



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: May 26, 2026 & June 2, 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.

C. Mercier requested moment of silence in darkened chamber for Donna M. Tevepaugh.

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.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of Rules & Election Law SC May 19th; City Council Regular Meeting May 19th, for acceptance.

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

Roll Call after recess 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). (7:00 PM)



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4. GENERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS (Scheduled for 7PM)

4.1. Vote - FY2027 Budget Approved Appropriation Order.

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to adopt FY27 Budget of \$577,861,191.00 by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 nay (C. McDonough). So voted. M. Gitschier opened meeting up to public in favor of the budget, no remonstrants. M. Gitschier opened meeting up to public in opposition of the budget. The following addressed the body: Donna Richards (commented - noted the support of the Pollard Library Trustees in the operational budget by the director of the library and that the library enhances the community); Chris Romero (commented - firefighter need protection); Donna Butt (commented - She was a 26 year employee of the City and noted concern for the termination process which would involve the union, transparency is needed); Peter Aucella (commented - on the importance of the Historic Board and its administrator, Steve Stowell); Fred Faust (commented - noted the difficulty in budgeting during challenging times and noted the importance of the Historic Board and its relationship with the National Parks); Anthony Kollar (commented - noted the importance of the administrator of the Historic Board); Deb Price (commented - noted the need to keep firefighters for public safety); and Ryan Ferrera (commented - his review of budget indicated a poorly managed use of ARPA money which caused deficit). Manager Golden, Jr. outlined the budget process noting his financial team and other partners who produced about 15 revisions before finalizing the document. The Manager noted the public participation in the process by way of open sessions for discussion. The Manager outlined recent negotiations with firefighter union through their representative Anthony Leite which included lowering costs, layoffs, COLA benefits and future funding. The Manager also commented on possible supplemental budget dependent upon state funding. **Motion** to suspend rules to allow Anthony Leite (Union Rep.) to address body by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. Mr. Leite commented about one-on-one conversations with the Manager and the progress that was made. **Motion** to review the FY2027 Budget department by department by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough.



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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. C. Juran questioned which document they were acting upon. Conor Baldwin (CFO) noted the changes made and the adjusted amount due to changes in the Fire Department budget. Mr. Baldwin indicated that the Council only votes on expenditures not revenues. C. Juran noted continued obligation to present a balanced budget and to ensure public has information. Mr. Baldwin indicated that the budget was balanced and City Solicitor Williams noted compliance to open meeting law due to a court mandate. C. Descoteaux questioned time frame for possible state funding. Mr. Baldwin outlined the legislative process and if funding is lessened there is a plan to balance budget by way of adjusting local receipts. **Motion** by C. Rourke seconded by C. Mercier to review Fire Department first. So voted.

In City Council, M. Gitschier noted the process would be to go department by department to accept amount indicated on Vote approving the budget for FY27. No objections.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Fire Department 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 commented on review of numbers deeper in the budget. Mr. Baldwin noted the use of Clear Gov software enables that. C. Liang questioned the overtime in the department. Chief Charon (LFD) noted the expenditure.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of City Council by C. Nuon, 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 noted that advertising line item. Mr. Baldwin indicated it was used for notice of public hearings. C. Liang noted the advertising costs.



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In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Mayor by C. Descoteaux, 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of City Clerk by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Descoteaux. Adopted per Roll Call vote 7 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 3 nays (C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Robinson), 1 recuse (M. Gitschier). So voted. C. Liang questioned professional service line item. Mr. Baldwin commented on it generally and that it was done with Clerk approval. C. Juran noted there were step and COLA increases for employees as possible salary adjustments. Mr. Baldwin outlined step increases for ordinance employees and union employees indicating the difference. C. McDonough noted increase in fees and revenues, but staff was reduced. Mr. Baldwin commented on revenue projections per state mandates. C. Scott noted the information available on Auditor website for any charges made. C. Nuon noted adjustments could be made a proper time. C. Robinson commented that ordinance employees should forego step increases as well and that vacant position in budget should be defunded. The Manager commented on timing of state funding and best practice is to wait that process out so that additional layoffs can be avoided. Mr. Baldwin commented on filling of positions. C. Rourke noted that if there were no layoffs then taxes would increase significantly. Austin Ball (Asst. CFO) noted tax increase of 2.5%. C. McDonough noted he could not support the budget proposed. C. Juran noted all revenue generated from this department goes into general fund. Mr. Baldwin noted it is a general fund deposit and not an enterprise fund. C. Scott noted it is up to Manager to fill positions, not Council.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of City Manager by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per Roll Call vote 11 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C.



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Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted. C. McDonough commented that he was looking for any deficiency in budget to reduce layoffs. C. Liang noted ordinance employees have no union protection. Mr. Baldwin noted union negotiations and their commitment to reducing budget. C. Robinson questioned stipend line item. Mr. Baldwin noted that they were associated with cable funding. C. Robinson noted increase in school electricity funding. C. Nuon questioned that line item as well. C. McDonough noted contracted services line item. Mr. Baldwin indicated that was the LTC contract. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough to reduce ordinary expenses by twenty thousand dollars. Motion withdrawn without objection.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of City Manager - Cultural Affairs & Special Events 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Finance 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 noted there were no budgeted ordinary expenses. Mr. Baldwin indicated that usually there are funds for printing but are not needed as budgets are digital. C. McDonough noted the salaries in this small department. Mr. Baldwin noted combining departments to create finance department. C. Nuon noted ARPA administrators. Mr. Baldwin noted the importance of administration as they close these accounts.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Auditing by C. Descoteaux, 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.



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In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Purchasing by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 2 absent (C. Nuon, C. Robinson). So voted. C. Liang questioned professional services line item. Michael Vaughn (Purchasing) noted item was used for advertising of bids. C. Juran noted telephone expenses. Mr. Vaughn indicated that it covered costs of cell phones. C. McDonough noted there could be some cost savings programs for the department. Mr. Ball noted current project regarding cutting costs of phones in the City.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Assessing by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Descoteaux. 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. C. McDonough noted advertising and seminar line items. Ellen Brideau (Assessor) noted state mandate for advertising and seminar are under a contractual stipend. C. Descoteaux noted professional services item. Ms. Brideau commented it was attached to required recertification this year. C. Juran commented on data processing expenses. Ms. Brideau noted the service was contracted out and that it was very beneficial.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Treasurer 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. C. Juran noted the postage line item. Mr. Baldwin indicated that covers all outgoing mail from the departments. C. McDonough noted tax title fees were increasing but collections were not. Ted Panagiotopoulos (Treasurer) outlined the tax taking program. Mr. Baldwin commented on tax taking process. City Solicitor Williams noted current court cases and changes needed for the program and procedures. C. Scott noted the number of court fees involved. C. Robinson questioned denying occupancy permits if not in good standing. Ms. Baez-Rose (DPD) noted that is done.



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In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses (reduced by \$15,000.00 on ordinary expenses) of Human Relations by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Robinson. 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. Liang noted abundant amount of expenses. Mr. Baldwin indicated they were training costs and event productions. C. McDonough noted that could be a thirty-thousand-dollar reduction of ordinary expenses from the department. C. Scott noted grant assistance in the department. C. Juran noted a change of grant language could assist. C. McDonough promoted cut to prevent overspending. **Motion** by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang to reduce ordinary expenses of this department by \$15,000.00. Adopted per Roll Call vote 6 yeas (M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 5 nays (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Mercier, C. Nuon). So voted. C. Liang questioned the community liaison position in the department. Neil Osborne (Human Relations) outlined the position. Manager noted the development of the position and providing a worker in the community. C. McDonough noted current cuts and that the position is questionable. **Motion** by C. McDonough to reduce salary amount of \$96,067.00 from personal services. Motion failed due to lack of a second. C. Scott noted position stemmed from prior DEI position and that community supported it.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Management Information Systems by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per Roll Call vote 6 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Mercier, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 5 nays (M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Robinson). So voted. C. Juran noted personal services account. Mr. Baldwin outlined budget process for the department. Miran Fernandez (MIS) noted funding that is kept off the tax roll. C. McDonough noted department ballooned in terms of salaries. C. Nuon noted the amount of support the department provides. Mr. Baldwin noted support of the school system which formula will be changing. C. Descoteaux noted reduction in department already. C. Chau noted importance of cyber security. C. Mercier noted prior cyber events that were dealt with. C. McDonough noted the number of vacant positions.



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In City Council, **Motion** to Waive Rule 5 to continue discussion beyond 10:00 PM by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Juran. Defeated per Roll Call vote 4 yeas (C. Chau, C. Juran, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 7 nays (C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson). So voted. M. Gitschier suggested continuing the meeting until June 2, 2026 at 6:00 PM. **Motion** by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon to continue meeting until June 2, 2026 at 6:00 PM. 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.

Date: June 2, 2026 (Public Hearing Continued from 5/26/26)
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA / Zoom (Hybrid)

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.

C. Mercier requested moment of silence in darkened chamber for Margaret M. Ryan. C. Descoteaux requested moment of silence in darkened chamber for Judy Feeley.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

Communication Remote/Zoom Participation.

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



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In City Council, M. Gitschier stated that the General Public Hearings were continued from City Council Regular Meeting (FY27 Budget Hearing) May 26, 2026 to June 2, 2026 at 6:00 PM per Council vote. Meeting continued:

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Law 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Elections by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scptt. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 present (C. McDonough), 1 nay (M. Gitschier). So voted. C. McDonough noted the costs of the voting machines. William Rosenberry (Dir. of Elections) commented the software, and licensing fees were combined. The Chair was released to Vice Chair Nuon at 6:09 PM. M. Gitschier noted that there was an ARPA position in the department and could not support that element. Chair returned at 6:11 PM.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Planning & Development by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Juran. Adopted per Roll Call vote 8 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 3 nays (M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. McDonough). So voted. C. Liang questioned costs regarding inspectors. Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD) noted cost associated with transportation. C. Juran questioned adjustments to losing the historical administrator position. Ms. Baez-Rose noted current staff in place can handle the administration and has done so already. C. McDonough noted he was disappointed with the loss of that position and noted the length of service of the employee. C. Nuon noted support for the position but need to look at bigger picture and have a plan for the possible return. C. Robinson noted the position was an important part of code enforcement. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough to cut \$153,285.00 from bottom line of department budget. C. Juran questioned how that would assist with returning administrator to



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the budget. C. Robinson indicated there was a vacancy in the department. C. Mercier noted you cannot bring people back but was upset with the elimination of the administrator. C. McDonough noted budget was about setting priorities and making choices. M. Gitschier noted if you cut you just cannot just add back in. C. Descoteaux noted calls regarding the administrator but agreed that duties could be fulfilled by the department. Ms. Baez-Rose commented on the functions of the staff. C. Scott noted requesting cut made no sense and would cause more strain on the department. C. Mercier opposed the cut. C. Robinson withdrew this motion without objections. Chair was released to Vice Chair Nuon at 6:40 PM. M. Gitschier noted ARPA position in the department and would not support same. Chair returned at 6:43 PM. C. McDonough noted that there was no rush to push this through and more work could be done on it. C. Nuon noted possible supplemental budget once more information is obtained. C. Scott questioned the supplemental budget process and noted no position should be favored over another. C. Juran questioned timing element in the budget process. Conor Baldwin (CFO) provided overview of the time frame for budget acceptance. C. Liang questioned process once the budget is approved. Mr. Baldwin commented on the process after appropriation order is approved and noted use of grants and transfers. C. Chau noted that the administrator position was unique in this budget. In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Police by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Chau. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 nay (C. McDonough). So voted. C. Nuon noted the cut of the Victim Advocate position and urged to find a way to return that position at one point. C. Robinson questioned the current staffing number. Supt. Hudon (LPD) commented on the vacant positions and the need to fill them. C. McDonough noted prior advance of money to fire department and fear would be higher taxes if could not handle such transfers. C. Liang questioned difference between comp time and overtime. Supt. Hudon outlined those differences. C. Liang questioned lease cost for substations. Supt. Hudon noted it was for the one substation and that it was highly utilized. C. Nuon noted control of overtime by the department. **Motion** by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Descoteaux to raise tax amount to 7.5% and



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return all laid off employees. C. Juran questioned the legality of such a motion. City Solicitor Corey Williams noted such a motion was not legally possible. C. Rourke noted solicitor response and state he was merely making a point of the difficult position of the City and how it was being handled. No action take on motion.

In City Council, **Motion** to accept the bottom line of the FY27 Budget by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Chau. C. McDonough noted the need to cut \$60,000.00 from DPW Budget. C. Juran questioned the amount moving forward for motion. C. Scott proposed friendly amendment to motion to include reduction of \$287,728.00 from DPW personal expenses and \$500,000.00 from DPW ordinary expenses, seconded by C. Rourke. Motion with friendly amendment as follows: **Motion** to accept bottom line of FY27 Budget reduced by \$287,728.00 (DPW-personal expenses) and \$500,000.00 (DPW-ordinary expenses) by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Chau. Defeated per Roll Call vote 3 yeas (C. Liang, C. Nuon, C. Scott), 8 nays (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Robinson, C. Rourke). So voted. M. Gitschier noted the need to know more about what is being cut. C. Descoteaux noted cuts were coming from DPW department budget. Paul St. Cyr (DPD) noted cuts and the purpose of the requested funding. Chair was released to Vice Chair Nuon at 7:19 PM. M. Gitschier noted such cuts would undermine maintenance of schools which they have built up over the past years and commented they should continue with department budgets as there is not a lot remaining. Chair returned at 7:24 PM. C. Robinson questioned the cut of \$287,728.00. Mr. Baldwin noted the position of plant supervisor along with overtime to that position.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt single line appropriation of Lowell Public Schools by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Liang. 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt single line appropriation of Greater Lowell Technical School by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per



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Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott) 1 abstain (M. Gitschier). So voted.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt single line appropriation of Essex Agricultural High School 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 questioned the number of students attending the school. Mr. Baldwin indicated that there were five.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses (reduced by \$208,728.00 - personal services) of Public Works-General by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke. 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 abstain (C. Mercier). So voted. **Motion** to reduce \$208,728.00 from personal expenses by C. Scott, seconded by C. McDonough. Adopted per Roll Call vote 7 yeas (M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 3 nays (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran), 1 abstain (C. Mercier). So voted. C. Scott noted not the time to add new position. C. McDonough recognized other similar positions in the budget. Mr. St. Cyr noted the positions.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt ordinary expenses of Public Works-City Building Utility 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 abstain (C. Mercier). So voted.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Parks and Cemetery by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Juran. 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. C. Robinson questioned line items. Manager Golden, Jr. noted they were consolidated.



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In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Health by C. Scott, seconded by C. Juran. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott) 1 nay (C. McDonough). So voted. C. McDonough noted computer software item. Lisa Golden (HHS) noted the service was for school nurses. C. McDonough commented on the loss of positions. C. Robinson noted lease savings. Mr. Baldwin noted that deletion.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Council on Aging by C. Descoteaux, 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Veterans by C. Liang, 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Recreation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Robinson. 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services and ordinary expenses of Library 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. C. Robinson noted the success of the library, including the bookmobile. Bridget Cooley (Library Dir.) commented on the budget process and oversight of bookmobile. C. McDonough commented on the effort of the director. C. Scott noted work and the service to the community.



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C. Juran noted the benefits of cross training. C. Nuon noted importance of the bookmobile.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt Unclassified - Debt Service 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt Unclassified - Unemployment by C. Liang, 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt Unclassified - Health Insurance by C. Scott, seconded by C. Descoteaux. 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt Unclassified - Retirement by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Robinson. 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt Unclassified - Medicare Tax by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Robinson. 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt Unclassified - Worker's Comp by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. 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.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt Unclassified - No. Middlesex by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. McDonough. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C.



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Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 abstain (C. Juran).
So voted.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services, ordinary expenses and debt service of Wastewater Enterprise Fund 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. C. Juran noted different amounts in item. Mr. Balwin commented on the differing amounts. C. Liang noted sewer improvements. Aaron Fox (Director) noted increase and the cleaning that is being done. C. Juran commented on expenses. Mr. Baldwin commented on the formula and how expenses are coded.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services, ordinary expenses and debt service of Parking Enterprise Fund by C. Descoteaux, 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. McDonough commented on enforcement officers going beyond downtown. Terry Ryan (Parking Dir.) commented once staff grows, there will be better coverage. C. McDonough noted indirect costs in the budget. Mr. Baldwin noted the formula regarding indirect costs. C. McDonough noted parking for school employees. Mr. Baldwin broke down use of parking for employees of the City. C. Scott noted professional service line item. Mr. Ryan indicated it was the lease for LAZ Parking.

In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services, ordinary expenses and debt service of Water Enterprise Fund 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. C. McDonough noted indirect costs and services. Mr. Baldwin noted use by City departments. C. Liang commented on indirect costs and professional services. Mr. Fox outlined those expenditures. Chair was released to Vice Chair Nuon at 8:35 PM. M. Gitschier noted that there is no certified lab person at the facility and that is why costs increase. Chair returned 8:40 PM.



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In City Council, **Motion** to adopt personal services, ordinary expenses and debt service of Solid Waste & Recycling Enterprise Fund by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Liang. 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 recuse (C. Mercier). So voted. C. Scott noted indirect costs. Mr. Baldwin noted it was the first year of the fund.

4.2. Order - 2027 Capital Plan Loan Order.

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to adopt and refer to Clerk's Office for 20 days 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.

4.3. Order - Parking Capital Improvements Loan Order.

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to adopt and refer to Clerk's Office for 20 days by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Liang). So voted. C. Juran questioned if funds would be going towards elevator at Downes Garage. Austin Ball (Asst. CFO) noted current assessment for repair and when complete funding will follow. C. McDonough questioned the life span of garages. Mr. Baldwin noted prior study done that will have to be updated for more current information.

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

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to adopt by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Mercier. Adopted per Roll Call vote 8 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke), 3 nays (M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. Scott). So voted.



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C. Scott commented on the minimum tier assessment. Mr. Baldwin noted the current work of the consultant to review the policy to benefit the City.

4.5. Ordinance - Amend Sewer Rate FY27.

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to adopt by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Descoteaux. Adopted per Roll Call vote 7 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke), 4 nays (M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Scott). So voted.

4.6. Ordinance - Amend Water Rate FY27.

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to adopt by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Chau. Adopted per Roll Call vote 7 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke), 4 nays (M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Scott). So voted.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

5.1. Motion Responses.

A) Motion Response - ARPA Jobs - Position Data - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. C. Mercier noted the report.

5.2. Informational Report.

Bicentennial Celebration Thank you - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. commented on recent picture of elected officials and requested to send letter of thanks to those who organized it.

5.3. Communication - Appointment of Camilo Espitia to Monument Committee.

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



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5.4. Communication - City Manager request approval of Out of State Travel (1) LPD.

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.

6. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

6.1. Vote - Approve ORR Permit for Smokehouse Tavern.

In City Council, C. McDonough objected to waiving second reading, no action on matter. C. Robinson questioned criteria for applicants. Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD) commented on criteria and checks. C. Robinson noted the need for more information on this applicant. C. Descoteaux noted prior infractions which should be part of the criteria. C. Mercier noted resident concerns. C. McDonough noted resident concerns and that the City should have more time to vet this applicant. C. Nuon noted assistance by the City for businesses in the area.

Motion to suspend the rules to discuss transfer of funds in the Fire Department budget for overtime payments by C. Scott, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. **Motion** to remove from Table Vote dated May 19, 2026 entitled “To transfer funds to balance various projected deficits in certain Lowell Fire Department S&W accounts” by C. Scott, 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 adopt above vote removed from table by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 nay (C. Juran). So voted.

7. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

7.1. Rules & Election Law SC May 19, 2026.



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In City Council, C. Juran provided report outlining the attendance and discussion regarding boards and commissions, open meeting law and public participation. C. McDonough noted the focus on public participation, which would be enhanced if the Manager's portion of the agenda was moved to the front. **Motion** to accept the report as a report of progress by C. Liang, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

7.2. Technology and Utilities SC May 26, 2026.

In City Council, C. Liang requested to provide report at next meeting of June 16, 2026. No objections.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, C. McDonough noted upcoming event for the Middlesex Academy Charter School. M. Gitschier noted opening game for the Lowell Spinners. In City Council June 2, 2026 C. Mercier noted bingo at Senior Center; C. McDonough noted tennis team championship at Lowell High School; and M. Gitschier noted graduates from Lowell High School and the Collegiate Charter School.

Motion by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon to recess for five minutes before scheduled public hearings. So voted. (6:54 PM)

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk



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