



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: March 10, 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.

2. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2.1. Communication Remote / Zoom Participation.

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

Motion to take Item #6.2 and #6.4 out of order. So voted.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of Municipal Facilities SC Joint With School Facilities SC February 25th; City Council Regular Meeting March 3rd, for acceptance.

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

4. GENERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS (Scheduled for 7PM)

4.1. Ordinance - Amend Zoning - Data Center Moratorium.



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In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to adopt as amended by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Scott), 1 abstain (C. Rourke). So voted. **Motion** by C. Scott, seconded by C. Juran to take Item #6.3 at the same time. So voted. C. Rourke noted that after discussion with legal department he would be abstaining from the vote and discussion regarding item due to conflict.

Open to public speaking in favor. Jacob Fortes commented on his eleven-year involvement with the site and that there has been no transparency in the matter by anyone and a community benefits agreement (cba) would be beneficial. Mary Wambui noted support as it was a responsible approach and commented on tax benefits to the owners and a cba should be entered into. Elijah Russell noted the moratorium would allow the City to understand projects of this nature. Alex Solange commented on the effect of the environmental character of the site. Jacquelyoun Coles noted support of this allows time to study the effects of these centers and not ban them. Nancy Fortes noted the need to establish guidelines for the sites and the effect that they have on neighborhood and environment. Eileen Castle noted data center has huge effect on the lives of the neighbors in terms of health and noise. Micelle Bejjani noted she was not from Lowell but was representing the group who had concerns with the data center, indicating that the community must be their own protector and that the moratorium is a good tool. Jon Grossman noted he represented an environmental group and that the moratorium will help protect the environment.

Open to public speaking in opposition. Andrew Awezec noted Markley does a lot for the community. Brian Ainsworth noted his years of experience with data centers and that this action will send message of lack of development in the City and that Markley is a good corporate neighbor. John Melo noted the site has undergone a great transition. John Fender noted Markley was a good employer and corporate neighbor. J. Bendar noted the policies of data centers. Tommy Cruz noted Markley was good for Lowell. Scott Dennehy noted the importance of Markley in the City. Chhanraskmey Chhoun noted that Markley provides livelihood for many.



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Jaclyn Casey noted available date regarding the effects of Markley in the neighborhood, which were minimal. Mike Kaltsas noted work Markley has done regarding environment and that this would have a negative effect on the company. Justin Nutter noted Markley provided help to the community. Alan Crawford noted the positive effect on the neighborhood and that if site was not there would less critical services provide to the area. Ryan Hughes noted Markley provided him a great opportunity to him and that the company gives back to the community. Dan O'Loughlin noted his representation of the union and that they were treated well by the company. Joe Mitchell noted the entire site was up to code and good for the area.

C. Mercier commented on the condition of the site before Markley and that neighborhoods have concerns that need future assurances. C. Descoteaux commented on the moratorium and the effect on jobs. Representative from Markley commented on the possible effect. C. Robinson noted a data center in a neighborhood needs to be studied and that is a responsible approach and that parties should try and reach some type of agreement. C. McDonough noted plan is contingent on all parties being involved and that there is a possibility for expansion and further commented on the tax savings by Markley. C. Scott noted this was not just about Markley but the effect on data centers in communities and that they should be studied to support further growth. C. Juran commented on the historic effect technology has had in the City and that companies and communities should be involved in discussions to provide proper planning.

Motion by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Mercier to recess for five minutes due to presence of a bat in the Chamber. So voted. (8:25)

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). (8:35)

C. Juran continued discussion commenting that the community and the industry will come together because of the moratorium. C. Liang noted the need to have a professional look into the matter to address concerns and that the door is not closing. C. Nuon noted support of the moratorium to



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bring parties together and that Markley was given a tax advantage on this site, so cooperation is expected. C. Nuon commented on the planning recommendation of the matter which included changes to the ordinance.

Motion by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Scott to adopt the planning board recommendations regarding changes to the moratorium. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Scott), 1 abstain (C. Rourke). So voted. C. Chau noted the economics, and the character of the neighborhood must remain consistent, each site must be developed properly and that these are complex votes.

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

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to declare the property at 48 Kinsman Street, Lowell, MA 01852, including all buildings and structures, a dangerous nuisance to the neighborhood and further order the demolition of the same by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough. 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.

5. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

5.1. C. Liang - Req. City Mgr. have the appropriate departments provide safety and feasibility assessments of the 4-Way Stop at Bower and Fletcher Streets.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Liang noted the concerns of residents regarding accidents and that this would be a preventive measure. C. Robinson noted that blinking lights are effective.

5.2. C. Liang - Req. City Mgr. have the appropriate departments conduct an audit/assessment of Cross Street and provide short and long-range solutions, especially in the areas from Fletcher Street toward School Street.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Juran, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Liang noted it was a bad road that needs safety upgrades.

5.3. C. Descoteaux - Req. City Mgr. schedule an information meeting with the Traffic Engineer/ Engineer's Office and the residents of Campbell Drive regarding the proposed sidewalk project.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Descoteaux noted the need to communicate with the neighborhoods.

5.4. C. Descoteaux - Req. City Mgr. have the Traffic Engineer re-evaluate the synchronization of the light cycle at Westford and Stedman Streets.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Descoteaux noted the continued concerns of the neighbors. C. Chau noted traffic concerns on Westford Street with the many large apartment complexes there. C. Rourke noted some changes would be helpful. C. Descoteaux noted some solutions cannot be done.

5.5. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. have the appropriate department work with the Council on Aging, the Healthy Aging in Action group, and other interested parties, to explore the feasibility of designating one or more "Happy to Chat" benches in the community.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted the many conversations with residents. Manager Golden, Jr. indicated prior projects.

5.6. C. McDonough - Req. City Council re-establish the 'unanswered/non-responsive' section on the agenda of regular meetings.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Juran, referred to City Manager/Mayor. So voted. C. McDonough noted this was not meant to be an aggressive motion. Manager Golden, Jr. commented on use of 311 system regarding motion responses and will provide status report on that in the near future.

5.7. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. begin a conversation with the Superintendent of schools to look into any space consolidation measures that translate into cost savings for our residents.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted the need for cost saving measures and there may be an opportunity. C. Scott commented on school uses and leases. Manager Golden, Jr. indicated that lease payments come out of school budget. **Motion** by C. Scott, seconded by C. Chau for Mayor to bring before the school committee and school superintendent a request to provide information of spacing needs due to current and future enrollment number. So vote. C. Descoteaux commented on space available at old Freshman Academy. C. Rourke noted the importance of keeping students in Lowell schools.

5.8. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department look into adding blinking stop signs at the four-way intersection of Westford and Foster Streets and Princeton Avenue and Foster Street.

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

Motion by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke to cancel City Council Meeting of March 17, 2026. Adopted per Roll Call vote 7 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Liang, C. Mercier, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 4 nays (M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. McDonough, C. Nuon). So voted.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

6.1. Motion Responses / Informational Report.

A) Motion Response - Hometown Heroes Banner Program - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Chau. So voted. C. Chau noted the honor of the program and outlined



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it. Eric LaMarche (Veterans Dept.) noted the deadline for applications and commented on the outreach to residents. Mr. LaMarche provide some examples of the banners. C. Robinson requested contact information which Mr. LaMarche provided.

B) Motion Response - 2025 2026 Local Elections Funding - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted. C. Robinson noted the update.

C) Motion Response - Coburn Hall - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. C. Descoteaux noted his update request was not done. Kevin Kane (Skanska) commented that cost were being established based on a structural engineering report that was provided to them. C. Noun requested report once the analysis is done. M. Gitschier noted April time frame. C. Chau questioned the report. Mr. Kane noted work still needed to be done regarding the structural report.

D) Motion Response - TIFs and TIEs – Motion to refer to Economic Development SC by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. C. Robinson noted information in the report and that funds could be used for Council initiatives. C. Juran noted information in the report and how it enhances the City through different projects. Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD) outlined the projects past and present. C. Mercier commented on the differences between the two incentives. C. Nuon noted the information in the report and the City does provide developers benefits. C. Rourke noted this should be a major focus for this Council as it involves the growth of the City. C. Robinson noted information is available on the website and further noted the increase in housing due to these incentives.

6.2. Informational Report.

Informational Report - Tyler Excellence Award - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. noted the efforts of the MIS Department and the projects that are ongoing and that it bolsters the transparency of



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government. C. Robinson noted the operations of the 311 system and recognized the public trust award. C. Liang noted the enhanced use of the website.

6.3. Communication - Planning Board recommendation regarding creating a moratorium on the development of data centers within the City.

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

6.4. Communication - City Manager request permission for (1) Out of State Travel for MIS.

In City Council, **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. 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.

Motion to take Item #6.1 (A) and (C) out of order. So voted.

7. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

7.1. Vote - Authorize CM Ex. Easements with National Grid - Douglas Road.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Nuon, 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. C. Juran requested information on the vote. Shawn Machado (Asst. City Mgr.) commented on the need and will provide information.

7.2. Vote - Authorize CM Ex. Notice of Activity and Use Limitation - 86 Fay St and 1170 Gorham St.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Mercier. Adopted per Roll Call vote 11 yeas (C. Chau, C.



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Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted.

8. CONSTABLE BONDS

9. Communication - City Mgr. Request Approval of Constable Bonds.

In City Council, **Motion** "To Adopt" by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Rourke. 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. The bond of Emma Amore was pulled, and the bond of Juan Jurez was adopted.

10. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

10.1. Municipal Facilities SC joint with School Facilities SC February 25, 2025.

In City Council, C. Descoteaux provided report outlining the agenda, attendance and discussion regarding combined facilities departments, as well as updates on the St. Jeanne D'Arc and Bartlett School projects. C. Descoteaux noted a motion was adopted by the subcommittee to preclude privatization discussion regarding this joint facility department. **Motion** to accept the report as a report of progress by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

11. PETITIONS

11.1. Claims - (2) Property Damage.

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

11.2. Misc. - James McCarthy request installation of a handicap parking sign at 32 Willie Street.

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to Transportation Engineer for report and recommendation by C. Liang, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.



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11.3. Misc. - Samuel Dualu request installation of a handicap parking sign at 154 Coburn Street.

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to Transportation Engineer for report and recommendation by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

Motion to bundle Items #11.4 to #11.8 by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

11.4. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO pole located at 114-120 Agawam Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

11.5. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO pole located at 217 Wilder Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

11.6. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO pole located at 275 Varum Avenue.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

11.7. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO pole located at 7-19 Nesmith Street.



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In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

11.8. Boston Gas - Request replacement of existing gas main on Sayles Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on March 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, C. Mercier noted upcoming Bridge Club event. Shawn Machado noted upcoming job fairs at Middlesex Community College. C. McDonough noted the upgrade regarding dumpsters downtown. Manager Golden, Jr. noted upcoming public input session for budget.

13. ADJOURNMENT

In City Council, **Motion** to Adjourn by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

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