



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: May 12, 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. Chau, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

2.2. Proclamation - Brain Tumor Awareness Month.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted. M. Gitschier read proclamation into the record.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of Non-Profit Organizations SC May 5th; City Council Regular Meeting May 5th, for acceptance.

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



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3.2. Vote - Amend Council Meetings 6.16.26 and 6.30.26.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” 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. C. Rourke noted conflicts with new dates.

4. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

4.1. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. Provide City Council with an update on the RAISE Bridge Projects.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted current status with project and requested further updates.

4.2. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. work with Owner Project Manager [OPM] to provide the City Council with an update on fire house projects.

In City Council, seconded by C. McDonough, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted moving towards improved conditions at the fire houses.

4.3. C. Liang - Req. City Council adopt following motions approved by the Non-Profit Organizations SC: 1) Motion by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough to request City Manager provide a report to the Council outlining concrete efforts by the City to assist non-profits with grant applications to ensure compliance with new federal standards and regulations; 2) Motion by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Mercier to have City Manager provide a report outlining recent grant application review by the City regarding the process; including all communications involved with the City and non-profits.



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In City Council, seconded by C. McDonough, referred to City Manager. 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. Registered speaker, Rebecca Ludvino (commented - on prior subcommittee meeting and the new restrictive language regarding new standards), addressed the Council. C. Liang noted the need to sustain work of non-profits under new standards. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough to provide report on subcommittee under Item 10.1. So voted.

4.4. C. Scott - Req. City Mgr. have DPD hold a community forum for residents to provide input around data center zoning.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Scott noted the moratorium and that work should begin to establish concrete regulations. C. McDonough suggested an ad-hoc subcommittee be established regarding this item. C. Scott recognized need for subcommittee and that zoning subcommittee is established for this purpose. C. Juran noted prior motions for information. C. Chau noted the need for attendees at the meetings. C. Rourke noted the need for information.

4.5. C. Scott - Req. City Mgr. have the law department prepare the necessary steps to allow driveway curb cuts beyond the current 15 foot maximum allowed in the TSF Zones.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Scott commented on current regulations and the need to extend them to prevent parking on the street. C. Juran noted the need to consider the parking scheme.

4.6. C. Scott - Req. City Mgr. provide an informational update on the Billerica and Woburn St. culvert replacements.

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



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4.7. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. have MIS Department provide information on the major enhancements completed over the last 2 years and planned for the next 2 years to public-facing IT systems, including Lowell GIS, 311 and other systems, and how such enhancements and plans are communicated to the public (including when functionality is reduced).

In City Council, seconded by C. Descoteaux, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted the technology improvements need to be communicated to the residents.

4.8. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. have Parking Department provide information about the rules re: residence-based parking placards, including how issued, what happens when one is lost, how enforced, how replaced if lost, etc.

In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted the use of the system must be understood by residents. C. Descoteaux noted the Parking Department is cleaning up old placards in the system. C. McDonough noted the need for information before filling out application. C. Scott noted use of an on-line system may improve process. C. Liang noted the system could be streamlined.

4.9. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department provide an update on any planned closings of Douglas Road for electric work to the flood relief tank and how residents will be notified of any detours.

In City Council, seconded by C. Chau, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted upcoming projects for the area and that residents will need to know of traffic pattern changes.

4.10. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. have the appropriate department provide an update on canal bridge and walkway repairs; especially the sidewalk at the intersection of Market and Dutton; the canal bridge on Broadway over Western Canal; and the canal walkway through the HCID.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough requested Bridge Street area be added and that a lot of bridges are in tough shape. Manager Golden, Jr. noted a report would be joined with report for Item #4.1.

4.11. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department look into the feasibility of enhanced safety features, such as road marking and/or signage, in the area of Martin, Sparks, and Riverside Streets.

In City Council, seconded by C. Liang, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough commented on the area and the need to increase safety.

4.12. C. Rourke / C. Robinson - Req. City Council remove following item from table: "Wire Insp. Report - 1) Boston Gas - Request permission to replace existing cast iron gas main at 24-360 Gorham Street; 2) Boston Gas - Request permission to replace existing cast iron gas main at 67-94 Kinsman Street; and 3) National Grid - Request permission to install underground electric conduit at 50 Dracut Street." (Tabled 5/5/26)

In City Council, no second needed, **Motion** to remove from table. Adopted per Roll Call vote 7 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Robinson, C. Rourke), 3 nays (M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Nuon), 1 absent (C. Scott). So voted. **Motion** to accept and adopt accompanying orders by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Robinson. Adopted per Roll Call vote 7 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Mercier, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 4 nays (C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon). So voted. C. Nuon noted need to send message to National Grid regarding providing information to the City. C. Rourke noted that a representative from National Grid was present at the public hearing and answered all questions and noted that this project will not be on the rate payers. C. McDonough noted the frustration but there is a need for this project. C. Robinson noted costs would not be on rate payers, but all this would do would hold off the project. C. Juran noted total lack of information from National Grid prevents Council from doing its job.



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Motion by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang to separate out Dracut Street (St. Jeanne D'Arc School) project. Defeated per Roll Call vote 2 yeas (C. Liang, C. McDonough), 9 nays (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted. M. Gitschier released Chair to VC. Nuon at 7:55 PM. M. Gitschier noted National Grid is not responsive but safety reasons to repair gas mains must be first priority. Chair returned to M. Gitschier at 8:00 PM.

4.13. C. Robinson - Req City Mgr. have the proper departments review and provide any recommendations on carving out potential local regulations similar or in line with Senate Bill S.3077 An Act To Enhance Safe Use Of Micromobility Devices.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted an enforceable policy must be developed.

4.14. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department provide an update on the cemetery garage project.

In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted project is in the pipeline.

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

4.15. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. work with the proper departments and provide the Council with a report on any means our first responders could voluntarily donate a day's pay that could be transferred to assist the recovery of Firefighter Nick Spinale in Chelmsford.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted money needed for recovery of Mr. Spinale and the need to support any new legislation surrounding these circumstances. C. Rourke noted support of new legislation is needed.



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4.16. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. work with the proper departments to examine and report back to the Council on existing injury coverage policies surrounding our first responders and engagement at training facilities as well as any recommendations.

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

4.17. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. report back to the City Council on the status of the solar panels at Lowell High School.

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

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

5.1. Motion Responses.

A) Motion Response – CCTCI - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. So voted. C. Robinson noted the response.

B) Motion Response - Boott Hydro Relicensing FERC - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted. C. Juran noted the need to understand the process. Asst. City Solicitor French outlined the process and regulations behind them and that it is continuing. C. Juran noted possible actions based upon findings of the regulatory commission.

C) Motion Response - NGrid Appear In-Person Installations of Poles - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. C. Nuon noted the upcoming Utilities SC on May 26th.

D) Motion Response - NGrid Presentation to Sub Committee - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted. C. Juran noted subcommittee meeting upcoming on May 26th.



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5.2. Informational Reports.

Informational Report – MassMills - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. Chau. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. noted pressure to repair area and that developer has committed to that in a short manner. C. McDonough noted his discussions with the developer and that he has a better understanding of the project and was comfortable with progress moving forward.

Informational Report - Arbor Day Foundation Award 4-1-2026 - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. noted award coming from outside agency. C. Juran noted prior recognition for tree programs and suggested that be available for public view. C. Mercier noted the beauty of the trees. C. Robinson noted expertise coming to the City in this area.

6. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

6.1. Vote - Accept Timely Submission of the Budget.

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

6.2. Vote - FY2027 Budget Approved Appropriation Order.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on May 26, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Nuon, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. Registered speaker, Monica Lunberg (commented - school funding requests), addressed the body.

6.3. Vote - Accept/Expend \$467,917 Criminal Justice Response Program Grant – LPD.

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

6.4. Vote - Approve Amendment to Special Permit.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on June 16, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

6.5. Vote - Declare 9 Mill Street Court Surplus and Available for Sale.

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

7. ORDERS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

7.1. Order - 2027 Capital Plan Loan Order.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on May 26, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. C. Robinson questioned location of the park.

7.2. Order - Parking Capital Improvements Loan Order.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on May 26, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

8. ORDINANCES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

8.1. Ordinance - Amend Chapters 50 and 81 - Water and Sewer.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on May 26, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Scott. So voted.

8.2. Ordinance - Amend Sewer Rate FY27.



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In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on May 26, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

8.3. Ordinance - Amend Water Rate FY27.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on May 26, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

9. CONSTABLE BONDS

9.1. Communication - City Mgr. Request Approval of Constable Bond.

In City Council, **Motion** "To Adopt" by C. Juran, 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. The constable bond of Robert Ahearn, Jr. was approved.

10. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

10.1. Non-Profit Organizations SC May 5, 2026.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept the report as a report of progress" by C. Liang, seconded by C. Juran. So voted. C. Liang provided the report noting attendance and discussion regarding non-profit funding. C. Liang noted motions adopted by the subcommittee and presented to full Council for adoption. C. Mercier commented on the number of non-profits at the meeting and was surprised by some comments made and noted the importance of the motions. C. Rourke noted he watched the meeting and that there some misrepresentations made and that the City had done what they said they would do regarding grant funding. Camilo Espitia (DPD) noted the importance in working with non-profits and that there was a long process in preparing applications for grants and there were not many submissions. Mr. Espitia commented on the auditing and reporting compliance under the new regulations. C. Rourke requested administration reach out to our national delegation regarding assistance with applications under the new guidelines. C. McDonough noted that there may have been misrepresentations at meeting but further noted that no organization was



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awarded CDBG funds. C. Scott noted that many non-profits did not alter their mission statement to comply with regulations and that was within their rights and that there were a limited number of submitted applications. Chair was released to Vice Chair Nuon at 7:00 PM. M. Gitschier commented on the due dates of the applications. Eliot Yaffa (DPD) noted the deadlines and the review process. M. Gitschier noted that at a prior subcommittee, the City outlined the application process. Mr. Espitia outlined the review process. C. Rourke commented on grant applications and the difficulty with them. VC. Nuon returned Chair to M. Gitschier at 7:13 PM. C. Nuon noted the need for open communication regarding funding applications. C. Liang recognized the difficult process in grant applications. Manager Golden, Jr. commented on possible liability on City regarding grant applications. C. Robinson noted the need for a future plan regarding application process. C. Juran commented that we are dealing with the unknown with new regulations and that communication is paramount.

10.2. Auditor/Clerk Oversight and Personnel SC May 12, 2026.

In City Council, C. Juran requested to report next week. No objections.

11. PETITIONS

11.1. Misc. - Amigos Convenience Store (Samuel Carvalho) request installation of a "15-Minute" parking sign at 994 Central Street.

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

11.2. Misc. - Nancy Valdes request installation of a handicap parking sign at 168 High Street.

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS



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In City Council, C. Scott noted opening of O'Donnell Park would be delayed. C. Juran noted writing competition at Pollard Library. C. Chau noted opening of Callery Park. C. McDonough noted Happy To Chat program is underway. C. Rourke recognized his daughter's graduation and wife's birthday. C. Scott recognized her daughter's graduation. Manager Golden, Jr. noted his daughter's graduation.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk