



City Council
**Sustainability &
Environment Meeting**

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>
Victor Davila (Chair)

~Final~

**September 24,
2026**

2:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Call To Order

2:00 PM Meeting called to order on September 24, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Roll Call

In Person:

Attorney Moore
Attorney Cotton
Brian Skelly
Councilor Davila, Chair (*L)

Zoom:

Juan Latorre
Francis Ryan
Alex Sherman, Forester
Denise Caputo

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

Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Present *LATE	2:22 PM
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Absent	
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. Discussion of Proposed Woodland Ordinance Draft.

Minutes:

On September 24, 2026, the Sustainability & Environment Committee, chaired by Councilor Victor Davila, met to continue its review of the proposed Woodland Ordinance. The committee reviewed the latest draft with representatives from the Law Department, SCANS, and the City Forestry Division. The proposed ordinance is intended to address tree canopy loss associated with development while balancing impacts on homeowners and City operations. The draft generally applies to parcels of at least 5,000 square feet that meet additional tree or canopy requirements.

The committee discussed parcel size, tree-removal thresholds, permit and mitigation fees, homeowner protections, enforcement, and the City's ability to administer the ordinance. City Forester Alex Sherman raised concerns about the staffing and resources needed for effective enforcement and previously recommended increasing the minimum parcel size to reduce the impact on individual homeowners. SCANS representatives discussed maintaining protections against significant tree canopy loss while avoiding unnecessary burdens on residents and development. The committee identified areas of the draft requiring additional clarification and review, including applicability, fee structure, and administrative procedures.

No formal vote was taken. The committee scheduled a final review of the proposed ordinance for October 9, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., with the goal of presenting it to the full City Council on October 19 for first-step consideration. The ordinance would then return to committee for further review before possible final consideration in November. The latest draft Woodland Ordinance was the

document reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]