

Town of Amherst
UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, November 7, 2022

5:00 p.m.

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

Councilors participating remotely: Pam, Walker (joined at 5:07 p.m.)

Councilors Absent: None

School Committee members present: McDonald, Shiao

School Committee members participating Remotely: Rhodes, Demling

School Committee member absent:

Non-voting Finance Committee members present: None

Non-voting Finance Committee members participating remotely: Hegner, Holloway, Kubiak

Non-voting Finance Committee members absent: None

Jones Library Trustees present: None

Jones Library Trustees participating remotely: Lefebvre, Ely, Sarat, R. Pam, Edwards

Jones Library Trustees absent: None

Staff in attendance: Town Manager Bockelman, Clerk of the Council O'Keeffe

Others Participating Remotely: Finance Director Mangano, Comptroller Aldrich, Assistant Comptroller Bowser, Principal Assessor Mew, Superintendent of Schools Morris, Library

Director Sharry

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

President Griesemer called the Council Reading Session to order at 5:02 p.m.; adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

President Griesemer called the Special Council – Budget Coordinating Group Financial Indicators Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Jones Library Trustees President Sarat called the Special Library Trustees – Budget Coordinating Group Financial Indicators Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.; adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

School Committee Chair McDonald called the Special Council – Budget Coordinating Group Financial Indicators Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.; adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Finance Committee Chair Steinberg called the Special Meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 7:03 p.m.; adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

President Griesemer called the Regular Town Council meeting to order at 8:31 p.m.; adjourned at 11:59 p.m.

October 17 MOTION ON THE FLOOR

MOVED: To postpone the motion that is on the floor made by Lynn Griesemer and Seconded by Ana Devlin Gauthier to November 14, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Schoen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

3. Hearings

MOVED: To close the Tax Classification Public Hearing.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

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:

- 8.a. Adoption of a Residential Factor of One, Equal Tax Rate, and No Open Space Discount for FY23
- 8.a. To NOT Adopt a Residential Exemption for FY23

- 8.a. To NOT Adopt a Small Commercial Exemption for FY23
- ~~8.b.1. Adoption of Proposed Parking Regulation Changes on Lincoln Ave, Sunset Ave, and Elm St Removed by De Angelis~~
- 8.b.2. Approval of permanent request to reserve three parking spaces directly in front of the Hope Community Church sanctuary at 16 Gaylord Street for use by Hope Community Church
- 11.a. Approval of the following Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - October 17, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes – Work Session on Residential Rental Bylaw
 - October 17, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes – Public Forum on Appropriations Outside the Annual Budget
 - October 17, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Devlin Gauthier

ROLL CALL VOTE: 12-1 (Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg, Taub, Walker voted Yes; Pam voted No)

6. Resolutions and Proclamations - None

8. Action Items

a. Tax Classification: Tax Rate and Exemptions

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED: To adopt a minimum residential factor of one, equal tax rate for all classes of properties for Fiscal Year 2023 and that no open space discount be granted.

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED: To NOT adopt a Residential Exemption for Fiscal Year 2023.

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To NOT adopt a Small Commercial Exemption for Fiscal Year 2023.

b. Public Ways

1) Proposed Parking Regulation Changes

IF NOT VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED: To adopt the following parking regulations for Lincoln Ave, Sunset Ave, and Elm St:

- Parking prohibited as a tow zone from September 1 to May 30 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, on the east Side of Lincoln Ave. between McClellan St. and Amity St.
- Parking prohibited as a tow zone on the east side of Sunset Ave. between Elm St. and Amity St.
- Parking prohibited as a tow zone on one side of Elm St.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Schoen

ROLL CALL VOTE: 10-3 (Bahl-Milne, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg, Taub, Walker voted Yes; De Angelis, Hanneke, and Lopes voted No)

MOTION: To amend the motion to add the phrase “to be reviewed by the Town Council no later than December 31, 2023

Motion by: Lopes

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-8 (Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Hanneke, Lopes voted Yes; Griesemer, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg, Taub, Walker voted No)

The motion failed.

2) **Permanent request to reserve three parking spaces directly in front of the Hope Community Church sanctuary at 16 Gaylord Street for use by Hope Community Church**

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED: To approve the designation of three parking spaces in front of Hope Church on Gaylord Street for use by the Church for Church operations, such spaces to be reserved only on an as-needed basis, utilizing portable parking cones that would be placed by the Hope Church. This arrangement will serve as a pilot to be reviewed prior to June 30, 2023. A fee shall be established by the Town Manager to cover the costs of implementation, signage, etc.

c. **Motion Postponed on November 1**

MOVED: That the Town Council requests that the Town Manager – working with the DEI Department and other staff and 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 to employees and members of the public; and
8. Raise awareness in the community about these efforts;
9. 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
Postponed to November 14

- d. **Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 3.22: Discharging of Firearms**
No action.

11. **Approval of Minutes**

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED: To adopt the following Town Council Meeting minutes, as presented:

- October 17, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes – Work Session on Residential Rental Bylaw
- October 17, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes – Public Forum on Appropriations Outside the Annual Budget
- October 17, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes

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