

Town of Amherst
UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, April 25, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Councilors in attendance: Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg, Taub

Councilors participating remotely: Lopes, Walker

Councilors Absent: None

Finance Committee members participating remotely: Bob Hegner

Finance Committee members absent: Holloway, Kubiak

Staff in attendance: Town Manager Bockelman, IT Director Hannon, Clerk of the Council O'Keefe

Others Participating Remotely: KP Law Attorney Lauren Goldberg, Amherst Media Board President Artie McCollum, Town Planner Ben Breger, Finance Director Sean Mangano, ARPS Superintendent Mike Morris

When remote participation is used, 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 Special Town Council meeting to order at 5:37 pm; adjourned at 6:30 pm

President Griesemer called the Regular Town Council meeting to order at 6:32 pm; adjourned at 9:55 pm

Steinberg called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:35 pm; adjourned at 6:44 pm

3. Hearings

a. 6:30 pm Public Hearing on the Regional School Budget

FINANCE COMMITTEE MOTION

MOVED: To close the public hearing.

Motion by: Steinberg

Seconded by: Griesemer

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous, 5-0, with support from non-voting member Hegner

5. 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.

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

- 6.a. **Adoption** of 2022 Jewish Heritage Month Proclamation
- 6.b. **Adoption** of 2022 Arbor Month Proclamation
- ~~8.b. **Approval** of Proposed Crosswalk on East Pleasant Street between Triangle and Pray Streets~~ Removed by Rooney
- 8.c. **Referral** of Proposed Flood Maps Zoning Bylaw
- 8.e. **Referral** of Optional Tax Exemptions for FY23
- 8.f. **Designation** of Solar Bylaw Working Group as Special Municipal Employees
- 8.h. **Adoption** of Proposed Amendment to the Town Council Rules of Procedure Regarding Motions
- 9.a. **Approval** of Town Manager Appointments to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee
- 11.a-d. **Approval** of the following Town Council meeting minutes:
 - March 21, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting minutes: work session
 - March 21, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting minutes: Public Forum on Community Preservation Act Appropriations
 - March 21, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
 - April 4, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Schoen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

6. Resolutions and Proclamations

a. 2022 Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt the 2022 Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation, as presented.

b. 2022 Arbor Month Proclamation

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt the 2022 Arbor Month Proclamation, as presented.

8. Action Items

a. Regional School Budget, Assessment Method, and Debt Authorization

DISCUSSION ONLY, NO ACTION

b. Public Way: Proposed Crosswalk on East Pleasant Street between Triangle and Pray Streets

MOVED: To approve the installation of a new crosswalk across East Pleasant Street between Pray Street and Triangle Street as shown on a drawing prepared by the Department of Public Works Engineering Division entitled “ADA Ramp Reconstruction – East Pleasant Street” dated October 2021.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

- c. Proposed Flood Maps Zoning Bylaw**
VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To refer the proposed amendments to Zoning Bylaw Article 3, Use Regulations, and proposed Article 16, FEMA Floodplain Overlay District, to the Planning Board and the Community Resources Committee for hearing/s held no later than June 29, 2022, and for a written recommendation and an explanation as to whether the proposed bylaw is not inconsistent with the Master Plan from the Planning Board to the Town Council and to the Community Resources Committee no later than 21 days after the Planning Board hearing, and for the Community Resources Committee to send a written recommendation to the Town Council and to submit all materials to the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee for review of clarity, consistency, and actionability within 60 days of the hearing held by the Community Resources Committee.
- d. FY23 Water and Sewer Rates**
MOVED: To refer the Town Manager’s April 19, 2022 recommendation to increase water rates from \$4.60/100cf to \$4.75/100cf, and sewer rates from \$4.90/100cf. to \$5.20/100cf to the Finance Committee, for a report and recommendation to the Council by May 16, 2022.
 Motion by: Griesemer
 Seconded by: Schoen
ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous
- e. Referral of Optional Tax Exemptions for FY23**
VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To refer Council Order FY23-11: Acceptance of Optional Tax Exemptions for FY2023 to the Finance Committee, for review and recommendation to the Town Council by June 27, 2022.
- f. Designation of Solar Bylaw Working Group as Special Municipal Employees**
VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To designate Special Municipal Employee (SME) status for the Solar Bylaw Working Group.
- g. Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers General Bylaw**
MOVED: To refer the Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers General Bylaw to the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee, for review of clarity, consistency, actionability, and recommendation on adoption to the Town Council by June 6, 2022.
 Motion by: Hanneke
 Seconded by: Lopes
ROLL CALL VOTE: 12-0, with 1 absent (Schoen)
- MOVED:** to amend the motion by adding, and “Town Services and Outreach committee to evaluate that the appropriate department is assigned to enforcement and for staff capacity.”
 Motion by: Steinberg

Seconded by: Lopes

ROLL CALL VOTE: 1-10, 1 abstention, 1 absent (Steinberg voted Yes; Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Rooney, Taub, and Walker voted No; Pam Abstained, Schoen was absent)

h. Town Council Motion Development Process: Proposed addition to Town Council Rules of Procedure

Requires 9 Votes in Favor

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To amend Rule 10.5j.1. of the Town Council Rules of Procedure by adding the words “recommended motion language for Town Council action,” after “a record of any votes taken regarding the proposed action,” so that Rule 10.5j.1. reads:

“Reports shall include the date of the report, list of Committee members, a summary of the discussion, including pros and cons relating to any proposed action, minority views, a record of any votes taken regarding the proposed action, recommended motion language for Town Council action, and dates of meetings held.”

9. Appointments

a. Town Manager Appointments

1) Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: In accordance with Charter section 2.11(b), to approve the following Town Manager appointments to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee, as filed with the Town Clerk on April 14, 2022, effective immediately:

For terms to expire June 30, 2024:

- Gregory Bascomb
- Suzanne Schilling

11. Approval of Minutes

a-d. Town Council Meeting Minutes

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To approve the following Town Council Meeting minutes, as presented:

- March 21, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting minutes: work session
- March 21, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting minutes: Public Forum on Community Preservation Act Appropriations
- March 21, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
- April 4, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes