

Town of Amherst
UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, March 6, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Councilors present: Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Rooney, Schoen, Steinberg

Councilors participating remotely: Miller, Rooney, Taub, Walker

Councilors absent: None

Staff and others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Bockelman, Clerk of the Council O’Keeffe, Senator Comerford, Representative Domb, Minute taker K. Miller

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 regular Town Council meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.; adjourned at 10:49 p.m.

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 2023 Tibetan National Uprising Day Proclamation
- 6.b. Adoption of 2023 Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation
- 6.c. Amendment to Previously Adopted Resolution Affirming the Town of Amherst’s Commitment to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equity for Black Residents
- 11.a-h. Approval of the following meeting minutes:
 - December 5, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - December 12, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - December 17, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes – Four Towns
 - December 19, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - February 6, 2023 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - February 27, 2023 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes – Public Forum on Centennial Funding
 - February 27, 2023 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes – Public Forum on Community Preservation Act Projects
 - February 27, 2023 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Schoen
ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

6. Resolutions and Proclamations

a. 2023 Tibetan National Uprising Day Proclamation

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt the 2023 Tibetan National Uprising Day Proclamation, as presented.

b. 2023 Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt the 2023 Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation, as presented.

c. Amendment to Previously Adopted Resolution Affirming the Town of Amherst's Commitment to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equity for Black Residents

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To amend the previously adopted Resolution Affirming the Town of Amherst's Commitment to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equity for Black Residents, as follows:

After "In the Amherst Town Council, December 2020," by removing: "Upon the recommendation of: Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, and De Angelis"

Under the title of the resolution by adding: "Council Sponsors: Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, and De Angelis"

Under the Councilor sponsor names, by adding: "Community Sponsor: Reparations for Amherst"

After "Voted this 7th day of December, 2020" by adding " , amended this 6th day of March, 2023"

8. Action Items

a. Proposed Amendments to Town Council Rules of Procedure: Rules 3.2., 5.1., and 5.2.

MOVED: To refer the following proposed amendments to the Town Council Rules of Procedure to the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee:

- Removing rule 3.2.d.
- In rule 5.1.b. by adding "individual" and replacing "1 minute" with "2 minutes" so that the rule reads "Length of individual public comment: up to 3 minutes, unless the presiding officer has determined a shorter period is necessary for the completion of Council business. If a substantial number of people wish to speak, the presiding officer may reduce the time allowed per person to no less than 2 minutes."
- By adding the following as rule 5.1.c. "Length of Public Comment Period: Once the Public Comment period has reached 30 minutes, the Council may pause public comment and move to the action item section of the agenda. The Council may return to public comment once all votes on the agenda are complete." and relettering the subsequent subsections.

- By replacing rule 5.1.d.3. with the following, “Non-residents, and any person not on the register or having their hand raised in a virtual meeting prior to the first public comment, will be recognized to speak at the discretion of the presiding officer and only if public comment has not already exceeded 30 minutes.”
- By deleting rule 5.1.e.2.
- By adding a rule following rule 5.1.f. “Written public comments received by the Council via the online public comment form shall be uploaded to the Council website by noon on the date of each regular Council meeting.”
- By adding “, by majority vote,” to the second sentence of rule 5.2 so that it reads, “While some public hearings may be required by MGL, the Town Charter, or by Council Rules of Procedure, the Council may choose, by majority vote, to hold a public hearing on any topic it chooses.”

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Schoen

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8-4, with 1 absent

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

Nay: Pam, Schoen, Taub, Walker

Present (abstain): None

Absent: Miller

11. Approval of Minutes

a-h. VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt the following Town Council meeting minutes, as presented:

- December 5, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- December 12, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes
- December 17, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes – Four Towns
- December 19, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
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