



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: March 3, 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 (6:40 PM), C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon (6:35 PM), C. Robinson, C. Rourke (Via Zoom), C. Scott) (6:35 PM).

M. Gitschier presiding.

C. Mercier requested moment of silence in darkened chamber for Robert Charles “Beau” James.

2. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2.1. Communication Remote / Zoom Participation.

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

2.2. Citation.

In City Council, M. Gitschier withdrew citation with no objections.

2.3. Proclamation - Bicentennial Celebration.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted. M. Gitschier read the proclamation. Manager Golden, Jr. noted the fundraising committee regarding the celebration as well as the team effort in putting events throughout the year. C. Chau commented on the WinterFest and its success. C. Robinson noted the



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success of the mural display throughout the City. C. Mercier commented on the good start of the bicentennial with the WinterFest. C. Descoteaux noted WinterFest was a well-executed event and that the crowd was very respectful. C. McDonough noted WinterFest was a great day and event. C. Juran made note of the many winners of the various cooking events. M. Gitschier noted the culinary highlights at the WinterFest.

Motion by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough to take Item #9.2 out of order. So voted.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of City Council Regular Meeting February 24th, for acceptance.

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

4. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

4.1. C. Robinson / C. Mercier - Req. City Mgr. provide the City Council with a detailed report on a pathway to secure independent legal counsel of our choosing to review and advise concerns the Council may have.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke (Via Zoom), C. Scott), 1 nay (C. Descoteaux). So voted. C. Robinson noted that Council pay that is not taken can be used to fund this resource. C. Mercier noted sometimes there is a need for another set of eyes on an issue. C. Descoteaux noted the costs would be high and that language in Charter would prevent this from happening. City Solicitor Williams indicated the language from the Charter was accurate. Manager Golden, Jr. commented that they could review and see if there is a path forward on this. C. Liang commented that this could be another resource to clarify items. C. Robinson stated that an independent counsel is not in violation of anything including the Charter and requested a roll call. C. Chau commented on the



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independent counsel and that motion just is for informational purposes and not support. City Solicitor Williams outlined department use of outside counsel. C. Scott noted she was comfortable with the request for information but questioned the need. C. McDonough noted the use by other communities of an independent counsel. C. Nuon commented on use of outside counsel and independent counsel and that information could be used to see if there is a need. C. Descoteaux noted that the process needs to be legal if it is going to be done. C. Robinson noted that there should be independent counsel when there is a disagreement on the floor. C. Scott noted that if there is a disagreement with a legal opinion you are still able to move forward as you choose. C. McDonough noted the workload of the legal department and that this should be a welcomed resource. C. Scott noted the budget of the department and if they were not able to handle matters that is within the oversight of the Manager. C. Liang noted this was just a simple request for information. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Robinson to move the question. So voted.

4.2. C. Mercier - Req. Mayor and City Mgr. invite Men's 2026 Olympic Gold Medal winner Connor Hellebuyck (UML former player and graduate) and Women's 2026 Olympic Gold Medal winner Haley Winn (Boston Fleet player) to a City Council meeting to be recognized and presented with a citation and Key to the City.

In City Council, seconded by C. McDonough, referred to City Manager/ Mayor. So voted. **Motion** to amend by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough to add following Boston Fleet players, Aerin Frankel and Megan Keller to the invitation. So voted.

4.3. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. work with DPD to reinstall Cambodian-Town flag along Middlesex Street.

In City Council, seconded by C. Chau, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted upcoming events. C. Liang requested extending the area into Branch and Chelmsford Street.



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4.4. C. McDonough - Req. the Council discuss City policy surrounding implementation of parking bans for special events.

In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted some concerns with timing of parking bans. Manager Golden, Jr. noted continued conversations with partners downtown to ease the situation.

4.5. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. work with the appropriate department to promptly review all current lease agreements between the city of Lowell and private landlords and to advise the council of any necessary action to safeguard the interest of the city.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough wanted to ensure that City was in a good position when these leases need to be renewed.

4.6. C. McDonough - Req. the Auditor/Clerk Oversight and Personnel subcommittee meet to review policy priorities and initiatives of these departments.

In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager/Auditor Clerk Oversight and Personnel SC. So voted.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

5.1. Motion Responses.

A) Motion Response - 2025 2026 Local Elections Funding – C.

Robinson inquired if this was the complete list and requested to review it. Manager Golden, Jr. indicated that this was the list and that he would review to double check matter.

B) Motion Response - Parking- CSO Projects – C. McDonough commented on the thoroughness of the report as it provided much information. C. Robinson noted that the project partners communicate with the community very well. Manager Golden, Jr. noted the many challenges



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ahead. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted.

C) Motion Response - Staging Areas - CSO Projects – C. Robinson noted the great effort put forth to manage disruptions. C. McDonough commented on the project around St. Louis Park. Aaron Fox (WasteWater) introduced project manager, David Tanzi (CDM Smith), who outlined the response to concerns. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Juran. So voted.

D) Motion Response - State Earmark for Gage Field – C. Mercier noted the projects that were funded. M. Gitschier commented on proposed sewer line at the field. C. Robinson commented on the outlay of the sewer line. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Scott, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

E) Motion Response - Rourke Bridge 360-Degree HD 24-hour Camera – M. Gitschier noted the report. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted.

F) Motion Response - Parkinsons Awareness Bridge Lighting – M. Gitschier noted the report. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

5.2. Informational Reports

Informational Report - Bourne St Update – Manager Golden, Jr. commented on the plans and discussions with Markley. C. Scott noted prior correspondence. Mr. Fox outlined the current situation. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Chau, seconded by C. Juran. So voted.

Informational Report - Douglas Road Storage Tank Update – Manager Golden, Jr. provided an update on the project and the improvements to the facility. C. Juran noted the information in the report. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted.

Informational Report - Phase3 Duck Island – Manager Golden, Jr. noted



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the investments made to the plant. C. Robinson noted the department is addressing all concerns. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

6. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

6.1. Vote - Authorize CM to File Special Legislation.

In City Council, withdrawn by M. Gitschier. No objections.

6.2. Vote - Authorize CM Ex. Notice of Activity and Use Limitation - 86 Fay St.

In City Council, withdrawn by M. Gitschier. No objections.

6.3. Vote - Transfer \$95k – LRWU.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Scott, seconded by C. Robinson. 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 (Via Zoom), C. Scott). So voted. M. Gitschier released Chair to Vice Chair Nuon (6:55 PM). M. Gitschier noted the huge improvement in controlling costs on projects of this department. Mr. Fox outlined the savings plan which included much more in-house labor. C. Nuon returned Chair to M. Gitschier (7:00 PM). C. Scott commented on the professionalism of the department.

Motion by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon to take Item #7.1 out of order. So voted.

7. ORDINANCES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

7.1. Ordinance - Amend Fee Schedule – Parks.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 17, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted.



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8. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

8.1. Wire Inspector Reports: Mass Electric Co dba National Grid Req to install 1 JO Pole Stevens St. @ McKinley Ave., 1 SO Pole on Church St. and approx. 5' of 2-4" conduit to a pad mounted transformer @ 242 Church St., Install underground facilities on Middlesex St. & Pearl St., 1 JO Pole on Pawtucket St., Install underground facilities on Middlesex St. @ Canal St., 1 JO Pole on Westford St. and Wood St., 1 JO Pole on Westford St. and Technology Dr.

In City Council, **Motion** "To adopt and accept accompanying orders" by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

9. PETITIONS

9.1. Claims - (3) Property Damage.

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to Law Department for report and recommendation by C. Scott, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

9.2. Misc. - Omar Ibrahim request permission to address Council regarding police crash review and emergency vehicle protocol.

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to Public Safety SC by C. Juran, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. Mr. Ibrahim described incident involving a collision with a police motor vehicle and that independent investigations should be done.

Motion to bundle and give 1st reading for Items #9.3 to #9.7, inclusive by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon. So vote.

9.3. National Grid - Request permission to install recloser at 12 Washer Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 17, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.



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9.4. National Grid - Request permission to install recloser at 313-317 Nesmith Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 17, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

9.5. National Grid - Request permission to install recloser at 491 Lawrence Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 17, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

9.6. National Grid - Request permission to relocate 3 poles on Wood Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 17, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

9.7. Boston Gas - Request permission to extend existing gas main from Dutton Street to 6 Wiggin Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 17, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, C. Juran provided a Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) report outlining bus expansion programs and federal funding. C. Mercier noted upcoming Ghana flag raising along with many St. Patrick's Day events. C. Mercier noted excise taxes are due. C. Robinson requested that catch basins be cleared by residents if possible. C. Scott wished the Manager a happy birthday on behalf of the Council. Manager Golden, Jr. commented on recent budget listening sessions.



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11. ADJOURNMENT

In City Council, **Motion** to Adjourn by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk