



City of Haverhill  
City Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM  
Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, Room 202  
4 Summer Street

Present – President Michitson, Councillors Barrett, Vargas, McGonagle, Bevilacqua, LePage, Daly O’Brien, Macek and Sullivan.  
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 Macek was assigned the minutes

Councillor Macek requested a moment of silence for the passing of Drucilla Dekeon, wife of former Councillor George Dekeon.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCGONAGLE TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO HAVE CHIEF DENARO GIVE AN UPDATE ON RECENT SHOOTINGS.

RULES SUSPENDED Yeas 9, Nays 0

Chief DeNaro informed that 5 subjects were arrested, 3 from Haverhill and 2 from Lawrence with 2 guns in the vehicle. Shootings attributed to gang activity. Victims are not cooperative. Mass. State Police are assisting. Mobile Video Unit is being used.

PLACED ON FILE

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BARRETT TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO INTRODUCE \$2,000,000 BOND ORDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GIRLS SOFTBALL FIELD.

RULES SUSPENDED Yeas 9, Nays 0 44E

ORDERED: That \$2,000,000 is appropriated to pay costs of the construction of a girls softball field, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 (1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor. (see document for complete text)

PLACED ON FILE for at least 10 days Yeas 9, Nays 0 44E

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO INTRODUCE \$1,561,216 BOND ORDER FOR POLICE RADIO SYSTEM

RULES SUSPENDED Yeas 9, Nays 0 44F

ORDERED: That \$1,561,216 is appropriated to pay costs of the police radio system, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 (1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor. (see document for complete text)

PLACED ON FILE for at least 10 days Yeas 9, Nays 0 44F

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO INTRODUCE ORDER TO APPROPRIATE \$1,088,450 FROM FREE CASH TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS; (see document for projects)

RULES SUSPENDED Yeas 9, Nays 0 116B

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO PLACE DOCUMENT 116B (Order to appropriate \$1,088,450 from Free Cash) on the agenda. Yeas 9, Nays 0

THE MAYOR REVIEWED THE LIST OF PROJECTS AND ASKED TO AMEND ORDER TO HIRE ANOTHER POLICE OFFICER AND REDUCE THE MASTER PLAN LINE ITEM BY \$12,000

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO ADD LINE ITEM, POLICE DEPARTMENT, \$12,000, 1 POLICE OFFICER AND REDUCE MASTER PLAN LINE ITEM TO \$188,000

PASSED Yeas 9, Nays 0 116B

5. Communications from the Mayor
6. Communications and Reports from City Officers and Employees
7. Utility Hearing(s) and Related Order(s)
8. Hearings and Related Order

Hearing was held on Document 118 – A communication from Stephen Gullo, Tax Assessor for Board of Assessors for Tax Classification Fiscal Year 2018. Speaking to the issue were Stephen Gullo, Mayor Fiorentini, Jeff Grassie, Gail Sullivan and Hartell Johnson. Mr. Gullo stated this was a revaluation year and the residential class increased in value by 10%.

HEARING CLOSED

ORDERED: That \$1,000,000 is appropriated from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate  
*Related communication from Mayor Fiorentini regarding free cash opportunities and challenges*  
THE MAYOR THANKED STEVEN GULLO, RETIRED ASSESSOR FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY AND INTRODUCED HIS REPLACEMENT, CHRISTINE WEBB. MR. GULLO WILL BE ON THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS.

THE MAYOR PRESENTED HIS PROPOSAL FOR USE OF THE FREE CASH WHICH INCLUDED POLICE BYRNE GRANT STAFFING, POLICE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE REPLACEMENT VEHICLE, NEW ONE-TON DUMP TRUCK, BELLY PLOWS FOR HIGHWAY VEHICLES, SIDEWALKS, CITY HALL PHONE SYSTEM & ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see document for complete text). THERE WAS A LENGTHY DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW MUCH MONEY TO TAKE FROM FREE CASH TO REDUCE TAX RATE

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR BEVILACQUA TO APPROPRIATE \$1,000,000 FROM FREE CASH TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

On the question of passage the yeas and nays were as follows:

Yeas,-Councillors Bevilacqua, Macek and Sullivan 3

Nays,-Councillors Barrett, Vargas, McGonagle, LePage, Daly O'Brien and President Michitson 6

NOT PASSED

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO APPROPRIATE \$500,000 FROM FREE CASH TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

On the question of passage the yeas and nays were as follows:

Yeas,-Councillors Bevilacqua, Daly O'Brien, Macek and Sullivan 4

Nays,-Councillors Barrett, Vargas, McGonagle, LePage and President Michitson 5

NOT PASSED

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR LEPAGE TO APPROPRIATE \$300,000 FROM FREE CASH TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

PASSED AS AMENDED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

118A

ORDERED: That the residential factor for fiscal year 2018 be adopted as:

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO ADOPT NUMBER .900293 (159)

On the question of passage the yeas and nays were as follows:

Yeas,-Councillors Vargas, McGonagle, Bevilacqua, Daly O'Brien, LePage, Macek and Sullivan 7

Nays,-Councillors Barrett and President Michitson 2

PASSED

118B

ORDERED: That the City shall adopt a commercial exemption

NOT PASSED

Yeas 0, Nays 9

118C

ORDERED: That the City shall adopt a residential exemption

NOT PASSED

Yeas 0, Nays 9

118D

ORDERED: That the City shall select an open space discount factor

NOT PASSED

Yeas 0, Nays 9

118E

ORDERED: That the City Council of the City of Haverhill hereby accepts the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses 17E and 41D with respect to Permanent acceptance of the annual C.P.I. index increase to the tax exemptions for the elderly.

NOT PASSED

Yeas 0, Nays 9

118F

ORDERED: That the City Council accepts 100% of C.P.I. (Consumer Price Index) increase reported by the State for F.Y. 2018 Exemptions. The 2018 C.P.I. amount is 1.48%

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

118G

Document 112

Petition from Joseph DiFraia requesting hearing for minor modification of plans previously Approved With Conditions by City Council September 13 2016; building project at the Chit Chat building 101-103 Washington st Map 301, Block 52, Lot 10 *Comments from Departments are included*

HEARING OPENED

JOSEPH DIFRAIA EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO PUT IN A BAR ON THE SECOND FLOOR, INSTEAD, HE WANTED TO CLOSE THE SECOND FLOOR AND ADD 2 APARTMENTS. 4 APARTMENTS WERE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED. TOTAL WOULD BE 6 APARTMENTS.

PARKING WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE MVRTA PARKING LOT WITH 8 SPACES. ANGELO PETROZZELLI ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT PARKING AND EFFORTS TO LESSEN SOUND FROM BAR. TRASH REMOVAL WAS ALSO DISCUSSED

HEARING CLOSED

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO APPROVE THE MODIFICATION TO INCLUDE LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND THE MVRTA LEASE FOR 8 SPACES.

PASSED WITH CONDITIONS

Yeas 8, Nays 1(Barrett)

112



ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MACEK TO REFER TO ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
& SEND LETTER TO MAYOR SEEKING ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO HAVING RATE PAYERS  
COVERING INCREASED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH AMENDMENT Yeas 8, Nays 1(Bevilacqua) 121

**16. Resolutions And Proclamation**

No Schedule

**17. Council Committee Reports and Announcements**

No Schedule

**18. Documents Referred To Committee Study**

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 o'clock P.M.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Attest: Linda Koutoulas  
City Clerk

\*Doc. 120-K – Handout from Tammy Dobrosielski – Wreaths Across America flyer