



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: June 30, 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 Beverly Anthes and John “Jack” Baldwin, father of Conor Baldwin (CF0).

2. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2.1. Communication Remote/Zoom Participation .

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

2.2. Presentation - Declaration of Independence.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. Representatives Elliott and Hong presented commemorative copy of the Declaration of Independence.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of Public Safety SC June 16th; City Council Regular Meeting June 16th, for acceptance.



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

4. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

4.1. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. ask the proper department to discuss the recent prevalence of odors: what is causing the issue and how Wastewater is addressing it.

In City Council, seconded by C. Liang, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted odor was more prevalent and stronger and that information should be sent out to public. C. Robinson noted information provided by the department is helpful and Mr. Fox (Director) does a good job at that through the neighborhood meetings.

Motion by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Rourke to take Item #5.2 (Informational Reports) out of order. So voted.

4.2. C. Juran - Req. City Auditor present to the Finance SC a brief financial summary of FY26 after the books are closed.

In City Council, seconded by C. Descoteaux, referred to City Manager/City Auditor. So voted. C. Juran requested general information regarding last budget.

4.3. C. Juran / C. Scott - Req. City Mgr. ask proper department to consider options for addressing safety concerns at intersection of Lawrence Street and Billerica Street.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted it was a complicated intersection. C. Scott commented it was still a dangerous intersection even with work that has been done.

4.4. C. Descoteaux - Req. City Mgr. provide the necessary steps in order to increase the number of “all alcohol” package store licenses.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Chau, referred to City Manager. So voted. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Descoteaux to refer matter to Economic Development SC. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 2 nays (M. Gitschier, C. Liang). So voted. C. Descoteaux noted it was population driven but was looking to expand the number. Atty. Corey Williams (City Solicitor) noted special legislation would need to be drafted to invoke such a change. C. Scott questioned if there was a waiting list for those licenses. C. Juran noted it was an open-ended request and that she needs more information. Atty. Williams noted item could be put on License Commission agenda for discussion. C. Chau noted that small business should be promoted. C. Rourke noted the need for further discussion and License Commission input. C. McDonough commented that the location of these stores is important as well. C. Nuon requested more information. C. Liang noted the health and safety consideration. Chair was relinquished to Vice Chair Nuon at 7:21 PM. M. Gitschier commented that there was no need for any more establishments and that he would not support any changes. Chair returned at 7:23 PM. C. Scott noted she was in favor of getting more information.

Motion by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Robinson to take Item #9.1 out of order. So voted.

4.5. C. Descoteaux - Req. City Mgr. update the Council on the implementation of automated traffic enforcement cameras on school buses.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Descoteaux noted the use of cameras in other communities and requested status update. C. Rourke commented on the need for the school administration to enter into contract. Manager Golden, Jr. noted all the information has been sent to the school administration.

Motion by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon to take Items #4.8 and #4.13 out of order. So voted.



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4.6. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. Have the Proper Department Explore the Illumination of the Daley School Basketball Courts and Work with the Neighborhood to Discuss Thoughts and Concerns.

In City Council, seconded by C. Scott, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted resident concerns with use and lighting. C. Descoteaux noted park gets a lot of use and lights would be a good addition.

4.7. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. Explore Alternative Contracts Beside the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ' Group Insurance Commission (GIC).

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon requested to review possible options for same coverage at lesser cost as the GIC increases every year. C. Descoteaux noted the process to get insurance. Conor Baldwin (CFO) noted the current agreement and the required notice to not renew the contract. Mr. Baldwin noted an RFP process would need to be used as a consultant is needed to assist with review so financial implications can be discussed.

4.8. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. Work with the Appropriate Department to Promote and Support Residents Who Wish to Create and Maintain Bee Pollinator Gardens.

In City Council, seconded by C. Descoteaux, referred to City Manager. So voted. Registered speaker, Lisa Mosca (commented - supported the motion), addressed the Council. C. Nuon noted the speaker and her expertise in the matter and that many residents have made requests. C. Juran noted that policy should be expanded to include flowerings and other means of pollinating to improve biodiversity. C. Robinson made note of current gardens.

4.9. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department address overgrowth at various intersections throughout the City creating unsafe conditions.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted it was that time of year and that they should stay ahead of it to maintain safety.

4.10. C. Robinson / M. Gitschier / C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department take the necessary steps to place the Lowell Fire Chief position back into Civil Service prior to filling this anticipated vacancy.

In City Council, no second needed, **Motion** failed 4 yeas (C. Liang, M. Gitschier, C. McDonough, C. Robinson), 7 nays (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted. C. Robinson noted that with upcoming vacancy should put hire back on the list. C. McDonough noted it was an opportunity to enhance the candidate list. C. Juran noted other positions moved out of civil service and had questioned regarding steps to be taken and needs a better understanding of the process. C. McDonough noted it should be part of general policy discussion. C. Rourke noted timing to fill current position compared to timing to place position in civil service as special legislation would be needed. C. Mercier questioned the protection of the civil service. Atty. Williams commented on different protections afforded by civil service as opposed to contract employee. C. Robinson commented that civil service was not any different than other positions. C. Scott noted move off civil service provided more flexibility for the Manager. Atty. Williams outlined the process for civil service. C. Mercier noted the importance of having correct information on the floor. Atty. Williams noted a home-rule petition was needed. C. Liang questioned time frame for steps needed to be taken. Manager Golden, Jr. commented on the process of legislature hearing a home-rule petition. Chair was relinquished to Vice Chair Nuon at 8:08 PM. C. Liang noted move should be for all positions. M. Gitschier noted prior action to remove from civil service and that returning same would bring stability and fairness to the process. Chair returned at 8:15 PM. C. Juran noted it was a complex issue and would need a report regarding pros and cons before a decision can be made. C. Rourke noted prior vote and that options were taken away due to the civil service list and that time is needed to move through the process of returning to the list. C. Nuon noted



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overtime concern in the department and any candidate needs a plan to control it.

4.11. C. McDonough - Req. City Code Ordinance Article IX 266-121; 266-122; 266-123; 266-124; 266-125 and 266-125.1 be amended by removing from each subsection; "CPI adjustment. All parking rates in this section shall be adjusted upward (but not downward) annually based on the Consumer Price Index plus 1% each July 1, effective July 1, 2025. Adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest quarter, " and inserting in its place "All parking rates in this section shall only increase by a majority vote of the City Council. "

In City Council, seconded by C. Liang, referred to City Manager / Finance SC. So voted. **Motion** by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott to refer to Finance SC. So voted. C. McDonough noted Council votes on other fee increases and would give some flexibility regarding adjustments. C. Juran noted it should be for all rates and that ordinance was created to keep the enterprise fund solvent. Terry Ryan (Parking Director) noted that transient rate was not increased. Mr. Baldwin provided some analysis. M. Gitschier questioned why transient rate was not increased. C. Scott noted ordinance was tied to the cost of inflation and questioned if someone was auditing enforcement of the ordinance. Mr. Baldwin noted some discussion regarding increase of rates during construction but was not aware that transient rate was not increased. C. Rourke noted need to have the fund solvent and that this was a fair approach. Mr. Baldwin noted that all budget forecasts included rate increases. Chair relinquished to Vice Chair Nuon at 8:40 PM. C. McDonough noted the issue with indirect costs and free parking for school department. M. Gitschier noted that transient rate increase was part of the budget forecast and was in disbelief that it had not been done. Mr. Baldwin noted each garage was reviewed and that transient rate will be increased. Chair returned at 8:50 PM. C. Rourke noted all increases must be in play.

4.12. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. provide a report of all enforcement action taken over the last 24 months at 105 Market St.; the report should include building and sanitary code violations, liquor license violations,



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and all other pertinent communication between the city and the property owner regarding the premises and the business operating at the address.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted the establishment and the concerns of residents downtown. C. Descoteaux noted this should be before License Commission. C. Rourke noted all reports should be included and if there is a problem Council should deal with it. C. Descoteaux noted that License Commission can roll back the hours with no rights of appeal for the establishment.

4.13. C. McDonough / C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. work with the appropriate department to request the installation of a crosswalk on Chelmsford St./Rt. 110 between Parker and Waite Streets.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. So voted. Registered speakers, Valerie Saykina (commented - noted area and support of motion) and Paul Hyre (commented - need to provide safety for children), addressed the Council. C. McDonough noted he was familiar with the area, and the residents have many concerns. C. Chau noted the area and that there is a need to improve. M. Gitschier noted area had no sidewalks. C. Mercier commented on the regulations regarding curb cuts. Manager Golden, Jr. noted current plans for that corridor.

4.14. C. Robinson / M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department provide the Council with a detailed comparison report on commercial price per square foot in downtown business districts of Lowell, Methuen, Haverhill, and Lawrence.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted the vacancy rate, and price may be an issue so data is needed to exam.

4.15. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. update the City Council on the status of the creation of a Tree Committee.



Michael Q. Geary
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In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. M. Gitschier need to be established quickly so that they can assist with establishing regulations.

4.16. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. have the Traffic Engineer look at adding active crosswalk signals on Gorham Street at Manchester Street along with school zone signage.

In City Council, seconded by C. Scott, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Scott commented on the location and that Transportation Engineer is working on matter. C. Descoteaux questioned use of crossing guards. M. Gitschier noted need to update signage.

4.17. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. update the City Council on the status of the audit of the Lowell High School Building Project.

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

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

5.1. Motion Responses .

A) Motion Response - Parking Placards Update - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. C. Juran requested additional information added to the website.

B) Motion Response - Commercial Vacancy - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Scott. So voted. C. Nuon noted the report and commented on ways to assist filling the buildings. C. Juran noted data be put on website as per ordinance. Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD) commented on sale of property procedures to assist owners. C. Robinson noted owners must be held accountable and identified Hookslide Kellys. Manager Golden, Jr. noted continued pressure and engagement with owners.

C) Motion Response - Curbcuts - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and



Michael Q. Geary
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Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

place on file” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. C. Scott was disappointed with response. **Motion** by C. Scott, seconded by C. McDonough to refer to Law Department to draft ordinance regarding second driveways. So voted.

D) Motion Response - Seasonal Lights - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. C. McDonough noted it was a good report.

5.2. Informational Reports .

Informational Report - NMCOG Annual Report - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Juran. So voted. Jennifer Raitt (Ex. Director NMCOG) noted report was done annually for the City and surrounding regional projects. Ms. Raitt described the organization along with the goals and membership. Kelly Lynena (Dep. Dir. NMCOG) described local and regional projects and the funding aspects of them. Ms. Raitt noted future projects. C. Robinson noted efforts of the organization commenting on expansion of housing service plan.

Informational Report - Traffic Ordinance - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. commented on elements of the report. C. Rourke commented on the location of stop signs. C. Chau noted Baltimore Avenue item. C. Juran noted confusion as to what was in place in that area. C. McDonough noted Warren Street handicap spaces. C. Descoteaux commented on West Albert Street width.

5.3. Communication - Resignation of Titiana Tambi from Library Board of Trustees .

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

Motion to bundle Items #6.1 and #6.3 to #6.6 and waive second reading by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.



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6. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

6.1. Vote - Accept/ Expend \$28k Jail/Arrest Diversion Program Grant .

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Scott), 2 absent (C. Robinson, C. Rourke). So voted. C. Juran had question regarding funding.

6.2. Vote - Approve ORR Permit for Smokehouse Tavern .

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. Motion failed per Roll Call vote 0 yeas, 10 nays (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Rourke). So voted. C. McDonough noted problems with the establishment. C. Mercier did not consider it a restaurant and that it had many problems. C. Descoteaux questioned if kitchen was on premises. Ms. Baez-Rose indicated that one was permitted. C. Robinson noted application should have been rejected.

6.3. Vote - Authorize CM Enter License Agreement with On the Bun, LLC.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Scott), 2 absent (C. Robinson, C. Rourke). So voted.

6.4. Vote - Authorize CM Ex. Contract with Sealcoating, Inc. dba Indus .

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Scott), 2 absent (C. Robinson, C. Rourke). So voted.

6.5. Vote - Set FY2027 Revolving Fund Spending Limits .



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
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In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Scott), 2 absent (C. Robinson, C. Rourke). So voted.

6.6. Vote - Transfer \$20k - Disability Commission Revolving Fund 2026 .

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Scott), 2 absent (C. Robinson, C. Rourke). So voted.

7. ORDINANCES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

7.1. Ordinance - Amend Chapter 125 - Canvassers and Solicitors .

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

8. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

8.1. Technology and Utilities SC May 26, 2026.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept the report as a report of progress” by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted. C. Liang provided the report noting prior discussions and attachment to the minutes.

8.2. Public Safety SC June 16, 2026.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept the report as a report of progress” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. C. Nuon provided a report outlining the attendance and discussion regarding the Citizen Advisory Committee and claim procedures in the City.

8.3. Non-Profit Organizations SC June 30, 2026.



Michael Q. Geary
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Angela M. Gitschier
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In City Council, C. Liang requested report be put on at next meeting. No objections.

9. PETITIONS

9.1. Claims - (3) Property Damage.

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to Law Department for report and recommendation by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. Mr. Fernando Sousa commented on his claim and the condition of roadway.

Motion to bundle and give first reading to Items #9.2 to #9.7, inclusive by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted.

9.2. National Grid - Request installation of underground electric conduit from 240 Central Street to rear of 278 Central Street.

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

9.3. Boston Gas - Request replacement of existing cast iron gas main with low pressure gas main at 31-52 Queen Street.

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

9.4. Boston Gas - Request replacement of leak-prone gas main from Jackson Street to Central Street.

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

9.5. Boston Gas - Request replacement of existing coated steel 3-inch gas main from 230 to 245 Seventh Avenue.



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

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

9.6. Boston Gas - Request replacement of existing leak-prone gas main from 214 to 221 Sixth Avenue.

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

9.7. Boston Gas - Request replacement of existing steel gas main with plastic main at 190-261 Seventh Avenue.

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

9.8. National Grid - Request installation of utility pole at Westford Street and 15 Technology Drive.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on July 28, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Juran. So voted.

9.9. National Grid - Request installation of utility poles, (1) at 1270 Westford Street and (1) at 1299 Westford Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on July 28, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Scott. So voted.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS



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In City Council, C. Juran noted upcoming detour on Douglas Road as well as the open house at Duck Island. C. Mercier noted ribbon cutting at O'Donnell Park. Manager Golden, Jr. noted upcoming 4th of July events.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk