

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday – March 16, 2026

1. Councillor Katz called the meeting to order at 9:50pm 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, LeBlanc, and Katz were all present in-person.
3. Councillor Durkee moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on March 2, 2026.
The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the meeting on March 2, 2026 were accepted.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of the third installment of a State grant in the amount of \$36,063.04 from the Executive Office of Aging and Independence to be used by the Council on Aging for several programs that benefit senior citizens, including fitness programs, discount taxi programs, newsletter printing, etc. This is a grant the City has annually received and does not require matching funds. A motion to hear from COA Director Patrick O'Brien was adopted on a voice vote. Director O'Brien gave a brief explanation of the grant program. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to accept the grant was adopted on voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the donation of an area telephone directory from Julia DeCola for the City Hall Museum Room. A motion to hear from the Mayor was adopted on a voice vote. The Mayor gave a brief explanation of the donated item. A motion by VP LeBlanc to accept the donation was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the donation of tickets from the Embassy Theatre and Waltham Police Relief Association from Karen O'Brien for the City Hall Museum Room. A motion to hear from the Mayor was adopted on a voice vote. The Mayor gave a brief explanation of the donated item. A motion by VP LeBlanc to accept the donation was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A request was received from the Mayor to approve funding in the amount of \$217,157 for the quality and safety improvements to the two softball fields located at the Veterans Athletic Complex.

FROM:

Recreation-Computers	#001-630-5800-6540 \$	110.84
Recreation-McCabe/Lazazzero	#310-630-2023-6340 \$	2,880.50
Recreation-McKenna/Logan	#310-630-2025-6310 \$	3,472.90

TO:

Recreation-Vets Softball Fields	#001-630-5800-6635	\$ 110.84
Recreation-Vets Softball Fields	#310-630-2023-6635	\$ 2,880.50
Recreation-Vets Softball Fields	#310-630-2025-6635	\$ 33,472.90

Use of Existing Funds:

Recreation-Rec Programs Support	#001-633-5200-5584	\$ 5,692.76
Recreation-Vets Field Revolving	#214-630-1066-5203	\$ 75,000.00
Recreation-Gann Veterans Gift	#258-630-1969-5205	\$100,000.00

Total Funding \$217,157.00

A motion to hear from Recreation Director Kim Hebert was adopted on a voice vote. Director Hebert gave a detailed explanation of the intended use of the funds. Councillor LaFauci asked if the fields would be turf, to which Director Hebert stated the fields would be grass. A motion by Councillor Durkee to approve the funding request was adopted on a voice vote.

8. A request was received from the Mayor to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$174,541 from Unreserved Fund Balance to address the deficit in the School Department, Special Education – Out of District Tuitions and Transportation account.

FROM:

Unreserved Fund Balance	#001-000-3590-3590	\$174,541
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TO:

SPED – OOD Tuitions	#001-33-90-9-9300-5325-4	\$174,541
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A motion to hear from School Superintendent Dr. Marisa Mendonsa and Asst Superintendent Chad Mazza was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor King asked questions about the status of the account when presented during the mid-year budget, noting it was within budget. Mr. Mazza stated it did not include encumbered funds. Councillor King asked follow-up questions about the number of students who are placed out-of-district (OOD). VP LeBlanc also asked questions about the procedure of identifying the cost before the student is placed and if some of the students could be serviced in Waltham. VP LeBlanc asked who has the signatory authority for the OOD contracts. Dr. Mendonsa explained it would require appropriate teaching staff and there is currently an assessment taking place. Councillor LaFauci asked the amount requested by the Mayor was much less than the School Committee requested amount. It was stated the request was to cover the only known costs and the additional potential costs were under review. Councillor LaFauci asked if medical professionals were consulted on the OOD placements and if there are any denials for OOD placements. Mr. Mazza stated the FY2027 budget request would include a cushion of about 5 additional students above the current enrollment. Mr. Mazza also stated the Circuit Breaker funds were based on the

previous year's spending and enrollment. A motion by Councillor Durkee to approve the funding request was adopted on a voice vote.

9. A request was received from the Mayor to accept the donation valued between \$35,000 to \$40,000 to fully restore the grand piano at Stonehurst from the Robert Treat Paine Historical Trust. From the Chair, Councillor Katz explained the intricacies of restoring a piano. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to accept the donation and to send a thank you letter to the donor was adopted on a voice vote.
10. A request was received from the Mayor to approve an appropriation in the amount \$12,118 from Unreserved Fund Balance for updates to heating systems at Government Center in the amount of \$20,000. The City received two rebates from National Grid totaling \$7,882 to offset the cost of the improvements.

FROM:

Unreserved Fund Balance	#001-000-3590-3590	\$12,118
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TO:

Building - Maint/Repair to Bldgs	#001-192-5200-5245	\$12,118
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Upon questions from Councillor Durkee, Director Millian explained the purpose of the funding request and the projects that were completed as its result. Councillor LaFauci asked if the upgrades were covered by a warranty. A motion by Councillor Durkee to approve the funding request was adopted on a voice vote.

11. A motion by Councillor Durkee to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and Chairman Katz declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00pm.

Paul G. Centofanti - Clerk to the Finance Committee