

Town of Amherst
UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, January 25, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

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

Councilors Absent: None

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Community Safety Working Group Chair Paul Wiley and Vice-Chair Brianna Owen, Planning Director Christine Brestrup, Health Director Emma Dragon, IT Director Sean Hannon, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, Building Commissioner Rob Morra, DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring, Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek, 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 taken by roll call.

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

President Griesemer called the special meeting to order at 6:34 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:

- Suspension of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for agenda item 8.c. Amendments to Town Manager Goals
- 11.a-b. Approval of Minutes:
 - December 5, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Four Towns Meeting
 - December 21, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ross

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous, 13-0

6. Resolutions and Proclamations

a. Resolution Condemning the January 6, 2021 Insurrection and Violence at the U.S. Capitol

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution Condemning the January 6, 2021 Insurrection and Violence at the U.S. Capitol, as presented.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous, 13-0

8. Action Items

a. Belchertown Road Property Acquisition for Affordable Housing

MOTION: In accordance with Charter Sec. 5.6, having been published on the Town Bulletin Board for a minimum of 10 days on December 22, 2020, a Public Forum held on January 4, 2021, and having been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee report of January 21, 2021, as well as recommended by the Community Resources Committee report of January 21, 2021, to adopt Council Order FY21-08A - An Order Appropriating, Authorizing Debt and Acquiring and Disposing of Three Parcels for Community Housing Purposes, as presented/amended.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Pam

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous, 13-0

b. Pomeroy Village MassWorks Grant

MOTION: To refer the Pomeroy Village MassWorks Grant Project to the Town Services and Outreach Committee, for review and recommendation on the choice of intersection design and to guide public engagement, with a report back to the Town Council by May 3, 2021.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: DuMont

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous, 13-0

c. Amendments to Town Council Performance Goals for the Town Manager

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for agenda item 8.c. Amendments to Town Council Performance Goals for the Town Manager.

(1) Community Health and Safety Goal

MOTION: To amend the Town Council Performance Goals for the Town Manager July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 adopted September 14, 2020 by changing, under Policy Goals Section II. Community Health and Safety, the date results are presented to the Town Council from “January 31, 2020” to March 31, 2021, and

To amend the July 20, 2020 Council directive previously adopted:

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.

To read:

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 March 31, 2021.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: De Angelis

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous, 13-0

(2) Housing Affordability Goal and Racial Equity and Social Justice Goal

MOTION: To amend the Town Council Performance Goals for the Town Manager July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021, adopted September 14, 2020, by adding, under Policy Goals, Section V. Housing

Affordability: "and (4) exploring the possibility of creating a permanent seasonal or year round shelter in Amherst either through the repurposing of surplus Town buildings or land and/or through working in partnership with concerned community groups or individuals to realize this goal." So that the section reads:

“Objective: To provide access to safe, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents by (1) implementing the Resolution Adopting an Interim Affordable Housing Policy vote by Town Council on April 4, 2020 that called for identifying and aggressively exploring opportunities to preserve and increase affordable housing at all income levels, (2) assisting the Council in developing a Comprehensive Housing Policy, (3) ensuring the operation of a seasonal shelter, and (4) exploring the possibility of creating a permanent seasonal or year round shelter in Amherst either through the repurposing of surplus Town buildings or land and/or through working in partnership with concerned community groups or individuals to realize this goal.”

Motion by: Ryan

Seconded by: De Angelis

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous, 13-0

MOTION: To amend the Town Council Performance Goals for the Town Manager July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021, adopted September 14, 2020, by adding, under Policy Goals Section VI. Racial Equity and Social Justice “, and the Town Council Resolution Affirming the Town of Amherst’s Commitment to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equity for Black Residents adopted on December 7, 2020, and the Town Council Resolution Condemning the January 6, 2021 Insurrection and Violence at the U.S. Capitol adopted on January 25, 2021” So that the section reads:

“Objective: To explore, recommend, and implement policies and procedures that address racial equity and social justice consistent with the Town Council Resolution in the Aftermath of the Death of Mr. George Floyd adopted on June 1, 2020, and the Town Council Resolution Affirming the Town of Amherst’s Commitment to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equity for Black Residents adopted on December 7, 2020, and the Town Council Resolution Condemning the January 6, 2021 Insurrection and Violence at the U.S. Capitol adopted on January 25, 2021 that (1) ensure all community members feel and are a part of Amherst and feel and are protected, listened to, and served by their public servants, (2) foster a community free of fear, intimidation, and violence, and (3) incorporate significant involvement of BIPOC residents in shaping these policies and procedures.”

Motion by: Brewer

Seconded by: Ryan

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous, 13-0

9. Appointments

b. Town Council Appointments

(1) Budget Coordinating Group

MOTION: To appoint Councilors George Ryan and Cathy Schoen to the Budget Coordinating Group, for a one-year term to expire January 3, 2022, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 11-2 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors Brewer and Hanneke voted No)

(2) Joint Capital Planning Committee

MOTION: To appoint Councilors Andy Steinberg, Cathy Schoen, and Mandi Jo Hanneke to the Joint Capital Planning Committee, for a one-year term to expire January 3, 2022, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilors voted for their three preferred candidates for the committee:

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

(3) Liaisons to Multiple Member Bodies

MOTION: To appoint the following Town Councilors as liaisons to Town multiple member bodies under Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 10.8 Councilors as Non-Voting Liaisons, effective immediately for a term expiring January 5, 2022:

- Affordable Housing – De Angelis
- Board of Health – Ryan
- Board of License Commissioners – Brewer
- Community Preservation Act Committee – Schoen
- Council on Aging – Pam
- Disability Access Advisory Committee – De Angelis
- Recreation Commission – Schreiber
- Transportation Advisory Committee – DuMont

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Pam

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

11. Approval of Minutes

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: To adopt the following Town Council meeting minutes, as presented:

- December 5, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Four Towns Meeting
- December 21, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

The Council adjourned at 11:10 p.m.