

Committee of the Whole
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday – February 2, 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 January 20, 2026. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the COW meeting on January 20, 2026 were approved.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Kathleen B. McMenimen as an Associate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). A motion by Councillor Hanley to hear from Ms. McMenimen was adopted on a voice vote. Upon a question from Councillor Hanley, Ms. McMenimen stated her reasons for wanting to serve on the ZBA. Councillor Hanley moved to confirm the appointment of Ms. McMenimen. On the motion, Ms. McMenimen answered questions from Councillor Harris about her ability to function as a board member and not as a City Councillor. President Logan spoke about his concern for following state law when granting variances and giving deference to the City's Chief Building Inspector. Councillor Bradley-MacArthur questioned Ms. McMenimen about her previous position on ADUs. Councillor Katz asked Ms. McMenimen about the responsibility of the ZBA to consider the applicant when rendering a decision. The original motion for approval was adopted on a roll call vote of 15 in favor (Bradley-MacArthur, Brasco, Dunn, Durkee, Hanley, Harris, Katz, King, LaCava, LaFauci, President Logan, McLaughlin, Tzioumis, Vidal and Vice-President LeBlanc).
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of John J. O'Connor III as the Director of Veterans Services and Assistant to the License Commission for a three-year term. Because of the proposed duties of the candidate for the License Commission, Councillor LaCava recused himself from the discussion and vote. A motion by Councillor Katz moved to hear Mr. O'Connor was adopted on a voice vote. Upon a question from Councillor Katz, Mr. O'Connor gave a summary of his experience and background for the position and his reasons for wanting to serve. Councillor Katz moved to confirm the appointment of Mr. O'Connor. On the motion, Councillors Durkee, LaFauci, Bradley-MacArthur, Harris, King, McLaughlin, and Brasco all spoke favorably of Mr. O'Connor citing his character, willingness to promote engagement and

outreach with the veteran community. The original motion for approval was adopted on a roll call vote of 14 in favor (Bradley–MacArthur, Brasco, Dunn, Durkee, Hanley, Harris, Katz, King, LaFauci, President Logan, McLaughlin, Tzioumis, Vidal and Vice–President LeBlanc) and 1 recused (LaCava).

6. Councillor LaCava moved to take the matter of the care, custody, and control of the Lawrence School property (9/8/2025) from the table. Councillor LaCava moved to hear from the Mayor and Recreation Director Kim Hebert. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. At a previous COW meeting, the Mayor presented a couple of options for the site – Lawrence School for housing and the land for a skating rink. Councillor LaCava asked questions about the use of the property for a skating rink. Councillor LaCava spoke about the lease with the existing rink and the possibility of two rinks and sufficient parking on the property. Councillor LaCava did not believe splitting the property would provide a proper rink facility or proper housing. Councillor LaFauci spoke of the importance of maintaining a rink for the many children who participate in the youth hockey program. Councillor Vidal asked several questions about a proposed design for the property. Councillor McLaughlin spoke about creating a rink facility that would be one full–size rink and a half–size rink. Councillor Hanley asked questions about the investment the City has made at the Veterans Rink. Councillor Bradley–MacArthur asked questions about the condition of the Lawrence School, parking impacts if splitting the property, and wetlands issues. Councillor Durkee asked questions about the Lawrence School concerning historical impacts and how many units could be housed. Councillor Harris asked questions about the status of the City's ability to have the right of first refusal at the expiration of the lease of Veterans Rink. The Mayor stated she would try to provide more information on a rink/housing option and a rink only option. Councillor Dunn asked if the Mayor would come back to present a plan of the options. Councillor LaCava moved to approve the transfer of the care, custody, and control of the Lawrence School property located at 258 Trapelo Road to the Recreation Department. The motion for approval was adopted on a roll call vote of 15 in favor (Bradley–MacArthur, Brasco, Dunn, Durkee, Hanley, Harris, Katz, King, LaCava, LaFauci, President Logan, McLaughlin, Tzioumis, Vidal and Vice–President LeBlanc). Councillor LaCava moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A motion by Councillor Brasco to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and Vice–President LeBlanc declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

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