



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: October 6, 2026
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor,
Lowell, MA / Zoom (Hybrid)

1. ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed 9 present (C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Chau).

M. Gitschier presiding.

C. Mercier requested moment of silence in darkened chamber for former City Solicitor Thomas E. Sweeney.

2. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2.1. Communication Remote/Zoom Participation.

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

2.2. Proclamation - Hispanic Heritage Month.

Recognition:

Amada Gregory
Annie Martinez
Andre's Lopez
Betsy Toro
Jose De Jesus Cervantes
Carmen Bermudez
Maria Claudio

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. M. Gitschier read the proclamation. C. Robinson



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

recognized the above for their efforts to improve life in the community and presented each with a citation.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of City Council Regular Meeting September 22nd, for acceptance.

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

Motion to take Items #5.8 and #6.4 out of order by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted.

4. UTILITY PUBLIC HEARING (Scheduled for 7PM)

4.1. Boston Gas - Request to relocate gas main on Stockbridge Avenue.

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. Diana Durcan-Cuddy (Boston Gas) outlined the petition.

4.2. Boston Gas - Request to replace gas mains along Lawrence and Woburn Streets.

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Scott, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted. Diana Durcan-Cuddy (Boston Gas) outlined the petition.

4.3. Boston Gas - Request to replace gas mains on Leroy, Canal and Grove Streets.

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



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

Mercier. So voted. Diana Durcan-Cuddy (Boston Gas) outlined the petition.

4.4. Boston Gas - Request to replace gas mains on Llewellyn, Beacon, Third and Bennett Streets.

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Juran, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted. Diana Durcan-Cuddy (Boston Gas) outlined the petition.

Motion to take Items #10.4 out of order by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

5. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

5.1. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. contact Lowell's state delegation to advocate for legislation to no longer make a voter inactive if they miss the annual municipal census form.

In City Council, seconded by C. McDonough, failed per Roll Call vote 4 yeas (M. Gitschier, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon), 5 nays (C. Descoteaux, C. Juran, C. Mercier, C. Robinson, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Chau). So voted. C. Nuon noted legislation gave election directors a different means to move voters to the active list through a post office data base. C. Nuon suggested sending a letter of support to delegation supporting proposed legislation. C. Juran noted she had not seen the bills and that there could be some issues and concerns regarding the use of the post office. C. Scott noted concern on how it would work and a lot is not known about the process. C. Mercier noted her reservations and that the focus should be prevention of fraud. C. Nuon stated that the failure to fill out census form should not be a reason to remove voters from the roll. C. Robinson recognized the spirit of the motion but noted the other means to be placed back on the voter rolls. C. McDonough noted the need for a better process but was not sure how this would work.



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

5.2. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. provide a report about the implementation of state law relative to making voters inactive which will include recommendation for better educating voters about their voting status approaching an election.

In City Council, seconded by C. Liang, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted the need to find ways to make it easier for voters to be engaged. C. Scott agreed with educating the voters.

5.3. C. Nuon / C. Liang - Req. City Mgr. work with appropriate department to update City Council regarding installation of Cambodian Town's banners along Middlesex Street.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted the banners are ready to be replaced. C. Liang noted upgrades in the area and that banners should be added.

5.4. C. Liang - Req. City Mgr. / City Clerk offer language support and interpretation services to registered speakers, available upon request, during City Council, Board, Commission and community meetings, whether held virtually or in person.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Liang noted the need of the community members.

5.5. C. McDonough - Request the city manager work with the appropriate departments to explore all available options for increasing compliance with the city's noise ordinance as it relates to dumpster services.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted the issue was consistent and that there are a lot of vendors violating the ordinance. C. Robinson noted the persistent issue and that raising fines could be a solution. City Solicitor Williams responded that raising fines would involve special legislation.



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

5.6. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department explore and provide a potential path towards the addition of a skatepark in Centralville including possible locations.

In City Council, seconded by C. Scott, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted this type of area could get many of them off the street and commented on possible funding sources.

5.7. C. Robinson - Req City Mgr. have the proper department work with the Housing SC to explore a land co-op model for the opportunity to increase affordable homeownership.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted that new opportunity could be present by use of this new housing model, though it may be non-traditional. Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD) requested time to explore model and present findings to the Housing SC. C. Descoteaux noted such a report would provide information regarding the model.

5.8. C. Robinson / M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. reach out to all tax exempt, community partners such as ULowell, MCC, LHA, etc. to explain the current fire staffing situation and ask for voluntary assistance with preventing brownouts.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. So voted. Registered speakers, Pat McCabe (comment - speaking as a resident and noted the number of calls by the department for those entities; noted overtime was not related to sick time abuse) and Bill Harland (comment - supported the motion and welcomed money from an outside source), addressed the Council. C. Robinson noted request is based on a need for money and that staffing effects overtime budget of department. C. McDonough noted the fire expenses in school spending and that all entities should pay for those same expenses. C. Descoteaux commented on the staffing and overtime and questioned the number of new hires pending. Manager Golden, Jr. indicated that there would be 6-9 new hires. C. Nuon



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

noted the overtime in the department cannot be sustained and that is an ongoing problem. C. Nuon noted the need to better understand staffing and overtime relationship. C. Scott questioned current taxing of these entities and how does it stand today. Conor Baldwin (CFO) commented on requests made to these entities and that they are tax exempt per state law. C. Scott noted retirements will affect the level of staffing in the department. C. Liang supports additional funding sources but realized the overtime must be put in order. C. Mercier noted public safety is the number one priority. Chair relinquished to Vice Chair Nuon at 7:16 PM. C. Juran noted the need to understand interplay of resources with other entities. M. Gitschier commented on prior budgets and noted that there is no abuse with the overtime as they are following applicable law. M. Gitschier noted administration made a mistake in funding overtime as opposed to putting resources to hiring and that staffing correlates with overtime. M. Gitschier noted government created this problem. Chair returned at 7:30 PM.

5.9. M. Gitschier / C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department start the process to fill the vacant District 1 City Council seat.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. So voted. See discussion under Item #7.2.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

6.1. Motion Responses.

A) Motion Response - 40Y District - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. C. Robinson noted the different opportunity to increase housing.

B) Motion Response - Fire Chief Hiring Process - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Scott, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted. Chair relinquished to Vice Chair Nuon at 8:45 PM. M. Gitschier noted the response and commented that it was important for public to see the process unfolding regarding the hiring. M. Gitschier noted importance for large entities to be involved as well. Manager Golden, Jr.



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

outlined the hiring process; noting use of committee to assist. Chair returned at 8:50 PM.

C) Motion Response - Hiring Practices and Background Check - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. C. Nuon commented on the need to provide thorough checks with all individuals associated with City. Mr. Baldwin commented on the process for checking and noted upgrades to procedures. Chair relinquished to Vice Chair Nuon at 8:55 PM. M. Gitschier commented on the absence of the HR Director noting he is in charge of policies and procedures regarding checks and further noted that current hiring practices are a disaster. Chair returned at 9:00 PM. Mr. Baldwin provided background for his involvement to the response.

D) Motion Response - MIS Tech Improvements - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Liang, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. C. Juran noted that the Council should be aware of the technology upgrades in the City.

E) Motion Response - Support Letter Senate 3064 - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

F) Motion Response - 24-hour Shelter Winter Protocol - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Scott, seconded by C. Juran. So voted. C. Scott noted the invitation to the delegation regarding discussion of this issue. C. Juran commented on available facilities in the City which would assist with the housing crunch. Manager Golden, Jr. noted his discussions with various partners emphasizes housing over shelters.

G) Motion Response - Former City Councilor - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. C. McDonough commented on the request and noted that ethics rules should be tight.

H) Motion Response - Hot Pot - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted. C. Nuon



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

noted matter was still in litigation and requested City Solicitor keep the body informed of any change in status.

I) Motion Response - Advertising Vendors - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Liang, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. C. Liang commented on the report and noted a purchasing line item. Mr. Baldwin noted that item involved charges to the Purchasing Department.

6.2. Information Report.

Informational Report - UML Safety Zone - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Scott, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. commented on the development and purpose of the report.

6.3. Communication - Resignations of Members from Various Boards and Commissions.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. Antonia Bryant resigned from the Lowell Youth Commission. Brad Buitenhuis resigned from the Conservation Commission. Manager Golden, Jr. noted Mr. Buitenhuis was resigning from Community Preservation Committee and that was accepted as well.

6.4. Communication - Appointments to Lowell Youth Commission.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Scott, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. The following were appointed to the Lowell Youth Commission: Dylan Quinones; Avry McKiernan; and Ariana Martinez. Ms. McKiernan addressed and thanked the Council.

7. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

7.1. Vote - Accept Gift of \$1,000 from the Demoulas Foundation.



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Chau). So voted.

Motion to bundle and waive second reading for Items #7.3 and #7.4 by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon.

7.2. Vote - Approve Special Election Schedule.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt as Ammended” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. McDonough. Adopted per Roll Call vote 6 yeas (M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Robinson). So voted. C. Mercier commented on discussions and proposal of the Election Department. Chair relinquished to Vice Chair Nuon at 7:45 PM. M. Gitschier questioned the timing and noted it was not good as it was a short window. William Rosenberry (Election Director) outlined the proposal, noting relevant dates and statutory timelines involved with an election. M. Gitschier noted it was undemocratic to have a short period to prepare for an election by the candidates. C. McDonough noted concern with time. C. Scott discussed the reasoning of date selection. Chair returned at 7:50 PM. Mr. Rosenberry outlined the process of choosing a date and setting a calendar. C. Nuon looked to setting a later date and proposed amended motion to change date from December 15, 2026, to February 2, 2027, and to set election calendar to reflect that date. C. Descoteaux noted concern with a late date. C. Liang noted the need for more time for voters. C. Juran indicated the need for a replacement but would be willing to go to a longer date.

7.3. Vote - Authorize CM Ex. Contract with TRC Environmental Corp.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Chau). So voted.



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

7.4. Vote - Transfer \$183k - Ride Share.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** "To Adopt" by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Chau). So voted.

7.5. Vote - Transfer \$43k – Salaries.

In City Council, M. Gitschier withdrew the vote from agenda. No objections.

8. ORDERS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

8.1. Loan Order - Land Acquisition - 276 Broadway - Senior Center.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on October 20, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted.

9. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

9.1. Neighborhoods SC September 15, 2026.

In City Council, C. Scott provided report outlining the attendance and the discussion regarding community benefits agreements. **Motion** to accept the report as a report of progress by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

9.2. Rules & Election Law SC October 6, 2026.

In City Council, C. Juran requested to provide report at next meeting. No objections.

9.3. Wire Inspector Reports:

1) National Grid - Request installation of two 4-inch conduits on South Highland Street near Gorham Street;



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

2) Boston Gas - Replace existing gas mains on Aiken Street and Avenue, Dalton Street and Court, Exeter Street, due to CSO sewer work; and

3) Boston Gas - Replace replacement of existing 55 feet of gas main with new gas main at 47 Fulton Street.

In City Council, **Motion** to accept and adopt orders by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

10. PETITIONS

10.1. Claims - (6) Property Damage.

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to Law Department for report and recommendation by C. Juran, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted.

10.2. Misc. - Michael Malvesti requests installation of proper sidewalk infrastructure along Acropolis Road.

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

10.3. Misc. - Sokmey Phe request installation of a "15 Minute" parking sign at 89 Loring Street.

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

10.4. Misc. - Kenneth Harkins request to address City Council regarding the condition of the City cemetery.

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to City Manager for report and recommendation by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. Mr. Harkins addressed the body noting the condition of the cemetery and that it was a facility of the City which should be maintained. C. Robinson questioned if this was outsourced. Shawn Machado (Asst. City Mgr.) noted



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

the vendor who had the contract. C. McDonough commented on the care of the cemetery.

Motion to take Items #5.9; #6.1D; and #7.2 out of order by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Juran. So voted.

10.5. Misc. - Yolanda Irizarry request installation of a handicap parking sign at 33 4th Street.

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

10.6. Misc. - Phillip Fryns requests installation of a handicap parking sign at 55 London Street.

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

11. CITY COUNCIL - EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1. Executive Session - To Consider And Discuss Ongoing Negotiations Relative To HCID Parcel 15 (Wexford Development, LLC), Public Discussion Of Which Could Have A Detrimental Effect On The City's Position; And Further To Consider And Discuss The Deployment Of Security Personnel Or Devices, Or Strategies With Respect Thereto; Flock Cameras; And Further To Consider And Discuss Potential Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement With Lowell Housing Authority, Public Discussion Of Which Could Have A Detrimental Effect On The City's Position.

In City Council, M. Gitschier stated purpose of the session, **Motion** to enter executive session and adjourn from that session by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. (9:21 PM). Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Chau). So voted.



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, C. Juran commented on upcoming flag raising event. C. Descoteaux noted dedication to the Judges at Tyler Park. Ms. Baez-Rose noted upcoming data center discussion. M. Gitschier noted grand opening at Draper Industries.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned from Executive Session at 11:00 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk