

Town of Amherst
UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, October 21, 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: None

Members Participating Remotely: None

Staff Present: Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek, Principal Assessor David Burgess, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Amy Rusiecki, Clerk of the Council Athena O'Keeffe

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

7.a.(1) Tax Classification

MOVED: To adopt a minimum residential factor of one, equal tax rate for all classes of properties for Fiscal Year 2020 and that no open space discount be granted.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: De Angelis

VOTED: Unanimously

7.a.(2) MOVED: To NOT adopt a Residential Exemption for Fiscal Year 2020.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: De Angelis

VOTED: 12-0-1 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor DuMont Abstained)

7.a.(3) MOVED: To NOT adopt a Small Commercial Exemption for Fiscal Year 2020.

Motion by: De Angelis

Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED: 12-0-1 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor DuMont Abstained)

7.b. Centennial Water Treatment Borrowing Authorization

MOVED: Order number FY20-23

Motion by: Pam

Seconded by: Brewer

VOTED: Unanimously, as amended

6.a.(1) Proposed Approach to Four Major Capital Investments

MOVED: That the sense of the Council is that the Council is committed to a plan that will address all four buildings in some fashion.

Motion by: Steinberg

Seconded by: Swartz

VOTED: 12-1-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor DuMont voted No)

6.a.(2) Proposed Approach to Four Major Capital Investments

MOVED: That the Council move forward with the recommended approach document with acknowledgement that the Steering Committee modify the approach as necessary.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: Ross

VOTED: 12-1-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor DuMont voted No)

7.c. Amendments to Rules of Procedure Rule 8, relating to proclamations, commemorations, and citations

MOVED: That the following revisions to Town Council Rules of Procedure Rule 8 be made:

1. Add a new paragraph to the end of Rule 8.1.a.: “Proposed resolutions, proclamations, commemorations, or citations shall be introduced either by a Councilor sponsor or by group petition or initiative petition as described in Charter Sec. 8.2(b), 8.3, and 8.5.”;
2. Insert after Rule 8.2.e. a new Rule 8.2.f and relabel Rule 8.2.f. and g. as 8.2.g. and h. respectively:
“Resolutions, Proclamations, Commemorations and Citations: All resolutions, proclamations, commemorations, and citations complying with Rule 8.1.a shall be automatically referred to the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee. The President shall notify the Council of the referral at the next regular Council meeting.”;
3. Insert the phrase “commemorations, citations,” into Rule 8.4 after the phrase “Except for resolutions, proclamations”;
4. Add a new paragraph to the end of Rule 8.6:
“Resolutions, Proclamations, Commemorations, and Citations: The Council shall not vote on any proposed resolution, proclamation, commemoration, or citation until it has been considered by the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee.”; and
5. Update the Table of Contents Pagination, if necessary.

Motion by: Ryan

Seconded by: Ross

VOTED: Unanimously

7.d. Revision of Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee Charge

MOVED: To revise the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee charge, as recommended by the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee, per the document titled “GOL_Charge_Revised5-22-2019 and 2019-08-15.”

Motion by: Ryan

Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED: 12-0-1 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor DuMont Abstained)

7.f. 2020 Council Meeting Calendar

MOVED: To approve the proposed 2020 Town Council meeting schedule, as amended.

Motion by: Brewer

Seconded by: Ryan

VOTED: Unanimously

8.a.(1) Council on Aging

MOVED: To approve (reject) the following Town Manager appointments to the Council on Aging, effective immediately, as recommended by the Outreach, Communications, and Appointments Committee report of October 21, 2019:

- For a three-year term to expire June 30, 2022:
 - Rosemary Kofler (reappointment)
 - Ivette Palacin
- For a two-year term to expire June 30, 2021:
 - Sue Dierks
 - Patricia Rector
 - John Wollensak

Motion by: Ross

Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED: Unanimously

13.a. Community Preservation Committee

MOVED: To approve the following Town Manager appointments to the Community Preservation Committee, effective immediately:

- For a three-year term to expire June 30, 2022:
 - Nate Budington (reappointment)
 - Sam MacLeod
- For a two-year term to expire June 30, 2021:
 - Diana Stein (reappointment)

Motion by: Schreiber

Seconded by: Ryan

VOTED: 8-4-1 (Councilors Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont and Swartz voted No; Councilor Bahl-Milne Abstained)

13.b.(1) MGL 268A§19(b)(1) Exemption Request; Planning Board Member Maria Chao

MOVED: That the Town Council has made a written determination under MGL Chapter 268A Section 19(b) that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from Planning Board member Maria Chao in the matter of SPR2020-02 - Amherst College - Athletic Field Renovation - 212 Northampton Road.

Motion by: Ross

Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED: 11-0-2 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors DuMont and Schoen Abstained)

13.b.(2) MGL 268A§19(b)(1) Exemption Request; Planning Board Member David Levenstein

MOVED: That the Town Council has made a written determination under MGL Chapter 268A Section 19(b) that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from Planning Board member David Levenstein in the matter of SPR2020-02 - Amherst College - Athletic Field Renovation - 212 Northampton Road.

Motion by: Ross

Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED: 11-0-2 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors DuMont and Schoen Abstained)

10.a. October 7, 2019

MOVED: To approve the minutes of October 7, 2019, as presented/amended.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED: 9-0-4 (Councilors DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and

Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, and Swartz Abstained)

13.b. Zero Energy Stretch Code

MOVED: That the Town Council waive the requirements of rule 8.6 for the Net Zero Stretch Code municipal support letter.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: De Angelis

VOTED: 4-8-1 (Councilors De Angelis, DuMont, Hanneke, and Schoen voted Yes; Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted No; President Griesemer Abstained)

15. Adjourn

MOVED: To adjourn the October 21, 2019 meeting of the Town Council.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Pam

VOTED: Unanimously

The Council adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

DRAFT

APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING ORDER FY20 - 23

An Order Authorizing a Borrowing for Engineering Services for the Rehabilitation of the Centennial Water Treatment Facility

WHEREAS, the Town Council serves as the Water Commission and the legislative body of the Town of Amherst in accord with Section 2.14 and Article II, respectively, of the Town Charter;

WHEREAS, the Centennial Water Treatment Facility treats water from the Hill and Hawley Reservoirs and is a critical piece of Town infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the Centennial Water Treatment Facility has had no major modifications since its construction in 1981, with the exception of the addition of baffles to the water storage reservoir;

WHEREAS, it has been reported to the Town Council, after years of study, that most of the existing equipment at the Centennial Water Treatment Facility is approaching end of service life;

WHEREAS, the Town Council believes that rehabilitation and improvement of the Centennial Water Treatment Facility, an important capital asset, is in the best interests of the Town and will allow the facility to operate at full capacity while maintaining high water quality for the Town.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Amherst that:

The sum of **\$692,000** be appropriated for engineering services for the rehabilitation and improvement of the Centennial Water Treatment Facility, including all incidental and related expenses; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, shall be authorized to borrow said sum under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and, further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved hereunder in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount

Council Member

APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING ORDER FY20 - 23

An Order Authorizing a Borrowing for Engineering Services for the Rehabilitation of the Centennial Water Treatment Facility, cont.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of ____ for, ____ against and ____ present on October 21, 2019.

Athena O’Keeffe, Council Clerk

J. Lynn Griesemer, Council President