



City of Haverhill
City Council Minutes
Tuesday, March 17, 2020
Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, Room 202
4 Summer Street

Present – President Barrett, Councillors LePage, Bevilacqua, Michitson, Sullivan, Jordan, McGonagle, Daly O’Brien and Macek.
City Clerk – Linda L. Koutoulas

1. Opening Prayer
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of minutes of prior meeting
The minutes were approved Yeas 9, Nays 0
4. Assignment of the minutes review for the next Meeting
Councillor Sullivan was assigned the minutes

President Barrett announced that Aubrie Campbell, assistant from the Mayor’s office, would be handling FB livestream for the special permit hearing agenda item.

Mayor Fiorentini gave an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. He wanted to assure the community the city is working to keep the general public safe. Since the coronavirus is a new virus there is no immunity and no vaccines. It is highly contagious. The elderly population is vulnerable and social distancing is the best defense. The Mayor reviewed the cancellations, schools closed for 3 weeks. As of Thursday, March 19, City Hall will be closed to the public with appointment only service. He stressed concern for police and fire department personnel. To be informed about COVID-19, a good resource is [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov).

Governor Baker is closing all restaurants and bars effective March 17.

Councillors expressed concerns about the economic impact to restaurants, payment of meals and city meals tax, licensing fees, hotel and room tax, parking fees and homeless population. They offered various resources for assistance to businesses and workers such as the Mutual Aid Society of Haverhill that is underway(mashhaverhill@gmail.com) ; Mass. Small Business Administration (SBA) loans Federal SBA, work share program.

5. Communications from the Mayor:

Communication from Mayor Fiorentini submitting a proposed ballot question to be placed on the ballot for the Tuesday, November 3, 2020, State Election asking whether or not we should petition the legislature to allow us to change our charter to elect seven Councillors by ward and four Councillors at large.

PLACED ON FILE Yeas 9, Nays 0 21J

ORDERED: Pursuant to the provisions of §C-43 of the Charter of the City of Haverhill the following question shall be submitted to a vote of the registered voters of the city for adoption or rejection at a special city election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020:

“Shall the following Home Rule Petition providing for the election of at large and ward councilors be adopted and forwarded to the General Court for enactment?”

_____Yes

_____No

Home Rule Petition

An Act Providing for the Election of At Large and Ward Councilors in the City of Haverhill.
(see document for complete text)

Mayor recommends this matter be tabled until March 31st Council meeting

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN TO
TABLE TO MARCH 31 2020 Yeas 9, Nays 0 27E

6. Communications and Reports from City Officers and Employees:

Communication from John Pettis, City Engineer, requesting Hearing to accept the following 5 streets as Public Ways:

Ahern Circle, Baileys Court, Coachmans Lane, Masys Way, Piper Glen Lane

REFERRED TO PLANNING BOARD

COUNCIL HEARING APRIL 28 2020

Yeas 9, Nays 0 49

7. Utility Hearing(s) and Related Order(s)

8. Hearings and Related Orders:

Petition from Attorney Robert Harb representing 27 Washington st, LLC; requesting Special Permit/Major Plan Approval; to convert 3 floors in the existing building at 21-27 Washington st; in the Waterfront District WD-A; to 9 residential units while maintaining 2 Commercial/Retail Units on the first floor for the mixed use project; to be used as rentals *Comments from City Departments are included*

PRESIDENT BARRETT STATED THAT DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS THE SPECIAL PERMIT HEARING WAS STREAMING ON FB LIVE TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO CALL IN AND ASK QUESTIONS AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

HEARING OPENED

ATTORNEY ROBERT HARB STATED THAT HE WAS REPRESENTING TED AMMON, OWNER AND SCOTT BROWN, PROJECT ARCHITECT WOULD DESCRIBE THE PROJECT. HE INFORMED THIS BUILDING IS KNOWN AS THE MAGNAVOX BUILDING FORMERLY OWNED BY THE BATTISTINI FAMILY. THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS FOR 2 COMMERCIAL UNITS ON THE FIRST FLOOR, WITH 9 RESIDENTIAL UNITS – 6 TWO-BEDROOMS AND 3 ONE-BEDROOM UNITS. THESE WILL BE MARKET RATE MULTI-FAMILY UNITS. THERE WILL BE AN ELEVATOR IN THE REAR. THEY HAVE LEASED 9 PARKING SPACES WITH THE MVRTA. THEY ARE EXEMPT FROM THE AFFORDABILITY UNITS BECAUSE THE CITY HAS REACHED THE 10% AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENT. THE PROJECT RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM THE WASHINGTON ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION AND THE PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER. MR BROWN INFORMED THIS WILL BE A TOTAL RENOVATION. RESIDENTIAL UNITS WILL BE ON THE SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH FLOORS. THEY HAVE APPLIED FOR HISTORIC TAX CREDITS. THERE WILL BE ALL NEW WINDOWS. TRASH ROOM WILL BE INTERNAL. NO OUTSIDE TRASH. AN ELEVATOR WILL BE INSTALLED IN REAR OF BUILDING. THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NEW EXTERIOR ELEMENT. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT WILL BE ON ROOF.

RESIDENT PAM NOLAN ASKED A QUESTION ABOUT THE REQUIRED PARKING SPACES.

ATTORNEY HARB CLARIFIED THAT CH. 255, WATERFRONT DISTRICT SUBZONE A (DOWNTOWN SMART GROWTH DISTRICT) PARKING REQUIREMENT IS ONE SPACE PER UNIT. MATTHEW JUROS INQUIRED ABOUT THE MAGNOVOX SIGN. ATTORNEY HARB INFORMED THAT THE SIGN WAS REMOVED BY THE BATTISTINI FAMILY AND THAT A PORTION OF IT WAS DONATED TO THE BUTTONWOODS MUSEUM.

COUNCILLORS EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT PARKING SPACES, USE OF BASEMENT FOR STORAGE UNITS AND LOCATION OF BATHROOMS.

HEARING CLOSED.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL PERMIT.

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS WERE OFFERED:

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR JORDAN TO APPROVE WITH CONDITION THAT THE STREET LEVEL UNITS BE FOR COMMERCIAL USE; RECOMMENDATIONS OF PLANNING DIRECTOR PILLSBURY'S LETTER BE INCLUDED ALONG WITH DEPARTMENT HEAD LETTERS. ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR MACEK, WHEN THE TERM OF THE MVRTA PARKING LEASE FOR TENANTS AT 21-27 WASHINGTON ST ENDS IN FIVE YEARS, THAT RENEWAL MUST BE FOR 24/7 FOR TENANTS AND THAT TENANTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE PARKING PASSES FROM THE CITY OF HAVERHILL. ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O'BRIEN THAT PRIVATE SECURE STORAGE UNITS WILL BE BUILT IN THE BASEMENT.

ALL CONDITIONS PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

PASSED AS AMENDED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

13

9. Public Participation- Requests under Council Rule 28

10. Appointments

Confirming Appointments

Non-Confirming Appointments

11. Petitions:

Amusement/Event Applications:

West Congregational Church requests permit for Easter Sunrise Service, on April 20, 6:00AM to 7:00AM on Bradford Common

Has Police, Fire and DPW approval

GRANTED WITH CONDITION THAT IF STATE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE, PETITIONER MUST FOLLOW RESTRICTIONS

Yeas 9, Nays 0

50

Tag Days:

Haverhill Travel Girls Basketball, October 24 & 25

GRANTED WITH CONDITION THAT IF STATE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE, PETITIONER MUST FOLLOW RESTRICTIONS

Yeas 9, Nays 0

51

Haverhill Travel Boys Basketball, June 27 & 28

GRANTED WITH CONDITION THAT IF STATE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE, PETITIONER MUST FOLLOW RESTRICTIONS

Yeas 9, Nays 0

51B

<u>One Day Liquor License</u>			
Drainlayer License for 2020:			
Chris McGue– <i>renewal</i>			
GRANTED		Yeas 9, Nays 0	46G
	Rocci DeLucia Jr. “		
GRANTED		Yeas 9, Nays 0	46H
	Steven Caruso “		
GRANTED		Yeas 9, Nays 0	46i
Taxi Driver Licenses for 2020			
Shannon Glazier, 11 B Charles st – <i>renewal</i>			
GRANTED		Yeas 9, Nays 0	23Q
	Debra Ann Porter, 76 Union st “		
GRANTED		Yeas 9, Nays 0	23R
	Rafael Lebron, 99 ½ Blaisdell st “		
GRANTED		Yeas 9, Nays 0	23S
	Daniel Merchant, 103 Freemont st		
GRANTED		Yeas 9, Nays 0	23T
	Audeliz Villegas, 80 Cross st <i>denied by Police Dept</i>		
NOT PASSED		Yeas 0, Nays 9	23U

12. Motions and Orders

ORDERED: That the City appropriate the sum of \$48,500 from Sale of non-tax title land and transfer said amount to the following capital project account: Complete Street Construction Marsh Ave.

PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 18G

ORDERED: That the City appropriate \$75,500 from Sale of non-tax title land and transfer said amount to the following capital project account: Highway Building Repairs

PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 18H

13. Ordinances (File 10 days)

14. Monthly Report

Abatement report from Board of Assessors for month of February 2020

PLACED ON FILE Yeas 9, Nays 0 32B

15. Resolutions and Proclamations

16. Communications from Councillors:

Communication was received from Councillor Michael McGonagle requesting to introduce Donald Jarvis to discuss tax reduction for veterans

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE TO POSTPONE FOR 2 WEEKS

POSTPONED TO MARCH 31 2020 Yeas 9, Nays 0 34O

Communication was received from Councillor Sullivan requesting a discussion regarding the disposal of cremated remains on public property

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN INFORMED THAT HE HAD A REQUEST FROM DOLE, CHILDS AND SHAW TO DISPOSE OF A LOVED ONE’S CREMAINS AT PLUG POND AND THAT THERE IS A CITY ORDINANCE THAT ALLOWS FOR THIS. COUNCIL HAS TO VOTE TO GIVE PERMISSION.

PERMISSION GRANTED Yeas 9, Nays 0 34P

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN MOTIONED TO HAVE THE MATTER REFERRED TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW IN THE FUTURE

REFERRED TO NRPP COMMITTEE Yeas 9, Nays 0 34P

Communication was received from Councillor Joseph Bevilacqua proposing that the Public Hearing scheduled for April 21st to consider proposed major changes to the City’s Zoning Ordinance be tabled due to the coronavirus concerns enumerated

COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE PUBLIC ATTEND THE MEETING AND WITH THE COVID-19 GUIDELINES IN PLACE ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA WITH SECOND FROM COUNCILLOR DALY O’BRIEN TO POSTPONE ZONING HEARING TO JULY 14 2020

POSTPONED TO JULY 14 Yeas 9, Nays 0 34Q

17. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting:

18. Council Committee Reports and Announcements:

Councillor Michitson informed that with the shift to tele-schooling and tele-working from home he wanted to inform the public of free wi-fi and other services. Comcast is offering Xfinity wi-fi and hot spots for free. Also, low income internet package available for 60 days for those that qualify.

DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY
LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST

Meeting adjourned 8:40o'clock P.M.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Attest: Linda Koutoulas
City Clerk