



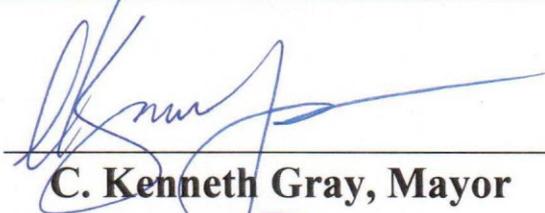
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CITY OF AMESBURY
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

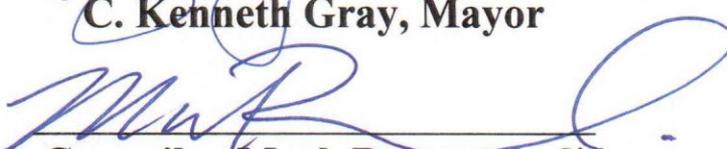
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AMESBURY CITY CLERK

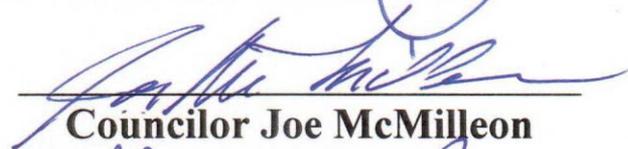
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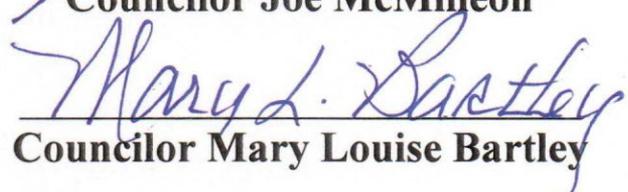

C. Kenneth Gray, Mayor

BILL No. 2019-066


Councilor Mark Roccogranti


Councilor Rick Marggraf


Councilor Joe McMilleon


Councilor Mary Louise Bartley

A Resolution to support exploratory efforts to expand the senior property tax exemption program.

Summary: This resolution declares the City Council's support for the efforts of Mayor Gray, Councilor Roccogranti, Councilor Marggraf, Councilor Bartley, and Councilor McMilleon to explore options for the expansion of the city's existing senior property tax exemption program, in recognition of the need to further reduce the tax burden on Amesbury homeowners, especially seniors and those on fixed incomes.

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

That the City Council does hereby recognize that the City has made tremendous progress addressing the issue of high property taxes over the past five years by reducing the tax rate from \$20.97 to \$18.37 – from fourth highest tax rate in the

Commonwealth to the 62nd highest – and keeping average property tax bill increases to a lesser rate than those in 32 of the other 33 communities in Essex County, and;

FURTHER, that the City Council does hereby declare its commitment to addressing the problem of high property taxes alongside the Mayor, and further recognizes the foregoing progress as a result of such a commitment to date, and;

FURTHER, that the City Council does hereby recognize that progress must continue in the mission to get Amesbury's property taxes under control by focusing on fiscal responsibility, and;

FURTHER, that the City Council does hereby recognize that seniors and those on fixed incomes are disproportionately impacted by high property taxes and annual tax increases, and;

FURTHER, that the City Council remains unequivocally supportive of the plan to construct a new Amesbury Elementary School ("AES") on the site of the current Cashman Elementary School in recognition of the dire need to replace the failing AES building, and;

FURTHER, that the City Council recognizes that the cost of the AES project will impact seniors and those on fixed incomes more severely than the average taxpayer, and;

FURTHER, that the City Council hereby declares its support for any and all efforts to offset the cost of the AES project for seniors and those on fixed incomes, and;

FURTHER, that the City Council hereby declares its support for the efforts of Mayor Gray, Councilor Roccograndi, Councilor Marggraf, Councilor McMilleon, and Councilor Bartley to explore options for maximum expansion of the city's senior tax exemption program.