

Committee of the Whole
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday – March 16, 2026

1. Vice-President LeBlanc called the meeting to Order at 8:00pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. Vice-President LeBlanc requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The COW Clerk called the roll – Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Brasco, Dunn, Durkee, Hanley, Harris, Katz, King, LaCava, LaFauci, President Logan, McLaughlin, Tzioumis, Vidal and Vice-President LeBlanc were all present in-person.
3. President Logan moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on March 2, 2026. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the COW meeting on March 2, 2026 were approved.
4. A communication was received from the Mayor concerning the Paine Estate. President Logan moved to hear from the Mayor and Planning Director Robert Waters. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. The Mayor stated the Planning Director had been contacted by a vendor wishing to provide a management service for the Paine Estate. Since it would need to be treated as an RFP item, the Mayor asked if the Council wished to go out to bid to hear proposals. The Mayor stated the content of the vendor's proposal could only be shared if the Council did not wish to accept the proposal from the vendor. Councillor LaFauci asked about the services the company could provide and what could happen if we did not accept the proposal. President Logan stated his reasons for his opposition to privatizing the management of the Paine Estate. Councillor Vidal expressed concern about the impact on the existing staff, condition of the building, and its preservation. Councillor Katz also asked about the services the vendor would provide. The Mayor reiterated that it could not be disclosed without a "no" vote to the proposal. Councillor King also expressed his opposition to privatization. Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Harris, Hanley and Durkee asked follow-up questions. The Mayor read her letter of request. Councillor LaFauci moved to file the matter. Councillor Dunn stated if there was a "no" vote, then the Mayor could read the proposal from the vendor. Councillor LaFauci withdrew his motion. Councillor LaFauci moved to approve the Mayor's request and to hear the vendor's proposal. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 13 in favor (Bradley-MacArthur, Dunn, Durkee, Hanley, Harris, Katz, King, LaCava, LaFauci, President Logan, McLaughlin, Tzioumis, Vidal), 1 voting present (Brasco) and LeBlanc presiding. The Mayor read the proposal from the vendor. President Logan moved to file the matter. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 12 in favor (Bradley-MacArthur, Brasco, Dunn, Durkee, Hanley, Katz, King, LaCava, President Logan, McLaughlin, Tzioumis, Vidal), 2 against (Harris, LaFauci) and LeBlanc presiding.

5. A resolution concerning the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) was submitted by President Logan. President Logan moved to request a representative of the CRWA attend a future COW meeting and for the Clerk of the COW to arrange it. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President Logan moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. The matter of the FY2027 City Council budget request was before the Committee under Rule 77. The City Auditor had provided the COW with the template to complete the budget request. Vice-President LeBlanc asked if any Councilors had a request for the FY2027 City Council Budget. President Logan moved to add \$3,750 for the software application commonly referred as "See Click Fix". The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President Logan moved to add \$29,372 to purchase 15 SurfacePro devices for the Council. On the motion, Councillor Brasco stated his opposition to the expenditure in that each Councillor receives a \$300 monthly expense allowance. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 9 in favor (Bradley-MacArthur, Dunn, Durkee, Hanley, Harris, King, Logan, McLaughlin, Tzioumis), 5 against (Brasco, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, Vidal) and LeBlanc presiding. Councillor LaFauci requested an amount for monitors in the Council Chamber. Councillor Harris asked for the prior budget request of Councillor Darcy for monitors and public access sent to the full City Council for a final vote. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. A motion to approve the FY2027 City Council budget request as amended was stated as \$491,574. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. Councillor Katz moved to take the matter of the resolution on the City's website from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Katz moved to hear from IT Director Donnie Aucoin. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Katz asked if there were any updates to individual Department webpages. Mr. Aucoin stated the responsibility of each Department website was the individual Department. Upon questions from Councillor Katz about the ADA compliance for the website, Mr. Aucoin distributed a handout detailing the issue and what steps have been taken by the IT Department. Mr. Aucoin spoke in detail about each of the elements included in his handout and the need for the City to be compliant. Councillor Katz asked if the City is at risk for any non-compliance fines/penalties. Mr. Aucoin explained how the City would achieve compliance. Councillor Tzioumis asked several follow-up questions about the portion of the website that is non-compliant, any data source issues, ADA responsibilities and reverse 911 capability. President Logan complimented the IT Department for their work on this matter. Councillor Katz moved to file the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
8. Councillor McLaughlin wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.
9. President Logan mentioned the Waltham Boy Scouts trivia night to be held on March 26.

10. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and VP LeBlanc declared the meeting adjourned at 9:48pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Committee of the Whole