



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

Councillor McDonald, Chair
Councillor Taylor, Vice Chair
Councillor Condon
Councillor Luong
Councillor Sica
Councillor Simonelli

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

5:30 PM

City Hall, Room 105
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Joint meeting with Rules & Ordinance

Watch the meeting with Teams: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8rvek2>

Roll Call

Councillor Winslow called the Rules & Ordinance Committee to order at 5:36 PM.
Councillor McDonald called the Finance Committee to order at 5:36 PM. They did not immediately have a quorum but Councillor Luong arrived shortly after the meeting began and Council President Linehan sat it to complete the quorum.
Councillors Condon and Simonelli arrived at 5:48 PM in time for the finance discussion.

Also in attendance were Chuck Ranaghan, Dan Grover, and Zaheer Samee.

Present: 9 - Carey McDonald, Ari Taylor, Paul Condon, Michelle Luong, Chris Simonelli, Stephen Winslow, Karen Colon Hayes, Peg Crowe and Amanda Linehan
Absent: 4 - Paul Condon, Jadeane Sica, Chris Simonelli and Ryan O'Malley

Minutes to be Approved

[164-26](#)

Joint Finance R/O Minutes of February 3, 2026 to be approved.

On behalf of the Rules and Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Crowe, seconded by Colon Hayes, that the Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Councillor Simonelli, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that the Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Business

[158-26](#)

Be it ordained by the Malden City Council that the Code of the City of Malden (MCC) 2.24.030 PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS, TRAFFIC, WATER, SEWER AND CEMETERY SALARY SCHEDULE is hereby amended by adding the updated salary schedule chart effective July 1, 2024

Sponsors: Stephen Winslow

Attachments: [DPW Salary Charts 25-26](#)

[Final Paper 158-26 Public Works Salary Schedule Ordinance Amendment](#)

The Department of Public Works budget includes all the departments as listed in the wording of the paper. This bargaining unit has been without a contract for almost two years, since July 1, 2024. On March 3, 2026 a new contract was signed and so this paper is to get the current rank & file employees current just to this year. There was no discussion regarding increasing employee salary for next three years, which was typically how COLA was done in the past. In addition to COLA, an extra 0.25 per hour is being given to CDL license holders.

A motion was made by Colon Hayes, seconded by Crowe, that the Ordinance be recommended favorably to the City Council. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[159-26](#)

Order: That the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) be and the same is hereby transferred from Salary Reserve (0010-996-5110) to Public Works Salaries Labor (0010-421-5120)

Sponsors: Carey McDonald

Attachments: [Final Paper 159-26 Public Works Salary Appropriation](#)

Councillor McDonald asked Charles Ranaghan, Controller/CFO if there are any more dimensions to this contract other than financial implications besides the retro active changes to the salary schedule?

Chuck explained he put together a sheet of the tier changes of the last year to this one. In Ordinance we spoke about the 3% cost of living which has been extremely consistent for 25/26. The one thing we did do was members of the water department currently receive a stipend if they have a water license there are different levels of the stipends; D1,D2,D3,D4 it's a distribution license. Historically we did not have anyone with these licenses since we started offering these stipends individuals in the water department have been continuing education to obtain these licenses.

Councillor Winslow explained we have to have a level 4 license water system operator in the City to operate the water system and it has been a problem in the past we have had to contract out to fill that position at a high rate so the fact that we are building in and mentoring our staff to obtain those licenses ultimately spending the money now will save the City money.

Chuck continued and explained a couple of years ago we did not have a level D4 and we were forced to pay a high hourly rate to have someone on paper as our D4. Ever since we have started offering these stipends of a couple thousand dollars a year we now have two people with a D4 and a couple of people with a D3 so as part of the CBA we decided to add an extra \$100/yr to those stipends so that's a small amount of money. The men and woman within the DPW currently receive a longevity payment for between 5&9yrs and 10 years \$650/yr \$1200/yr \$1300/yr we have agreed to add \$100 to each level and there are 43 people. If everyone had over 5 years of service it would be \$4300 for that one benefit. Couple of little things added a \$5 fee for picking up dead animals. There has been an increase of illegal mattress dumps and they asked for a stipend of \$5 per illegally dumped mattresses when they pick them up at the direction of the DPW Director. Employees have been receiving a clothing allowance \$850/yr and with the cost of inflation the cost has gone up and we agreed to add \$150/yr. The other changes are non financial and mentions alot of the newer employees do not get vacation time so they

asked for comp time and capped that at 80hrs and once that hit they we would have to pay them overtime. The only risk is when someone retires they can cash in their comp time which could be at a higher rate when they accrued it.

Councillor McDonald confirmed of this \$175,000 appropriation this covers this years and last years retro active pay and the benefits you just mentioned which are retro active till July 1, 2024. Could you give us the breakdown of the \$175,000 about how much is the benefits and how much is the salary

Chuck said 95% would be the salary and the benefits at about \$100/person you are talking a couple thousand dollars.

Councillor McDonald said from the Chair we need to be in multi-year negotiating positions with our unions but are not in position to pass a multi-year contract one week before an override to approve a salary schedule for into the future and feels comfortable with the pieces Chuck has laid out here and recognizes the point the City Clerk made about this being on the floor. We don't always approve on the same night and asked the committee if there are any questions or concerns about that piece but that is not germane to the committee vote necessarily.

Councillor Winslow asked if we have sufficient funds in salary reserves to make this transfer?

Chuck said yes we appropriated \$1.2mill and we had one transfer out of there because there are so many open contracts right now and because of the override vote a lot of these negotiations have been stalled there is still \$900,000 remaining in salary reserve so there is an ample balance in the account to fund this transfer.

Councillor Simonelli mentioned if we could pass this tonight it would be good they have been waiting for it for a while.

A motion was made by Councillor Simonelli, seconded by Councillor Luong, that the Order be recommended favorably to the City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 5 - Councillor McDonald, Councillor Taylor, Councillor Condon, Councillor Luong and Councillor Simonelli

Tabled Papers

[433-25](#)

Be it ordained by the Malden City Council that the Code of the City of Malden (MCC) 9.20.050 PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL WASTE is hereby amended by striking Subsections A, B, and C in their entirety and inserting the following in their place:

Sponsors: Stephen Winslow

Attachments: [Current 9.20.050 Provisions Applicable to All Waste](#)

This paper was not taken up for business at the joint session of March 24, 2026.

Other Business

Adjournment

On behalf of the Rules & Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Colon

Hayes, seconded by Crowe, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Councillor Simonelli, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

Both sides of this joint session was adjourned at 5:56 PM.

If you would like to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Maria Luise, ADA Compliance Coordinator at mluise@cityofmalden.org or 781-397-7000 Ext. 2005

For instructions on enabling live translated captions in Teams, please visit:
www.cityofmalden.org/captions