



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: April 14, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

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

1. ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed 10 present (C. Chau, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Descoteaux).

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. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of Economic Development SC April 7th; City Council Regular Meeting April 7th, for acceptance.

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

4. GENERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS (Scheduled for 7PM)

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

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to adopt by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Robinson. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C.



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Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Descoteaux). So voted.

5. UTILITY PUBLIC HEARING (Scheduled for 7PM)

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

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted.

6. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

6.1. C. Liang - Req. City Mgr. have the relevant departments explore solutions related to Khmer fonts and translation accuracy and create and adopt an internal municipality translation policy for use when materials are translated by or for the City of Lowell prior to distribution.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Liang noted that Lowell is an international City and that Khmer is a complex language and that it needs to be uniform in translation. C. Nuon noted Khmer is a unique language and that an issue remains regarding translation. C. Chau called for a review of policy and program. Manager Golden, Jr. noted work with non-profits and LTC.

6.2. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. invite an appropriate personnel member from Boston Gas to come to make a presentation to the Technology & Utilities SC on how it decides whether to repair v. replace gas mains.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager / Technology & Utilities SC. So voted. **Motion** by C. Juran, seconded by C. Nuon to take Item #6.6 with this discussion. So voted. Registered speaker, Sarah Lapp (commented - all costs to replace will be put on consumer), addressed the body. C. Juran commented on the difference in costs and there should be a better understanding of the process. C. Nuon noted it was important to advocate for the environment and the rate payer, so there



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needs to be a better understanding. C. Robinson questioned the process of review by the City. C. Scott noted replacement costs are much higher. Manager Golden, Jr. noted that other items could be discussed at subcommittee, including double poles. C. McDonough noted that the pies were old in need of repair or replacement and it is a matter of watching costs.

6.3. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. have the appropriate department evaluate ways to encourage drivers to respect the 25mph speed limit in the City, particularly in light of GPS-enabled vehicles.

In City Council, seconded by C. Liang, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted need to inform drivers of speed limit. C. Nuon requested City wide policy and enforcement. Manager Golden, Jr. Noted that they have been working with various apps to get information to drivers.

Motion by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Robinson to take Item #8.3 out of order. So voted.

6.4. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. have the appropriate departments address traffic safety concerns on East Merrimack Street east of High Street.

In City Council, seconded by C. Chau, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted the area and that some safety measures are needed.

6.5. C. Nuon - Req. the Mayor recognize the month of April as Autism Awareness Month.

In City Council, seconded by C. Chau, referred to City Manager / Mayor. So voted. **Motion** by C. Chau, seconded by C. Nuon to take Item #6.8 with this discussion. C. Nuon commented on different ways to recognize and promote understanding. C. Chau noted the need for awareness and assistance from City. C. Liang noted the need to shine the light on all people involved and to be inclusive. C. Robinson noted the need to



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promote events by all social media means. C. McDonough noted the constant struggle and the need to be inclusive and provide assistance.

6.6. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. have the appropriate department require any gas company to provide, when requesting a permit from the City of Lowell to replace a pipe or pipes, documentation explaining how the company arrived at the decision to replace the pipes as opposed to repairing them or substituting non-gas alternatives.

In City Council, seconded by C. Juran, referred to City Manager. So voted. See discussion under Item #6.2.

Motion to take Item #6.14 out of order by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

6.7. C. Chau - Req. City Mgr. provide a status update on the repairs and improvements to the public way on E Street, as originally requested on July 25, 2023.

In City Council, seconded by C. Liang, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Chau commented on the condition in that area.

6.8. C. Chau - Req. Mayor Gitschier on behalf of the City Council recognize the month of April as Autism Acceptance Month in the City of Lowell.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager / Mayor5. So voted. See discussion under Item #6.5.

6.9. C. Chau - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department look into the feasibility of installing security cameras at the municipal parking lot at Cupples Square bordered by Coral, Leroy, and Loring Streets to enhance public safety and to deter illegal dumping in the area.



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In City Council, seconded by C. McDonough, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Chau noted it was a public safety issue. C. Liang commented on the area and that cameras would prevent a lot of illegal activity. C. Nuon noted parking areas must be better lined and that business could assist with clean-up.

6.10. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. Work With The Appropriate Department to Explore The Feasibility of Permitting Seasonal Lights Or Similar Decorations Over Streets in Commercial/Mixed Use Districts.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted some relief should be given to enhance the neighborhoods.

6.11. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. provide the Council with usage options regarding waste and recycling bins regardless of age.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted bins should cater to different needs. C. Nuon noted it was a good idea as it may promote savings for the City.

6.12. C. Scott - Req. City Mgr. report on the legalities of commercial vehicles parked on public streets overnight and parking on impervious surfaces.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Scott noted residents have many questions regarding the ordinances and regulations. C. Mercier noted many commercial vehicles are parked at homes.

6.13. C. Scott / M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. work with Sustainability Council to explore cost saving measures around trash, recycling, and yard waste.



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In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Scott commented on the increase in costs and that the Sustainability Council could assist with programs to improve savings.

6.14. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department name the area of Pawtucket St. from Merrimack St. to Salem St., “Meehan Way” in Honor of UMass President Martin T. Meehan.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. Adopted per Roll Call vote, as amended, 10 yeas (C. Chau, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Descoteaux). So voted. C. McDonough commented on the area and suggested a different location. **Motion** by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Nuon to designate the area of Pawtucket Street, from Aiken Avenue to Salem Street. So voted. C. Nuon noted the tribute to President Meehan. C. Juran commented on the location change and supported the recognition. C. Liang noted President Meehan deserved honor. C. Chau noted support for the honor. C. Robinson noted the contributions of President Meehan. C. Mercier support recognition and commented on location change. M. Gitschier relinquished Chair to Vice-Chair Nuon at 7:51 PM. M. Gitschier noted the importance to put this forward and recognized the many accomplishments for the City by President Meehan. Chair returned to M. Gitschier at 7:54 PM.

7. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

7.1. Motion Responses.

A) Motion Response - JAM Area Plans - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. Chau. So voted. C. Robinson noted the challenges in the area and noticed increased enforcement. C. McDonough noted issue with dog waste. C. Liang noted area was attracting people.

B) Motion Response - Department Reports - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted. C. Juran noted the list was helpful and that there is a need for a



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central information section. C. Scott noted central location was important for monthly reporting.

C) Motion Response- Wetlands Do Not Disturb - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. C. Scott noted balancing aspects of petitions. **Motion** by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke to refer to Law Department to draft ordinance regarding a no build zone in wetlands. So voted.

D) Motion Response - Sexual Assault-Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month-Victim Rights Month - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. Chau. So voted. C. Nuon noted report identified ways to raise awareness.

7.2. Informational Reports.

Informational Report - WinterFest 2026 - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. commented on the success of the event. C. Robinson noted the amount of business involved and the positive responses.

Informational Report - Motion Tracker - Q1 2026 - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Liang, seconded by C. Scott. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. provided information of the 311 system.

7.3. Communication - Appointments to Lowell Youth Commission.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. Hunter Berube and Nyla Ojeda are appointed to the Commission.

Motion by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke to allow point of personal privilege for C. Scott. So voted. C. Scott requested information regarding recent culvert failure on Billerica Street. Manager Golden, Jr. provided up to date information regarding situation.



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Motion by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon to bundle and waive second reading for Items #8.1; 8.2; 8.4; and 8.5. So voted.

8. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

8.1. Vote - Accept Deed - 251 Church Street.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. 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, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Descoteaux). So voted. C. Juran commented on a small triangle of land and that the Manager should ensure that owner no longer using it for parking and provide a plan for the parcel.

8.2. Vote - Accept Deed - 60 Clairmont Street.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. 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, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Descoteaux). So voted. C. Juran questioned equity in the property as well as a plan for the parcel. Atty. Williams (City Solicitor) noted the program the City was using to avoid Land Court time and expense.

8.3. Vote - Accept Gift of Labor for Botto Concession Stand.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Robinson. 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, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Descoteaux). So voted. Registered speakers, Matt LeLacheur (commented - on the effort of the City and the use of the site); Brian Durkin (commented - on the contribution of the City and union, need for the project and the recognition of Steve Botto); Timothy Collins (commented - involvement of the unions); Dave Daly (commented - success of the project); John Drinkwater (commented - importance of project for the City); and many union representatives



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(commented - pride in being part of project), addressed the Council. C. Mercier noted the efforts of the trade unions. C. Juran noted the community effort in Lowell. C. Robinson noted the project was a success due to collaboration. C. Nuon noted all the groups working together. C. Chau noted the group effort and the benefit to the children. C. Rourke noted it was a special night and commented on the legacy of Mr. Botto. M. Gitschier relinquished Chair to Vice-Chair Nuon at 7:35 PM. M. Gitschier noted all the people giving back to the community and the tribute to Mr. Botto. Chair returned to M. Gitschier at 7:38 PM.

8.4. Vote - Accept/Expend \$2k Walmart Grant – Fire.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. 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, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Descoteaux). So voted.

8.5. Vote - Authorize CM Execute Annual Action Plan FY26-27.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. 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, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Descoteaux). So voted. C. Robinson commented on the rewards. Manager Golden, Jr. noted restrictions on federal funding. Camilo Espitia (DPD) noted how City disburses funds. C. Robinson noted funding for the BID project and questioned if it did not go further. Mr. Espitia noted project and how funding worked. C. McDonough expressed doubts about BID project and wondered if money would be protected. C. Juran noted it is a plan moving forward. Mr. Espitia noted a 30-day discussion period per regulations. C. Chau noted issues at federal level. C. Robinson questioned costs involved with the grants. Manager Golden, Jr. commented on costs allowed with the funding.

9. ORDINANCES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

9.1. Ordinance - Amend Fee Schedule - Clerk's Office.



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In City Council, Given 1st reading. **Motion** by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Mercier to refer matter to Public Hearing on April 28, 2026 at 7PM. So voted. M. Gitschier recused himself from vote and discussion.

10. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

10.1. Economic Development SC April 7, 2026.

In City Council, C. Robinson provided report outlining the attendance and discussion regarding TIEs and TIFs contribution to community. **Motion** by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Juran to accept the report as a report of progress. So voted.

10.2. Rules & Election Law SC April 14, 2026.

In City Council, C. Juran requested matter be moved to next week. No objections.

11. PETITIONS

11.1. Boston Gas - Request permission to replace existing cast iron gas main at 24-360 Gorham Street.

In City Council, Given 1st reading. **Motion** by C. Scott, seconded by C. Chau to refer matter to Public Hearing on April 28, 2026 at 7PM. So voted.

11.2. Boston Gas - Request permission to replace existing cast iron gas main at 67-94 Kinsman Street.

In City Council, Given 1st reading. **Motion** by C. Liang, seconded by C. Mercier to refer matter to Public Hearing on April 28, 2026 at 7PM. So voted.

11.3. National Grid - Request permission to install underground electric conduit at 50 Dracut Street.



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In City Council, Given 1st reading. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough to refer matter to Public Hearing on April 28, 2026 at 7PM. So voted.

12. CITY COUNCIL - EXECUTIVE SESSION

12.1. Executive Session - To Consider And Discuss Ongoing Negotiations Relative To The Disposition Of 41 Hurd Street, Public Discussions Of Which May Have Detrimental Effect On Negotiating Position Of The City; And Further To Consider And Discuss Collective Bargaining Strategy Under Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (A) (B), 2, 3 Of The Commonwealth Of Massachusetts General Laws, Public Discussions Of Which May Have Detrimental Effect On Bargaining Position Of The City.

In City Council, M. Gitschier stated purpose of the session, **Motion** to enter executive session and adjourn from that session by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Mercier. (8:51 PM). 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, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Descoteaux). So voted.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, C. Mercier noted Owl Diner 50-year celebration. C. Juran noted NMCOG leadership academy. C. Nuon noted Cambodian Genocide Vigil and the New Year celebrations. C. Liang noted ribbon cutting at Roberto Clemente Field and Senior Center event for new year. C. Rourke noted opening day ceremony for softball/baseball league.

14. ADJOURNMENT



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

Meeting adjourned from Executive Session at 9:39 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk