City of Concord

City Council

Meeting Minutes - Final-revised

Monday, February 9, 2026 | **7:00 PM** | **City Council Chambers, 37 Green Street, Concord, NH 03301**

Non-meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A: 2, I (a) to discuss contract negotiations followed by a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) to discuss property acquisition to begin at 5:30 p.m.

1. Mayor Champlin called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
2. Invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Roll Call.

   Present: 15 - Councilor Stacey Brown, Mayor Byron Champlin, Councilor Mark Davie, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Jeff Foote, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Michele Horne, Councilor Aislinn Kalob, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Judith Kurtz, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Kris Schultz, Councilor Ali Sekou, and Councilor Brent Todd

5. Approval of the Meeting Minutes.

   Action: Councilor Grady Sexton moved approved of the January 5, 2026, January 8, 2026, and January 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kretovic.

   Councilor Kalob referenced the January 12, 2026 minutes, noting that Councilor Fennessy voted no on the suspense item referral.

   Councilor Brown indicated that she had a few corrections: starting with the January 12, 2026 meeting minutes, on page 21, she noted that after the Finance Director's comments, she had called a point of order to state that $244,000 was not approved by Council, emphasizing that she had countered his statement. Then Council went on to move the question. She felt that should be reflected accordingly. Secondly, she noted that during the January 8, 2026 meeting, the City Manager instructed all Councilors to communicate with department heads, but she alone was instructed to

just speak with him, stating that was relevant.

Councilor Kretovic indicated that for the January 12, 2026 meeting, Council had received a communication, which included an attachment of Finance Meeting Minutes from June 5, 2025, as well as two external links. She noted that she had subsequently discussed the matter with the City Clerk. She noted that the communication was never posted to the public, and so they never had the opportunity to see the information in advance of the public hearing. She asked that the communication be included with the meeting minutes of January 12, 2026, so that it would become part of the public record.

The motion, as amended, passed with no dissenting votes.

January 5, 2026 City Council Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Minutes approved as amended.

January 8, 2026 City Council Orientation Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Minutes approved as amended.

January 12, 2026 City Council Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Minutes approved as amended.

6. Agenda overview by the Mayor.

Consent Agenda Items

Action: Councilor Grady Sexton moved approval of the consent agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz. Mayor Champlin noted that Items 12, 17, and 19 had been pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Referral to General Services

7. Petition for Sidewalk Repavement on Auburn Street submitted by Patricia Murphy on Behalf of Area Residents.

Action: The communication was referred to General Services.

Referral to General Services and the Parking Committee

8. Communication from Dick Lemieux, Washington Street resident, requesting consideration of removing the 3-hour parking restrictions and adding sidewalk

plowing on Washington Street in Concord.

Action: The communication was referred to General Services and the Parking Committee.

Items Tabled for March 9, 2026 Public Hearings

9. Resolution appropriating the sum of $15,000, for barricade rental and installation and accepting the sum of $15,000, in outdoor dining license revenues for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Development.

Action: This resolution was moved to set for a public hearing.

10. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title I, General Code; Chapter 1, Government Organization, Article 1-5, Fees, Fines, and Penalties, by amending Schedule I; together with a report from the Fire Chief.

Action: This ordinance was moved to set for a public hearing.

Consent Reports

11. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Library Director requesting authorization to accept gifts and donations totaling $1,913.11, as provided under the pre-authorization granted by City Council.

Action: Consent report approved.

At the March 9, 2026 City Council Meeting, these minutes were amended to reflect that the Concord Public Library Foundation is Councilor Brown's employer.

12. Quarterly Status Report on the City Council's 2024-2025 Priorities. (Pulled from Consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Item was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

13. Report from the City Solicitor's Office Regarding A Proposed City Council Policy on Reviewing and Releasing Nonpublic Meeting Minutes.

Action: Consent report approved.

14. Report from the General Services Director and the Transportation Engineer, on behalf of the Traffic Operations Committee and Transportation Policy Advisory Committee, in response to multiple referrals from City Council regarding crosswalks, paving, and intersection safety in the neighborhood of Woodcrest Heights Drive and Loudon Road.

Action: Consent report approved.

15. Report from the Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations recommending changing the Building Inspector Position and the Housing Inspector position titles to a Building and Housing Inspector Position.

    Action: Consent report approved.

16. Report from the Director of Assessing requesting the City Manager be Authorized to renew the voluntary Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement between Fellowship Housing Opportunities, Inc. and Affiliates and the City of Concord.

    Action: Consent report approved.

17. White Park Pond Restoration report from the Parks and Recreation Director. (Pulled from Consent by Councilor Brown.)

    Action: Item was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

18. Report from the Rules Committee Recommending Proposed Changes to the Rules of the City Council.

    Action: Consent report approved.

19. Report from the City Treasurer/Tax Collector recommending the divestment of a tax deeded property. (Pulled from Consent by Councilor Brown.)

    Action: Item was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

Consent Resolutions

20. Resolution in recognition of the services of Rose Fife.

    Action: Consent resolution approved.

Consent Communications

Appointments

21. City Manager's Proposed Appointment to the Library Board of Trustees: Roy Geiser.

    Action: Appointment approved.

22. Mayor Champlin's Proposed Appointment to the Steering Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness: Chris Mumford.

Action: Appointment approved.

23. City Manager's Proposed Appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA): Christopher Carley, Nicholas Wallner, Andrew Winters, and Brenda Perkins.

Action: Appointments approved.

End of Consent Agenda

Public Hearings

24A. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title V, Administrative Code; Chapter 35, Classification and Compensation Plan, Schedule D of Article 35-2, Compensation Plan, modifying the position of the Municipal Appraiser; together with a report from the Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations. (Public Testimony Received.)

Action: City Manager Aspell explained that the proposed classification will strengthen the Assessing Department's ability to recruit and retain qualified staff. The reclassification of the current appraiser position from 16 to 18 would be retroactive to February 1st, and the total labor increase for two appraisers for the FY26 budget would be $9,792.64.

Councilor Brown questioned if the ordinance would have an impact on the class and compensation study?

City Manager Aspell explained that it would reduce the amount if Council decided to implement the compensation study. He noted that City Council would still have to negotiate with each of the union groups or all of the union groups. He further clarified that it would potentially reduce the amount the Council would have to appropriate to close the gap if Council decided to add something. Lastly, he explained that if Council wanted to accept a portion or all of the study, there would be some associated increases.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Roy Schweiker, resident, testified expressing concern that the City's tax rate could increase by approximately 70% over the next five years if current budget trends continue. He urged the Council to limit additional spending and cited past experiences with compensation studies to caution against unnecessary salary increases. He questioned recent labor grade upgrades following an employee

retirement, and stated that the current classification study supports the existing pay range for the positions under discussion. He recommended that when the time comes to post the position at its current salary before considering any increase and encouraged the Council to more carefully scrutinize spending, noting recent unbudgeted expenses with the Fire Department and emphasized the cumulative impact of even modest increases.

Terese Bastarache began her testimony by stating that she had watched the City Council meeting in January. Mayor Champlin asked whether her comments were specifically related to Item 24A. Ms. Bastarache then stepped down, stating that she was unaware that public comments were limited to a particular budget item rather than the budget in general.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Champlin declared the public hearing closed.

24B. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Concord Coach Lines, Inc. concerning the City owned parcel located at Tax Map 6414Z, Lot 92 (the former Tsunis Property) for use as an overflow parking area to support the busing and transportation services offered at the Concord Transportation Center located at 30 Stickney Avenue; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development and the Deputy City Manager - Development.

Action: City Manager Aspell outlined the key provisions of the proposed lease, including a 10-year term recognizing the City's interest in the property for the future Storrs Street North extension. The City may terminate the lease after the initial five years, and the agreement allows for potential extensions depending on the status of the Storrs Street project. Annual rent will begin at $12,300 with a 3% annual increase, generating total revenue of $137,556 over the full term. The tenant will be responsible for paying taxes in accordance with RSA requirements, as well as all design, permitting, construction, maintenance, and snow removal costs. The tenant must also remove all improvements at the end of the lease unless otherwise agreed by the City. City Manager Aspell noted that, given the parking shortage in the area, the lease would make productive use of currently unused property, support the Concord Coach Lines bus terminal, and generate revenue to help offset taxes.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Mr. Schweiker, resident, testified stating that he had attended the Planning Board hearing on the proposal and expressed support for the plan. He stated that the

proposed improvements would provide additional parking at significant expense to the operator. He suggested that because the project would provide a public benefit by addressing downtown parking needs, the City should consider waiving rent and taxes, provided the parking remains available to the general public and not restricted solely to bus passengers.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Champlin declared the public hearing closed.

24C. Resolution appropriating the sum of $10,000, in the Parks & Recreation Grants & Donations Skate Park subproject for the construction of a skate park and accepting the sum of $10,000, as a donation from the Concord Skate Park Association for this purpose; together with a report from the Parks and Recreation Director. (Public Testimony Received.)

Action: City Manager Aspell indicated that he had nothing to add, however, he noted the Skate Park Association is seeking donations to match the $500,000 that City Council was able to raise for half of the first phase, and he applauded their work on the project.

Councilor Brown questioned when the City received donations, whether the donations go to the Trustees of Trust Funds to oversee?

Deputy City Manager - Finance, Brian LeBrun explained that the funds in question are neither a reserve nor a trust item, but are associated with a capital project that has not yet been fully approved by City Council. He explained that the funds will be placed in a Grants and Donations account, similar to the process used for the White Park Skate House project. Once sufficient funds have accumulated and the Council votes to appropriate the remaining required amount, the monies will be transferred from the Grants and Donations account to the Capital Project account to support that portion of the project.

Councilor Brown questioned if the Trustees of Trust funds oversee this grant account?

Deputy City Manager of Finance LeBrun indicated that they do not.

Mayor Champlin questioned the Deputy City Manager how this differs from the funds the City received from the Friends of the Beav for the new building at the golf course?

Deputy City Manager LeBrun explained that the Council had previously approved capital projects using different funding structures. He cited the golf course project, which was approved in a single session with a combination of bonded funds and donations, and the skate park project, which included both budgeted funds and a supplemental appropriation for grant funding that requires additional approval. In the current case, a portion of the project remains unapproved by the Council, similar to an "asterisk" item in the budget. As a result, he explained, the administration cannot expend those funds until the remaining grant or donation dollars are received and the Council formally approves the full project. He noted that the Council could choose to authorize a supplemental appropriation in advance and allow donations to accumulate over time, but that approach was not taken here. Therefore, the funds are being held in a grant account until the project is fully funded and subsequently approved, at which time the Council may authorize transferring the funds to the capital account.

Councilor Horne posed a hypothetical question, asking what would occur if, after several years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant were to expire due to a failure to secure matching funds, and the City decided not to proceed, if those funds would be returned to the donors or handled in another manner.

Deputy City Manager LeBrun responded that, in the event the project does not proceed, donated funds would be returned to the donating parties. He explained that the LWCF grant provides a five-year period to complete the project, and if the project is not completed within that time frame, the City would be at risk of losing the funds.

Councilor Brown asked how residents and Councilors can track the amount of funds donated towards specific projects, and whether the balances of these grants and donations are publicly reflected so they can be monitored, in order to know how close a project may be to reaching its fundraising goal.

Deputy City Manager LeBrun stated that the City does not currently produce a report on that particular grant fund, however, he noted that this is an issue the administration plans to review with the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee this spring, with the goal of providing more consistent reporting on grants, donations, and capital projects. He explained that presently, fund balances are reflected in the City's annual audit report at the end of the fiscal year. He added that staff can generate and provide a Skate Park account balance to the City Council upon

request, and confirmed that all such funds are audited annually.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Roy Schweiker, resident, testified expressing concerns about approving funding for the skate park project before knowing how much the fundraising group has actually raised. He noted that the materials provided only requested donations and did not report current totals raised, which he believed to be approximately $40,000. He suggested the Council should match funds raised by the group and then leverage the grant to proportionately scale the project, rather than committing to a $1 million design upfront. He recommended tabling the vote for a month to determine actual and projected fundraising over the next five years and designing the park based on realistic funding. He emphasized that the project should proceed in proportion to funds raised, coordinating with the Parks & Recreation Department to avoid unnecessary costs, rather than committing to a full-scale design that exceeds available resources.

Chris Harrington, President of the Concord Skate Park Nonprofit Association, along with members Alex Heath and Arthur Anderson, presented a $10,000 check from sponsorships and donations raised over the past year in support of the LWCF grant. They highlighted ongoing and upcoming fundraising events and expressed excitement about the project's progress. The Association members thanked the Council for their interest and support over the past several years, noting their efforts to keep the public informed through weekly meetings and their website. They emphasized their commitment to transparency and community engagement and expressed enthusiasm for moving the skate park project forward with the continued backing of the Council and community.

Councilor Brown asked for the Association's website. Chris Harrington responded that it is concordskatepark.com. Councilor Keach thanked the members for their work over the past decade. Councilor Kalob applauded their efforts.

Mayor Champlin added his appreciation for their investment in the City of Concord and their desire to make this a more enjoyable, fund place for a broad spectrum of people.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Champlin closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing Action

25. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title V, Administrative Code; Chapter 35, Classification and Compensation Plan, Schedule D of Article 35-2, Compensation Plan, modifying the position of the Municipal Appraiser; together with a report from the Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations. (Public Testimony Received.)

Action: Councilor Keach moved approval of the ordinance. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schlosser and passed with one dissenting vote.

26. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Concord Coach Lines, Inc. concerning the City owned parcel located at Tax Map 6414Z, Lot 92 (the former Tsunis Property) for use as an overflow parking area to support the busing and transportation services offered at the Concord Transportation Center located at 30 Stickney Avenue; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development and the Deputy City Manager - Development.

Action: Councilor Fennessy moved approval of the resolution. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schlosser.

Councilor Fennessy expressed support for the project, calling it a strong public-private partnership to address parking challenges, particularly near the bus station, and disagreed with Mr. Schweiker's caution about funding. He emphasized that the project makes good use of currently underutilized City property.

Mayor Champlin echoed Councilor Fennessy's comments, noting that the initiative represents a valuable use of the property and expressed his support for the partnership pending Council approval with Concord Coach Lines.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

27. Resolution appropriating the sum of $10,000, in the Parks & Recreation Grants & Donations Skate Park subproject for the construction of a skate park and accepting the sum of $10,000, as a donation from the Concord Skate Park Association for this purpose; together with a report from the Parks and Recreation Director. (Public Testimony Received.)

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved approval of the resolution. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Fennessy.

Councilor Brown asked if Mr. Gill could answer whether there is flexibility to modify the skate park design under the LWCF grant if fundraising falls short, or if the design is fixed and must adhere strictly to the grant's original specifications.

Parks and Recreation Director David Gill responded that design modifications under the LWCF grant are possible, but revising the grant application could result in a rescoring, and a greater risk of not receiving full funding. He noted that any changes would require further discussion.

There was a brief discussion regarding the skate park fundraising efforts. Councilor Kretovic echoed Councilor Fennessy's comments, emphasizing support for accepting the donation while noting the group's progress over the past six months and the community's response. Councilor Fennessy highlighted the group's ongoing engagement with the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee (RPAC) and the importance of collaborating with community groups to fund City amenities. Councilor Kalob inquired about the remaining time to raise the necessary funds, and Parks and Recreation Director David Gill confirmed that the grant provides an initial five-year period with a possible one-year extension. Councilor Horne asked about the City's donation process, and Mr. Gill explained that contributions can be made directly to a City-managed Skate Park Fund or to the nonprofit, with approximately half of past donations going to each. Donations can be submitted in person at the Community Center, and an online portal is also available, which includes a drop-down menu with several options, such as the scholarship fund and summer camps. He emphasized that donors must indicate the specific project, like the skate park, for their contribution to be property designated.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

New Business

Unfinished Business

28. Report from the Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations recommending adoption of the PaypointHR Classification and Compensation Report. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Kretovic.) (Action on this item tabled at the December 8, 2025 City Council meeting.)

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved to remove the report from the table for discussion. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz and passed with one dissenting vote.

Councilor Kretovic moved to accept the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz.

Councilor Kretovic stated that the recent pause was important to allow union representatives time to review the report in good faith. She acknowledged that no compensation study is ever fully complete or perfectly accurate and that direct comparisons are difficult. She emphasized that the pause allowed unions to digest the information, and she recommended moving forward with the motion so that City administration can engage in a collaborative process with the unions to make informed decisions on behalf of residents and taxpayers.

Councilor Brown began to discuss the study.

Mayor Champlin asked Councilor Brown if she was going to recuse herself.

Councilor Brown clarified that her comments were not related to union positions, but focused on non-union staff. She noted that in the study, all golf positions are grouped under Parks and Recreation, even though the golf fund has been managed under Finance since April 2017. She highlighted significant differences between Golf Course staff and Parks and Recreation staff, including that the golf pros and assistant pros keep 80% of lesson revenue and are paid to participate in tournaments, benefits not available to other Parks and Recreation staff. She expressed concern that the head golf pro's 2024 salary of $121,000 is excessive, particularly given the lack of public offerings at Beaver Meadow.

Councilor Brown further stated that golf staff should not be included under Parks and Recreation and proposed that they be considered separately.

Councilor Brown moved to withdraw and table the golf staff from Parks & Recreation.

The motion failed for a second.

Councilor Schultz clarified that the agenda item is only to receive the compensation study, not act on any specific positions. She then moved the question which passed by the required two-thirds majority.

The original motion passed with one dissenting vote.

At the March 9, 2026 City Council Meeting, these minutes were amended to reflect that the Councilor Brown's husband is employed by the Concord Police Department.

29. Presentation on the Memorial Field Master Plan from the Parks and Recreation Director. (Presentation given at the November 10, 2025 City Council Meeting.) (Action on this item tabled at the November 24, 2025 City Council Meeting.) (Communication from Concord School District received.)

Action: Item remains tabled.

30. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1, Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX; to modify parking requirements on School Street between Pine and Liberty Streets; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development. (Action on this item tabled at the August 11, 2025 City Council meeting.) (Public comments received.)

Action: Item remains tabled.

31. Resolution appropriating the sum of $84,000 to support efforts by Concord's Plan to End Homelessness and authorizing a transfer in from the Community Improvement Reserve in the sum of $84,000 for this purpose; together with report from Councilor Jim Schlosser. (Action on this item tabled at the April 14, 2025 City Council meeting.)

Action: Item remains tabled.

Consideration of Items Pulled from Consent

12. Quarterly Status Report on the City Council's 2024-2025 Priorities. (Pulled from Consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved approval of the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz.

Councilor Brown stated that the report is cumulative and, while presented as a quarterly update, reflects the complete 2024-2025 Council priorities. She felt there was a significant omission under Recreation and Leisure, noting that the Beaver Meadow Golf Course Clubhouse options, listed between MRGT and Garrison Park Pool in the adopted priorities, are not addressed in the document. She emphasized that approximately 40 percent of the capital budget has been allocated

to the Beaver Meadow Golf Course clubhouse project, yet the report contains no documentation over the two-year period of priority. She further noted that construction began around Christmas Eve and is currently ongoing, while the report references construction projected for 2026. Councilor Brown stated that the absence of this Council-established priority is concerning and that an explanation is warranted.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

17. White Park Pond Restoration report from the Parks and Recreation Director. (Pulled from Consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Councilor Todd moved to accept the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz.

Councilor Brown stated that her question was for Mr. Gill. She noted that the report outlined two different options, one of which was significantly more costly that the other, and referenced hydro raking. She added that hydro raking had been performed in at least the past two years and asked whether the budget included funding for it, as well as what the cost had been during those two years.

City Manager Aspell responded that the cost was $15,000.

Councilor Brown then asked whether the $15,000 was included in the 2026 budget.

City Manager Aspell explained that there's $15,000 available that the Council had previously made available for this purpose.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

19. Report from the City Treasurer/Tax Collector recommending the divestment of a tax deeded property. (Pulled from Consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved approval of the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz.

Councilor Brown stated that she has questions regarding the City's process for acquiring tax-deeded properties and emphasized the importance for Councilors to understand this process, especially given the impacts of revaluation and rising debt service on taxpayers. She proposed an amendment to table the item, noting that she recently learned additional information about the property owner that could affect

their ability to retain the property and believes this should be considered moving forward.

Councilor Brown moved to table the report.

The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Councilor Brown requested that the City Manager explain the process by which the City came to appropriate the property and asked that a list of properties with unpaid taxes over the past three years be made available to all Councilors.

City Manager Aspell noted that the property owner has not paid their taxes in the last three years, and clarified that the City has not appropriated the property in question.

The Council discussed the City's tax deed process for a property on which the City has taken ownership due to unpaid taxes. Treasurer/Tax Collector Chelsey Michalski explained that the former owner remains in the home, has not paid taxes since 2022, does not qualify for exemptions or deferments, and previously repurchased the property after an earlier deed. She outlined the City's notification process, including multiple notices and certified letters, and noted that the City deeds properties once per year, with only two properties deeded out of approximately 15,000 this past year. Tax-deeded properties are sometimes auctioned as owner-occupied, with the purchasers responsible for any eviction proceedings. Any net proceeds after taxes, costs, and liens are returned to interested parties. City Manager Aspell stated the process follows long-established Council policy. Councilor Brown requested that Ward Councilors be notified earlier in similar cases in the future to allow outreach efforts before a property is sold.

The motion passed with one dissenting vote.

Comments, Requests by Mayor, City Councilors

Councilor Todd thanked the General Services Department, especially the snow removal team, for their outstanding work during recent challenging winter storms. He noted that road conditions in Concord compare very favorably to neighboring communities, with clear, treated streets even after heavy snow, and acknowledged that residents in Penacook have generally been patient during large storm responses. He also noted that when residents report missed areas, they have been addressed promptly. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the community for the department's efforts.

Councilor Kretovic thanked the Parks and Recreation team and highlighted that Beaver Meadow School is participating in the Nordic Rocks program, which introduces cross-country skiing activities to students and promotes outdoor recreation in partnership with the New England Nordic Ski Association and its curriculum for schools. She praised the Parks and Recreation Department for maintaining the trails for winter use. She also referenced that this Thursday, the Concord Historical Society's regular "second Thursday" of the month gathering will feature Tales from the Top Hat, which are stories from early Concord history, connecting to the region's heritage around the colonial era. She then shared a Valentine's tale from early Concord, inspired by the people and places of Penacook and Rumford in the 1730's to 1740's.

Councilor Davie echoed Councilor Todd's appreciation for General Services and noted that being woken up early is worthwhile because it means the streets are being cleared.

Councilor Kurtz gave a shout-out to General Services and the excellent customer service she received after calling about a water/sewer bill. She noted that her questions were answered quickly, with essentially no wait time, and the issue was resolved pleasantly and efficiently, expressing appreciation for the positive experience with City services.

Councilor Grady Sexton noted that Ski the Beav's Capital Cross-Country Ski Day originally scheduled for February 8th, was postponed until February 22nd due to weather conditions and advised that people can follow the group on Face Book or visit skithebeav.org for more information on the event.

Councilor Keach commented on two items related to White park, noting that the recent report on the White Park pond was interesting, especially its detailed

historical information. He recognized the success of the annual Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament, celebrating its strong community participation and tradition.

Councilor Kalob seconded the earlier gratitude towards General Services and also expressed deep appreciation for the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness for operating the emergency shelter during the extreme cold, acknowledging the difficult conditions for unhoused individuals. She shared personal reflections on the cold weather and gratitude for having shelter and basic comforts. Councilor Kalob thanked city staff for taking the time to meet with her as she continues learning about city operations, including Matt Walsh and Interim Police Chief Moulton, and noted the value of those conversations and insights into their departments. She reported holding her first informal office hours at a local laundromat with positive community engagement and said she plans to continue these monthly. Councilor Kalob then highlighted various community offerings in Ward 6, including a heated stretch class, live performances at local venues, bar events such as karaoke and craft nights, upcoming sourdough classes, and open craft opportunities, and she noted the opening of a new coffee shop - all as positive local activities for residents.

Councilor Schlosser announced that a Ward 7 resident meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the West Street Ward House. He noted that while the meeting is intended for Ward 7 residents, all are welcome to attend.

Councilor Sekou announced that Ramadan will begin on February 18th, noting it is a month of fasting and asking the community for patience and understanding for those observing, and encouraged others to take the opportunity to learn about Ramadan. He also joined other Councilors in thanking the General Services team, sharing that he had a productive meeting with General Services Director Jeff Hoadley and expressed appreciation for his service, both to the City and previously in the Army, and for their conversation. Councilor Sekou thanked Matt Walsh for providing helpful guidance. He further expressed gratitude to the Family Center for its programs and inclusive environment, noting his positive experiences bringing his daughters there and encouraging families to take advantage of the Center’s offerings.

Councilor Brown shared highlights of recent community “third places.” She noted that the Women’s Club hosts a program every first Friday and that the recent Black History Month Project Story event there was wonderful, with youth performances

including dance, sports, and speaking. Councilor Brown also encouraged residents to visit the library, describing ongoing activities such as “Mystery Date with a Book,” available device chargers, and special programs like a Downton Abbey movie with scones and tea, emphasizing that the library offers excellent programs for all ages.

Councilor Foote echoed appreciation for the City’s winter maintenance efforts and noted that the positive comments during the meeting reflect well on the City’s brand, as mentioned during Council orientation. He expressed hope that the City will continue with positive outcomes in the coming years. On a personal note, he shared gratitude for the Fire Department after a constituent, neighbor, and close friend suffered a seizure and was intubated and saved by first responders, emphasizing his deep appreciation for their life-saving efforts and connecting that service to the City’s positive reputation.

Mayor Champlin expressed gratitude for the services provided by the Fire Department, paramedics, EMTs, and Advanced EMTs, noting the life-saving work they do. He reiterated support for the City’s emergency cold weather protocol, crediting City staff, the City Manager, Chief Chisholm, Councilor Schlosser, and Roseanne Haggerty for developing a coordinated plan that includes the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness Resource Center and Friendly Kitchen to provide daytime shelter during extreme cold, and noted how timely and valuable that work has been.

Mayor Champlin also announced a fundraising dinner by the New Hampshire Immigrant Mutual Aid Fund on Saturday, February 21st from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Concordia Lutheran Church to support legal consultations and living expenses for immigrant families affected by detention or deportation, and provided a contact email for more information.

He further joined other Councilors in thanking the General Services Department, particularly the snow plow drivers who have worked overtime throughout the winter to keep roads clear, and reminded residents that sidewalk clearing often falls to the same crew working overnight on streets.

Mayor Champlin concluded his remarks by stating: "Concord is a great city with tremendous potential. I look forward to working with this Council to ensure that we continue moving forward toward a bright and prosperous future. The success of our city and the well-being of our residents depend on our ability around this table

to work together as a strong and effective policymaking body. A strong and effective policymaking body, which we will do. I'm committed to working with all of you to ensure that the business of Concord continues to run smoothly and effectively. Our city employees and residents deserve nothing less and nothing but the best from us. And I trust we will live up to their expectations. Our city, like every city in New Hampshire and America, has many challenges facing it. And so, in the end, let's focus on that important work at hand, as our city staff has been doing every day."

Comments, Requests by the City Manager

Adjournment

Action: Councilor Keach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz passing unanimously.

Information

Inf1 November 20, 2025 Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee Approved Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf2 December 2, 2025 Architectural Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf3 December 10, 2025 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf4 December 9, 2025 Conservation Commission Site Walk Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf5 December 10, 2025 Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf6 December 17, 2025 Planning Board Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf7 December 17, 2025 Planning Board Workshop Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf8 January 5, 2026 Concord Public Library Board of Trustees Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf9 January 6, 2026 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Belonging (DEIJB) Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf10 January 13, 2026 Ad-Hoc Semiquincentennial & Tri-Centennial Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

A true copy, I attest:

Deborah Tuite
Deputy City Clerk