

Town of Amherst

UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, September 9, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Town Room, Town Hall

Members Present: Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz

Members Absent: Councilor Swartz was absent for a portion of the meeting.

Members Participating Remotely: None

Staff Present: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Department of Public Works Superintendent Guilford Mooring, Interim Finance Director Sonia Aldrich, Clerk of the Council Athena O'Keeffe

President Griesemer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

3. Hearings

Continuation of Public Hearing from August 26, 2019: Installation of Conduit on South Pleasant Street and Transformer on South Common

MOVED: To close the public hearing.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED: Unanimously

5. Proclamations and Commemorations

a. Proclamation in Celebration of Puerto Rican Heritage Month

MOVED: To adopt the Proclamation in Celebration of Puerto Rican Heritage Month as presented/as amended.

Motion by: De Angelis

Seconded by: Pam

VOTED: Unanimously

MOVED: That the Town fly the Puerto Rican flag from September 23, 2019 through September 30, 2019.

Motion by: Steinberg

Seconded by: Brewer

VOTED: Unanimously

7. Action Items

a. 26 Spring Street – Public Way Request: Proposed accessible drop-off area in the right of way

MOVED: To refer the proposal by Archipelago Investments and the Spring Street north side parking from Boltwood Avenue to Churchill Street to the Community Resources Committee with a report to Council, with updated conceptual drawings, on November 18, 2019.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: Pam

VOTED: Unanimously

b. Request to use previously appropriated and unspent capital to purchase a new school bus

MOVED: To refer the matter of the purchase of a school bus back to the Finance Committee for reconsideration, so that it may obtain the answers to additional questions about the cost comparison between the purchase of a gas or diesel powered school bus and an electric school bus, and other relevant questions, including, but not limited to:

- The cost of gas per year for a gas or diesel powered bus versus electricity for an electric bus
- The cost of maintenance per year for a gas or diesel powered bus versus the maintenance of an electric bus
- What maintenance does each type of bus require?
- Projected lifespan of a gas powered, diesel and electric school bus
- The difference in air quality and greenhouse gas emissions when using an electric bus versus a gas or diesel bus
- The availability of federal, state or other funding for new electric busses
- A list of the new EV bus prices advertised by at least three bus companies
- Whether it would be possible to find the full cost of a new EV school bus with unappropriated funds currently available in the school capital budget
- Whether we are in need of the replacement of more than one bus and whether the purchase of more than one bus would bring down the cost
- How the technology of new electric busses has changes relative to the bus we now own
- What savings the Town could enjoy based on already owning an EV bus charger
- The number of miles traveled per day, per bus for normal school bus routes
- Whether financing a vehicle to grid bus – that is a bus that is able to feed electricity from its battery into the power grid when it is not in use – through power sales to the electric utility can be done. School busses have large resilient batteries and are parked most of the time
- Whether there has been staff/bus driver education regarding why Amherst has made a start at transitioning to an electric fleet

Motion by: DuMont

Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED: 3-8-1 (Councilors De Angelis, DuMont, and Hanneke voted Yes; Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted No; Councilor Schoen Abstained; Councilor Swartz was absent). The motion failed.

MOVED: To adopt Appropriation and Transfer Order FY20-25, "An Order Appropriating Funds for New School Bus" as recommended by the Finance Committee report dated September 6, 2019.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ryan

Councilor DuMont invoked the right to postpone; the vote is postponed until the next scheduled Council Meeting, which will be held on September 17, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

c. Sign Town Manager Contract

MOVED: That in accordance with the Amherst Home Rule Charter and MGL Chapter 41 Section 108N the Town Council enter into an employment agreement with Paul Bockelman to serve as Town Manager for a 4-year term commencing August 22, 2019.

Motion by: Pam

Seconded by: De Angelis

VOTED: 12-0-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilor Swartz was absent)

e. Town Council Rules of Procedure clarification of “Clerk” references

MOVED: To revise the Town Council Rules of Procedure as shown on the document titled "Rules of Procedure-revised 2019-08-19 - proposed GOL revisions - Clerk Clarification" and described as follows:

1. Add the phrase “of the Council” after the word “Clerk” in Rules 5.1.d.1, 5.1.d.5, 6.2.f., and 10.6.j.3.
2. Add the word “Town” before the word “Clerk” in Rule 8.2.d.
3. Reformat the phrase “, with the assistance of the Clerk of the Council and Town Manager,” in Rule 3.5.b.4 to delete the underlining and change the color to black and delete the extra space before the same phrase and after the word “Council”.
4. Delete the final “s” in the word “sessions” in the first sentence of Rule 5.3.
5. Increase the font size to 12 point for all of Rule 8.2.c.

Motion by: Ryan

Seconded by: De Angelis

VOTED: 12-0-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilor Swartz was absent)

f. Intermunicipal Agreements

MOVED: To authorize the Town Manager to enter into certain Intermunicipal agreements under MGL Chapter 40 Section 4A, as outlined in the Town Manager memorandum to Town Council dated September 6, 2019.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED: 12-0-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilor Swartz was absent)

g. Town Council policy on zoning bylaw hearings

MOVED: To refer a potential Town Council policy on zoning bylaw hearings to the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee, with a report to the Town Council on October 21, 2019.

Motion by: Ross

Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED: 12-0-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilor Swartz was absent)

10. Approval of Minutes

a. August 26, 2019

MOVED: To approve the August 26, 2019 Town Council meeting minutes, as presented.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: Ryan

VOTED: 9-0-3 (Councilors De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer and DuMont Abstained; Councilor Swartz was absent)

13. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

a. Acknowledgement of Disclosure Statement

MOVED: To approve the exemption under MGL Chapter 268(a) Section 20(b) for Margarita Bonifaz.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: Ryan

VOTED: 12-0-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilor Swartz was absent)

15. Adjourn

MOVED: To adjourn the September 9, 2019 meeting of the Town Council.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: Ryan

VOTED: 12-0-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilor Swartz was absent)

The Council adjourned at 10:50 p.m.