



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: February 10, 2026
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor,
Lowell, MA / Zoom (Hybrid)

1. ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed 9 present (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 2 absent (C. Mercier, C. Robinson).

M. Gitschier presiding.

C. Chau requested moment of silence in darkened chamber for John Lunde. C. Rourke requested moment of silence in darkened chamber for Luis Cruz Rivera.

2. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2.1. Communication Remote / Zoom Participation.

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

2.2. Citation - Victor Amaro.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Nuon, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. M. Gitschier read Citation recognizing Mr. Amaro generosity.

2.3. Proclamation - Heart Health Month in Lowell.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Nuon, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. M. Gitschier read the Proclamation.



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3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of City Council Regular Meeting February 3rd, for acceptance.

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

C. McDonough was afforded a point of personal privilege to comment on his request he made to the Ethics Commission prior to and regarding his addressing the Council at last Council meeting.

Motion to bundle, give second reading, hold hearing and refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted. M. Gitschier commented that National Grid representatives (Alec Noel-Birdsong, Adam Dion) were in Zoom and are able to answer any questions regarding the petitions. Meetings were opened at 7:02 PM

4. UTILITY PUBLIC HEARING (Scheduled for 7PM)

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

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. C. Juran requested some language in the petitions i.e., SO and JO poles. Mr. Noel-Birdsong noted the differences. C. Juran questioned work regarding the Rourke Bridge. Mr. Dion noted poles would be permanent. C. Scott commented on the issue of double poles and storage of poles in the City. Mr. Noel-Birdsong noted the need to involve Verizon. C. Liang noted some ADA requirements. Mr. Noel-Birdsong noted that form was generated by the City. Asst. City Manager Shawn Machado noted prior response regarding process for double poles and that he would forward that to Council. M. Gitschier noted the avoidance by the companies to remove poles.



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

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

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

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

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

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

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

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

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

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. C. Nuon questioned the placement of the pole. Mr. Noel-Birdsong noted the location and that it did not encumber other properties.



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C. Nuon questioned status of double poles in the City. Mr. Noel-Birdsong noted he would refer that to appropriate department within the company.

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

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

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

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

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

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

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

In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. C. Juran commented on possible upgrade. Mr. Noel-Birdsong outlined the process upgrades are made.

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



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In City Council, Given 2nd Reading, Hearing held. **Motion** to refer to Wire Inspector for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

5. CITY COUNCIL – MOTIONS

5.1. C. Scott - Req. City Mgr. have DPD report on the feasibility of creating a local wetland bylaw requiring a 25-foot do not disturb buffer around all wetlands, to protect water quality, flood control, wildlife, and climate resilience, with commission waiver authority for exceptional cases involving health, accessibility, or minimal environmental impact.

In City Council, seconded by C. Juran, referred to City Manager. So voted. Registered speaker, Brad Buitershuys (comment - noted the importance of the buffer zone), address the Council. C. Scott noted zone was important and should be applied equally to all. C. McDonough noted that there should be some review of a 50 foot no build zone. C. Scott noted no objections to that being part of the feasibility study.

5.2. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. work with Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Public Health (DPH) and Lowell Board of Health (LBD) to convene a meeting with our Council to review year-end health data as well as continue conversations around local regulations and the current syringe services programming.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted.

5.3. C. Liang - Req. City Mgr. working collaboratively with the University of Massachusetts Lowell to explore pedestrian safety improvement crosswalks by installing Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at the intersections of Pawtucket-Walker, and Pawtucket-Wilder Streets by the start of this summer season.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Liang noted the need to improve safety in a high pedestrian area and



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that partnership with UMass-Lowell is important. C. Descoteaux noted that whole area should be addressed.

5.4. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. give an update on the plans and progress toward creating a tree committee, including the role an arborist could/should play.

In City Council, seconded by M. Gitschier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted the value placed on trees and that it should be managed by the City with an expert. Manager Golden, Jr. noted the findings of the focus group regarding use of arborist.

5.5. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. give an update on Boott Hydropower's relicensing application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the impact on the city and its canals.

In City Council, seconded by C. Descoteaux, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted the purpose of the lease and the complicated process regarding renewal and the residents should be informed.

5.6. C. Juran - Req. City Mgr. provide an update on the FY26 budget and plans for the FY27 budget: schedule, public comment sessions, free cash certification for FY25, ARPA sunset and impact on plans and positions, forecast, and impact of federal and state revenue streams.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager/Finance SC. So voted. C. Juran noted prior motions and that just want to get pertinent information to residents. **Motion** by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Juran to refer report to Finance SC. So voted.

5.7. C. Descoteaux - Req. City Mgr. report on the progress of the repurposing at Callery Park.

In City Council, seconded by C. Chau, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Descoteaux noted that DPD should continue efforts regarding the park.



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5.8. C. McDonough / C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. work with the appropriate department to develop a plan to mitigate the impact to residents whose permitted parking is affected by major projects such as the CSO project; the plan should also account for residents with handicap placards and/or accessibility needs.

In City Council, seconded by C. Juran, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted it was a big project which will cause significant impacts.

5.9. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. work with appropriate department to provide a detailed report on winter operation procedures in high pedestrian traffic locations throughout the City. (1/13/26)

In City Council, seconded by C. Liang, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted request of many residents to understand the plan and commented on the positive effort and results downtown.

5.10. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. work with Lowell Sustainability Council and the Lowell Public Schools to create a student Environmental (Climate Change) Competition to be held on Civics Day in May 2026; prizes would be handled through the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough recused self from discussion and vote. Registered speakers, Ryan Oates (comment - good educational tool), Mikaela Hondros-McCarty (comment - noted other programs), Sarah Lapp (comment - City support important to move forward), Jay Mason (comment - noted origin and prior competitions), addressed the Council.

5.11. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. provide the City Council with the State audit of Masshires fiscal procedures and the Workforce Board, how they manage grants and board meetings.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

6.1. Motion Responses / Informational Reports

A) Motion Response – AED – C. Liang noted response and the need for use in after school programs. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

B) Motion Response - Support Letter Rodenticide – M. Gitschier noted support of the letter. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

6.2. Informational Reports

Informational Report - CPR-AED – Lisa Golden (HHS) outlined the report and the importance of being informed.

Motion by C. Nuon, seconded by C. McDonough to take informational reports WinterFest and Year in Review together at end of agenda. So voted.

Informational Report - Update on Bicentennial-WinterFest 2026

Informational Report - 2025 Lowell Year in Review – Manager Golden, Jr. noted the City was a city of opportunity and commented on administration efforts in sustaining that. A video entitled “2025 Lowell Year in Review” was presented outlining following areas of interest: fiscal strength (Moody Rating, ARPA funding and projects, MSBA school projects); educational achievements; Economic Development (housing and commercial); Communication Department; and FrontRunner Program. Manager Golden, Jr. noted the accomplishments due to acts of the Council and administration and commented that there was more to be done. Manager Golden, Jr. Commented on planning for the Bicentennial and the kick-off at WinterFest. **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Scott, seconded by C. Juran. So voted.



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6.3. Communication - Resignation of Members from Citizen Advisory Committee.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. The following resignations were noted, Beteline Nherisson and Esteban Pena.

6.4. Communication - City Manager request approval of (1) Out of State Travel LPD.

In City Council, **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Chau, seconded by C. Juran. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 2 absent (C. Mercier, C. Robinson). So voted.

7. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

7.1. Vote - Authorize CM Ex. Preservation Restriction - 228 Worthen St.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Descoteaux. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 2 absent (C. Mercier, C. Robinson). So voted.

7.2. Vote - Authorize CM Ex. Preservation Restriction - 80 Gorham St.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Chau, seconded by C. Descoteaux. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 2 absent (C. Mercier, C. Robinson). So voted.

8. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

In City Council, none.



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9. PETITIONS

9.1. Misc. - William Murphy request removal of handicap parking sign at 151 Coburn Street.

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

Motion to bundle Items #9.2 to #9.7 by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Juran. So voted.

9.2. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO Pole at 1150 Westford Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

9.3. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO Pole at 1270 Westford Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

9.4. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO Pole at 241 Pawtucket Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

9.5. National Grid - Request installation of (1) JO Pole at 648 Stevens Street.



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In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

9.6. National Grid - Request installation of underground electric conduit along Pearl Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

9.7. National Grid - Request installation of underground electric conduit on Middlesex Street from Canal Street to Garnett Street.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading. **Motion** to refer to Public Hearing on February 24, 2026 @ 7 PM by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, M. Gitschier noted the efforts of staff and administration for their contributions throughout the year.

11. ADJOURNMENT

In City Council, **Motion** to Adjourn by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.



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