



WELCOME TO THE FITCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

February 3, 2026

**Fitchburg Legislative Building
700 Main Street
Fitchburg MA 01420
7:00 PM**

This meeting can also be viewed live on FATV. Go to www.fatv.org/watch-fatv for more information on accessing this meeting.

This is intended to help you understand the meeting format and assist you with the rules of the Council as they pertain to your participation.

All meetings of the Fitchburg City council are open to the public. This does not mean that the public participates in all aspects of the meeting. It simply means that the meeting itself, including all discussions and votes, is open for public view.

Executive Session

The only time a Council meeting can be closed to the public is when the Council votes for Executive Session in order to discuss sensitive matters in private, such as pending litigation. Any votes taken however, must be taken in open session.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK DURING A COUNCIL MEETING:

Public Forum

The Public Forum occurs immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance. The President will ask if anyone in the audience wishes to speak on any matter appearing on the Agenda. If you wish to address the Council, you must stand and be recognized and follow these rules before speaking:

1. State your name and city of residence.
2. Approach the center table and either stand or sit. This allows you to be seen and heard clearly by everyone in attendance.
3. You may speak only on items appearing on the agenda for no more than (2) minutes. Copies of the agenda are available on the center table prior to the meeting.
4. Please state the petition, order, ordinance, or resolution number to which you refer.

Public Hearings

Public hearings are held on various issues such as Special Permits and Zoning changes. The same rules apply with the following exceptions:

1. You must stand and be recognized either "in favor" or "in opposition" when asked by the Council President.
2. You need not refer to the petition number.

If you have any questions or comments either before or after the meeting, any Councilor would be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your interest!

I. PUBLIC FORUM

This meeting will be open to the public. Persons who wish to participate remotely in the Public Forum portion of the meeting may request a remote attendance link by contacting the City Clerk at cityclerk@fitchburgma.gov by 12:00 PM (noon) on the day of meeting.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

III. REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Appointments Committee

Oral Report

Meeting of February 3, 2026

New Appointment:

Board of Trustees for the Public Library

(Term to expire January 20, 2029)

Reverend Daniel W. Spigelmeyer, Jr.

Re-Appointment:

Fitchburg Council on Aging

(For a term to expire October 1, 2028)

Hafsa Ahmed Asfa

IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

Joint Convention of the City Council and School Committee meeting minutes January 20, 2026

Regular City Council meeting minutes of January 20, 2026

V. COMMUNICATION

Her Honor the Mayor

1. New Appointment letter:

Erik Salmi, as a Member of the Fitchburg Planning Board, for a term to expire February 17, 2029.

2. New Appointment letter:

Christopher Deloge, as a Member of the Fitchburg Planning Board, for a term to expire February 17, 209.

Council President Anthony Zarrella

1. Re-Appointment letter:

Elizabeth (Betsy) McNiff, as Fitchburg Assistant City Clerk, for a term to expire February 21, 2029.

Brittney Fish, PHR – Interim Director Human Resources

1. Memorandum Agreement:

Memorandum of Agreement by and between the City of Fitchburg and DPW/Teamster Local 170
[Memorandum Agreement](#)

VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

Meeting of January 28, 2026

Finance Committee Minutes 1-28-26

008-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby transfers TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000) from the Community Development Block Grant Housing Revolving Fund to the CDBG Year 51 Demolition activity account. **(Be Adopted)**

009-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of Massachusetts Audubon Society grant funds in the approximate amount of SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$71,550) to fulfill the city's matching obligation for a conservation restriction at 71 Bennett Road. **(Be Adopted)**

Legislative Affairs Committee

Meeting of February 3, 2026

Oral Report

011-26. ORDER THAT: The Fitchburg City Council accepts the provisions of Section 12D of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, as added by Section 51 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, to allow the Fitchburg Liquor License Commission as the local licensing authority of the City, to approve a request from a licensee to convert an existing license to sell wines and malt beverages only for on-premises consumption to a license to sell all alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption, subject to all other provisions of G.L. c.138, including notice, publication, and certified mailing of, and a public hearing on, such conversion.

013-26. On behalf of President Zarrella and City Clerk Bilotta: That the City Council of the City of Fitchburg hereby votes to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 110A, which authorizes public offices in the City to remain closed on any or all Saturdays, as determined by the City Council, with such Saturdays to be treated in the same manner as legal holidays.

014-26. Petition sponsored by Councilor Cruz and Walsh, to amend Ordinance regarding Interim Appointments as outlined in the enclosed petition.
[Amendment to Interim Appointments](#)

Public Safety Committee
Meeting of February 3, 2026
Oral Report

007-26. J & G Auto Sales, to petition for a Class II Dealer's License located at 369 River St. Fitchburg, MA 01420.

018-26. Podium Motors, LLC, to petition for a Class II Dealer's License located at 401 Summer St. Fitchburg, MA 01420.

VII. ORDERS – FINANCE

019-26. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FORTY-SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$46,100) same to be charged against RESERVE FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL PURPOSES - Expenses and credited to the following departmental accounts:

PUBLIC WORKS - Labor	\$ 12,027
PUBLIC WORKS - Overtime	\$ 2,117
PUBLIC WORKS - Stipends	\$ 22,000
CEMETERY - Labor	\$ 2,380
CEMETERY – Overtime	\$ 445
CEMETERY – Stipends	\$ 4,000
PARKS – Stipends	\$ 3,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - Other	\$ 131

020-26. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is transferred the sum of NINETEEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$19,900) from within DPW Water Division PERSONAL SERVICES to the following accounts:

LABOR	\$ 4,113
OVERTIME	\$ 751
BUYBACKS	\$ 36
STIPENDS	\$ 15,000

021-26. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is transferred the sum of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000) from within DPW Wastewater Division PERSONAL SERVICES to the following account:

STIPENDS	\$5,000
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VIII. ORDINANCES

005-26. BE IT ORDAINED THAT – Chapter 138, §§ 138.2 through 138.3 of the Code of the City of Fitchburg be amended as follows to enhance enforcement of junk vehicle infractions:

That the General Ordinances of the City of Fitchburg, Chapter 138, §§ 138.2 through 138.3, as most recently amended, be further amended by adding the language denoted as emboldened in the enclosed Ordinance.

[Ordinance 005-26](#)
(Final Reading)

006-26. BE IT ORDAINED THAT – Chapter 172, §§ 172.1 through 172.6 of the Code of the City of Fitchburg be amended as follows to enhance enforcement of junk vehicle infractions:

That the General Ordinances of the City of Fitchburg, Chapter 172, §§ 172.1 through 172.6, as most recently amended, be further amended by deleting the language denoted with strikethrough and replacing with the language denoted as emboldened in the enclosed Ordinance.

[Ordinance 006-26](#)
(Final Reading)

IX. PETITIONS

022-26. Liz Murphy, Executive Director of Community Development & Planning, to enter into a Conservation restriction located at 71 Bennett Road as outlined in the enclosed petition.
[Petition](#)
[Conservation Restriction](#)
[Grant Conservation Restriction](#)
(City Property)

023JN-26. Building Commissioner Felix Zemel, is seeking to replace Sections 94-1, 94-2, and 94-3 of the City Code relative to Building Dept. fees as enclosed in the packet, following the word “paid.” In Section 94-1 of the City Code.
(Legislative Affairs)

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Next Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 7:00 PM

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Not to return to open session)

Pursuant to MGL c. 30A, § 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, in the matter of Spectrum Health Systems Inc. & another v. City of Fitchburg and others, Super Ct Civil Action No 2485CV00511, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the City.