



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: April 28, 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, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Mercier).

M. Gitschier presiding.

C. Descoteaux requested moment of silence in darkened chamber for Maryann Doloff.

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. Descoteaux. So voted.

2.2. Citation.

In City Council, M. Gitschier presented citation to Erastus Mwangi (Mayor Assistant) for his completion of the Boston Marathon. Mr. Mwangi thanked the body for the recognition.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of City Council Regular Meeting April 21st, for acceptance.



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

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

4. GENERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS (Scheduled for 7PM)

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

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to adopt by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Robinson. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 recuse (M. Gitschier), 1 absent (C. Mercier). So voted. M. Gitschier recused self from discussion and vote. C. McDonough commented on the increase regarding vital records. Clerk Geary noted the vast amount of request for vital records which require heavier costs regarding security paper, envelopes and postage. C. Juran recognized the report provided regarding request for fee adjustments.

5. UTILITY PUBLIC HEARING (Scheduled for 7PM)

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

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted. Diana Duncan Cuddy (Boston Gas) outlined the petition. Jonathan Grossman voiced opposition to petition due to procedures on how Boston Gas selects replacing or repairing gas mains. C. Nuon noted upcoming meetings with utility regarding the work being done in the City. C. Scott commented on repairs to streets upon completion of the work. Ms. Cuddy commented on costs to rate payors and repair of work area. C. Nuon noted bonding by City to ensure proper repair to roads. C. Juran questioned process after approval. C. Liang noted meeting with the utility and that the City must stay ahead of repairs.



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

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Chau. So voted. Diana Duncan Cuddy (Boston Gas) outlined the petition. A resident of Kinsman Street noted the issues with potholes. C. Robinson questioned if street is newly paved would there be a higher status of repair. Manager Golden, Jr. noted that a new road would require curb to curb repair by the utility. M. Gitschier noted that the City must be a complete and thorough inspection of the work.

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

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. Alec Noel Birdsong (National Grid) outlined the petition.

6. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

6.1. C. Liang - Req. City Mgr. have the relevant departments assess the feasibility of the following measures: (1) the installation of flashing crosswalk lights on Cross Street adjacent to Market Basket, directly across from the entrance to the North Common parking lot; (2) the implementation of a speed hump; and (3) the enhancement of lighting to improve pedestrian safety in the surrounding areas, including the park.

In City Council, seconded by C. McDonough, referred to City Manager. So voted. Registered speaker, Lori Ortiz, came before body. Ms. Ortiz refused to provide address to body as prescribed by Council Rules and became belligerent regarding the request by way of threats to involve an attorney before leaving the Chamber. Registered speaker, Amada Gregory (commented - noted the issues in the area and the need to make it safer), addressed the body. C. Liang noted the safety concerns. C. McDonough



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commented on the calls regarding safety especially at the crosswalks. C. Descoteaux commented on flashing lights at intersections noting Varney Street. C. Robinson noted the presence of state property and housing authority and that they could be a partner in resolving these issues.

6.2. C. Robinson / C. Liang - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department provide a detailed explanation of the process used for City funded projects and art installations.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted that art installations due not meet community vibe. C. Liang noted the need to involve community in the process.

6.3. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department provide the City Council with a report on pros and cons of establishing a Chapter 40Y Starter Home Zoning District as well as any recommendations on possible locations.

In City Council, seconded by C. McDonough, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted the program has been at State level for some time and that it may be a good fit for Lowell. C. Scott noted current zoning may be more restrictive than the program and that information should be analyzed. C. McDonough commented on the current zoning noting the need for vacant land regarding this program. C. Chau questioned four units per acre requirement and that area must be identified. C. Robinson outlined the 40Y program. C. Juran noted it must be studied to see how it melds with current zoning. C. McDonough noted goal of increased ownership housing stock.

6.4. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department provide a pathway to resurface and remark both courts at McPherson and Eagle Park as well as trim back any overgrowth interfering with said courts.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon to allow student speakers to



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present slide show regarding item. So voted. Student speakers noted the condition of the courts and the need for repairs. C. Robinson commented on the condition of the courts and that the youth are advocating for maintenance. C. McDonough noted that community preservation funds could be used for this project. C. Scott commented that an application should be made for these funds. Manager Golden, Jr. outlined possible paths for funding. C. Descoteaux noted completion dates of the projects. C. Nuon commented on the importance of the courts. C. Nuon noted the availability of the preservation funds.

Motion by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Robinson to take Item #7.2 out of order. So voted.

6.5. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the traffic engineer examine the feasibility of installing a four way stop at the intersection of Christian, Ornsby, and Methuen Streets due to high-speed vehicular traffic.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted it was a high-speed area.

7. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

7.1. Motion Responses.

A) Motion Response - Tree Committee Update April 2026 - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. C. Juran commented on the outreach and the use of grants. M. Gitschier released Chair to Vice-Chair Nuon (7:55 PM). Katherine Moses (Sustainability) noted the interest in the committee and the use of grants. C. Juran noted that an arborist should be on the committee. M. Gitschier noted there should be funding in place for a tree warden and the purpose of the committee. C. McDonough noted the need for people to implement the plans is place. Chair returned to M. Gitschier at 8:05 PM. C. Scott noted the need for the committee under the control of the tree warden. C. Scott questioned the responsibility of utility companies regarding tree control. C. Robinson noted the need for better organization. C. McDonough commented on urban forestry and the need for a professional to be involved.



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B) Motion Response - Tiny Tots - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. C. Juran noted the restoration of the program. Conor Baldwin (CFO) commented on the funding. C. Nuon noted it was an important need for families. C. Robinson noted the need for the program to be restored and that there will be the need to restructure programming.

C) Motion Response - Rules Elections Sub Committee RE Mayoral Election - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Chau. So voted. C. Juran noted the detail in the response and the need for neighborhood involvement. C. McDonough noted the response regarding a charter review.

D) Motion Response - LHS Forensic Audit - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

E) Motion Response - Net School Spending Update - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Liang, seconded by C. Juran. So voted. C. Nuon commented on the use of the current formula and encouraged the school business office to engage in forming changes. C. Nuon commented on the use of school resource officers. Mr. Baldwin noted the concessions of the City and that the report should assist the school department, noting no response from business office. C. McDonough commented on the salaries of resource officers and supervisors as well, along with MIS funding and parking. Mr. Baldwin noted the concern with resource officers and noted MIS was per the agreement and that parking funding is via credits. C. Juran commented on the filing. Mr. Baldwin referenced the use of the current agreement and that is standard in the community and recommended by DESE.

F) Motion Response - Mayors Meeting - Regional Collaboration - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Chau. So voted. C. Robinson noted the recent interest. C. McDonough was looking forward to response and a regional approach to resolving common issues.



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G) Motion Response - Nets and Backboards St. Louis Park - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. So voted. C. Robinson noted work was completed.

7.2. Informational Reports.

Informational Report - Town and City Festival - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. Chris Porter, representing the festival, outlined the event and the schedule.

Informational Report - Budget Listening Session Update - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. Mr. Baldwin noted the success of the event providing good input and that information exists on website.

Motion by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke to take Item #8.2 out of order. So voted.

8. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

8.1. Vote - Accept/Expend \$196,367.60 FY26 State Aid to Public Libraries Program Award.

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, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Mercier). So voted.

8.2. Vote - Authorize CM to File Special Legislation - 1190 Pawtucket Boulevard.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Juran. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C.



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Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Mercier). So voted. **Motion** by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott to allow Chris Golden to address the body regarding vote. So voted. Mr. Golden supported the legislation noting construction of a veterans' home.

8.3. Vote - Transfer \$8,964 – Cemetery.

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

9. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

9.1. Finance SC April 28, 2026.

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

10. PETITIONS

10.1. Claims - (4) Property Damage.

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

11. CITY COUNCIL - EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1. 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. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. (8:45 PM). Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C.



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Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Mercier). So voted.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, C. McDonough commented on event for the Renaissance Club. C. Liang noted Coffee with Cops event. Asst. City Mgr. Machado noted recent water main break.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned from Executive Session at 9:25 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk