

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Tuesday – February 17, 2026

1. Chairman Katz called the meeting to order at 8:20pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. Chairman Katz requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Committee members Durkee, King, LaFauci, VP LeBlanc, and Katz were present in-person.
3. Councillor Durkee made a request to amend the minutes of the meeting held on February 2, 2026 by adding additional language. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the amended minutes of the meeting on February 2, 2026 were approved.
4. A motion by Councillor Durkee to hear from all off-committee members was adopted by a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the transfer in the amount of \$9,665.00 for technology items in the City Clerk's Office.

FROM:

City Clerk – FT Salary	#001-161-5100-5111	\$9,665.00
------------------------	--------------------	------------

TO:

City Clerk – Computer Equipment	#001-161-5800-6530	\$9,665.00
---------------------------------	--------------------	------------

Upon questions from VP LeBlanc, City Clerk Joseph Vizard explained that the funds would be used to purchase (3) laptop computers, (6) larger desktop monitors, and (7) Adobe Acrobat licenses. VP LeBlanc moved to approve the transfer and it was adopted on a voice vote.

6. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the transfer in the amount of \$1,851.00 for two Self Containing Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units for the Emergency Management Department.

FROM:

EMS – Fuel Tank Testing	#001-291-5400-5384	\$1,250.00
EMS – Environmental Services	#001-291-5400-5310	\$ 601.00

TO:

EMS – Safety Equipment	#001-291-5400-5850	\$1,851.00
------------------------	--------------------	------------

Emergency Management Director Bernard Mullin explained that the funds would be used to replace 30 minute bottles with 45 minute bottles. Councillor Durkee moved to approve the transfer and it was adopted on a voice vote.

7. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the appropriation in the amount of \$70,000.00 for the FY2026 operating expenses for the Veterans' Memorial Rink.

FROM:

Unreserved Fund Balance	#001-000-3590-3590	\$70,000.00
-------------------------	--------------------	-------------

TO:

Recreation Veterans' Rink -	#640-630-5200-5000	\$70,000.00
Operating Expenses		

Upon questions from Councillors LeBlanc, LaFauci, and King, Recreation Director Kim Hebert explained that the funds would be used to reimburse the operating account for the immediate replacement of the hot water tank at the Veterans' Rink. Director Hebert stated it was used for about 20 years for the concessions and the showers in the locker room. Councillor LaFauci was concerned that the cost seemed high. A motion was made by Councillor LaFauci to request a copy of the receipt of the work order and the specification of the hot water heater that was installed at the Veterans' Memorial Rink. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. VP LeBlanc moved to approve the appropriation and it was adopted on a voice vote.

8. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of the second installment of a state grant in the amount of \$33,295.36 from the Executive Office of Aging and Independence. Council on Aging Director Patrick O'Brien explained that the funds would be used towards fitness classes, discount taxi program, printing of the newsletter, volunteer recognition, dues, and continuing education. There will be two more upcoming installments. No matching funds were required. A motion by Councillor Durkee to approve the acceptance of the grant was adopted on a voice vote.

9. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the appropriation in the amount of \$2,500,000.00 for the incurred FY2026 snow removal costs and an allowance of 10% for projected costs.

FROM:

Unreserved Fund Balance	#001-000-3590-3590	\$2,500,000.00
-------------------------	--------------------	----------------

TO:

Snow – Overtime	#001-421-5100-5131	\$ 650,000.00
Snow – General Expenses	#001-421-5200-5000	\$1,850,000.00

Upon questions from Councillors LeBlanc, King, Durkee, and LaFauci, CPW Director Michael Chiasson explained the funds would cover the deficit through the end of January 2026. It is common practice and legal to deficit spend against the snow budget. The original snow budget was about \$1.4M. As of 2/10/2026, the City has had 14 snow events this year, totaling 41.7 inches of snow. Approximately \$1.1M has been spent on salt. Councillor LaFauci also inquired about the overtime costs that were budgeted and expended. Director Chiasson explained that the overtime plan is discussed amongst five people. The employees in the public vehicles division are broken into shifts for better coverage. When asked what costs make up the general expense request, Director Chiasson stated it was for plowing and salting by contractors, weather service, plow blades and parts, salt, and sand. Decisions about calling in outside contractors to plow or salt varies because each snow event is different. Sidewalk plowing has been challenging because of the cold temperatures, the amount of snow that has fallen, the increase in

properties, and newer staff that is using the equipment. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the appropriation was adopted on a voice vote.

10. The final item on the agenda was Council Rule 66 – Mid-Year Budget Report. Assistant City Auditor Doane gave a brief overview, then explained the status of the various revenue items to date. On the expenditure side of the budget, Ms. Doane explained most accounts were tracking favorably. Ms. Doane also discussed the Medical Insurance Trust, OPEB trust, and Debt Schedule. Committee members made several observations and asked a few follow up questions. VP LeBlanc made a motion to table the item so that the Mid-Year Budget Review for the School Department could be discussed in the future. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

11. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and Chairman Katz declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53pm.

Laura M. Doane – Clerk pro tem to the Finance Committee