

**Town of Amherst**  
**UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Monday, November 1, 2022

6:30 p.m. Meeting

Councilors in attendance: Bahl-Milne, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Schoen, Steinberg

Councilors participating remotely: De Angelis, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Taub, Walker

Councilors Absent: None

Community Safety and Social Justice Committee members present:

Community Safety and Social Justice Committee members participating remotely: Shabazz, Avila, Ononibaku, Ette, Clark, Ferreira (arrived at 6:44 pm)

Community Safety and Social Justice Committee members absent: None

Staff present: Town Manager Bockelman, IT Director Hannon

Staff participating remotely: Clerk of the Council O’Keeffe

**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 meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.; adjourned at 12:44 a.m.

Co-Chair Clark called the CSSJC meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.; adjourned at 12:43 a.m.

**Motions postponed by Councilor Hanneke under Charter Section 2.10(c) during the 10/17/2022 Town Council meeting; if there is a further Charter objection, the matters may be addressed at a later Town Council meeting**

**MOTION ON THE FLOOR:** To refer the matter of the incident occurring on July 5th involving two police offers and 9 youths to the CSSJC, HRC, and the AHRA to collaboratively review the incident with the input of the DEI department and other appropriate staff, and in consultation with the town attorney, for the purposes of making a recommendation to the Town Council to repair the harm and reconcile the incident by November 21, 2022.

**The motion was withdrawn.**

**MOTION:** To create the Ad Hoc Committee to Develop a Proposal for Repair, as presented:

1. Three (3) Councilors
2. Two (2) Members from the Community Safety and Social Justice Committee (CSSJC); Two (2) Members of the Human Rights Commission (HRC); Two (2) Members of the African Heritage Reparations Assembly (AHRA) \*
3. One (1) non-voting community liaison member of the APD

The purpose of the committee is to Develop a Proposal for Repair and Reconciliation with a focus on the incident occurring on July 5, 2022, between two police officers and nine youths. The proposal shall be in accordance with Massachusetts General Law and other laws, regulations, and policies.

The Committee shall:

1. Clarify definitions and establish a shared language
2. Establish consensus on the factual record of what transpired during the incident on July 5 between the police and 9 youths
3. Establish consensus on the factual record of follow-up regarding the incident on July 5, through the present
4. Identify and recognize specific harms caused from the incident, through the present
5. Research and explore models for repair including procedural, policy, and compensatory options
6. Develop a proposed plan for repair, including a concrete process for handling future similar incidents, for consideration by the Town Council
7. Town Manager, APD, and the DEI and CRESS Director to participate in relevant discussions as needed
8. If needed, obtain legal review by the Town Attorney
9. Report back to the Town Council no later than the February 6, 2023 Council Meeting

Reports:

The Ad Hoc group shall provide a proposed plan including actions, definitions, a timeline, and item(s) requiring funds to the Town Council. The Chair of the Ad Hoc group shall be prepared to present the Plan to the Town Council for consideration at the Council February 6, 2023 meeting.

\* CSSJC, HRC, and AHRA Committee Chairs shall recommend representatives to the Council President

Motion by: Miller

Seconded by: Walker

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6-7 (Devlin Gauthier, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Taub, Walker voted Yes; Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Schoen, Steinberg voted No)

**The motion fails**

**MOTION:** That the Town Council requests that the Town Manager – working with the DEI Department and other staff and through discuss with and draw upon the ongoing

work of the Community Safety and Social Justice Committee (CSSJC), the Human Rights Commission (HRC), and African Heritage Reparations Assembly (AHRA) – forthwith identify available resources both inside and outside of Town government to:

- 1) create and implement a reconciliation plan to include a proposal for community visioning;
  - 2) create a proposal for a Resident Oversight Board;
  - 3) undertake a review of public safety protocols for responding to and handling public safety calls involving minors, in order to recommend changes to those protocols, if appropriate;
  - 4) conduct research into the feasibility of a justice compensation fund;
  - 5) explore options for a Youth Empowerment Center as part of the Capital Improvement Plan;
  - 6) develop protocols for active engagement by community responders (CRESS);
  - 7) develop and offer racial equity training, know your rights training, and other options for additional training to support employees and members of the public; and
  - 8) raise awareness in the community about these efforts;
- and for the Town Manager to report on the progress on this reconciliation plan to the Council no later than two months from the date of this vote.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Devlin Gauthier

**No action taken; postponed to November 7 at 8:00 p.m.**

**MOTION:** To postpone the motion to November 7 at the 8:00 p.m. regular meeting.

Motion by: Bahl-Milne

Seconded by: Hanneke

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 4-8, with 1 absent (Bahl-Milne, Schoen, Steinberg, and Taub voted Yes; De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Hanneke, Griesemer, Lopes, Miller, Rooney, Walker voted No; Pam was absent)

**The motion fails**

**MOTION:** To reconsider the motion to postpone the discussion of the motion on the floor to November 7 at 8 pm.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: Rooney

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 11-1, with 1 absent (Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg, Taub, Walker voted Yes; Devlin Gauthier voted No; Pam was absent)

**MOTION:** To postpone the motion to November 7 at the 8:00 p.m. regular meeting

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 10-2, with 1 absent (Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Griesemer, Lopes, Miller, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg, Taub, Walker voted Yes; Devlin Gauthier and Hanneke voted No; Pam was absent)