



City Council
General Government
Meeting Agenda

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Justin Hurst (Chair)

~Final~

**September 18,
2026**

12:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Call To Order

12:00 PM Meeting called to order on September 18, 2026, ZOOM ONLY.

Roll Call

Zoom

Councilor Hurst (Chair)
Councilor Walsh
Commissioner Helen Caulton Harris
Shenell Ford

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Absent	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Excused	
Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Excused	
Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Excused	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Virtual	
Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Virtual	

Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Absent	
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Excused	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Excused	
Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Excused	
Tracye Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Excused	

Public Portion

1. Amended Ordinance Chapter 16 Article V - Youth Commission (06/01/2026)

Minutes:

On September 18, 2026, the General Government Committee, chaired by Councilor Justin Hurst, met virtually at 12:01 p.m. to review the proposed Youth Commission ordinance. Councilor Kateri Walsh participated in the meeting. Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris and Shenell Ford of the Department of Health and Human Services also participated.

The committee reviewed revisions requested during the prior meeting. The revised ordinance includes the City Council President or a designated representative and provides for the City Council to appoint three Youth Commission members. The proposed Commission would provide Springfield youth with a formal role in identifying and discussing issues affecting young people, including mental health, social media, food insecurity, public safety, healthy relationships, financial literacy, civic engagement, school safety, and other matters identified by youth members.

The committee discussed the anticipated selection and participation process. The committee is developing selection criteria, and representatives of the Mayor and City Council are expected to coordinate on a consistent process. The Youth Commission is also expected to provide quarterly reports to the City Council regarding its work.

The discussion included the importance of youth participation in City government and the

addition of City Council representation to the revised ordinance. Because a quorum of committee members was not present, the committee did not take a formal vote to advance the ordinance. Chair Hurst stated that the ordinance was expected to proceed to the full City Council for second- and third-step consideration at an upcoming meeting. The revised Youth Commission ordinance was the document reviewed.

Meeting adjourned: approximately 12:11 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]