith, and Assistant City Clerk Allie Connolly

The City Clerk called for a motion to nominate a chair.

Councilor Frederique offered a motion to nominate Councilor Redfern for chair. Councilor Redfern seconded, and the motion carried 2-1, with Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

The City Clerk passed the gavel to Chair Redfern.

Chair Redfern called for a motion to nominate a vice chair.

Councilor Frederique offered a motion to nominate himself as vice chair. Councilor Redfern seconded, and the motion carried 2-1, with Councilor Stanganelli opposed.

Minutes for Approval: None

Communication and Updates:

Councilor Stanganelli requested the administration post union contracts on the city's website.

Public Comment:

- Cindy Yetman (6 Newton Road) spoke against 2026-029
- Lauren Snay (17 Woodwell Circle) spoke against 2026-029

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

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-034 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

Councilor Frederique made a motion to send back a recommendation to withdraw without prejudice 2026-024 to the full City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed 2-1 with Councilor Stanganelli in opposition.

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

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-026 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

- Councilor Stanganelli asked if the new field would be using a sprinkler system. Mayor Gove answered yes. Councilor Stanganelli also asked when this field would be usable. Mayor Gove answered sometime in the Spring, weather dependent.
- Councilor Redfern asked the Mayor if this bill was time sensitive? The Mayor answered that there was a sense of urgency.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return the revised version of 2026-027 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed 2-1 with Councilor Stanganelli in opposition.

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

- Councilor Frederique asked what the current balance was in this fund. Chief Financial Officer Marisa Batista answered about \$430,000.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-028 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

- Councilor Frederique asked the Mayor to elaborate on what has been spent so far and what remains.
- Mayor Gove explained the various fees that have come up, including, but not limited to, electrical and construction work for City Hall, a chairlift for wheelchair access, appraisal and legal fees, new furniture, security changes, etc. The mayor also stated the need for disposal of remaining furniture at Friend Street.
- Councilor Frederique asked if these items are all essential or could they be deferred. Mayor Gove answered that some items could be deferred but not all. He also asked if 2026-029 were to be approved would this be the final transfer? Mayor Gove answered yes that is the expectation.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked if additional signage was included in the \$100,000? Mayor Gove answered yes for interior signage but not certain about exterior signs.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked for an itemized list of how funds have been spent so far and what the \$100,000 would be spent on before the full City Council votes on this matter.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-029 to the full City Council with no recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

- Councilor Frederique asked how many employees this would be used for. Chief Financial Officer Marisa Batista answered there were 2 employees from the Police Department and one from the Treasurer's Office.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-030 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

2026-031 An Order to appropriate from Sewer Retained Earnings

- Director of DPW Joe Buckley stated this money would be used to repair The Archbrook Culvert.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-031 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

2026-032 An Order to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-032 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return the revised version of 2026-033 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-035 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-036 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-037 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

- Councilor Frederique asked if there were any costs associated with this earmark? Mayor Gove answered “no” but that the earmark was not going to cover a lot.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked about a potential grant project. Mayor Gove stated that we do not currently have a grant writer.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-038 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

2026-039 An Order to accept FY26 earmark- Chromebooks

- Councilor Frederique asked about an insurance or maintenance plan for these chromebooks. Mayor Gove stated there is an insurance plan that is available to families.
- Councilor Stanganelli stated his displeasure that chromebooks seem to be the only tool consistently received from the State.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-039 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

- Mayor Gove explained this second phase would be looking at handicapped parking specifically and continuing the work of the first study.
- Councilor Frederique asked what any remaining funds would be used for. Mayor Gove answered that any remaining funds would be used for public forums, the consultant’s hourly rate, and the ability to add to the contract if wanted
- Councilor Stanganelli asked if the study was looking at using any AI driven tools. Mayor Gove answered they are not looking into any AI tools at the moment.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-040 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed 2-1 with Councilor Stanganelli in opposition.

2026-041 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Code of Ordinances Chapter 237 Cemeteries-
Jan 2026

- Director of DPW Joe Buckley thanked Jane Snow, member of the Cemetery Commission, for her hours of work on this matter.
- Jane Snow was present to answer any questions.
- Councilor Frederique asked about the current fee. Jane Snow answered that the fee is currently \$600 but going up to \$1800, she stated the fee has not changed in the last 20 years.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-041 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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 Gove stated that CDBG is working with the grant.

Councilor Frederique made a motion to return 2026-042 to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Redfern and passed unanimously, 3-0.

Adjourn: Councilor Stanganelli made a motion to adjourn at 8:04. Councilor Redfern seconded, and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Allie Connolly