

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

A REGULAR MEETING of the Lawrence City Council was held on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**. The meeting was called to Order at 7:10 p.m. by City Council President, Jeovanny Rodriguez. This public meeting of the Lawrence City Council was conducted in person at Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common Street and via remote participation. Members of the public who attended this meeting were allowed to make comments during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment.

He then asked the City Clerk, Eileen Bernal to call the roll:

Councilor Rosaly Gonzalez [District B] – Present
Councilor Franklin Miguel [District A] – Present
Councilor Vivian Marmol [District D] – Present
Councilor Stephany Infante [District E] – Present
Councilor Celina Reyes [Councilor at Large] – Present
Councilor Gregory Delrosario [District C] – Present
Councilor Marc Laplante [District F] – Present
Council Vice President, Ana Levy [Councilor at Large] – Present
Council President, Jeovanny Rodriguez [Councilor at Large] – Present
Present - 9. Quorum established.

The Council President led the assembly in a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Vice President Ana Levy made a Motion to approve the following two (2) sets of Minutes:

12/04/2025 Special Meeting

12/04/2025 Regular Meeting

Her motion was seconded by Councilor Celina Reyes. There was no discussion on the Motion and it PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The City Council President stated that members of the Public who had signed in for Public Participation would be allotted two and a half minutes to speak. He noted that their comments should be addressed to the Council as a whole and not to any individual member. Those participating were:

H. Maali, 53 Chester Street. Mr. Maali stated that the citizens support the Police Unions. He noted that under the impeccable leadership of Chief Aguiler, the Police Department was doing well. He also spoke in support of the DPW and the Inspectional Services Department and encouraged the city to hire more inspectors. He commended the Public Schools and the leadership of Superintendent Ralph Carrero. He praised the Lawrence Teachers and their Union.

He thanked the Veterans and encouraged the city to hire two new employees in veteran services. He encouraged them to activate the council on aging, and to pay the long-term employees as much as the new hires. He also spoke in support of Fire Chief Delaney who is doing the best job. "Lawrence Always Strong, Always United."

Richard Russell, 34 Cross Street. Former City Councilor Richard Russell expressed his concern with parking of private vehicles in the city owned parking lot at the General Donovan School. He noted that many residents struggle to find parking during the winter when the parking restrictions are in place to allow for snow removal.

Marc Laplante, 29 Durso Avenue. City Councilor Marc Laplante spoke about the Lawrence Square Dedication project. He noted that the square honoring World War II Veteran Richard "Rick" Dizazzo would occur on January 22, 2026. He recalled that Mr. DiZazzo was an outspoken resident and political activist, known to be animated and unfiltered. While the Councilor spoke warmly of the honoree, he also credited him with being the reason the Council had to modify their Council Rules in 1999 to add a "civility" clause for Public Participation

No other individual sought to address the Council via Public Participation and the Council President submitted the names of the Participants to the City Clerk to be preserved as part of the record.

The Council President then invited Councilor Infante, in her capacity as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, to give the Committee Report.

Budget and Finance Committee:

DOC # 479/25 Appropriation of Funds [\$2,000,000] for Schematic Design Phase, Massachusetts School Building Authority Accelerated Repair Program – Odanis Hernandez, Chief Operating Officer, Lawrence Public Schools

The City Council President asked Councilor Stephany Infant, in her capacity as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee to give the Committee Report. Councilor Infante reported that the Document came up from Committee with a favorable recommendation to Approve and she made that report in the form of a Motion to Approve the Appropriation. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Vivian Marmol. Councilor Infante noted that the original amount requested was amended and reduced from \$2,000,000 to \$1,000,000. She noted this as part of the Committee Report. It was also noted that these funds would come from FREE CASH.

Jason Cabrera, the Chief Financial Officer for the Lawrence Public Schools was present and he spoke in support of the Document.

After being granted the floor, Councilor Infante stated that she was grateful to see upgrades and improvements being made at the schools in a meaningful way as opposed to "band-aids." She referenced the presentation made by the School Department that outlined the three schools involved and the specific repairs to be made to each facility.

After being granted the floor, Councilor Delrosario echoed the comments of Councilor Infante. As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Council President called the question. As there was no further discussion on the Document, the Council President called the question. With all nine councilors being present and participating, the Motion to Approve DOC # 479/25 PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 479/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

DOC # 480/25 Auth to Expend [\$232,000.00] MA Office on Disability FY26 ADA Improvement Grant – Richard Rodriguez, ADA Coordinator

Councilor Infante, in her capacity as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, noted that DOC # 480/25 came up from Committee with a favorable recommendation to approve the item and she made that report in the form of a Motion to Approve. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Celina Reyes.

After being granted the floor, Councilor Laplante asked if there was a time frame in mind for the improvements. He stated that some patrons might want to go to view the facility before the changes occurred. Richard Rodriguez, the ADA Coordinator was present and he stated that the time frame would be set by the Library and he did not know if that was established yet.

As there was no further discussion on the Document, the Council President called the question. The Motion to Approve DOC # 480/25 PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 480/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

DOC # 482/25 Appropriation Transfer [\$280,400.65] from FREE CASH to the Rail Trail Project Acct (050910-5059) – Daniel McCarthy, Planning Director

Councilor Infante, in her capacity as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, noted that DOC # 482/25 came up from Committee with a favorable recommendation to approve the item and she made that report in the form of a Motion to Approve. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Levy.

The Planning Director, Dan McCarthy was present to answer any questions if needed.

There was no discussion on the Document, and the Council President called the question. The Motion to Approve DOC # 482/25 PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 482/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

The Council President then invited Council Vice President Ana Levy, in her capacity as Chair of the Ordinance Committee, to give the Committee Report.

Ordinance Committee:

DOC # 484/25 Creation of Ordinance for new position - “Energy Advocate” in the Office of Planning and Development – Daniel McCarthy, Planning Director [Pending Language from City Attorney]

Council Vice President Ana Levy, in her capacity as Chair of the Ordinance Committee, noted that DOC # 484/25 came up from Committee with a favorable recommendation to Order a Public Hearing and she made that report in the form of a Motion to Order a Public Hearing. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Celina Reyes. There was no discussion on the Motion and the Council President called the question. The Motion PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 484/25 MOTION TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING PASSED

DOC #485/25 Disclosure of a Conflict by a Municipal Employee – Jennifer Duran, Asst City Clerk

Council Vice President Ana Levy, in her capacity as Chair of the Ordinance Committee, noted that DOC # 485/25 came up from Committee with a favorable recommendation to Approve and she made that report in the form of a Motion to Approve. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Celina Reyes. There was no discussion on the Motion and the Council President called the question. The Motion PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 485/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

DOC #486/25 Disclosure of a Conflict by a Municipal Employee – Maria Vidal, Asst Tax Assessor

Council Vice President Ana Levy, in her capacity as Chair of the Ordinance Committee, noted that DOC # 486/25 came up from Committee with a favorable recommendation to Approve and she made that report in the form of a Motion to Approve. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Celina Reyes. There was no discussion on the Motion and the Council President called the question. The Motion PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 486/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

DOC #491/25 Installation of Conduit at Lowell Street [Near Pole P3043] – Gabriel Albisu, Verizon

Council Vice President Ana Levy, in her capacity as Chair of the Ordinance Committee, noted that DOC # 491/25 came up from Committee with a favorable recommendation to Order a Public Hearing and she made that report in the form of a Motion to Order a Public Hearing. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Franklin Miguel. There was no discussion on the Motion and the Council President called the question. The Motion PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 491/2025 MOTION TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING PASSED

**DOC #492/25 Request Grant of Utility Easement from City of Lawrence to Verizon
– Gabriel Albisu, Verizon**

Council Vice President Ana Levy, in her capacity as Chair of the Ordinance Committee, noted that DOC # 492/25 came up from Committee with a favorable recommendation to Approve and she made that report in the form of a Motion to Approve. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Celina Reyes.

Alex Marrero, a consultant for Verizon, was present and spoke on behalf of the matter. He noted that this easement would be used to support the utilities at the new Lawrence Police Station at 55 Lowell Street. It was also clarified that this is the grant of an easement and did not require a Public Hearing.

There was no further discussion on the Motion and the Council President called the question. The Motion PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 492/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

Public Hearings:

The Council President then invited the City Clerk to read the legal notice as published for the National Grid related Items. Upon the completion of the reading, he Opened the Public Hearing on the SIX (6) utility related, National Grid items. No persons sought to address the Council on any of these matters and the Public Hearing was closed.

**DOC # 298/25 Install One [1] JO Pole and one mid-span pole [P774-50] on Mt
Vernon St at Crestwood Circle [REF # 31130641] - Dave Johnson,
National Grid**

Following the public hearing, Councilor Stephany Infante made a Motion to Approve **DOC # 298/25**. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Vivian Marmol. There was no discussion on the Document and it PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 298/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

Councilor Stephany Infante made a Motion to Approve **DOC # 299/25**. The Motion was seconded by Council Vice President Ana Levy. There was no discussion on the Document and it **PASSED** by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 407/25 Install JO Pole on Berkeley Street near Montgomery Street [REF # 31193102] – Dave Johnson, National Grid

Councilor Marmol made a Motion to Approve **DOC # 407/25**. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Infante. There was no discussion on the Document and it **PASSED** by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 410/25 Install JO Pole on Brookfield Street near Bowdoin Street [REF # 31197534] – Dave Johnson, National Grid

Councilor Stephany Infante made a Motion to Approve **DOC # 410/25**. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Vivian Marmol. There was no discussion on the Document and it **PASSED** by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 411/25 Install JO Pole on Shepard Street near Glenn Street [REF # 31196021]
– Dave Johnson, National Grid

Councilor Stephany Infante made a Motion to Approve **DOC # 411/25**. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Vivian Marmol. There was no discussion on the Document and it **PASSED** by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 401/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

DOC # 402/25 Handicapped Parking - 81 Bunker Hill Street - Dinora Candelario

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 402/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

DOC # 403/25 Handicapped Parking - 94 Dracut Street – Marcelina Vasquez

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 403/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

**DOC # 404/25 Handicapped Parking - 52 Basswood Street – Councilor Gregory
Delrosario**

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 404/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

DOC # 424/25 Handicapped Parking – 124 Trenton Street – Felipe Hidalgo

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 424/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

DOC # 438/25 Handicapped Parking - 47 Abbott Street – Angel Romero DeJesus

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 438/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

**DOC # 439/25 Handicapped Parking - 151 Willow Street – Councilor Gregory
Delrosario and Dominga Parra**

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 439/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 460/25 Handicapped Parking – 41 Juniper St – Councilor Gregory Delrosario

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 461/25 Handicapped Parking – 15 Brook Street – Luis Angel Morales Santiago

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 462/25 Handicapped Parking – 87-89 Springfield Street – Marion Gonzalez

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 463/25 Handicapped Parking – 2 May Street – Teodora Peralta

Document taken as part of Block. See above for Motion and Discussion.

DOC # 476/25 Remove Handicapped Parking - 76 Inman Street – Noemi Gonzalez

Councilor Celina Reyes made a Motion to Approve DOC # 476/25. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Levy. There was no discussion on the Document and it PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 476/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

The Council President then invited the City Clerk to read the legal notice as published relating to Child Care Parking Spaces. Upon the completion of the reading of the legal notice, the Council President Opened the Public Hearing on **DOC # 443/25** relating to Child Care Parking. No persons sought to address the Council on this matter and the Public Hearing was closed.

DOC # 443/25 Child Care Parking - 11 Platt Street – Councilor Celina Reyes and Katherine Santana

Councilor Celina Reyes made a Motion to Approve this Document. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Gregory Delrosario. There was no discussion on the Motion and it PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 443/25 MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED

Tabled Matters:

**DOC # 396/25 Auto Recycles Group, LLC - Junk Dealer Permit [JDC25-000001]
48-50 Medford Street – Daniel O’Brien [Re-Tabled] 01-20-2026**

Dan O’Brien, the principal of Auto Recycles Group, LLC was present at the meeting. He stated that per the request of the Council he installed 305 feet of chain link fencing at his establishment. He also had photos of the fencing for the Council to view. Mr. O’Brien stated that he anticipated that the privacy slats for this fencing would be installed within the next week.

The Council President noted that this business is located within District D and there was a desire to make sure that the District D Councilor was satisfied with the work. He also acknowledged that the installation of quality fencing (as opposed to the sheet metal that was previously used as improvised fencing) was an improvement, but he wanted to make sure that this was enough. He noted that there are still portions of the property owned by this business that use concrete blocks and sheet metal as fencing.

After being granted the floor, Councilor Infante stated that she did not want to cause the business to cease working. It was noted that the businesses current Junk Dealer Permit as issued was expired and the business was still continuing to operate.

After being granted the floor, Councilor Marmol noted that this business is located in her district. She expressed a desire to meet with ISD and reviewing the issues at the location prior to issuing the renewed license. Based on that comment, Councilor Infante noted that this might need to be tabled.

Councilor Marmol then made a Motion to Table the Document. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Delrosario. There was no further discussion on the matter and it PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 397/25 MOTION TO TABLE PASSED

Old Business:

**DOC # 477/25 Remove Handicapped Parking - 25 Durham Street
– Miguel A. Salazar [W]**

Councilor Infante made a Motion to Withdraw this Document. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Delrosario. It was noted that there had been a Motion to Order a Public Hearing to delete this Ordinance, but as there was no corresponding Ordinance in the Ordinance Book, therefore the item could just be withdrawn. There was no further discussion on the Document and the Motion PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 477/25 MOTION TO WITHDRAW PASSED

**DOC # 23/26 Confirm Appointment of Charlinett Pascual as Director of
Community Development – Santiago Matias, Acting Director of
Planning and Development**

This Document appeared on the Agenda as New Business, however, after the Agenda was published, the Council received email correspondence from the Senior Advisor to the Mayor, Octavien Spanner, requesting that the Document be Withdrawn. Councilor Levy made a Motion to Withdraw the Document. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Marmol. There was no discussion on the Document and it PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

DOC # 23/26 MOTION TO WITHDRAW PASSED

The following items of New Business were referred to the respective committee noted below:

New Business:

009/26 Disclosure of Conflict by Municipal Employee – Michael Armano **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

010/26 Stop Signs [2] - Myrtle Street and Alma Street – Counc. Gregory Delrosario and Chayanne Rivera **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

011/26 Install Traffic Light – Prospect Street at Community Day Public Charter School – Counc. Vice President Ana Levy **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

012/26 Handicapped Parking - 69 Bigelow Street – Margarita Rosa **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

013/26 Handicapped Parking - 24 Eutaw Street – Iris A. Texidor **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

014/26 Handicapped Parking - 94 Myrtle Street – Rosa Cruz **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

015/26 Handicapped Parking – 87 Trenton Street – Counc. Rosaly Gonzalez, State Rep. Estela Reyes and Ana B. Pinero **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

016/26 Amend Time for “Resident Parking” on West Street to 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. [DOC # 416/23 established 3 p.m. – 6 a.m.] – Councilor Vivian Marmol **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

017/26 Remove [2] Stop Signs Canal Street [Intersection at Appleton St and at Mill St] – Counc. Pres. J Rodriguez **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

018/26 Adopt City-wide Speed Hump program – Counc. President Jeovanny Rodriguez **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

019/26 Resident Parking, Albion St from Avon St - Councilor Wendy Luzon **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

020/26 Resident Parking – Lincoln Court – Counc. Wendy Luzon **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

021/26 Resident Parking – Trinity Street – Councilor Wendy Luzon **Referred to the Ordinance Committee**

022/26 Update on Status of Litigation regarding Lawrence Redevelopment Authority [LRA] Property Transfers [Executive Session Anticipated] – Counc. President Jeovanny Rodriguez and Attorney Timothy Houten **Referred to the Economic Development Committee**

024/26 Auth to Expend [\$1,649,561] Chapter 130 FHWA Railway-Highway Crossing Grant from MassDOT – Daniel McCarthy, Planning Director **Referred to the Budget and Finance Committee**

The Council President asked for the Committee Chairs to please announce the dates and times for their Committee Meetings.

Councilor Marmol stated the Economic Development Committee Meeting would be meet Monday, January 26th at 6:00PM, with an Executive Session anticipated.

Councilor Infante stated the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting would be meet Monday, January 26th at 7:00PM

Council Vice President Levy noted that the Ordinance Committee would meet Tuesday, January 27th at 7:00PM

MOTION TO ADJOURN

As there was no other business before the Council, Councilor Infante made a Motion to Adjourn. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Marmol. There was no discussion on the Motion and it PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.