



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: January 27, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor,
Lowell, MA / Zoom (Hybrid)

1. ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed 11 present (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott).

M. Gitschier presiding.

2. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2.1. Communication Remote / Zoom Participation.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Chau, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of City Council Regular Meeting January 20th, for acceptance.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

4. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

4.1. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper departments work with our City Council to draft parameters around TIFs and TIEs that incorporate community and Council led initiatives.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager/Economic Development SC. So voted. C. Robinson noted that initiatives should be



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established with built in incentives to set up terms. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon to refer matter to Economic Development SC. So voted.

4.2. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department provide a draft home rule petition allowing the City to establish a centralized facilities department.

In City Council, seconded by C. Descoteaux, referred to City Manager. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 Recusal (C. McDonough). So voted. C. McDonough recused self from discussion and vote. C. Robinson noted this may be only alternative as there is no agreement with the schools. C. Descoteaux questioned Manager regarding meetings with school administration. Manager Golden, Jr. outlined those discussions. City Solicitor Williams noted the Home Rule Petition would change existing laws which would take vote away from the school committee. Manager Golden, Jr. noted the home rule petition is a long process even when all parties are in agreement. C. Nuon noted the current Maintenance of Effort (MOE) with the school administration needs attention and that there are discussions surrounding Memorandum of Agreement regarding Net School Spending. C. Juran commented regarding pararell path with home rule petition and amending the memorandum. C. Rourke noted the school committee defeated this request prior and that current Mayor should bring that motion back before the committee. C. Robinson commented on the work and schedule of City custodians. C. Scott noted a joint subcommittee with schools could be helpful. **Motion** by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott to request Mayor bring motion before School Committee regarding the establishment of a centralized facilities department. So voted. **Motion** by C. Scott, seconded by C. Nuon to schedule a joint Municipal Facilities SC with schools. So voted.

4.3. C. Chau - Req. City Mgr. invite the Veterans Commission to appear before the Council to provide a presentation on the City's Hometown Heroes Banner Program.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Chau noted it was a good program to move forward.

4.4. C. Chau / M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. provide the City Council with a comprehensive list and status update of all street paving, roadway improvements and infrastructure upgrade projects that have been previously approved by Council vote but remain pending.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager/Neighborhoods SC as amended. So voted. C. Chau commented on the effort of the administration and just need a snapshot of where the City is in this endeavor. **Motion** by C. Juran, seconded by C. Chau to amend motion to have a comprehensive list along with criteria used for selection of roads and to refer to Neighborhoods SC. So voted. C. McDonough noted the need for regular reporting. C. Juran commented on prior motion that empowered the Neighborhoods SC to formulate such reporting.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

5.1. Motion Responses.

A) Motion Response - Bridge Safety Measures – C. Chau commented on the request to MassDOT. C. Nuon noted letter to State highlighting the issue. Manager Golden, Jr. noted current discussions with other parties. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. So voted.

B) Motion Response – Moratorium – C. Scott noted response indicates that they are listening to residents. C. Juran noted concern with the definition of “Data Center” in the proposed ordinance. C. Juran noted possible involvement of the Zoning SC. C. Scott wished to move forward with the response. City Solicitor Williams noted collaboration with Planning Department regarding language. Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD) commented on definition noting it would suffice but tightening language is always present. C. Mercier noted item was going before the Planning Board. C. Juran questioned powers of the Planning Board regarding moratorium. City



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Solicitor Williams noted that the Planning Board could install changes. C. Chau questioned the effect of the moratorium. City Solicitor noted that it could not operate retroactively. C. McDonough noted the definition of data center should be amended. C. Nuon wished to move moratorium further. **Motion** by C. Scott, seconded by C. Juran to refer back to Law Department to amend definition of “Data Center” in the ordinance. So voted. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

6. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

6.1. Vote - Allocate \$20k Opioid Settlement Funds.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Juran. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Nuon). So voted.

7. ORDINANCES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

7.1. Ordinance - Amend Zoning - Data Center Moratorium.

In City Council, **Motion** to withdraw item by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted.

8. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

In City Council, none.

9. PETITIONS

9.1. Misc. - Nydia Rakim request installation of a handicap parking sign at 61 Chestnut Street (Apt. 3).

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to Transportation Engineer for report and recommendation by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted.



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9.2. Misc. - Maria Olsen request installation of a handicap parking sign at 142-144 Ennell Street.

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to Transportation Engineer for report and recommendation by C. Chau, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted.

Motion to bundle Items #9.3 to #9.13, inclusive by C. Scott, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted.

9.3. National Grid - Request installation of 1 SO Pole at Middlesex and Wood Streets.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

9.4. National Grid - Request installation of 1 JO Pole 557 Varnum Avenue.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

9.5. National Grid - Request installation of 1 JO Pole at 1158 Gorham Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

9.6. National Grid - Request installation of 1 JO Pole at 145 Pawtucket Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

9.7. National Grid - Request installation of 1 JO Pole at 15 West Meadow Road.



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In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

9.8. National Grid - Request installation of 1 JO Pole at 308 Stevens Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

9.9. National Grid - Request installation of 1 JO Pole at 316 Mammoth Road.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

9.10. National Grid - Request installation of 1 JO Pole at 9-11 Columbia Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

9.11. National Grid - Request installation of 1 SO Pole at 12 Wood Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

9.12. National Grid - Request installation of 2 SO Poles at 1170 Gorham Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

9.13. National Grid - Request installation of 5 JO Poles at Middlesex and Edwards Streets.



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In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 10, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. Scott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, C. Mercier noted birthday of former City Council member Paul Ratha Yem. C. Chau lauded the effort of the City during recent snowstorm. Manager Golden, Jr. commented on current parking ban in the City. C. Scott wished a happy birthday to Shawn Machado (Asst. City Mgr.) on behalf of the Council. C. Robinson commented on the Refuge Art School fundraiser.

11. ADJOURNMENT

In City Council, **Motion** to Adjourn by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk