

Town of Amherst
UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, November 14, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Councilors in attendance: De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg, Taub

Councilors participating remotely: Bahl-Milne, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Walker

Councilors Absent: None

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

Others Participating Remotely:

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 6:30 p.m.; adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

4. Action Items

Town Manager Appointments – *Charter Sec. 2.11(a)*

- a. MOVED:** In accordance with Charter section 2.11(a), to approve the Town Manager appointment of Melissa Loiodice-Walker as the Human Resources Director, as filed with the Town Clerk on November 4, 2022.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Rooney

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous, 13-0

- b. MOTION ON THE FLOOR POSTPONED ON November 7:** 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 3 Town Council Unofficial Record of Votes 11-01-2022 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

MOVED: To substitute the motion on the floor with the following:

That the Town Council requests that the Town Manager – working with the DEI Department and other staff:

- 1) Propose to the Town Council a plan for community visioning with a focus on public safety and social justice;
- 2) Propose to the Town Council a plan for the creation of a Resident Oversight Board, with possible assistance from and hire, as appropriate, a consultant to help with the development of that plan;
- 3) Organize a review of public safety protocols for responding to and handling public safety calls involving all residents including minors, in order to recommend changes to those protocols, if appropriate;
- 4) Continue to develop protocols for CRESS regarding active engagement by community responders;
- 5) Continue the work already begun on exploring options for a youth empowerment center;
- 6) Provide training regarding racial equity, rights, and other options for training to employees and members of the public; and
- 7) Develop a communications plan to raise awareness in the community about these efforts;

and that the Town Manager will report on actions to be taken and/or progress in addressing the above, no later than four months from the date of this vote. Draft reports to be available to the Council, the Community Safety and Social Justice Committee (CSSJC), and the Human Rights Commission (HRC), as well as the public, no less than two weeks prior to the Town Council meeting where the items will be discussed; that CSSJC and HRC provide written advice to the Town Council 5 days prior to the Town Council Meeting at which the items will be discussed; that the Town Council will discuss the Manager's report and both committee reports, and will hold a discussion that includes public comment.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Steinberg

ROLL CALL VOTE: 12-1

Yea: Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg, Taub,

Nay: Walker

Present (abstain): None

Absent: None

MOVED: To amend the motion by removing “and responsibilities”

Motion by: Walker

Seconded by: De Angelis

ROLL CALL VOTE: 10-3

Yea: De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Taub, Walker

Nay: Bahl-Milne, Hanneke, Steinberg

Present (abstain): None

Absent: None

MOVED: We shall recommend the DEI Director consider the report produced by the CSWG with respect to the ROB, specifically: 1) scope of responsibility, 2) membership guidelines, 3) complaint procedures, 4) referral to District Attorney policy, 5) Ban on retaliation, 6) contracts, 7) Details, 8) Funding, 9) Meetings, 10) Confidentiality, 11) Trainings, 12) Early agenda items, proposed by the CSWG [Part B of the report can be found here](#).13) Recommend the Finance committee to Begin looking at options for funding the stipends of ROB members as proposed by the CSWG

Motion by: Walker

Seconded by: Miller

No action; motion withdrawn

MOVE: Recommend the Town Manager to work with the APD to review and update, if appropriate, selected policies of the APD. This review shall be including but not limited to:

- Use of force policy
- Consent searches
- Low-level and pretextual stops

Motion by: Walker

Seconded by: Miller

ROLL CALL VOTE: 13-0

Yea: Unanimous

Nay: None

Present (abstain): None

Absent: None

MOTION: To amend the motion by removing the last three bullets.

Motion by: Steinberg

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8-5

Yea: Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Schoen, Steinberg

Nay: Miller, Pam, Rooney, Taub, Walker

Present (abstain): None

Absent: None

MOTION: Call the question

Motion by: De Angelis

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: 11-2

Yea: Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg, Taub

Nay: Miller, Walker

Present (abstain): None

Absent: None

MOTION: Recommend the Town Manager assist the APD in building upon current efforts and identifying steps to develop a proactive, anti-racist culture in The Amherst Police Department and that it be documented and regular updates be provided to the Council.

Motion by: Walker

Seconded by: De Angelis

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8-5

Yea: De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Taub, Walker

Nay: Bahl-Milne, Griesemer, Hanneke, Schoen, Steinberg

Present (abstain): None

Absent: None

MOTION: Call the question

Motion by: Devlin Gauthier

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: 12-1

Yea: De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg, Taub, Walker

Nay: Bahl-Milne

Present (abstain): None

Absent: None