City of Concord

City Council

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, February 19, 2026 | **6:00 PM** | **City Council Chambers, 37 Green Street, Concord, NH 03301**

Priority Setting Session

1. Mayor Champlin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

   The meeting was recessed until 6:15 p.m. due to technical difficulties.

2. Roll Call.

   Present: 14 - 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 Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Judith Kurtz, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Kris Schultz, Councilor Ali Sekou, and Councilor Brent Todd

   Late: 1 - Councilor Fred Keach

3. Agenda overview by the Mayor.

4. 2026 - 2027 Priorities Discussion. (Public comments received.)

   Action: Members of City Council met to discuss and set priorities for 2026-2027. The following items are the top priorities members of Council chose for 2026-2027.

   1) <u>Fiscal Responsibility and Communications</u>

   The City will adopt a balanced budget that minimizes impact on the tax rate, while following a policy that maintains Concord's AA+ bond rating, complies with fiscal policy goals and makes maximum use of federal and state funding.

   Focus Areas:

   - Help the community understand the revaluation process and changes, and fiscal policies. Prioritize efforts to reduce tax rate increases through strategic planning of out-year capital projects. Publicize options for tax relief and exemptions.

- Update communication procedures to better leverage digital media and reach a wider array of constituents. Create proactive materials, visual media, etc. for broad dissemination.

2) Economic & Community Development

Establish Concord as a welcoming destination for businesses and families with vibrant arts and events in downtown centers. Expand the tax base by responsibly investing in key infrastructure such as water, sewer and roads in targeted areas of the city. Protect neighborhoods from blight and deterioration that negatively impact area property values, encourage historic preservation, and encourage residents and business owners' efforts to maintain the physical environment through standards set in local ordinances.

Focus Areas:

- Remove barriers to commercial and residential development through regulatory and administrative reform.
- Implement Master Plan Initiatives.

3) Infrastructure Investment & Asset Management

Protect, maintain and improve critical city infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks, parks, trails, recreational facilities and utilities to support economic growth and improve quality of life in the City. These goals should support safety, mobility, economic activity and service reliability.

Focus Area:

- Enhance quality of life through a range of accessible recreational, cultural and civic spaces.

4) Housing Stability & Human Services Coordination

Support housing availability across the continuum and improve coordinated responses to community vulnerability including the impact of housing issues on renters.

Focus Area:

- Measurably reduce homelessness in Concord by growing a coordinated, quantified, public-private partnership approach with regular public updates.

2026-2027 Priority Subcategories

1) Public Safety, Health & Community Well-Being

Maintain a safe, healthy and resilient community through proactive and adaptive public safety services.

2) Environmental Responsibility & Renewable Energy Management

Advance sustainability, resilience and responsible resource management to economic advantage.

3) High Performing Organization

Support an environment of transparency, clear public communication, collaboration and teamwork. Enable the City to recruit, retain and compete for talent and high-performing employees and ensure institutional knowledge is retained.

5. Adjournment

Action: Councilor Foote moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Keach passing unanimously.

A true copy, I attest:

Deborah Tuite
Deputy City Clerk