

**Town of Amherst**

**UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Monday, July 20, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Members Participating Remotely: Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg

Members Absent: Councilor Swartz

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Health Director Julie Federman, Planning Director Christine Brestrup, Town Clerk Shavena Martin, IT Applications Analyst Serge Fedorovsky, and Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Town Council is being conducted via remote participation.

**All votes were taken by roll call.**

Per MGL Chapter 30A Section 20(f), this meeting is being recorded and broadcast by Amherst Media.

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President Griesemer called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

**5. Consent Agenda**

**Consent Agenda:** The following items were selected because they were considered to be routine and it was reasonable to expect they would pass with no controversy.

To remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion later in the meeting, ask that it be removed when the President lists the consent agenda items. The request to remove an item from the consent agenda does not require a second.

**MOTION:** To move the following items, and the printed motions thereunder and approve those items as a single unit:

- 11.a-e. Approval of Minutes:
  - June 17, 2020 Joint Town Council and Governance, Organization, and Legislation Meeting - minutes
  - June 29, 2020 Town Council Meeting minutes
  - July 6, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting – Public Safety minutes
  - July 13, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting – Library Update minutes
  - July 13, 2020 Joint Finance Committee/Council FY21 Budget Hearing minutes

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: De Angelis

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

**7. Discussion Items**

**a. COVID Update**

**MOTION:** To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure Rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 12-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer,

Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilor Swartz was absent)

**MOTION:** To support and endorse the requests detailed in the Amherst Town Manager's letter dated July 10, 2020 to Chancellor Subbaswamy of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, asking for critical changes to the University's plan for students' return for the fall 2020 semester, and given the urgency of matter, we call on the University and Chancellor Subbaswamy to partner with the Town to amend its plan for the fall 2020 semester as soon as possible to ensure those plans protect the public health and safety of all residents of Amherst, including all students, whether residing on- or off-campus.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: Schoen

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 10-0-2 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ryan, Schoen, Steinberg, voted Yes; Councilors Ross and Schreiber Abstained; Councilor Swartz was absent)

**8. Action Items**

**a. FY21 Budget**

**MOTION:** That the approval of the FY2021 Operating budget is made with the explicit understanding with the Town Manager that two upcoming anticipated vacant positions in the Police Department's budget not be filled until the Town Manager, in consultation with the Town Council, and Residents of Amherst, has fully explored alternative options of providing services and presented the results to the Town Council no later than January 31, 2021.

Motion by: Steinberg

Seconded by: De Angelis

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

**MOTION:** To adopt Appropriation and Transfer Order FY21-04B, "An Order Appropriating the Town of Amherst FY2021 Operating Budget", as recommended by the Finance Committee and shown on pages 7-8 of the document entitled "Town Council Finance Committee Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2021 Budget and additional Orders." (**majority vote**)

Motion by: Steinberg

Seconded by: Pam

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

**MOTION:** To adopt Appropriation and Transfer Order FY21-09, "An Order Approving and Authorizing Borrowing to Fund Capital Projects – Bond Authorizations" as recommended by the Finance Committee and shown on page 9 of the document entitled "Town Council Finance Committee Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2021 Budget and additional Orders." (**2/3 vote required**)

Motion by: Steinberg

Seconded by: Pam

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

**MOTION:** To adopt Appropriation and Transfer Order FY21-11, "An Order Approving the Acceptance of Optional Tax Exemptions for FY2021", as recommended by the Finance Committee and shown on page 10 of the document entitled "Town Council Finance Committee Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2021 Budget and additional Orders." (**majority vote**)

Motion by: Steinberg

Seconded by: Hanneke

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

**b. Valley CDC Project at 132 Northampton Road – Local Option**

*No action taken*

**c. Zoning Bylaw 11.250 Amendment – First Reading, Charter Sec. 2.10(a)**

*No action taken*

**9. Appointments**

**b. Town Council Appointments**

**(1) Non-Voting Members of Finance Committee**

**MOTION:** To appoint Bernard Kubiak as a Non-Voting member of the Finance Committee per Charter Sec. 5.5, effective immediately, for a term to expire June 30, 2022, as recommended by the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ryan

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8-2-1 (Bahl-Milne, Brewer, Griesemer, Hanneke, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors DuMont and Schoen voted No; Councilors De Angelis and Swartz were absent)

**10. Approval of Minutes**

**a-d. Approval of minutes**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** To approve the following Town Council Meeting minutes as presented:

- June 17, 2020 Joint Town Council and Governance, Organization, and Legislation Meeting - minutes
- June 29, 2020 Town Council Meeting minutes
- July 6, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting – Public Safety minutes
- July 13, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting – Library Update minutes
- July 13, 2020 Joint Finance Committee/Council FY21 Budget Hearing minutes

The Council adjourned at 11:28 p.m.