

Chair Soto called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present: Clr. DiZoglio, Clr. Drew, Clr. MacLaren, Clr. Marsan, Clr. Pesce, Clr. Santos, Clr. Simard, Clr. Valley, and Chair Soto.

Acceptance of Agenda

MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to accept the agenda.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Mayor Beauregard raised a calendar concern. Given the summer schedule, there is a regular meeting on June 1st and there is not going to be another regular meeting until after the Fourth of July. There are things they need to do in closing out the fiscal year. If the budget passes tonight, with Council support, he wanted to make an ask of the Chair to consider moving the date of the next meeting from June 1st to June 8th. That will lessen the amount of time in between regular meetings. That might require a vote of the Council to do that.

MOTION BY: Councilor Marsan, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to move the June 1st meeting to June 8th, 2026.

Chair Soto said the deadline for that would be June 2nd.

Councilor Marsan requested the deadline for the agenda to be June 3rd. Council agreed.

Councilor Pesce said she will be out of the country for that date. She is voting “no” because she will not be here.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 yes, 1 no (Clr. Pesce)

Chair Soto announced there is a joint meeting with Community Development and Planning June 10th at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Shannon Ireson, 95 Bridle Path Lane, third-grade teacher at the Marsh Grammar School. She is here tonight to tell her story. Other employees of the city can relate to. Seventeen years ago, her son Cameron was born with a cleft pallet due to popliteal syndrome, a rare genetic disorder which cause the cleft lip and cleft palate along with lower lip pits and webbing in his lower extremities, a diagnosis that completely rocked their world but taught them many important life lessons. When he was born, he was rushed off to Children’s Hospital in Boston where he was immediately cared for and is still cared for today. Cameron has endured multiple surgeries, therapies, and coaching through this amazing program, a program that we are all very lucky to live forty minutes away from. Next month, Cameron will begin the next step in his process. He will be completely his repairs with a complete jaw alignment and nose reconstruction, something he has been working towards for eighteen years. While she does not have all the answers yet, she is diligently digging, and this is what she knows so far. She knows that while the GIC is accepted at Children’s Hospital in Boston. It is not accepted by all providers. What that means is surgeons who have known Cameron and his care plan will no longer be able to provide him these services. His interruption in care will affect his timeline of repairs. She asked Council to consider how this change will affect children like Cameron across

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the city, children who have needs that rely heavily on the care from their trusted providers. Please reject insurance change. Let us protect the health, the development, and the future of our children.

Kara Blatt, said in January, Shannon and she all stood with North Andover and multiple locals across the state against the GIC. The reason is the state always must bail them out and insurance carriers will not always go onto the GIC, affecting the care that we all need. The GIC does not provide the social, emotional, health programs that a lot of our police, firefighters, and other people that serve this city need as well. Today, there was one ambulance that showed up at her school for an individual that needed care. The Lahey is a great thing. She thanked the Mayor for doing that citywide. The schools use that almost every day. It is a service they need. This insurance crisis was totally avoidable. For years we have not budgeted just like we have not budgeted right for the city or the schools. It has got to stop because the countless hours she has spent on the phone in the last month over these, the retirees, and everybody up here, all want the care and benefits they thought that they were going to get. Their families are impacted, people with severe illnesses, people with chronic illnesses, people with cancer, people with childhood diseases, all of this impacts their teams. This change will make them have to shift. And for someone to tell her if she is grandstanding or not or that we don't know what we're talking about, she has a binder full of cities that aren't in our financial crisis that are self-insured and doing things the right way. Methuen did not appropriately budget. They did the bare minimum, did not do their research, and years and years of not doing right by its citizens. Until we start, this is where they are, and they are not giving up. She has not had to file more unfair labor practices, unfortunately, because the city department could not read the articles and sent them one without certifying mail before it was brought to Council. Those little errors are the errors that are costing our citizens the care they deserve, telling them they must take pay decreases while they must give up their insurance. That is evil. Council has a decision to make. Start owning your mistakes, start owning what you owe the city, and start making the right choices for everybody.

Jim Trott, one of the two elected members of the Retirement Board, and has been on the board for thirty-six years, said twenty-five years ago, Methuen was in the same mess that it is today and he was the president of the firefighters union. The late Diane Dandretta was the president of the teachers' union. They had some help from the professional firefighters in Massachusetts. They came down and spoke with the Mayor. She was doing something illegal that day along with Jennifer Borislow. They were stopped from doing it and met later that afternoon and decided to become the third city or town in the Commonwealth to go into Section 19 Coalition bargaining and it worked very well. He retired three years later. It seemed to have been going smoothly and then suddenly, this year is the major crisis again. He does not know what is going on. He does not live here anymore but he does represent a lot of the retirees. He gets the phone where they ask: "What happened to my health insurance?" He had no answer. Unfortunately, whatever happened January 1st, it seems to him that was negotiated many years ago was unilaterally changed by the administration. He does not know if Councilors know what is going on day to day, but it is not a good situation. And like the previous speakers ahead of me, a lot of people his age, his doctor retired after forty years. He had a hard time finding a new primary care physician. It is not that easy out there in the real world. The shift, you are

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throwing increases in costs, shifts of different insurance. They have to stop and look at the big picture and do something, not only for the employees who are working for you today, but also for the people who worked for many years and they worked for the city because they knew at the end of the term of their employment they would get a pension and would have good health care.

Lydia Caruso, 52 Shirley Ave, fourth grader at the Timony Grammar School, spoke about losing her reading teacher. She has a hard time reading and her reading teacher helps her read every day. Right now, she is below grade level but getting better and without her help every day, she would be even more behind in reading. It makes her sad that next year when she moves up to the upper school that she might not have a reading teacher to help her read and it scares her. She needs help in reading and so do a lot of other kids in her school. Reading specialists are important to her and to the schools. We really need to keep them so we can all have a chance at being good at reading. Thank you for listening.

Councilor Pesce submitted a letter from Tom Duggan into the record.

City Council

Total Personal Services \$ 261,791

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded Councilor Santos to approve.

Chair Soto noted the budget numbers have changed based on previous votes.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 6,500

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor Drew to approve.

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Simard to cut \$3000 from the youth summer program. Councilor Drew said this is not the year to be doing this. He does not know of any intern program that is in place that is going to utilize this person appropriately.

Councilor Santos said they've taken so much from the education of our youth in our city that \$3,000 is not going to make such a difference in our budget and it's going to create a huge impact because it is going to build trust, some sense of building a city together with our youth.

Councilor Pesce said she understands what is being said. She must agree with Councilor Drew. This is one student. It is just the wrong year in her opinion. She wished they had put something into place to have an actual program to fit several students with this budget but does not think it is the year for that. It makes her very uneasy. With all the cuts that are being made, she cannot support this.

Councilor Santos suggested starting with one student and then grow the program. \$3,000 is not going to fix everything else. We must fix in the city.

Councilor DiZoglio said the students starts June, July, and August and will be given a \$1,000 stipend.

Chair Soto said it would be the entire summer, July, August and beginning of September. This is for budget 2027.

Councilor DiZoglio said \$3,000 for \$1,500 per month, he was thinking of possibly cutting it in half for the student to have somewhat of a stipend for the summer.

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Councilor Drew hears what Councilor Santos is saying. We do not want to take more from our students. He would rather see this money going into where we are going to see children being taught every day. This is not something saying that we do not want to have students in here working with us. But at the end of the day, \$3,000 is twice what a city councilor makes every month. We are going to have two sitting clerks doing the work of the Council that only meets twice in July and August. There is no actual intern plan in place, and he feels comfortable enough looking at this line item and look at these people sitting in the audience, he thinks this makes total sense. He asked everyone to support the \$3,000 cut.

Chair Soto passed the gavel. The program for the youth is in collaboration with the programing that the Mayor launched and the school committee that would be a liaison that would work interdepartmental with the Mayor's office, with our city council clerk's office. That has not been spelled out. It will be, if approved, through the HR department to set that up with some of the help from our council clerk and the CAFO. It is at the will of the Council if you want to have a student in this building learning from this administration but also aiding you as Council members this summer with constituent services, maybe potentially over at the Senior Center, maybe in collaboration with the school committee, in doing some of that work, helping you research municipal ordinances and resolutions. Your Mayor today is an example of a stipend-based program that happened here twenty years ago. That is the benefit of trusting local politics and being involved and continuing that work.

Councilor MacLaren said if we do not use all this money, are we committing to if we take a student on board, we are going to spend all \$3,000 on them? Or is it a place where we decide based upon how much work we are going to allocate to them? How many hours they are dedicating to the internship, how much we pay. It is a good chunk of money, not that she is necessarily opposed to it but in the interest of finding a middle ground. "Are we definitely going to spend \$3,000 or what does that look like?"

Mayor Beauregard said the idea that he had in supporting this it would be an effort to try to bring on an intern to support, not just the Council, but other functions in the city as well. The goal would be to ensure that we are able to fully put this to use. Keep in mind if there are any allocations in the budget that are not expended, it falls to Free Cash at the end of the year.

Councilor Simard said the biggest thing is what Councilor Drew was saying is optics. We had to cut a reading specialist or limit the band. Here we are giving \$3,000 to a position we did not have. It all comes down to optics. It sounds like it is a great program, but it is just optics and that is why he is a "no" vote.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 no (Clr. DiZoglio Clr. MacLaren, Clr. Marsan, Clr. Santos, Clr. Valley, and Clr. Soto) 3 yes (Clr. Simard, Clr. Pesce, and Clr. Simard) Motion failed

MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Drew to cut \$2000 from youth summer program.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 yes, 4 no (Clr. Marsan, Clr. Santos, Clr. Valley, and Clr. Soto)

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Other Expenses adjusted total \$ 4,500

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve. UPON
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL ADJUSTED CITY COUNCIL \$ 266,291

Mayor

Total Personal Services \$ 302,959

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.
UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 18,000

MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL MAYOR \$ 320,959

Legal Services

Total Personal Services \$ 500,762

MOTION BY: Councilor Simard, seconded by Councilor MacLaren to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 116,000

MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL LEGAL SERVICES \$ 616,762

City Clerk

Total Personal Services \$ 385,892

MOTION BY: Councilor Simard, seconded by Councilor Drew to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 176,155

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor Drew to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL CITY CLERK \$ 562,047

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Reserve Fund
Total Other Expenses

\$

TOTAL RESERVE FUND

\$

TOTAL LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE

\$ 1,776,059

Chief Administrative and Financial Officer

Total Personal Services

\$ 196,867

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor MacLaren to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses

\$ 10,000

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

**TOTAL CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE AND
FINANCIAL OFFICER**

\$ 206,867

Accounting

Total Personal Services

\$ 575,257

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses

\$ 205,000

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.
Councilor Drew asked if the city goes to biweekly payroll if it would change the budgeted line item.
CAFO Duprey indicated not at this time. It may alleviate some of the internal stress on the accounting department but not financially.

Councilor Drew said the \$50,000 line item is to basically pay an outside vendor. The CAFO agreed.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL ACCOUNTING

\$ 780,257

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Assessing

Total Personal Services \$ 269,292

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor Valley to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 113,580

MOTION BY: Councilor Marsan, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL ASSESSING \$ 382,872

Treasurer/Tax Collector

Total Personal Services \$ 403,381

MOTION BY: Councilor Marsan, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 162,000

MOTION BY: Councilor Marsan, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR \$ 565,381

Human Resources

Total Personal Services \$ 453,583

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 52,000

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL HUMAN RESOURCES \$ 505,583

Information Technology

Total Personal Services \$ 564,498

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

MOTION BY: Clr. Drew to cut \$1700 from Personal Services. No second. Motion failed

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 yes, 1 no (Clr. Drew)

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Total Other Expenses \$ 1,228,821

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Equipment Outlay \$ 60,000

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY \$ 1,853,319

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

DEPARTMENTAL SUBTOTAL \$ 4,294,279

Economic and Community Development

Total Personal Services \$ 640,758

MOTION BY: Councilor Valley, seconded by Councilor MacLaren to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 118,143

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

**TOTAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT \$ 758,901**

Health, Human Services, and Inspection

Total Personal Services \$ 1,530,164

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 40,188

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

**TOTAL HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES
AND INSPECTION SUBTOTAL \$ 1,570,352**

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Police

Total Personal Services \$ 13,577,210

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor Drew to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 857,924

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

Councilor Drew asked the Chief for clarification and more information as to what the tuition line item covers.

Chief MacNamara explained this line item covers things like police academy, \$3200 per recruit, professional development fees, cost associated with supervisory staff going to a leader program, cost of pre-employment testing (medical, physical, psychological testing), annual in-service for CPR and first responders (40 hours per police officer), out-of-state travel to training conference, leadership development training, specialized training, motorcycle school, detective school, internal affairs school, procedural justice training, implicit bias training, and duty to intervene. Those are all requirements that have about in the last several years in terms of keeping up with police reform and accreditation.

Councilor Drew said the \$3200 is for new cadets. We do not have any with the hiring freeze or onboarding. He asked if the Chief felt the 87,000 remaining is enough to do what he needs as far as credentials and proper training of his men and women.

Chief said he and Mayor went through everything, cutting down to the bare bone, cutting everywhere they could to save positions and people. They have done the best they can with that. This is the minimum they need to fund that line.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Equipment Outlay \$ 15,000

MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL POLICE \$ 14,450,134

Mayor Beauregard noted on page 42, a housekeeping item, after the first read there is a new line item under Employee Benefits "Personal Services and Other Expenses". He is using that line item to capture any reductions that are made to help us with the furlough situation. Last meeting there was \$34,200 that had been made in reductions aside from the \$200,000 that the Council voted on to reduce the tipping fee line item that he put towards the schools. This is, in essence, capturing any of those other cuts that were made. Those will go towards furlough. When we get to that point, instead of \$34,200 he will propose \$36,200 to help reduce the amount of furlough hours on the city side.

Chair Soto said the Mayor is talking about Section 9-10 on the list that the CAFO provided.

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Mayor Beauregard said it would Employee Benefits, under 9-10 there is a new line under Other Expenses. Once we get to it, that will be \$36,200 accounting for the \$2,000 made on the City Council line item.

Fire

Total Personal Services \$ 13,785,957

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor Simard to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 602,650

MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL FIRE \$ 14,388,607

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY \$ 28,838,740

Methuen Schools \$ 114,076,970

TOTAL METHUEN SCHOOLS \$ 114,076,970

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

Mayor Beauregard said the Friday after the first read vote on Thursday, they added in the \$100,000 that was identified in new growth, added in the \$200,000 from the tipping fee reduction and also shared that they are going to be coming to the Council to ask for roughly two million dollars to cover one-time special ed expenses out of Free Cash. The Mayor said he had a conversation with Mr. Gosselin, and he shared that he started to build positions back into the budget, considering that new information. Among those additions back into the budget considering things like the band program, reading specialists, things like that. But accounting for the \$100,000, the \$200,000 and the Free Cash, he was able to build back thirty-one positions.

Acting Superintendent thanked the Mayor for his willingness to support them in saving positions, using Free Cash and the other identified funds. It was exciting to sit down and be able to think about what they wanted to remove from the reduction list, moving from the 114 list. The last time she talked about the 118 vs. the 114. Currently, she has yet to share this with their union presidents. She shared that they are looking to remove the upper school band program from the reduction list. To remove the K through 8 Stem care program and their reading specialist, mostly because the elimination of those positions would mean the elimination of an entire program. Their students will still maintain those services and experiences. They also have some of the single positions such as some of the custodial positions that were mentioned last time that were largely in favor of as well. Some of their counseling staff that had been previously listed on reductions. They are looking forward to seeing what the state has in store for them to further reduce the reduction list. There is already a sizeable change from the last time she was here.

Chair Soto said the reductions on the list can stay. Acting Superintendent agreed.

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Councilor MacLaren took a moment before the vote to recognize how devastating this budget is. It is not necessarily the fault of any individual sitting at this table. The money we must work with is the money we have to work with. She is happy to hear that they have made some marginal improvements in keeping some important programs, the band for one. She participated in one. It was pivotal for her in terms of building the confidence to do something like run for office. But she is still worried for our students, worried for our teachers, and staff who we are already asking to do a lot and now on top of that the virtually impossible task of managing a classroom of upwards of thirty kids. She has sat in classrooms that big. It is insane on both sides of the aisle for the student and for the teacher. Her vote tonight is begrudging, not at all enthusiastic. If she could add millions to this budget, she would. She wanted to take a moment to appreciate how much we are asking of our faculty and staff who work so hard. They are some of the most kind, smart, and capable people she has ever known. But they are not miracle workers. She is happy to hear that they are bringing back some key programs back for our students.

Councilor DiZoglio: as Councilor MacLaren was saying from the students' perspective, from being a teacher where he has a classroom of twenty-eight right now. He deals with 179 students every day. As he advocated for them on the school committee, he will continue to advocate that every year they seem to be like every district in the Commonwealth. It is just not Methuen. Every year they must worry about their jobs. And for someone that understands that, it is frustrating that they go into a classroom to teach knowing that there is a possibility at the end of the year they are going to get cut. "How are you supposed to ask someone to do that, along with IEPs, 504s which some of them like himself, don't get support and continuously every morning they have to wake up and go to work. They chose to do it because they love doing it. But it is hard to go through the year knowing at the end they are going to be right back here. It is not just on the city. This is also a state thing. There needs to be major education reform because he believes the education system is broken. It is not fair for them to come to this city hall every year and fight for their jobs. We need to work with our delegation to put a concrete place that they can continue to work and be happy they are working here. He said he would be voting "no" on this budget.

Councilor Drew said over the weekend and right after this budget vote happened some people called. It was asked "why didn't anybody say anything?" He thinks the Council did everything they could this last meeting, stripping every dollar out of it that they possibly could, that he could find. He went over this budget with a fine-tooth comb. None of this is okay. This budget is not well. We know that. This body, as much times as they may look difunctional, they work together well. The Finance subcommittee has been trying to find things and work with the Mayor with revenues so that we are not sitting here next year. He thanked everyone who does come up and speak because a year ago he was there and if there is anything anybody can tell you; he cares about the schools. He will do everything he can to protect it. He hopes by next year they can figure out how to fix it and hope that we are going to take the time to work with the school committee, work with the schools, now as soon as this is done he hopes they start figuring out how to fix it. He commended the two young women who came up to the podium. Sitting here as a Councilor, it gets nerve wracking talking to everyone here in front of this whole body. He could not imagine being a second grader, third grader, standing at that microphone. That is

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nerve wracking. He commended the young ladies for doing it. He thanked the Council for doing everything they can cutting every dollar we can out of this that looks like fluff. He promised there is no fluff that he can find.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 yes, 2 no (Clr. DiZoglio, Clr. Drew)

Greater Lawrence Technical School

\$ 6,419,035

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

Superintendent Lavoie apologized to the Council for not being present at the workshop. He did not know that was being held. He found out today there was notice when their Director of Finance came back from a two week leave that she had gotten an email which he never received. That is why he had not attended. The following day on Thursday he said to his assistant "Have we heard from Methuen yet?" It seems like we should be hearing from them soon to appear and present our budget. She called and spoke to somebody at city hall and they said to come Thursday night because they were on the agenda Thursday night but apparently were not. He understands Council's frustration. He submitted budget books to the Council.

Chair Soto asked Superintendent Lavoie how it would be easier for his office to get information. One of two years there was also some miscommunication.

Superintendent Lavoie said it is best to contact his office. His assistant, Sue Valley, will inform him. Council could email her and cc him. They should be able to get that communication. When it goes to the Director of Finance, they do not have access to her email, and she was unfortunately out for two weeks. Once they receive that information, they would get back to Council immediately. He spoke with the Director of Finance today and asked if she got an email when she was out. She looked at her email today and saw that she did. He asked her if she sent in the booklets prior. Typically, Council should be getting the booklets in March or early April. She said she contacted the town and did not get a response saying they wanted the booklets. She did not forward it to you. He assured Council that in the future they will receive the booklet to review.

Chair Soto asked if the Finance Director is new in the office.

Superintendent Lavoie said this is her second year.

Councilor Simard said the better question would have been, he has twenty-two administrators. He and his assistant make \$550,000. The better question would be "what can they do to make our jobs easier since we are just a rubber stamp?" When you see in this room of the Methuen public schools who are struggling to have a band, reading specialists, to have program assistants. And we cannot even get a budget until the night of the second read. He does not know if it is forgetfulness or you just do not care. He does not know which one is worse. We are governed to say "yes" to this budget by the state. He missed the last meeting because he attended his daughter's graduation. The budget failed 4 to 4 and would have failed 5 to 4 if he were here. He knows the Superintendent often has these 40-minute VIP tours and everyone says what a great job you are doing but he has been going there for twenty-three years. His wife works there. His son is a student there. The staff does a great job, the teachers, the guidance counselors, the security guard, the custodians, the assistance. They do a great job. No doubt you have done a great job but \$363,000 a year the only one that makes more money is the

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Superintendent of Boston. Dr. Riccio, from Essex Agricultural, was here last week with a very informative booklet for us to prepare. Here we are getting this the night of the second read. He does not get it. It seems like the same old story. He is going to be a “no” vote. Lawrence is next and he is hoping they are a “no” vote. There is something wrong here. We must petition our state delegation. We are going to a lotter and we are allotted 25%. Superintendent Lavoie agreed. Councilor Simard asked, if they do not use that allocation, where do those numbers go, to Methuen or Lawrence. Superintendent Lavoie responded they go to Lawrence. Councilor Simard continued and said, again, Methuen pays the price, pay more, and must rubber stamp it. The question should have been how can you make our job easier? How can you make the burden less on Methuen Public Schools when you are one school with twenty-two administrators? He is a “no” vote. He does not know what the answer is but knows it is at the state level. He gives Councilor Faretra credit for fighting the fight last year and he can share in his frustration. Something must be done.

Councilor Drew said he is a 2006 graduate of Greater Lawrence Technical, graduated from the plumbing department. He has continued plumbing. He is a product of the school. It is a great school. He has to look at his city and say to them “we’re going to go spend \$6.4 million dollars for this school. We are going to raise our contribution of almost \$500,000 into this coming year. The school is adding twenty-four new positions. Methuen is cutting forty-four positions. The vocational has 1800/1900 students.

Superintendent Lavoie said they have just over 1900 students.

Councilor Drew said have of the 1900 students are in school and the other half are in shop.

The Superintendent agreed.

Councilor Drew continued and said the school is educating 900 students at a time. What he means by that is they are putting through math, science, English, 900 students a day through that. The Superintendent agreed. Councilor Drew indicated Methuen High School has nineteen math teachers. At Greater Lawrence Technical School, with the increase of an added teacher, they will have sixteen math teachers. Methuen High School teaches 1800 students per day with nineteen math teachers. Greater Lawrence is teaching nine hundred students with sixteen math teachers. The MCAS scores are not exorbitantly better on anything. He does not understand how he can in good faith look at his city and say I am be fiducially responsible and approve this budget. He understands they only need three of the four towns. But, to just say to them we are going to pay 10% of your operating budget and see an increase of your staff with Methuen facing what it is facing. It feels like his administration did not look at what the actual world was going on. Methuen is taking huge cuts right now, furloughing more people, cutting teachers, cutting programs, but you are adding twenty-five positions. It is a little tone deaf.

Superintendent Lavoie stated that Methuen’s assessments are determined by the state, not by GLTS. The state drives how much you pay the Greater Lawrence Technical School not the school. They determine that by the state formula which takes into consideration the same percentage that you pay for your students in terms of percentage is the same percentage that is paid to Greater Lawrence Technical School which is based on your citizens’ salary and the value of your property in the community. That is how the formula works. He could have ten math teachers or one hundred math teachers you are still going to pay the same amount of money.

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Councilor Drew if you were not raising your number of people coming in, you are raising your budget by 1.3 million dollars. You are increasing your staff. If you were not increasing staff this year and you said I'm not going to raise 1.2 million dollars, Methuen wouldn't be coming out of their pocket an extra \$500,000 and would have paid exactly what they paid last year. He is not saying that the funding process is wrong. He is saying that the Superintendent is adding costs to his school for Methuen to be footing the bill without you looking at what the impact is to Methuen.

Superintendent Lavoie disagreed. The reason their increases went up both the state formula as well as Methuen is the enrollment goes up. What they get from the state and you are driven by the number of students they have. When they get more students from Methuen than the year before, your assessment is going to go up. Over the last twelve years student enrollment increased by almost seven hundred students. They have grown faster than any technical school in the state of Massachusetts. Their assessments have gone up. Also, their increases from the state have gone up. It's a formula that's based on the number of students that they have and in terms of nine hundred teachers teaching academic programs, every teacher teaches six periods a day and one week they have one group of students of nine hundred and the next week they get another nine hundred. Typically, they have more students than typical high school does. if you have one hundred and fifty math students in Methuen every week. They have one hundred and fifty math students. Same with the vocational but the next week they get a different one hundred and fifty math students for a total of three hundred students to assess, to evaluate their homework, prep differently. The burden is a different responsibility, but they are still teaching the same number of periods as Methuen teachers are teaching. They may be teaching less periods and students may not get as many hours mathematically that Methuen students get except in their freshman and tenth grade programs in academics the students get two periods a day instead of one period a day of math and science to ensure that they can meet the same hours as a typical student in a comprehensive high school so they are prepared for the state assessment, for the MCAS every year. They put on another math teacher, two math teachers, because they have struggled year after year with math scores in the MCAS and students coming to them every year their math scores are lower and lower and so we have bigger challenges in order to get them to grade level. Seventy percent of the students that come to them are doing below grade level with the math and over eighty percent are below grade level in ELA. They have instituted a new math program for next year to support those students that are coming in with such low-grade levels. Next year they have sixty special ed students coming in than we have this year, more ELA students coming in next year than this year because the lottery made a shift in the demographics of students coming in GLTS. They are working to get twenty-two hundred students at GLTS. They continue to have a strategic plan to bring in more students by bringing in more programs. A year from September they are starting a public safety program, increasing their medical health programs by two hundred students over the next three years. They are putting an addition on the building to support that. They also have a new program with Northern Essex with new students where the vocational school will be leasing four lab spaces there. Their students will get college credits for their vocational and academic classes so that they can get an associate degree when they graduate from Greater Lawrence Technical School. They are continuing to grow but their investment is in helping students have great opportunities. It is not

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only day school, they have over four hundred and fifty evening programs for unemployed or underemployed adults that come to their school which they place all of them. Next September they are running twelve programs. What is the purpose of that? It is to help a community and industry who is dying for support and help in areas the school is training people for, particularly in a community like Lawrence and Methuen where there is the desire to uptrain people so they have a better wage. They are all about trying to help our community and do everything they can to make for a stronger, better, safer community. Council may not like his salary which is fine, but nobody here has a clue of what his value is or what he does to earn that salary.

Councilor Drew indicated he has no problem with the Superintendent's salary. His problem is that he is increasing the funding for his community. People here are looking at their jobs and ready for pink slips. There are people in this room that are going to be furloughed next week. Your priority here, it says priority number two – reduce teacher to student ratio. You are hiring additional math teachers. You are reducing your student to teacher ration while Methuen is growing student to teacher ratio. You are adding positions and he understands there is a long-term plan for this school. Councilor Drew said he is an alumni. It is a great school. He graduated from it. He wants to see kids get a technical education. It is a great opportunity for people. He has a tough time when the Superintendent tells him the math does not work because they are doing 150 students a week, 300 different kids but it is still 150 kids a week. He does not know how that makes any sense. The vocational school costs \$31,000 per pupil. Essex Tech came here. They have the same number of students and it costs \$23,000 per student. He asked how they justify \$8,000 increase to their students. Essex Tech has the same exact programs, horses, etc. "How does the vocational have \$8,000 more per student across your system?"

Superintendent Lavoie said the formula has the per student cost. You have your base assessment which the state says this is how much money for comprehensive education that you need to receive but then when you look at a school like theirs, you add on the vocational costs which brings in another \$6,000 and you add on low income, it brings in another \$2500. Special Ed brings in a substantial amount of money. EL brings in more money. All these other criteria, they must hire support staff for all these different criteria increases the per student costs. He is saddened of the difficulties. It is not just Methuen. He lives in Andover and they struggle also trying to maintain a good budget for their schools. All the communities are struggling with that. He cannot change what Methuen receives from the state in funds nor can he change what they receive from the state. The state sets their budget.

Councilor Drew commented it is not to expand programming in a year where everybody's budget is tight. It seems like this might be the year, maybe we do not expand everything this year. Then you would not be looking for more money from Methuen. Andover does \$25,000 per student. Methuen must pay \$13,800 per student. Lawrence is paying \$3,000/\$4,000 per student. He understands how the formula works and it is a very convoluted formula. It makes no sense to him. He does not know how the Superintendent can tell Council he has to expand his programming and it is not your fault that the city must fund more money. If he was not expanding the program, were not expanding it, and were just doing contractual raises and staying status quo, just like everybody else is trying to right now. Instead your school is trying to grow. It looks bad to this community, Andover, North Andover, and Lawrence. He has

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not looked at what their budget is. He will make sure to call Councilors in Lawrence and have a conversation about it.

Superintendent Lavoie explained the vocation school gets a substantial amount of grant money. This year along they got close to two million dollars from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. It goes towards specific projects in their technical areas and supports some of the needs. They do not have to use operational money to sometimes buy materials. If they do a major project that Clean Energy is paying for the school does not have to buy as much material to train the students in plumbing, carpentry, or electrical. They received almost two million dollars last two years. They are one of the leading schools in the Commonwealth in terms of leadership in the Clean Energy Center. They also are right now meeting with Fidelity Corporation for a two million dollar grant they have given the school. They have gotten grant money from several foundations of the years. That helped them with their day to day operational budget. But it does not change, and the state is not going to give them less. Those funds are not even considered in what they get. For them to maintain a strong budget every year because it helps them offset some of their operational costs because of those funds that come in year after year. It also allows them to put additions on, expand programming and bring in more students. They turn down a thousand students a year. This year they had over fifteen hundred students apply. They turned down a thousand students.

Councilor Drew asked how many students from Methuen apply. Four hundred and ninety-one got in.

Superintendent Lavoie said he could get that information. He did not bring that with him tonight.

Councilor Drew indicated Methuen gets 25% of the population. We bring 10% of the operating budget.

Superintendent Lavoie said when the numbers were decided by the School Committee, they looked at what typically are the percentages from the different communities each year over the last four or five years. Methuen has hovered around 25%. Andover has hovered around 3%, North Andover 3%, and Lawrence has been close to over 80%. Then you look at all the students that are in the eighth grade and what percentage of those students are from Methuen vs. Lawrence, Andover, North Andover and that is basically how they came out with the percentages of students to take in.

Councilor Drew said when they took into consideration to putting this budget together did, they happen to think of looking into the communities that they are asking for contributions from and what they would be facing? Or did they just put it together and say this would be nice? This will go well for us.

Superintendent Lavoie reiterated the state formula drives that. That is a discussion to have with the state legislators.

Councilor DiZoglio said he has a problem with how the Superintendent is getting paid. Lawrence's Superintendent monitors six buildings. His budget, the way they want to pay the Superintendent, the bigger problem he has with this overall is the Superintendent said adding another math teacher, because the scores are low because Methuen keeps draining their money and have to keep cutting their teachers. You are getting the repercussions of Methuen cutting and now you must add on. But if you laid off, maybe Methuen could have saved a teacher. But

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you wanted to keep adding to your budget and your people. The vocational has twenty-two administrators. He does not know if that involves finance, secretaries, being included in the twenty-two administrators. In his department they have one person doing three jobs because they cannot afford more staffing in their administration department. But because they want their students to have opportunities at the vocational school because the school will give them so much opportunity. But the fact that you come in here and say “well, it’s just a formula” that is just how the state looks at it. To him that looks like a cop-out. The Superintendent is not showing the compassion that these teachers in the audience are fighting every day while you are adding, and we must pay you because we want our students to have an opportunity with you. “Do you see why we have a problem?”

Superintendent Lavoie said he can understand their frustration. He doesn’t say this and doesn’t speak to Council in a way that he is flip about it or don’t respect you for your needs or understand that it is really challenging to understand “why do we get all that we need and you have to struggle or impacted?” It seems like you are impacted because of what we get but the truth of the matter is Methuen really is not impacted by what they get. It is totally separate. It is the state, the Department of Education, that determines how much the school is going to get. They do not consider if we give this much to Greater Lawrence, then we are going to give less to Methuen. The formula is the same for every school in the Commonwealth whether it be a vocational school, Methuen school, or any other school. The vocational could not help Methuen if they wanted to help. The state would not allow them to cut their budget and give Methuen \$2,000. The vocational school would get fined. They must meet net-school spending. They must spend the money they are given by law. If they do not, they would get fined. It is not like they have a choice to say: “we could do with a less per pupil cost”. They set the law. The law drives what is given to the school. They must live with that.

Councilor DiZoglio said every district gives the school some of their money to pay for Special Ed. They cover the vocational school’s special ed costs.

Superintendent Lavoie disagreed. His school does not get any extra money from Methuen if they have a special ed student. Methuen’s assessment might get impacted for every special ed student they have. But that’s part of the assessment that the state determines. They are going to have next year when the state sets their finance for next year, they did not know how many special ed students they were going to have for next year because they did not have their enrollment yet. They took in 60 more special ed students than they had last year. It is based on the October 1st report that will benefit next October 1st for the following year, the extra. That is determined on their October 1st report. They are not taking money from Methuen because they have an extra 60 students because it is the same formula. They must figure out, even though they hire more special ed students, they must use whatever funds they receive from the school year.

Councilor DiZoglio said right the October 1st report but then when it comes to it, the vocational school will be receiving that money for the Special ed part that following year when Methuen is basically giving because he or she is a Methuen resident going to the vocational school. That is how it works. It is not coming out of their budget. It is coming through the state that says you have a new student that following year. Basically, it goes from Methuen into the vocational fund to cover their costs.

Superintendent Lavoie said it is a year later and may get three. He is not sure how many they got this year. It might have been three or four. Next October 1st that assessment will show that they will get additional funds, but it will be at whatever percentage the rate is for Methuen towards that special ed. If it is an extra \$1,000, they are going to receive of that assessment \$500.

Councilor DiZoglio said he feels a little hostility. People mess up. He is going to be a “no” vote because this is getting to the point where Methuen is getting the short end of the stick. Maybe we must go to the state delegation to get. We are saying we are going to go to the state delegation to fix this problem because this has been years. It seems like other cities are getting more and we keep getting the short end. We have a different Council this time around. They are going to change things.

Superintendent Lavoie said he hopes the Council is successful to help Methuen support the students that they have.

Superintendent Lavoie said they are part of his own community. He said it does not cost Methuen any money is their workforce development programs. Any unemployed or underemployed citizen that takes the vocation school’s programs, there is no assessment to the city. Yet they still educate. He is not sure how many are coming from Methuen, but he could provide that number.

Councilor DiZoglio said he is one of the biggest advocates for the city. The afternoon/evening programs are great. Right now, he cares about his kids not the evening programs. Those people got their education. Now they are going through that workforce. He is happy for them. Right now, you have kids coming in that are below level in math. That is because Methuen cannot fund their schools. Methuen cannot give their teachers the resources and cannot also have kids dealing with thirty kids in a class. His classroom is twenty-eight kids. He can only do so much in a day. He is glad the Superintendent is putting in the resources for those kids because they cannot.

Superintendent Lavoie said they try not to go over twenty-five to one, but they do have classes that are thirty to one ratio in their advance classes.

Councilor MacLaren said the Solicitor pointed out to her where it says in their budget book that says March 25th budget books will be sent to Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, and North Andover. She is not sure why he had to reach out to Methuen to ask if they were interested in receiving them. Council would want the school’s budget book to vote on their budget. The Superintendent made a statement “that this money is completely separate”. She asked for clarification if he is suggesting that the extra money Methuen is supposed to allocate this year compared to last fiscal year that is somehow separate from the pool of money that we should be using to fund our own public schools. The way she sees it is the money Methuen is giving to the school because of their budget increases very well could have gone to funding Methuen’s struggling public schools. She does not appreciate the language of “separate”. She asked that the Superintendent clarify what he meant.

Superintendent Lavoie agreed Council should have had the books on the 25th. His assumption is the Director of Finance submitted those books. He recalls asking her if she contacted Methuen at the beginning of March to make sure they had the vocational school’s budget to understand what their assessment is going to be. He assured Council it would never

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happen again. The October 1st report determines what the budget will be so that not the year of October 1st year but the next following years. This budget we are in now is based on the number of students that came from Methuen on October 1st in 2025. That is how this book was built. Next year, 2026, those numbers will be different. They will probably be a little bit more because he believes what they took in more students from Methuen this year than they did last year. It is not that they are taking any money from Methuen. They do not determine how much money Methuen gets or where that money goes. The school has no say in that at all.

Councilor Marsan commented every year Council complains about the state formula. They talk to their state senators and legislators. It seems like they get nothing done. Maybe it is Council's fault that they do not follow up or put more into it. They need to fix the formula. That is the problem. Council hears this same thing every year. The formula, Methuen pays more per student because of their formula. Council is doing everything they can, through the Mayor, making cuts to make sure our students get everything they can. They can potentially take in Free Cash and giving it to them. We are doing everything we can on our side to help our teachers. He does not see how we penalize the vocational school. He knows Council does not like the increases. He does not like it either, but we cannot penalize the 487 students that go there because we do not like the formula.

Chair Soto just to reiterate what Councilor MacLaren was eluding to maybe she misunderstood. On our budget it says \$6,419,035. But on page 27 it states preliminary for FY 2027 it says \$5,617,583. That is a difference from the six million. Further down when they did the math it stated \$801,182.00. She asked: "Is that what you are explaining, the October date?"

Superintendent Lavoie said that is different. The formula includes foundation budget and non-foundation budget. The foundation budget is Chapter 70 funds that goes specifically to teaching and learning, education. The other money is for busing, a bond Council approved.

Chair Soto said that is the difference between the two numbers. Cutting that difference would leave our kids without busing and the bond without getting paid.

Mayor Beauregard clarified on page 30 of the GLTS budget book, Methuen has roughly 26% of the enrollment, Methuen pays 57% of the foundation assessment. The total amount that is in the budget, that they are voting on tonight, Council will see FY'27 total contribution is the \$6.4 million dollar.

Chair Soto said she has met more millionaires come out of GTLS than she has come out of a four-year institution in the last decade. The vocational school produces, in the trades, some of the most brilliant business owners here in the Merrimack Valley. That is the truth. She deals with the trades a lot. She must commend the school for that. In comparison, Essex North Shore, based on the numbers that were given here, their per student cost was \$29,000. The Superintendent's math comes out to \$13,000. She asked: "Is that wrong?" "Is she missing a number?" "Is it higher?"

Superintendent Lavoie said it is \$29,000.

Councilor Drew said making any cut to this does not matter. A "yes" vote passes it. A "no" vote does not.

Solicitor O'Neill explained there are minimum required contributions and there are non-minimum required contributions in this budget. There is the state formula contribution and then there is the additional non-foundation assessment which is not part of the formula.

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Superintendent Lavoie said it is not part of the formula.

Solicitor O'Neill said he did not think that is accurate. He cannot tell them what the effect would be of reducing the \$800,000.

Councilor Drew asked if that would effectively reject his budget.

Solicitor O'Neill said it would effectively reject the budget because it would not be the amount.

Councilor Drew asked, hypothetically, the City of Methuen were to make a reduction in this line item.

Mayor Beauregard said, if hypothetically, the City of Methuen were to make a reduction in this line item from \$6,419,035 to the required minimum contribution for the City of Methuen which is \$5,617,853, if that cut were to be made, could he, as Mayor, add that difference to the Methuen public school's budget?

Solicitor O'Neill said he could not give an answer to that right now. Some of those expenses like debt service we must cover. There are certain legal requirements. He would not be able to answer that question fully tonight. They could revisit it. He thinks some of those things could move out but some of them he does not know the answer. Debt service cannot be cut.

Chair Soto asked the CAFO what happens with the bond. Council did a vote for a bond.

CAFO Duprey said, because we voted to approve that bond, Methuen is required to help pay that debt.

Solicitor O'Neill said he believes the other portion of that is for transportation. But he would defer to the Superintendent. That could have an operational effect if kids get to school.

TOTAL GREATER LAWRENCE

TECHNICAL SCHOOL

\$ 6,419,035

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 no (Clr. DiZoglio, Clr. Drew, Clr. MacLaren, Clr. Santos, Clr. Simard, Clr. Valley and Clr. Pesce) 2 yes (Clr. Marsan, Clr. Soto) Motion failed

Superintendent Lavoie said their vote "no" is hurting the students.

Chair Soto asked what the fines would be. Solicitor O'Neill indicated they would investigate that.

CAFO Duprey said even though Council voted it down, it remains in the budget. Last year Methuen voted it down. The state ordered us to pay because three out of the four communities approved it.

Solicitor O'Neill said if two or more communities reject the budget, there is a mechanism in their Charter it must be approved by the member communities. He does not know where they are in the process with the member communities.

Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School

\$ 288,263

ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL &

TECHNICAL SCHOOL

\$ 288,263

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL EDUCATION \$ **120,984,268**

Public Works

Total Personal Services \$ 5,419,649

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor Marsan to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 1,259,170

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor Marsan to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Equipment Outlay \$

Total Fuel Expenses \$ 934,000

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor Drew to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Snow & Ice \$ 200,000

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Solid Waste Disposal \$ 6,030,000

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor Valley to approve.
UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 yes, 1 no (Clr. DiZoglio)

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS \$ **13,842,829**

Elder Services

Total Personal Services \$ 370,866

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 79,050

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL ELDER SERVICES \$ **449,916**

Veterans Benefits

Total Personal Services \$ 134,724

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses \$ 306,000

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor MacLaren to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL VETERANS BENEFITS \$ 440,724

TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES SUBTOTAL \$ 890,640

Nevins Memorial Library

Library Other Expenses \$ 1,929,340

TOTAL NEVINS MEMORIAL LIBRARY \$ 1,929,340

MOTION BY: Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL CULTURE AND RECREATION SUBTOTAL \$ 1,929,340

Bonds & Interest

Principal \$ 4,680,000

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Interest \$ 2,151,868

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE SUBTOTAL \$ 6,831,868

Risk Management

Insurance Premiums, Property \$ 1,165,957

MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.
Councilor Drew asked the Mayor about the \$200,000 cut in insurance premiums.

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Mayor Beauregard explained this is for the Searles Estate property casualty insurance. We are going to maintain liability coverage. This is an adjustment for fiscal year 2027.

Councilor DiZoglio asked what the \$200,000 cut entails.

Mayor Beauregard said, in essence, if there were to be an incident, a fall or something, the city is covered through their liability insurance. But when it comes to just holding onto a \$200,000 annual property/casualty liability insurance that is something that especially in a year like this does not make any sense. This is property casualty.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 yes, 4 no (Clr. DiZoglio, Clr Drew, Clr. Santos, and Clr. Soto)

Transfer to Unemployment	\$	1,000
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MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Transfer to 111F	\$	1,000
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MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Transfer to Workers Compensation	\$	1,000
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MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL RISK MANAGEMENT	SUBTOTAL	\$	1,168,957
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Employee Benefits

Group Health Insurance	\$	19,450,901
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MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Life Insurance	\$	80,000
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MOTION BY: Councilor Marsan, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Medicare Tax	\$	1,700,000
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MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Transfer to Comp Absences Fund	\$	1,000
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MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Other Expenses	\$	36,200
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MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

Councilor Santos questioned what the \$34,200 is for.

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Mayor Beauregard explained it is \$36,200 factoring in the \$2,000 reduction to the City Council budget. This is the mechanism we are using as part of the second read of the budget, so they do not have to keep coming back to keep building in any reductions that are made in any other areas. This is going to be the spot we are going to use in the budget to help reduce the amount of furlough hours. They are taking the savings from cuts and putting those to help offset furloughs.

Councilor Drew asked about the Mayor and/or CAFO going through to offset upper line items, they are going to have to go back and put money into those line items that Council just approved coming down.

CAFO Duprey said they would have to bring a transfer to the Council as they do any other transfer that moves it from here and spreads it out across all those lines.

Councilor Drew commented Council is going to see a group of transfers come to them, \$36,000 to each different line item for personnel service.

CAFO Duprey said it will spread out and that will be in 27. They would have done it to the lines. But the Mayor said he wanted to capture anything that changed tonight they wanted it to be transparent. They left it on that line with the intention of bringing it forward another time.

Solicitor O'Neill said Council will get to vote on it again.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$	21,268,101
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Contributory Pensions	\$	17,261,838
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Pension Fund	\$	17,261,838
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MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor Simard to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	SUBTOTAL	\$	38,529,939
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State Assessment

Total State Assessments	\$	4,531,134
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TOTAL STATE ASSESSMENTS	SUBTOTAL	\$	4,531,134
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MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor MacLaren to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Other Amounts to be Raised

Overlay	\$	500,000
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MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Offsets	\$	7,752
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MOTION BY: Councilor Simard, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

TUESDAY, MAY 26th, 2026
FY'27 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
SECOND READ
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED

SUBTOTAL	\$	507,752
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GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$	226,445,059
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ADJUSTED GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$

Solicitor O'Neill said Council could vote at the end. They try to avoid creating numbers in case there is a mistake in the math.

WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund

Total Personal Services	\$	3,705,606
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MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Total Other Expenses	\$	3,416,500
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MOTION BY: Councilor Santos, seconded by Councilor DiZoglio to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Greater Lawrence Sanitary District	\$	4,200,000
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MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Debt	\$	3,270,303
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MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Employee Benefits	\$	994,897
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MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Santos to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Transfers Out – Indirect costs	\$	3,303,810
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MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor MacLaren to approve.

UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS

TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$	18,891,116
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GRAND TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$	18,891,116
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TUESDAY, MAY 26th, 2026
FY'27 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
SECOND READ

CAFO Duprey said she would send this out with all the final numbers and have it posted on the website.

Chair Soto reminded Councilors they voted to move the Council meeting from June 1st to June 8th, deadline of June 3rd for the administration

Mayor Beauregard thanked the Council for their due diligence and hard work this week. he thanked Chair Soto for her leadership through this process. Also, there is a Joint Meeting on June 10th, 2026.

Councilor Drew said, as discussed at length tonight, the Greater Lawrence Tech has two communities that have already approved their budget. Lawrence is the only other city that has not. He invited Councilors to join him as he goes to Lawrence's city council meeting to ask them to reject Greater Lawrence Tech's budget.

Chair Soto thanked the Council for a successful FY 2027 budget and collaboration and questions to the administration. She thanked the Mayor, the CAFO, the Clerk, and the Solicitor.

Adjourn

MOTION BY: Councilor DiZoglio, seconded by Councilor Drew to adjourn.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

I do hereby certify the foregoing minutes were approved by the City Council by a unanimous vote on July 6, 2026.

Linda Gagnon
COUNCIL CLERK