

1. Roll Call – Clr. Drew, Clr. MacLaren, Clr. Marsan, Clr. Pesce, Clr. Simard and Clr. DiZoglio present – Clr. Santos, Clr. Valley and Chair Soto were absent.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda – Motion to accept by Clr. Drew, seconded by Clr. Simard – UPON VOTE – 5 yes, 1 no (Clr. Marsan)

3. Public Participation

- **Jack Burke, 49 Canobicola Road, Methuen** – “Good evening. This will probably be the shortest time I've spent at this podium in my entire life. If we can't do adequate follow-up and budgeting and simply rely on Free Cash constantly, we are not solving anything. We are simply putting our fingers in the dike. Thank you.
- **Linda Soucy, 10 Kirk Street, Methuen** – “I'm just here tonight on two things. Number one I'm going to give you the input from the neighborhood and then I'd like to give you my personal opinion, because I am a person by myself too. So for the neighborhood the biggest thing that they're concerned about is that their trash is not going to be picked up. Whether or not it's a fact, it's the perception that's out there. And it takes forever to get rid of perception. I can talk about that firsthand because the Arlington neighborhood, no matter what we've done over the past 34 years, people still say it's not a safe place; it's a place where crime happens and where all the gangs are. So, believe me, perception is a real thing. And I just think that we need to put aside all our differences and just figure out how to make this work. Personally, from my perspective, I look at it as a vendor. So, if we have vendors in the city that are hearing that we are not paying our bills, whether it's true or not, they're thinking that \$850,000 has to come to pay this bill and if we're playing games and saying well it's this one's fault, it's that one's fault. That's not how we're going to solve problems and that's not how we're going to keep our vendors. I've always said that I was not a happy fan of my friends over here on the left, but I have become fans of them in the past few months since the new contract was signed. I just think that we need to put all our differences aside and we need to figure out how to solve this problem. We're going to have RFPs out there and people are not even going to apply because they're thinking that we're not paying our bills when that is not a fact. So, I think somebody needs to explain that there was not \$850,000 due tomorrow. From what I've heard, I don't know --- I'm not the accountant or Mayor or CFO or whatever you want to call it --- but that's the perception that's out there and let's do something about it and stop this craziness. Thank you.

4. TR-26-48 - A Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds to Maintain Uninterrupted Solid Waste Services and Implement Cost Control Measures [EPA Requested] (Requested by Mayor Beauregard and Councilors DiZoglio, Drew, Pesce and Valley) – Motion to approve by Clr. Drew, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio – Discussion – Chair Pesce recognized Mayor Beauregard, “I just wanted to point out, just in fairness to Councilor Valley. I had

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spoken with her on Friday about this revamped resolution and she had initially expressed her support for it, and I asked if she would be willing to be a co-sponsor and she agreed to do that. Then on Sunday I got a message from her saying that she is no longer interested in being a co-sponsor and wished to take her name off. I just want that to be reflected in the record due to her request. We're here tonight because we all share the same goal, which is to simply pay this bill, get it out of the way, do it this week, keep trash and recycling running without any risk of interruption. To speak to Linda (Soucy)'s point, in terms of the public information that's been put out there, there hasn't been any communication about how trash is going to stop tomorrow, that's the perception --- but the issue is we're dealing with the risk of a potential interruption by not funding trash pickup. There's a known funding gap of \$850,000. The CAFO has confirmed that in writing to the Council with an outline of that map. We have a clear funding source; I know Mr. Burke referenced Free Cash and some residents have discomfort with that. We have more than \$20 million in Free Cash which is an available funding source. The purpose of Free Cash is to provide a funding source for one-time expenditures, for instance, tonnage issues in the context of trash is certainly a well justified example of use of that funding. And that's very common in terms of --- you have an issue like trash but also snow and ice --- those are common things that are sometimes used in terms of Free Cash. The question in front of us is simple: Do we fund the obligation or risk disruption to a core public service? I know there's going to be some talk tonight about how there's a motion to reconsider the prior resolution that will be on the agenda on May 4th City Council Agenda. That option is available, hypothetically, if we were to need it but I don't think it's the most practical path. If the goal is to just pay the bill, get this taken care of as soon as possible, get it done this week, reconsideration would, in essence, reset the process back to the First Read. There would be three separate votes --- the motion to reconsider plus passing the funding measure plus, I believe, an EPA would be on the agenda, so we have extra time, extra steps. Tonight provides for a more direct path. It resolves the issue immediately. There are clean lawful procedurally correct options in front of the Council tonight. So, ultimately, we can solve this tonight, or we can add steps, add risk and potentially add delay. In terms of the gap, this has been something that has come up on social media, and I've gotten some questions about it. In FY'2025 leading up to FY'2026 in that budget we had, in essence, a spot on tonnage projection. Now, the issue is we were dealing with a very difficult budget. As many will recall, we had a lot of budget constraints. It was a difficult year. This isn't the result of bad forecasting; we were dealing with these constraints last year. We were trying to maintain services, and we were trying to keep costs down for taxpayers. We had issues with our school budget. We were trying to avoid any issues in terms of personnel by the way of police, fire, etc. And so, the goal was to try to keep a lid on those costs by bringing that line item down which I think is a commonsense approach. There was a further reduction, I pointed out, not to point fingers or try to play-explain but just to simply recount factually the sequence of events. And

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ultimately, we're now at a point where we have a revamped resolution that allows us to bridge the gap to fund trash pickup. It also includes enhanced enforcement language as well that was developed with input from Councilors. Councilor DiZoglio, for instance, was quite helpful in terms of trying to be a bridge builder here in partnership with me. We had feedback from Councilor Valley included in terms of a monthly reporting system. So, there was Council input in the context of building out this revamped resolution to fund trash pickup. It includes, namely, in the context of enhanced enforcement, we're able to do that because I committed, as part of the budget process, to onboard in FY'2026 a new Sanitation-Zero Waste Coordinator to really focus on living and breathing the trash program and enforcing our Ordinance. That new hire is here with us tonight; her name is Corina Pappalardo. She's here with the DPW Director and she's literally just starting this week, and we couldn't be happier to have her in this role helping us to keep more of a lid on costs going forward. So, in terms of the Ordinance that we already have, I think that this is something that's worth mentioning. The Ordinance already includes things like a fine structure with escalating fines based on violations of the Ordinance out there --- contamination, trash placed into recycling bins, overflowing bins and the like. And now, at this point, the focus is on execution. And so, it establishes the cart program etc. But there are certain gaps in the Ordinance that now that we have a new Sanitation Coordinator coming on board, we're in a very strong position to add additional safeguards to that Ordinance. For instance, right now if you read the Ordinance that was passed by the Council in 2024, there is no system, no framework for a cart renewal function. So, there are gaps that we've had in the system that need to be corrected and so that's part of this conversation where we are filling this gap; we're doing it in a responsible manner; we are ultimately meeting this critical need of our city. It's a quality-of-life responsibility and it's a public health responsibility. And beyond that, we now can move forward with enhanced enforcement of the Ordinance to help keep a further lid on costs. So just to point out, I know this has come up in conversation, there's been some question about exact measures of tonnage reduction over time in 2021, the last full year before implementation of the new system. There was over 20,000 plus tons of trash, not counting recycling, in 2021. In calendar year 2025, that has dipped to 14,709 tons. That's a 28.4% reduction from 2021 the last year before the new program was implemented, and it represents a year over year decrease from 24 to 25 of 2.7% and that's organic without this level of enforcement. So, the bottom line is that I think this is straightforward. We have a bill we can't just not pay. We can't wish the bill away. We have the funds available; this is taxpayer money. Free Cash is not just some piggy bank sitting out there. It's funds that belong to the taxpayers and we have a responsibility to keep services running. We can get that done tonight without any further delay and that's why we're here. We're either going to do this tonight or we can take a longer, more complicated path that potentially adds risk, delays, etc. Either way, the bill doesn't go away. I'd rather solve it tonight and keep services running. Thank you,

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Councilors.” **Chair Pesce recognized Ctr. Marsan**, “Thank you. So, I've stated this before. I'm against taking the \$850,000 out of Free Cash. I think it's too much. I think we made a mistake in June of last year when we cut \$750,000 out of it but we can't go back. I wish we would have solved that problem then, but we were going to get our trash person on board, and we were going to use the fines back then. That's what we talked about and none of that happened. We all know that it didn't happen. We wanted it in a timely manner so that we're not 10 months in and looking at it now. Now, we're only going to get 2 months' worth of that person and fines, potentially. I was anticipating (fines being assessed) for 10 months but with that being said we are where we are. No one wants trash interrupted. We know that none of us here wants that, but it's just irresponsible for me to take all of it. That's why I asked you the other day if you would consider the offer I had to you to say can we do a partial payment. And obviously that didn't work so I wanted to try to say we'd take some money and make a partial payment so to make sure trash wasn't interrupted and maybe possibly find a different funding source. We had that conversation on Friday, last week. I do want to get trash picked up but we can't just keep kicking the ball down the road or the can down the road. There's \$850,000 we're going to take out, and we took \$40,000 out the other night. We have another tough budget cycle coming. We're going to want more taken out. The Searles Estate is already asking for money. Snow and Ice is going to want money. And we only have \$20 million in there. What are we going to do if we don't balance our budget now, when the \$20 million is gone, and we don't have a pot to go to? What are we going to do then? We can't put it on a credit card. It's like in your own house, if you don't have a way to pay for it, you have to tighten your belt. So, I'd like to try to find alternative methods to fund this and I know it's difficult; it stinks; it's not easy. It's not like someone wants to lose their job or we're going to lose a service. No one wants any of that, but we have to live within our means, we just have to. If it doesn't come today and it doesn't come in six months from now or next year, it's still going to come. When that \$20 million is gone, we're going to have to do it then, we just have to. We're going to have to figure this out. We're going to say, OK, we have to balance our budget this year, and this is not easy and it's just tough. It's difficult because we don't want trash interrupted. But I still have a problem with having this meeting tonight without a Councilor reconsidering. I don't think that's ever been done before, that's my opinion. I think if this was done with the same procedure we've done in the past with having a Councilor reconsider, we'd have the same Resolution back in front of us and we could discuss that, change it, do whatever we want. But doing it this way with a whole different ordinance, I think this is wrong. I think it's taking away the Council's authority and our power. If any Mayor, not just this Mayor, the next Mayor and the next Council --- if someone doesn't like the vote, how it went down, you can just bring it back with no vote of reconsideration? It seems like that's where we're at, so I just think we're going about the whole process wrong. I wish the process was what it was with the reconsideration. I think that's important for the Council long-term. I'm still not in support of

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this so we need to find a better way to fund it or a different way. And it's not easy, and I know the \$20 million is there, and that's what we're going to keep talking about tonight, but I just don't think that's the way. Thank you.” **Chair Pesce recognized Clr. DiZoglio**, “So I'm just going to be brief. I had more to discuss, but the way I think this is going to turn out, I'm going to have my chance to talk on Monday. But I do agree with Councilor Marsan on this. Just being in Methuen in my entire life, Free Cash, he's right. It is taxpayer's money but it's a rainy-day fund, and when people say it's a one-time expense, as it always seems to be, either it's this year, or last year or the years prior, we have used it for this type of thing. Over and over again, it's now a habit. But if it comes down to a park, or anything else, that gets pushed to the side. Because we have to pay our bills using Free Cash, when we should be balancing our budget properly. The taxpayers give us taxes, yes, for these services, but they also want to make the city better. If we keep using Free Cash, as Councilor Marsan says, with this budget cycle coming up. I'm going to be honest with you, I feel like we're going to be dipping into those funds quite a bit. And then when it comes to trying to get things done, we're going to say we don't have the money to do it, so I just want to put that on the record right now. When we need a park or are trying to do things, I want to know if we can dip into Free Cash then build something or ask the Mayor to do something. And when we hear from the CAFO, oh, we don't have the funds to do it, I'm going to sit there and say this is why I'm always a ‘no’ with Free Cash. Because the taxpayers deserve their trash to be picked up, too; we should have balanced it properly. But we should also have the ability to do other things with our money --- with their money --- we should be able to build parks. We should be able to fix things but instead we're going to sit here over next year and we're going to have to find our own way of doing it as Councilors. So, I'm willing to do that. I've already decided to do that. It's very frustrating that we're sitting here tonight. I have nothing else to say. I'm just frustrated with everything.” **Chair Pesce recognized Clr. Drew**, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. With all due respect, you said that this was not a forecasting issue; this was absolutely a forecasting issue; this was a failure by cutting the amount of money out of the budget last year. I understand we were trying to make things work. And then, it was a failure from the Council for cutting an extra \$250,000. It was absolutely a forecasting issue. And I hope that we look at this budget as it continues into this next year and we look at every line item and don't just make frivolous cuts that are going to end up putting us right back here. Now the next problem is going to be, we are 85% of the way through this year. There is nowhere that we're going to find \$850,000 other than taking it out of Free Cash to pay this bill. And this is a bill that's going to need to be paid so we can sit here and say we're going to do this but yes, we have to have enforcement. Yes, we have to grab our barrels and those fees that come with it. We have to do that in FY'2027. The bill is due in FY'2026, we need to fund it, and we need to do it now, just get this off the table. I get what we're talking about --- always having to take money out of Free Cash --- I couldn't agree more. We need to find ways to handle things long term. We need to stop these

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patches and fix things structurally in this city so that we're not constantly having to go back to the well and be in crisis mode every single year. I'm going to support this tonight because I want this to be done. I know it's an item that needs to be taken care of, but I think we, as a Council, need to make sure that when this budget comes in front of us for next year, we don't allow this to happen again. We can make sure the enforcements are done. I'd love to see from the Mayor and from the CAFO and the Finance Subcommittee --- maybe to meet every quarter to look at everything so we can see things as a trend. Every day in my job, I have to look at budgets, and I look at those budgets 25% of the way through the project, 50% through the project, 75% through the project so at 25% I can fix a problem. I can't fix it at 85%. That horse has left the stable. If we're going to fix things, we have to have them and actually tighten up on stuff so I would love to see quarterly meetings of forecasting through our budgets and make sure that we're not having these problems so we can see the tonnage problem that's coming down the pipe. So, we can see another funding issue that might be coming down and try to course correct and make a motion on the floor and begin to work together between the administration and this Council and stop bickering. Somebody has to be the adult, and we need to start acting like it.” **Chair Pesce recognized Clr. MacLaren**, “Thank you. I'd like to echo everything that Councilor Drew just said. I don't see a way that we can come up with \$850,000 in any other way, at this present moment. Everything that I have heard from constituents is a real genuine fear of what happens now? Is my trash just going to pile up or are they going to start collecting it only once a month as opposed to the frequency that they're working with now? All of it is unfair to our constituents that we would put them in this position. I understand the principle upon which you would oppose this. It was absolutely a mistake that was made in the last budget process that we cannot afford to make again. I think there are a lot of lessons we can learn from this. Lessons that probably should have been learned in the last budget cycle and the one before that and the one before that. This time, we have to be very serious about taking notes but there's no way that I can oppose this because I don't know how else we're going to pay this bill. I don't know how else we're going to afford to make sure that our constituents are getting their trash taken care of and they deserve to see those bare minimum services met and that's what I'm working with here. I may not agree with how we're paying for it. I might want to try and travel back and fix mistakes that were made on a Council that I did not sit on, but I can't do that. So, all I can do is vote ‘yes’ in service of my constituents who want to see their trash picked up. That's a very basic service here. That's the bare minimum that we can do for the people we represent.” **Chair Pesce recognized Clr. Simard**, “Thank you Madam Chair. I share the frustration especially with Councilor Marsan. As far as procedurally goes, I know you have concerns and rightfully so. But I do trust the Mayor. I don't think he would have put it on the agenda tonight. And I trust our Solicitors that we have here are legally and procedurally correct and that we can proceed with this. We had budget woes last year. We're going to have budget woes this year, but the fact is we have to pay our vendors. So, if

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we don't, trash pickup is going to stop and the people who are going to suffer the most are probably Linda Soucy's constituents in the Methuen-Arlington District. I think we have to move past this. We have to calm the storm because there's going to be a bigger storm come May and June so I think if we vote yes and we get six votes tonight; we can start to heal somewhat and prepare for our next round of budget woes. Thank you.” **Chair Pesce recognized Mayor Beauregard,** “Thank you Madam Chair. Just to address a couple of issues and clarify some things for the public. First, just in terms of the question about funding for parks, road improvements and the like. I know that was expressed as a frustration. Just to clarify for the public who I know shares those frustrations as do I when it comes to how far behind, we are in terms of parks, roads and the like. That's funded through our capital improvement plan each year. It's not funded through Free Cash. So that's something that I just wanted to clarify. Regarding the tonnage forecast again, it's just a matter of fact. The tonnage forecast that had been initially prepared by the CAFO was on the dot. The question we had was in terms of that \$500,000 that we had initially reduced that line item by. The question would have been --- which department do we take that \$500,000 from? Would it be from the schools which would have resulted in additional layoffs of educators? Would that have come from Police? Would it have come from Fire? And so, the goal was quite logical in hindsight. Although it's turned out to be in line with exactly what the forecast was and that's where the gap is coming from. When it comes to the issue of Free Cash itself, just to clarify again this is something that's a common misconception. Free Cash is not generated by the administration or the Council voting, to put funds into it. It's something that is generated by the state framework in terms of municipal finance where the municipality will go out and tax the residents of the city to raise money for the budget. And that money will come in and then ultimately Free Cash is what's left over at the end of the fiscal year. Any funds that were taxed and budgeted for but not ultimately spent (goes into Free Cash.) And so Free Cash at the end of each fiscal year is generated by fiscal restraint and attempts at responsible spending. For example, we ended, for anyone who might call in a question from a planning standpoint, we ended FY'2025 in the black to the tune of \$4 million. We added a significant amount of funds to Free Cash at the end of the last fiscal year. One of the things that we do is on April 1st is I put out word to every department head in the city that I am freezing their budget and any expenditure, even if they want to buy a box of paper clips, needs to be approved by myself and the CAFO. Ultimately, that level of fiscal restraint allows us to go into the final quarter of the fiscal year in a position to generate a surplus and that's how it's one of the tools that we use to try to generate Free Cash at the end of the year --- that we can then use on funding these critical expenditures. Just to editorialize a little bit. I don't think, and I'm just speaking for myself, I don't think that the public cares about parliamentary issues. I think that ultimately, they don't want bickering. They don't want what we've been seeing from city government. They want their trash picked up. That's the bottom line. Ultimately, Free Cash isn't our money.

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It's not our money, it's the people's money and this is being put to use to fund an essential service for the people that our residents expect as a baseline service. So, I'll leave it there. We've said quite a bit, but I just wanted to clarify a couple of points. Thank you.” **Chair Pesce passed the gavel and said**, “I have two questions and then a statement if you will and I think I'll direct these to the CAFO or the Mayor. I'm wondering what is the date we're actually paid up to right now for trash services?” **Mayor Beauregard said**, “So, the CAFO can elaborate. This is ultimately going to get us through the rest of the fiscal year. That's the goal of the \$850,000 transfer. It's to get us through from the point that we're at now until the end of June. Now, one thing I think is probably worth clarifying is that there had been some discussion and I'll just speak frankly about a conversation I had with Councilor Marsan last week about the prospect of maybe looking at this on a monthly basis. Maybe having some type of transfer out of Free Cash on a monthly basis to fund this through the end of the fiscal year is one of potentially several different options. The issue with that is that we're charged for tipping fees in arrears. So right now, we need to pay the bill for March. In May we'll need to pay the bill for April. In June we'll pay the bill for May. And the issue with funding this monthly is that Free Cash is frozen on July 1st by the Commonwealth. And it's not freed up again for the city to use on one-time expenditures and the like until the state certifies our Free Cash. Typically, in the (early months) of the following calendar year we usually see it happening in January or February timeline. And so, the challenge we would have if we were to take this on a monthly basis in terms of payments is how do we pay for June if Free Cash is frozen on July 1st? That's going to be the issue that we're going to run into. And so ultimately the goal here is to bridge us to the end of the year, get this done, and let's say hypothetically we're able to identify some additional savings in FY'2026, hypothetically. Then any amount of this \$850,000 that's not spent on tipping fees would fall back into Free Cash at the end of the fiscal year just as any other public dollar that had been budgeted or put to use by the City Council but it's not ultimately expended by the end of the year as it would happen in those cases. That's the challenge that we have. And although it's a good idea to look at, try to do it piecemeal, not have as big of a transfer, just keep in mind that we have that issue of paying for June, number one, but number two, ultimately any funds that are taken from Free Cash to fund this that are not ultimately expended fall right back into the Free Cash bucket. Thank you.” **Chair Pesce said**, “So, for the public, this isn't a bill that is not unpaid. This is an expectancy of what is foreseeable for tipping up until the end of the fiscal year.” **Mayor Beauregard said**, “We are paid for past months with the exception I think of March, the CAFO can confirm that. But what we would be looking at is funding the remaining months to get us through the end of the fiscal year.” **Chair Pesce said**, “But to pay for March. So, you said in April we pay for March and May we pay for April.” **Mayor Beauregard agreed**. **Chair Pesce said**, “So we pay the month. I'm just trying to figure this out. So, the reason I'm trying to figure this out, Mayor, is I think a lot of residents were concerned as though their trash was going to be not picked up like the next

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week, right? And unfortunately, I think a lot of their frustration was misdirected to the Council. I mean, I saw things on social media, telling people to bring it (trash) to the Councilor's house, do this, do that. A lot of it fell on us. And I will say, I was a yes (vote) and I was a yes for the reasons you just stated. We have to pay our bills. I don't like taking out of Free Cash all the time. My yes vote did not, and I even think your request, Mayor, probably, nobody wants to take out of Free Cash, right? I think we all see this as something that we need to work on, which is why I was so supportive of your proposal. My concern revolves around procedure. And I'm going around in my head because obviously we have a Councilor who has already agreed to potentially, right, to reconsider at our next meeting, which is on Monday. And I guess I'm wondering if this was never brought forward today, and were reconsidered, maybe it's not in your eyes, the quicker path, right? Actually, no path is really clean at this point because we have to take so many steps in order to get either of them to facilitate the change we need. But I guess if we waited until Monday, and we started on the path of reconsideration following with a proposal, independent of that reconsideration that mimics the other items that are in this, would trash be impacted? Would trash services be impacted if we reconsidered to getting the \$850,000 transfer but then procedurally added a separate proposal but minus that transfer so that we still have this in conjunction with that. And the reason I'm asking is, again, while I was a yes vote, I also, in my mind, immediately thought, what are we going to do to prevent this in the future, right? What can we do? And when you brought this to me, I'm like, oh, this is good. This is something. And that's where I want to be, because again, we make mistakes. How do we learn from them? How do we make sure this doesn't happen habitually over and over and over again? So, I can do math. If this fails tonight and we're missing three Councilors. Now, procedurally, my mind starts going down this black hole, because if this gets voted down, then would we then have to reconsider this? Would we then, with something else, if we wanted to bring a proposal now that protects us further once we make that transfer, even if a member reconsiders the original vote, could we then not bring this because now it's too similar? So procedurally, I'm like a mess in my head right now and, you know, we have the Assistant Solicitor who, again, is super eager to explain all this to us, but I am wondering if the cleaner path, so long as it doesn't disrupt service for our residents, is to perhaps table this and then move forward with the reconsideration, understanding that we're still going to bring an independent resolution that has the other items in this to ensure that we have that sort of accountability." **Mayor Beauregard said,** "Just to answer that point, I think ultimately the vendor wants to be paid and we want trash to be picked up. However that happens, I think that tonight presents us with a clean, direct, very quick way to resolve this now and not have this be a lingering issue. But ultimately, if this fails hypothetically tonight and it comes back on Monday under the guise of reconsideration of the prior measure that we put before the Council that had failed and if that passes, ultimately as long as the bill is paid, however it happens, that's all that really matters." **Chair Pesce said,** "But here's my

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issue, and this is my only issue, and I agree with the first part of it. Yes, this needs to be paid, and again, that's why I was asking for a yes vote. But if this fails and the reconsideration passes, so the vendor gets paid, are we then, and this is a question actually for the Assistant Solicitor, are we then prohibited from implementing some sort of similar resolution, which I really like, to go along with that transfer and have this sort of accountability, right? Are we then barred by the one-year rule again in presenting that? Because now this has failed tonight.” **Mayor Beauregard said**, “Well, just to state my intent for the record, regardless about the language and the resolution. We have this new Sanitation-Zero-Waste Coordinator. I have a stated commitment on the record to implement enhanced enforcement. I'm committed to this, not just to try to get a resolution passed. This is something that we need to get after in terms of a wider spread structural reform to help address the issue of tonnage costs, and so ultimately in practice, everything that's outlined in the resolution --- a monthly report to the Council, --- ultimately, that's the best practice that we should be doing regardless of whether it's in the resolution. And that's my commitment on the record to anybody who's watching, that's my commitment and we're going to do that. So I wouldn't worry about, okay, hypothetically if something were to happen tonight, hopefully it doesn't, but if it did and this is voted down somehow, then of course those of us in the administration, we have the good sense to implement what I think is something that we all collectively agree must be done, and we have the system to actually do that now. I know there's been some who have said that this is an issue that we're just not getting after. I said we were going to get after it; we're not getting after it, we actually are. We are onboarding this person this week, and we're moving forward. And we also have some loose ends to tie up that have been inherited from several years back where we have this ordinance designed for trash and recycling and it's missing a critical aspect as it relates to, for instance, cart renewals. There's literally no contemplation of a cart renewal framework anywhere in this language. And so, if that's an issue that we want to get after, again, that's going to center on an amendment to the ordinance. So, in any event, I'm going on and on, but I'm committed to these reforms, and I expect that the Council will hold my feet to the fire and hold us accountable for ensuring that we're reporting on a monthly basis and we're making progress in the context of enforcement.” **Chair Pesce said**, “I appreciate that. I just am not sure if I heard the answer to the first question. I realize I kind of rambled as well. If this were to fail and if it went to reconsideration on Monday and that, let's say, passed, there will be no interruption in services.” **Mayor Beauregard said**, “As long as they're paid and we can get a yes vote on Monday. Hypothetically, if this fails tonight and we wait another week, as long as we get a yes vote on the motion to reconsider, a yes vote on passage of the funding measure, and a yes vote on the emergency preamble, and we don't have to wait until May 18th, which would be the second read of the reconsideration because the first read failed, as long as we can get this done in the next week, I am confident that we will proceed without issue. But if we go much longer and risk further delays, that's where

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I'm concerned. And this speaks to the reason why I felt the need to share that initial public communication after the first vote. It would be irresponsible of me to not communicate to the community the potential for the disruption of such a significant baseline service. And so, to speak to that concern, what other choice do I have but to alert people about a possible issue? And so, thankfully tonight, we have a measure in front of us. We can address this right here, right now, tonight. Get this bill paid. Move on. Or, conversely, we may be looking at a Monday vote. But either way, let's just pay the darn bill and pick up the trash. Thank you." **Chair Pesce said**, "So, last question again to the Assistant Solicitor. If this fails, then a no vote could potentially bring this back and manipulate it, right, even if the other one passes on Monday, independently. Could this then be reworked if it were reconsidered? Because we would need a motion to reconsider, yes? So, it would have to be with the prevailing side if it failed." Assistant City Solicitor Haleigh Reisman said, "Yes. Though, they are this resolution and the one on the agenda for Monday are different. It would be up to the Council as a body to determine their similarities. So, some of what you are..." **Chair Pesce said**, "Well, we wouldn't want \$850,000 transferred twice." **Assistant City Solicitor Reisman said**, "Well, that is accurate. Correct. So, that would not happen. You would not be transferring \$850,000 twice. But if there are some parts of this resolution tonight that you'd like to add to and reconsider with Monday's resolution, you would be able to do that. Yes. You were correct, Councilor DiZoglio." **Chair Pesce recognized Clr. DiZoglio**, "Through you, Madam Chair. So, from my understanding, on Monday when I reconsider, I can literally file an amendment on the floor to add those items to the old motion, correct?" **Assistant City Solicitor Reisman said**, "Yes." **Clr. DiZoglio said**, "That's simple. So, that's fine. If it fails tonight, I can add those amendments to the old resolution." **Clr. Drew said**, "I guess we're going to go that way, but before we go to a question, to the Solicitor's Office, can you just state for the record that this is properly in front of us, we are legally sound to be able to make this vote?" **Assistant City Solicitor Reisman said**, "Yes." **Chair Pesce said**, "Just again, because we keep going around, and so we don't need to reconsider this in order to amend the previous resolution that may be reconsidered on Monday." **Assistant City Solicitor Reisman said**, "That's correct." **Clr. Drew made a motion, seconded by Clr. MacLaren, to move the question. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE – 5 yes, 1 no (Clr. Marsan) 3 absent (Chair Soto, Clr. Valley and Clr. Santos) – MOTION FAILS**

5. Motion to adjourn at 7:47 PM by Clr. Drew, seconded by Clr. DiZoglio – unanimously approved – 3 absent (Chair Soto, Clr. Valley and Clr. Santos)

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Yarid Ferry
Assistant Council Clerk

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I do hereby certify the foregoing minutes were approved by the City Council by a unanimous vote on May 18, 2026.

Linda Gagnon
COUNCIL CLERK