

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

3/11/2025

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>

2025-025 Reappointment of Adeline Matton to the position of member of the Board of Registrars for a term to expire February 29, 2028 **Approved**

2025-026 Reappointment of Richard Joltes to the position of member of the Historic Commission for a term to expire February 29, 2028 **Approved**

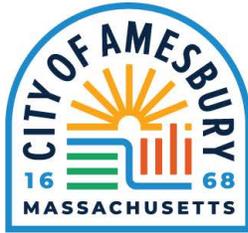
2025-027 Reappointment of Mel Webster to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire February 29, 2028 **Approved**

2025-028 Reappointment of Joel Nice to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Planning Board for a term to expire February 29, 2028 **Approval not required. Member designated by Committee**

2025-029 Reappointment of Michelle Faucher to the position of member of the Community Preservation Committee representing the Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee for a term to expire February 29, 2028 **Approval not required. Member designated by Committee**

2025-034 Appointment of Kristen Costa to the position of member of the Amesbury Cultural Council for a term to expire February 29, 2028 **Approved**

2025-017 An Ordinance to amend the Amesbury Code of Ordinances by inserting therein Chapter 397, entitled "Outdoor Dining Ordinance", to regulate the temporary private use of City-owned property and establish a usage fee schedule therefor. – Mayor Sponsor Summary: The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the Amesbury Code of Ordinances to establish a comprehensive process for permitting outdoor dining establishments conducted by the private sector using City streets, sidewalks, or park facilities. The City of Amesbury has administered an Outdoor Dining program since 2019 and the City has provided, without an application or usage fee, for the purchase, installation, and removal of concrete Jersey Barriers. Usage fees collected under this ordinance are to be deposited into the general fund to be used for the maintenance, repair, and operational expenses of administering the outdoor dining program and



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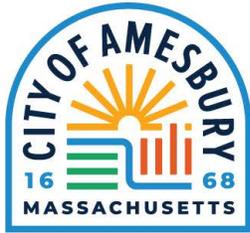
making physical improvements toward a more uniform, fully accessible, corral and seating area design. It is expected that these fees will be periodically reviewed and updated. **Approved as amended**

2025-021 An Order to appropriate \$500,000.00 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding site construction services for Amesbury High School 90' Diamond Ball Field Improvements.- Mayor Sponsor Summary: This order proposes to appropriate \$500,000.00 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding site construction services for Amesbury High School 90' Diamond Ball Field Improvements. In general, the work of this project at Amesbury High School includes but is not limited to the removal and disposal of existing 90' diamond ball field amenities such as chain link backstop, chain link fencing, furnishing and installation of a ball field backstop, fencing, reconstruction of the ball field infield area, new irrigation system, scoreboard relocation and sand slit drainage improvements. Construction for this project shall begin June 2025 and be completed by September 2025. **Approved**

2025-030 An Order to transfer \$65,000.00 from Police Personal Services to Police Other Expenses. Summary: This order requests a budget transfer in the amount of \$65,000.00 from Police Personal Services to Police Other Expenses to support the purchase of a new command vehicle which will be used by the Lieutenants, Deputy Chief and Chief. These funds will cover the total purchase of the vehicle and a portion of the outfitting. **Referred to Budget & Finance (B&F), March 18th at 6:30pm, City Hall**

2025-031 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) Wellness Grant program to be used by the Amesbury Police Department. Summary: These grant funds will be used by the Amesbury Police Department to employ SIGMA Tactical Wellness which will conduct voluntary comprehensive cardiovascular screenings for 20 members of the Amesbury Police Department. Sigma has pioneered a new system of cardio-metabolic screening which has been proven to detect cardiovascular disease more effectively than standard screening modalities. The cost is \$850 per person, totaling \$17,000 for 20 members, and these grant funds will supplement the cost. This is a reimbursable program, and funds must be spent by June 30, 2025. **Referred to Budget & Finance (B&F), March 18th at 6:30pm, City Hall**

2025-032 An Order to authorize a transfer of \$30,000.00 from the FY25 Budget Reserve account to the Legal Consultant Services account. Summary: This order requests a budget transfer in the amount of \$30,000.00 from the FY25 Budget Reserve account to Legal Consultant Services. The current balance of the FY25 Budget Reserve is \$125,637.00. **Referred to Budget & Finance (B&F), March 18th at 6:30pm, City Hall**



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2025-033 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$9,020.00 from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to be used by Amesbury Emergency Management Agency, which is managed by the Amesbury Fire Chief. Summary: These grant funds will be expended for the purpose of maintaining Amesbury's Radiological Emergency Response Preparedness Program for the Operation Center for FY 2025. **Referred to Budget & Finance (B&F), March 18th at 6:30pm, City Hall**

Measures Still on the Docket

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- positive recommendation with amendments, O&A on March 17th at 7pm, City Hall, P&D on March 19th at 7pm, City Hall, Referred to OSNRT. City Council continued to March 25th**