

Special City Council Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, March 24, 2015
City Hall Auditorium

Council President McMilleon called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Sickorez.

Roll call was taken. The following were present: Councilor Sickorez, Councilor Bartley, Councilor Ferguson, Councilor Bezanson, Councilor McClure, Councilor Moavenzadeh, Councilor Sherwood, and Councilor McMilleon.

Councilor Lavoie had an excused absence.

There were no minutes to act on at this time.

Correspondence:

Councilor Ferguson said she is on the Traffic and Transportation Committee. There are documents that need to be updated into electronic versions. She would like to request money from the budget to get this done. There was a discussion about appropriating the money needed.

There were no President/Vice President communications.

There were no communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions.

There were no Mayoral appointments at this time.

There were no Licenses & Permits at this time.

Councilor McMilleon opened the Public Comment.

Matt Einson, 64 Fern Ave., said he supports the Statement of Interest resolution.

Jen Marr, 5 Tuxbury Ln., urged the Council to vote to approve the Statement of Interest resolution.

Jane Snow, 44 Fern Ave., said she would help do the updating/typing of the Traffic and Transportation documents.

James Thivierge, 8 School St., spoke about high tax rates.

Councilor McMilleon closed the Public Comment.

Council Response to Public Comment:

Councilor Ferguson said she would be in touch with Jane Snow regarding the updating of the Traffic and Transportation documents.

Public Hearings:

2015-017 An Order to request that the City Council vote to appropriate \$50,000 from Free Cash in order to pay a past-due bill owed to National Grid by the Amesbury Public Schools.

Councilor McMilleon declared the Public Hearing open.

Joseph Greaney, 50 Orchard St., asked for clarification on what the total amount owed was to National Grid.

James Thivierge, 8 School St., said that this ordinance should be remanded to the Ordinance Committee. He said that this doesn't satisfy free cash.

Claude Gonthier, 112 Kimball Rd., asked why after eight (8) years this came out. He is not against paying the amount owed. He would like to know why this rose to the surface.

Councilor McMilleon closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor McClure read the Finance Committee meeting recommendations for approval.

Michelle Robinson, Superintendent of Amesbury Public Schools, said the negotiated amount due to National Grid is \$50,000. She explained some of the changes in the internal processes at the Schools. Councilor McClure asked who did the audit testing. Robinson said that Melanson Heath do the testing. Councilor Bezanson said he is for paying this bill.

Councilor Sherwood asked who is involved with handling of invoices. Robinson said that an Accounts Payable Clerk reviews the bills, writes the warrants, and then it is processed through the Asst. Superintendent's Office.

Councilor Sickorez asked when the late payments stopped being paid. Ms. Robinson said immediately, upon discovery.

Councilor McMilleon asked how it happened. Ms. Robinson explained that it began with a miss-assignment of the name on the bill that started ten (10) years ago.

Deirdre Farrell discussed the reasons why it took so long to pay the bill.

Councilor Sickorez asked what the total of the bill. Ms. Robinson will provide that information.

Councilor Sherwood moved to accept 2015-017 and approve it. Councilor McClure seconded. Roll Call Vote – 8-Yes – Unanimous

There were no First Readings at this time.

Second Readings:

2015-021 A Resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Michelle Robinson and Deirdre Farrell shared a copy of an overview of the process of Statement of Interest process. Ms. Robinson presented.

There was a discussion on what the needs were for the City's Schools.

Councilor Ferguson moved to accept the Resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to submit a Statement of Interest to the MSBA related to Amesbury Elementary School and accept: Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Having convened in an open meeting on March 124, 2015, prior to the closing date, the Amesbury City Council of Amesbury, MA, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 2, 2015 for the Amesbury Elementary School located at 20 South Hampton, Amesbury MA. 01913 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future -

Priority 2 - Elimination of severe overcrowding;

Priority 4 - Prevention of severe overcrowding,

Priority 7 – Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings;

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Councilor Sickorez seconded. Roll Call Vote – 8-Yes - Unanimous

Councilor Sherwood moved to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Councilor Ferguson seconded. It was voted unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawne Warren
Administrative Assistant
Office of the City Clerk