



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: March 31, 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. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Juran. So voted.

3. CITY CLERK

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

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

4. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

4.1. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. in recognition of the importance of transparency and the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, ensure all supporting backup materials associated with each item that appears on the agendas of the more than dozen city boards, commissions, and advisory committees are available online for public viewing; said backup materials, along with the meeting agenda, should be



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submitted to the City Clerk's Office for posting prior to the date of the aforementioned board, commission, or advisory committee meeting to ensure no individual needs to submit a public records request to the city to gain access to said backup materials.

In City Council, seconded by C. Descoteaux, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted concern with some advisory committees and boards in regard to responsiveness to the public. C. Juran noted upcoming Rules SC would be able to discuss this matter. **Motion** by C. Juran, seconded by C. Nuon to refer matter to Rules SC. So voted. C. Chau requested information regarding request for documents from City Clerk. Clerk Geary noted that there were not many requests, as the agenda package provides much information.

4.2. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. provide City Council with a report concerning the number of service requests received by 311 over the ninety (90) days related to repairing potholes in the city; said report should also include how many of those service requests have been addressed, how many are outstanding and how long it took to complete the work associated with each request.

In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon commented on the amount done as per requests and looking to see if any gaps need to be filled. Manager Golden, Jr. encouraged the use of the 311 System. C. Robinson noted the number of hot boxes being used to repair roads. C. McDonough noted that 311 updates will be available by a dashboard on the website.

4.3. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. work with appropriate department to present an itemized report on year-to-date chargeback expenditures for the LPS.

In City Council, seconded by C. Scott, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Scott questioned status of the MOU with the School Administration. Manager Golden, Jr. indicated it was sent to them and are awaiting a response.



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4.4. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. work with appropriate department to report on the progress thus far in rehabbing the old Jeanne D'Arc School building and any updates on the timeline of it being ready to use.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted concerns with elevator construction. C. Descoteaux indicated that project would be completed by the 27-28 school year per discussion with Supt. Skinner.

Motion by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon to take Item #6.4 out of order. So voted.

4.5. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department level and adjust the backboards at St. Louis Park and ensure all nets are in good order.

In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted the work was completed.

4.6. C. Robinson / C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr., as well as our Mayor, convene a meeting of the Gateway cities such as Lawrence, Methuen, and Haverhill to begin conversations around collaborative opportunities.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager / Mayor. So voted. C. Robinson noted discussions with communities with similar challenges is beneficial for a group approach to solutions. C. McDonough noted the need to collaborate with close neighbors with same issues.

4.7. C. McDonough - Req. City Council send a letter to our state delegation, the state Secretary of Education, the commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the



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governor expressing our strong opposition to the mandated change to lottery admissions for our vocational and technical high schools.

In City Council, seconded by C. Descoteaux, referred to City Manager / Mayor. So voted. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 nay (C. Juran), 1 recuse (M. Gitschier). **Motion** by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. McDonough to discuss Item #4.10 with this item. So voted. M. Gitschier recused self from discussion on these items. C. McDonough noted the regulations and the broad State action. C. Descoteaux noted the concern of the parents and that efforts of students would not be recognized with this formula. C. Descoteaux noted it was moving in wrong direction and was not fair. C. Juran commented on the information from DESE and understood the goals and that Lowell High School is a good option if not successful with lottery. C. Robinson noted the negative effect of broad-based rulings from the Commonwealth. C. Chau noted any letter should indicate the benefits of the vocational school. C. Scott noted the lack of vocational education and that hard work by students to attend the school should be rewarded. C. Liang noted the benefits of a vocational education.

Motion by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Mercier to take Item #4.11 out of order. So voted.

4.8. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. work with the appropriate department to ensure parking regulations are clearly posted and that all signs, paint, and other indicators conform with existing ordinances.

In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted the need to provide information to users. C. Juran noted the need for some revisions in the parking scheme to lessen confusion. C. Scott commented on the posting of fees in garages.

Motion by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Robinson to take Item #5.1B out of order. So voted.



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4.9. C. McDonough - Req. Rules & Election Law subcommittee meet to discuss potential changes to Council rules to encourage public participation.

In City Council, seconded by C. Liang, referred to City Manager / Rules & Election Laws SC. So voted. C. McDonough wanted to heighten awareness in the community.

4.10. C. Descoteaux - Req. City Mgr. forward a letter to DESE and the Governor's Office asking to reconsider the Greater Lowell Technical High School's new lottery policy.

In City Council, seconded by C. McDonough, referred to City Manager. So voted. See discussion under Item #4.7.

4.11. C. Descoteaux / M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department work with the Highland Neighborhood Group and the Monument Committee to identify a location at Tyler Park and install a monument acknowledging Nancy and Bernie Judge's lifelong contributions to the Highlands Neighborhood. (Refile)

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Robinson). So voted. Registered speaker, Robert Hunt (commented - noted the efforts of the Judges), addressed the Council. C. Descoteaux noted they were deserving people. M. Gitschier commented on the contributions of the Judges. C. Mercier noted that they are a great team. C. Rourke request roll call and commented on their devotion and behind the scenes approach. C. Chau commented on their efforts.

4.12. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. provide the City Council with a report on how many fines have been issued to the Lowell Housing Authority for trash violations, the amounts, and dates of the fines.



Michael Q. Geary
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Assistant City Clerk

In City Council, seconded by C. Liang, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Mercier noted it was a city-wide issue and that the housing authority should not be signaled out and that the report should include all agencies. M. Gitschier released Chair to Vice-Chair Nuon (8:01 PM). M. Gitschier noted that fines should be even for all and no special treatment for agencies who have violations. M. Gitschier noted the system must be fail for all. M. Gitschier commented on the new fee structure in the proposed ordinance. C. Mercier commented on the issue with trash and was fine if the system treated all equally. C. Scott noted she would have to see the data regarding fines being issued and collected. Manager Golden, Jr. commented briefly on proposed trash enterprise ordinance. C. McDonough noted the importance of data for fines to show all public and private entities involved. C. Juran noted that all fines need to be posted. Chair returned to M. Gitschier at 8:25 PM.

4.13. M. Gitschier / C. Robinson - Req. City Auditor audit all funds spent on the senior center per lease contract dated October 5, 2001 between City Barns, LLC and the City of Lowell; please include all expenses charged to the CDBG accounts, city accounts, and the reasons, for the expenses.

In City Council, no second needed. Robinson, referred to City Manager / City Auditor. So voted.

4.14. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department report on the condition of the irrigation system at Alumni Field and any plans on future Capital replacement.

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

4.15. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. provide update regarding establishing a Tree Commission.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted importance for commission to be established to prevent developments from going array.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

5.1. Motion Responses.

A) Motion Response - HR Demographic Report - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted. **Motion** by C. Nuon, seconded by C. McDonough to refer matter to Auditor/Clerk Oversight and Personnel SC. So voted. C. Chau commented on the data. C. Robinson noted strides in the public safety areas. M. Gitschier noted starting point.

B) Motion Response - Campbell Drive - A) Motion Response - HR Demographic Report - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Chau, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. C. Descoteaux noted upcoming meeting for neighbors.

C) Motion Response - Christian Hill Apple Orchard - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough to allow John Moore to address Council. So voted. Mr. Moore noted the concerning situation with water at the site. C. Robinson questioned status of the site. Manager Golden, Jr. indicated no changes with the project. C. Robinson questioned inspections being done and if appeals are possible. C. Scott noted the need for possible policy changes and if plans of site are available. Shawn Machado (Asst. City Mgr.) commented on inspections, permits and plans.

D) Motion Response - Space Consolidation - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted. C. Robinson noted report could be used to assist with space issue.

5.2. Informational Report.

Informational Report - Street Sweeping - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.



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Manager Golden, Jr. commented on schedule and challenges. C. Scott noted it was an important service provided by the City. C. Robinson questioned strength of schedule and that any changes be brought to the public.

Motion by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Robinson to take Item #8.1 out of order. So voted.

Motion to bundle and waive second reading for Items #6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.5 by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

6. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

6.1. Vote - Accept/Expend \$750k Community Project Funding Grant.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. 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. McDonough questioned why the University was not involved with grant. Manager Golden, Jr. Noted that grant was part of transfer of ballpark to the University. C. Chau noted the efforts of Congresswoman Trahan in the procurement. C. Robinson noted the improvements to the park and that it should be toured.

6.2. Vote - Accept Gift of \$10k from All People Church.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. 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.

6.3. Vote - Authorize CM Enter License Agreement with 43 Fletcher Street, LLC.

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



Michael Q. Geary
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Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

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

6.4. Vote - Authorize CM Ex. Land Disposition Agreement with Wexford Development LLC.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Robinson, 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. Manager Golden, Jr. noted presentation entitled “Draper IMPACT Center” regarding agreement with Wexford Development. Chancellor Chen (UML) made initial remarks regarding the tenant Draper Labs and its involvement with LINC project noting the jobs and partnerships that will be developed. Mike Dembert (Wexford) provided history and outline of the site as well as construction time frame. Stephanie Valerio (Draper) outlined the operations of the company. C. Juran favored the aesthetics of the company, and it fit into the neighborhood. C. Robinson noted the success moving forward. C. Mercier lauded the amount of job creation. C. McDonough noted concerns for neighborhood, traffic and noise, and the housing element present. Ms. Valerio addressed each of those issues. C. Chau noted University involvement and that it was a meaningful project. C. Liang wanted assurances that the residents in neighborhood were protected. C. Scott noted Lowell was a good spot for growth. C. Descoteaux noted University involvement. C. Nuon commented on partnerships being developed.

Motion by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke to take Item #5.1C out of order. So voted.

6.5. Vote - Transfer \$350k - Workers Comp.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. 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.



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7. ORDERS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

7.1. Order - Demolition of 48 Kinsman Street.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** "To Adopt" by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Chau. 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.

8. ORDINANCES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

8.1. Ordinance - Amend Fee Schedule - Body Art License.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on April 14, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Liang, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

9. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

In City Council, none.

10. PETITIONS

10.1. Claims - (4) Property Damage.

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

10.2. Misc. - Nona Juknavorian Request installation of a handicap parking sign at 119 Chapel Street.

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

10.3. Misc. - Clifford Whalen request installation of a handicap parking sign at 32 Coburn Street.

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



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10.4. Boston Gas - Request replacement of existing gas main on Fletcher Street, from Suffolk to Rock Streets.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on April 14, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, C. Descoteaux noted recent concert for bicentennial at Lowell Auditorium.

12. ADJOURNMENT

In City Council, **Motion** to Adjourn by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk