



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: February 24, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor,
Lowell, MA / Zoom (Hybrid)

1. ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed 11 present (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott).

M. Gitschier presiding.

C. Mercier requested moment of silence in darkened chamber for John D. Parent, Jr., father-in-law of City Clerk Michael Geary.

2. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2.1. Communication Remote / Zoom Participation.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

2.2. Citation - Pastor Dwayne Wheeler.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. C. Robinson noted the recipient and read citation. Pastor Wheeler addressed the City Council and noted the presence of God.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of City Council Regular Meeting February 17th, for acceptance.



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In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. So voted.

Motion to bundle Items #4.1 to #4.6, inclusive, give second reading, hold hearing and refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted. Meetings were opened at 7:02 PM. A National Grid representative commented on the petitions generally noting the purpose of each location.

4. UTILITY PUBLIC HEARING (Scheduled for 7PM)

4.1. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO Pole at 1150 Westford Street.

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

4.2. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO Pole at 1270 Westford Street.

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

4.3. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO Pole at 241 Pawtucket Street.

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

4.4. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO Pole at 648 Stevens Street.



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In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

4.5. National Grid - Request installation of underground electric conduit along Pearl Street.

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

4.6. National Grid - Request installation of underground electric conduit on Middlesex Street from Canal Street to Garnett Street.

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

5. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

5.1. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. invite an appropriate personnel member from the National Grid to come to the Council Chamber to make a presentation on double pole/the process for adding/removing poles.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted prior referrals to Technology and Utilities SC and that this was applicable to Items #5.2 and #5.3.

5.2. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. require that National Grid appear in-person for approval of future request of installations of poles.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted.

5.3. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. provide an update from National Grid on gas modernization projects.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted.

5.4. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. provide the Council with a detailed report of all organizations and entities that received funding to assist in our 2025, 2026 elections, outside of compensated poll workers.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson commented on prior motion regarding expenditures and Manager Golden, Jr. requested further information to define scope. C. Robinson requested any organization be included that received funding.

5.5. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department provide the Council with a detailed report on which of any projects in the pipeline may benefit from the State's newly rolled out CCTCI funding pool.

In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson requested quick action as the funding will go quickly.

5.6. C. Scott - Req. City Mgr. provide an update on the culvert replacement work for Woburn St, Gorham St, and Billerica St.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Scott noted resident concerns.

5.7. C. Scott - Req. City Mgr. provide an update on the status of upgrading Meadowcroft St.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Scott noted prior request and requested a status report.

5.8. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. work with the appropriate department to assess the safety of the intersection of Watson St and Lawrence St.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted it was an issue at a neighborhood meeting group.

5.9. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. work with the appropriate department to explore the feasibility of restoring the commemorative at Kerouac Park, and any community partnerships to facilitate the continued maintenance of the park.

In City Council, seconded by C. Juran, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted the Kerouac organization is involved, and it is important for City to partner with them.

5.10. C. Mercier - Req. City Mgr. provide a report regarding the State money earmarked for Gage Field over the past two years.

In City Council, seconded by C. Chau, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Mercier noted funding was provided and that work should be done or getting done. C. Robinson noted the parameters of the earmark was wide and would encompass different projects.

5.11. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. ask DPW to provide a list of which streets and sidewalks (or portions) have been paved and/or otherwise repaired (and how they were repaired) in each of the last 5 years.

In City Council, seconded by C. Descoteaux, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted the inclusion of Item #5.12, by way of Motion to bundle the item, in the discussion and that supplying information to residents is important for them to understand process and the cost involved with these projects. C. McDonough noted the importance of oversight of the sidewalk piece in these projects.

5.12. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. ask Transportation Engineer and DPW to provide the criteria (and, if available, their weighting) that are used



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to determine which streets and sidewalks are prioritized for traffic calming, paving and snow removal.

In City Council, seconded by C. McDonough, referred to City Manager. So voted. See discussion under Item #5.11.

5.13. C. Juran / M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. ask City Solicitor to meet with Rules/Election SC, as a follow-up to the November 19, 2024 Rules SC meeting, to discuss status, next steps and possible voting methods for the potential amendment of the city's consent decree to allow the voters to elect the mayor.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager/Rules & Election Law SC. So voted. C. Juran noted the history of the referendum and requested status recognizing the roadblocks that may be present, but the body must move forward on it. C. Mercier noted prior motions regarding this issue and that it is the will of the people. C. McDonough noted all options should be laid out in the subcommittee. C. Nuon noted the plaintiffs to the original lawsuit would be favorable to this and that many other communities do it.

5.14. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. work with the proper department to light the bridges in Lowell in blue on April 11, 2026 in recognition of the "Spark The Night For Parkinson", a global initiative to raise awareness and show support for those living with Parkinson's disease.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. Noted there will be an event in partnership with the Greater Lowell Foundation Organization.

Motion by C. Chau, seconded by C. Robinson to take Item #7.3 out of order. So voted.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER



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6.1. Motion Responses / Informational Report.

A) Motion Response - Climate Change Competition - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

B) Motion Response - Letter on Rodenticide H965 and H4266 - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

C) Motion Response - Dumpsters and Trash Bins on Sidewalks - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. C. McDonough commented on the effort regarding above.

6.2. Informational Report

Informational Report - Cambodia Town TDI - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. outlined the program. C. Chau recognized the administration and noted the benefits to the community. Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD) commented on the program and its parameters. C. Nuon noted the many exciting projects involved. C. Liang commented on benefits to the Acre neighborhood.

6.3. Communication - Appointment of Members to LTC Board.

In City Council, M. Gitschier withdrew the item. No objections.

6.4. Communication - City Manager request approval of Out of State travel (1) Assessor Dept.

In City Council, **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Chau, seconded by C. Juran. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Nuon). So voted.



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7. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

7.1. Vote - Accept/Expend \$138,600 MCC Grant – CASE.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Mercier. Adopted per Roll Call vote 11 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted.

7.2. Vote - Accept/Expend \$15,000 Cultural District Grant.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 abstain (C. McDonough). So voted.

7.3. Vote - Authorize CM Ex. Lease Agreement - Senior Center.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. DEFEATED per Roll Call vote 5 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 5 Nays (M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Robinson), 1 abstain (C. Mercier). So voted. Registered speakers. Ryan Faria (commented - no vote, need outside counsel review along with release of financial information), Anthony Milisci (commented - noted value of property), Atty. George Theodorou (commented - represents owner and noted uniqueness of the building and that it is a flat rate), and Elijah Russell (commented - no lease and that taxpayers are not piggy banks), addressed the Council. C. Mercier recused self from all discussions and votes. C. McDonough questioned legal entity of the ownership. C. Descoteaux noted all payments under the lease would come from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and not out of the tax levy on the City and would not be available under an ownership scenario. City Solicitor Williams noted the reasoning associated with that. C. Chau noted the number of discussions as evident in executive minutes released that regarded legal ownership and other options available to the



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Council. C. Chau noted that there was no other designated location for the Senior Center. Atty. Williams noted that there was not explicit language in original lease regarding transferring property. Conor Baldwin (CFO) laid out the financial elements of the options. C. Robinson noted complete compliance with original lease and that property should be under control by the City. C. Robinson noted proposed lease is full of unknowns and that independent counsel should review matter. **Motion** to Lay on Table by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough. DEFEATED per Roll Call vote 5 yeas (M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Robinson), 5 nays (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 abstain (C. Mercier). So voted. C. Scott questioned current language in the deed. Atty. Williams reviewed the language. C. Scott commented on registered documents and possible litigation. Atty. Williams outlined the risks involved. Mr. Baldwin reviewed tax impact of the costs. C. Scott questioned square footage and costs to lease. Mr. Baldwin noted back rent owed was driving up costs and that terms are in line with other leased buildings by the City. C. McDonough commented on language in the original Purchase and Sales Agreement and if it was recorded and noted various trustee certificates. Atty. Williams noted that terms of a purchase and sale are not controlling when final documents are executed or recorded. C. McDonough questioned when payments were stopped to the owner. Auditor Oakes indicated September of 2022. Manager Golden, Jr. noted that the lease had expired and that CDBG funds could not be used on an expired lease. C. McDonough commented on the negotiation tactics involved with this matter. C. Rourke noted that every discussion regarding this matter the City Council has been directly involved with them and provided input. C. Liang noted that trust does not exist and that CDBG funds could go to more important outlets, i.e. other non-profits. Manager Golden, Jr. Noted that a 15-year lease would be covered by CDBG funding and that this transaction would be outside of a bidding requirement. C. Nuon noted ownership issue was contained in a footnote. C. Nuon indicated that there are two bad options before them. Atty. Williams indicated proposed lease has much tighter language regarding transfer and



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obligations to the property. C. Juran noted the original bad language but struggles with options. C. Juran noted better language in the lease but fears that other side would not be accountable. C. Juran posed questions regarding agreement including nonpayment possibilities effect on transfer. Atty. Williams indicated that if City does not pay it could prevent a transfer back to them. Atty. Williams indicated that the lease could be transferred to new ownership. C. Juran commented on condo documents and the need to protect City from this happening again. Atty. Williams commented on the strength of the proposed lease. M. Gitschier release Chair to Vice-Chair Nuon at 8:20 PM. M. Gitschier noted history of the site and that there is no trust between the parties. M. Gitschier noted CDBG funds are still taxpayer money as paid through federal taxes. M. Gitschier commented on issues with payments by the Auditor and the bid process. M. Gitschier noted the shortcomings of the proposed lease as example the attention to parking. M. Gitschier noted the need for outside independent counsel to be involved. **Motion** by M. Gitschier, seconded by C. Robinson to retain outside independent legal counsel as selected by the City Council to review all documents regarding this transaction. DEFEATED per Roll Call vote 5 yeas (M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Robinson), 5 nays (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 abstain (C. Mercier). So voted. Chair was returned to M. Gitschier at 8:30 PM. **Motion** to move question by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. DEFEATED per Roll Call vote 6 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 4 Nays (C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Robinson), 1 abstain (C. Mercier). So voted.

7.4. Vote - Authorize CM Ex. Net Meter Credit Sales Agreements.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** "To Adopt" by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 abstain (C. McDonough). So voted. C. Juran noted Katherine Moses (DPW) was present and requested her insight regarding vote. Ms. Moses commented on the program and the



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process and how savings are realized. C. Juran commented on the process.

7.5. Vote - Authorize CM to Send Notice of Hearing - 48 Kinsman Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

7.6. Vote - Establish School Bus Violation Stabilization Fund.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** "To Adopt" by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 abstain (C. McDonough). So voted. C. McDonough recused self from discussion. C. Juran questioned the process and how the fund would operate. Conor Baldwin (CFO) commented on the process and the fund. C. Juran noted the use of the money. C. Robinson questioned how bills would be paid. Mr. Baldwin outlined the payment procedure.

7.7. Vote - Transfer \$189k – Demolitions.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** "To Adopt" by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 abstain (C. McDonough). So voted. C. Juran noted money being used for demolition. Mr. Baldwin noted the amount of money and funding source. C. Juran questioned if lien was placed on property. Mr. Baldwin indicated that was the procedure.

8. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

8.1. Wire Inspector Reports:

National Grid - National Grid - Request installation of 1 JO Pole at 1158 Gorham Street; 1 SO Pole at Middlesex and Wood Streets; 1 JO



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Pole at 9-11 Columbia Street; 1 JO Pole at 15 West Meadow Road; 1 JO Pole at 316 Mammoth Road; 1 JO Pole at 308 Stevens Street; 1 JO Pole at 145 Pawtucket Street; 1 JO Pole 557 Varnum Avenue; 2 SO Poles at 1170 Gorham Street; 5 JO Poles at Middlesex and Edwards Streets; and 1 SO Pole at 12 Wood Street.

In City Council, **Motion** “To adopt and accept accompanying orders” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

9. CITY COUNCIL - EXECUTIVE SESSION

9.1. Executive Session - Regarding Litigation Update, Public Discussion Of Which Could Have A Detrimental Effect On The City's Position.

In City Council, M. Gitschier stated purpose of the session, **Motion** to enter executive session and adjourn from that session by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. (9:00 PM). Adopted per Roll Call vote 11 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, Melissa Desroches noted upcoming WinterFest 2026 and the bicentennial kick-off. C. Chau noted C. Descoteaux would be performing at WinterFest. C. Robinson noted upcoming event for Top Donut.

11. ADJOURNMENT

In City Council, **Motion** to Adjourn from Executive Session by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

Meeting adjourned from Executive Session at 9:20 PM.



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