

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

1/14/2025

For full text of bills and supporting information, visit:

2024 Bills- <https://www.amesburyma.gov/665/2024-Council-Bills>

2025 Bills - <https://www.amesburyma.gov/691/2025-Council-Bills>

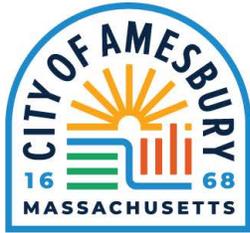
2025-005 Resolution - Merrimack Valley Region Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan – Local Adoption –President Mandeville Sponsor **Approved**

2024-096 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Zoning Ordinance expanding the Renewable Energy Development Overlay District (REDD) – Mayor Sponsor Summary: The development of large-scale solar energy projects has been recognized as being crucial to achieving the Commonwealth’s goal of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Massachusetts law, including M.G.L. c. 40A, § 3, aims to promote the development of solar energy facilities. Amesbury has permitted large-scale solar energy projects in the city, that produce more than 10 MW of clean energy, but the areas zoned for solar energy projects have been confined primarily to the Industrial District. **Referred to Planning Board- continued to January 27th, P&D, O&A- continued pending PB recommendation, and Referred to OSNRT. City Council continued to March 25th**

2024-119 Revised Amesbury Energy Committee By Laws – Councilors Rinaldi and Hogg Sponsors Summary: The Amesbury Energy Committee (AEC) was created in 2014 as an outgrowth of the Energy task force tasked with gaining Green Community Status. The By-Laws were amended in 2016 (2016043) to clearly define the membership and the member appointment processes including filling vacancies. **Referred to Ordinance & Administration (O&A) on Jan. 15th, Continued to January 28th City Council meeting**

2024-144 An Order to: Vote Intent to Lay Out Colonial Drive and Refer to Planning Board. – Mayor Sponsor Summary: The City Council shall vote its intent to lay out Colonial Drive and refer the proposed action to the Planning Board. **Approved**

2024-145 An Order of the Amesbury City Council to Approve the Acceptance of a Quitclaim Deed for a Parcel of Land known as Lot X in the Eastern Lights Subdivision, being a portion of property located off Middle Road, Amesbury and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute said Approval on Behalf of the City of Amesbury, - Mayor Sponsor Summary: The Planning Board issued a Special Permit and Definitive Subdivision Approval, dated May 2, 2007, for a



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subdivision known as Eastern Lights, located off Middle Road, in Amesbury, pursuant to which the developer of the Subdivision was to convey certain property, shown as Lot X on a plan entitled “F & C Builders Middle Road Amesbury, MA As-Built Layout Plan,” dated September 23, 2024 to the City of Amesbury. The intent of this Order is to obtain the authorization of the City Council to approve the acceptance by the City of the property, for general municipal purposes, and authorize the Mayor to approve and execute the deed for the property. **Approved**

2024-146 An Order to: Lay Out and Accept Colonial Drive as a Public Way. – Mayor Sponsor Summary: The City Council shall lay out and accept Colonial Drive as a public way. **Approved**

2025-002 An Order to request the City Council to authorize the Department of Public Works to overspend the fiscal 2025 snow and ice appropriation of \$250,000. – Mayor Sponsor Summary: MGL c. 44 s. 31D allows cities and towns to make expenditures in excess of available appropriations for snow and ice removal with the approval of City Council or other authorized legislative body. As in previous years, it will be necessary to overspend the snow and ice appropriation. **Referred to Budget & Finance (B&F) on Tues., Jan. 21st, Second Reading Jan. 28th**

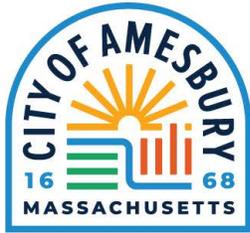
2025-003 An Order to appropriate \$145,193.52 from Water Retained Earnings to Water Other Expenses. Summary: This order requests a budget transfer in the amount of \$145,193.52 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings, which has a balance of \$363,314.00 to Water Enterprise Operating Budget (account number 610 0450 5870 00 – Water Equipment Replacement). This transfer will be used to cover unforeseen finish water pump failures, critical for the city’s daily drinking water supply and fire protection. – Mayor Sponsor **Referred to Budget & Finance (B&F) on Tues., Jan. 21st, Second Reading Jan. 28th**

2025-004 An Order to authorize a transfer of \$1,615.00 from Youth Services Personal Services to Youth Services Other Expenses. – Mayor Sponsor Summary: This order requests a budget transfer in the amount of \$1,615.00 from Youth Services Salaries & Wages to Youth Services Training to cover the costs for additional training in FY25. **Referred to Budget & Finance (B&F) on Tues., Jan. 21st, Second Reading Jan. 28th**

Measures still on the docket

2024-163 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Code of Ordinances Chapter 396 Special Events to establish a usage fee schedule and regulations for community use of City-owned facilities. – **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: The purpose of this ordinance is to add new sections to the Amesbury Code of Ordinances which include ‘Usage fee category/priority’, ‘Regulations governing usage fees’,



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'Usage fee schedule' and 'Regulations governing the use of facilities'. The City of Amesbury Special Event Permit and Process was established in Bill No. 2014-116 with the purpose to establish a comprehensive process for permitting special events conducted by the private sector using City streets, facilities or services and in some cases private facilities. Usage fees for city-owned facilities were previously adopted in Bill No. 2005-104 and will be updated and properly codified by this ordinance. Usage fees collected under this ordinance will be deposited into the Youth Recreation Revolving fund in a sub fund to be used for the maintenance, repair and expenses of city-owned facilities available for community use. Well-designed charges and fees reimburse the City for the costs of particularized services and promote service efficiency. It is expected that these fees will be periodically reviewed and updated. **Referred to Ordinance & Administration (O&A) on Wed., Jan. 15th , Budget & Finance (B&F)- Tues., Jan. 21st, Second Reading on Jan. 28th**

2024-164 An Order to: Vote to Rescind Bill No. 2019-042 and Accept a Portion of Elm Street as a City Public Way- **Mayor Sponsor**

Summary: The City Council shall vote to Rescind Bill No. 2019-042 and accept a portion of Elm Street currently a State Highway Layout. **Referred to Ordinance & Administration (O&A) on Wed. Jan. 15th, Planning & Development (P&D)- Wed., Jan. 22nd, Second Reading/Public Hearing on Jan. 28th**