

Town of Amherst
UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, February 8, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

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

Members Absent: None

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek, Fire Chief Tim Nelson, Senior Center Director Mary Beth Ogulewicz, Health Director Emma Dragon, Minute-Taker Lindsey McConnell, State Representative Mindy Domb, State Senator Jo Comerford

University of Massachusetts Representatives Participating Remotely: John Kennedy, Steven Goodwin, Elizabeth Cracco, Evelyn Ashley, Sally Linowski, Ann Becker, Jeffrey Hescocock, Nancy Buffone

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 will be 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 meeting to order at 6:30 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 the following agenda items:
 - 8.b. Authorization of Council President to sign letter to Community Safety Working Group
 - 8.d. Approval of Extension of Temporary Appointment of Town Clerk
- ~~6.a. Adoption of the Resolution Opposing the Palmer/Springfield Biomass Power Plant Removed by Councilor Ryan~~
- 6.b. Adoption of the Lunar New Year/Spring Festival Celebration Proclamation
- 8.d. Approval of Extension of Temporary Appointment of Town Clerk
- 8.f. Withdrawal of Measure Pursuant to Council Rules of Procedure 8.8– Proposed Prohibition on the Municipal Use of Face Recognition Technology Bylaw
- 9.a.1-3. Approval of Town Manager Appointments:
 - Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees
 - License Commissioners
 - Public Shade Tree Committee
- 11.a-d. Approval of Minutes:
 - January 4, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting
 - January 4, 2021 Town Council Public Forum
 - January 4, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ross

ROLL CALL VOTE: unanimous, 13-0

6. Resolutions and Proclamations

a. Resolution Opposing the Palmer/Springfield Biomass Power Plant

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution Opposing the Palmer/Springfield Biomass Power Plant, as presented.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: De Angelis

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous, 13-0

b. Lunar New Year/Spring Festival Celebration Proclamation

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To adopt the Lunar New Year/Spring Festival Celebration Proclamation, as presented.

8. Action Items

a. Community Preservation Act Committee Recommendations

No action required.

b. Letter to Community Safety Working Group

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

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

MOTION: To authorize the Town Council President to send the letter to the Community Safety Working Group dated February 8, 2021 on behalf of the Town Council, as presented.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ross

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

Councilor Ross called the question.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 9-2-2 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors Steinberg and DuMont voted No; Councilors Brewer and Schoen Abstained)

c. Use of the Public Ways

(1) Wayfinding Signs

MOTION: To refer the Wayfinding recommendations to the Town Services and Outreach Committee, for review and recommendation to the Council by May 3, 2021.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ryan

ROLL CALL VOTE: 10-3 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, DuMont, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors Brewer, De Angelis, and Griesemer voted No)

d. Extension of 150 Day Appointment of Temporary Town Clerk – Charter Sec. 3.3(b)

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

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

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: In accordance with Charter Section 3.3(b), to approve the Town Manager’s request dated February 4, 2021 for extension of appointment of temporary Town Clerk until the earlier of the appointment, approval, and start date of a Town Clerk pursuant to Charter Sections 3.3(a) and 2.11 or March 1, 2021.

e. Amendments to Town Council Rules of Procedure rules 2.1, 4.3, 5.7, 6.3, 8.1, 9.5, and adding Appendix B

First discussion, no action required.

f. Withdrawal of Measure – Proposed Prohibition on the Municipal Use of Face Recognition Technology Bylaw – Consent Agenda

In accordance with Council Rule of Procedure 8.8, Councilor-sponsors De Angelis and Hanneke submitted a written request on January 29, 2021 to withdraw their Proposed Prohibition on the Municipal Use of Face Recognition Technology Bylaw from consideration by the Council and all Council Committee to which it was referred, and this request is now placed on the Council agenda for notice purposes. Rule 8.8 does not require a vote.

9. Appointments

a. Town Manager Appointments

(1) Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the following Town Manager appointment to the Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees, as filed with the Town Clerk on January 26, 2021, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of February 8, 2021, effective immediately:

- For a term to expire on June 30, 2022:
 - Allegra Clark
 - John Hornik (reappointment)

(2) License Commissioners

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the following Town Manager appointment to the Board of License Commissioners, as filed with the Town Clerk on January 26, 2021, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of February 8, 2021, effective immediately:

- For a term to expire on June 30, 2024:
 - Gaston de los Reyes (reappointment)
 - Marian Walker (reappointment)

(3) Public Shade Tree Committee

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the following Town Manager appointment to the Public Shade Tree Committee as filed with the Town Clerk on January 26, 2021, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of February 8, 2021, effective immediately:

- For a term to expire on June 30, 2022:
 - Julian Hynes
- For a term to expire on June 30, 2023

- Ellen Keiter

11. Approval of Minutes

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- January 4, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting
- January 4, 2021 Town Council Public Forum
- January 4, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting

14. Topics Not Anticipated 48 Hours Before the Meeting

MOTION: To waive Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.6 for the current item.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ross

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

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution in Support of Expedited COVID-19 Vaccinations for Educators, as presented.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Schoen

ROLL CALL VOTE: 9-4 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, DuMont, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors Brewer, De Angelis, Hanneke, and Ryan voted No)

The Council adjourned at 10:21 p.m.