



WELCOME TO THE FITCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

**December 5, 2023**

**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](http://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](mailto:cityclerk@fitchburgma.gov) by 12:00 PM (noon) on the day of meeting.

## II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### III. REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

#### **Re-Appointment:**

#### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

(Term to expire January 1, 2029)

Michael McLaughlin

#### **New Appointment:**

#### **Council on Aging**

(Term to expire November 1, 2026)

Richard Doucette – Withdrew Application effective 10-12-2023

### IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

### V. COMMUNICATIONS

His Honor the Mayor

#### **1. New Appointment letter:**

Mr. Dante W. Suarez, to the position of Chief Engineer/Fire Chief, effective immediately.

### VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

#### **Finance Committee**

#### **Oral Report**

#### **Meeting of November 29, 2023**

259-23. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds by the Board of Health, from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, in the amount of \$10,000 (TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS) to support an overnight Winter Warming Shelter.

(Be Adopted)

260-23. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the transfer of \$67,500 (SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS) from POLICE PERSONAL SERVICES - Professional Standards Stipend, to be credited as follows:

POLICE PERSONAL SERVICES - Dispatcher Overtime \$40,000

POLICE EQUIPMENT & REPAIR - Training \$20,000

POLICE EQUIPMENT & REPAIR - Contracted Services \$7,500

(Be Adopted)

261-23. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of

supplemental funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security State 911 Department Support and Incentive Grant in the approximate amount of \$14,842 (FOURTEEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-TWO DOLLARS) for the purpose of purchasing a new recorder for the Police Department.

(Be Adopted)

262-23. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant in the approximate amount of \$114,816 for the purpose of advancing the practice of community policing through support of the Police Department accreditation program.

(Be Adopted)

263-23. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Office of Grants and Research in the approximate amount of \$30,470 (THIRTY THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS) for a Municipal Road Safety Program to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety through high-visibility police patrols and occupant protection mobilizations.

(Be Adopted)

264-23. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts DOT Aeronautics Grant for Environmental & Wildlife Hazard Assessments in the approximate amount of \$10,956.75 (TEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX AND 75/100 DOLLARS). This grant will complement the \$256,491 previously awarded, and is in line with the Airport Master Plan and in conjunction with FAA requirements.

(Be Adopted)

265-23. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds awarded by the Stanton Foundation in the amount of \$33,501 (THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ONE DOLLARS) for capital improvements and upgrades to the City of Fitchburg Dog Park. This capital improvement grant will cover the cost of new exercise equipment, signage, storage, and other materials for the park.

(Be Adopted)

269-23. Jaquelyn Poirier, Cemetery Superintendent, to approve the enclosed price increases as approved by the Cemetery Trustees at the October 19, 2023 Board meeting.

Enclosed: Present price list and proposed list.

(Be Granted)

**Legislative Affairs Committee**  
**Oral Report**  
**Meeting of November 30, 2023**

- 097-23. Petition to review attached disclosure Municipal Employees pursuant to G.L c268A, §20 (a) (b) to approve the same.
- 161-23. Councilor Beauchemin, if satellite dish is coming into the City of Fitchburg, the company needs to obtain written approval from the property owner of said property. If the subscriber leaves and no other residents are utilizing the satellite dish, the company must come and remove the dish from existing property.
- 219-23. Liz Murphy, Economic Director, to designate the FRA as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to G.L c268A, §20 (d).
- 220-23. Councilor Anthony Zarrella, to accept M.G.L. c. 41, s. 19H as a local option.
- 253-23. Review and approve the attached Disclosure by Municipal Employee or Financial Interest in Municipal Contract as required by G.L. c. 269A §20(B).

WHEREAS, in his regular course of business, the Chairman of the Water & Wastewater Commission is a real estate broker operating in the City of Fitchburg and has listed for sale the property located at 580 ~~Lunenburg Street~~, John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

WHEREAS, it appears that it is in the best interest of the City of Fitchburg to acquire a piece of real estate, which he was hired to list and sell.

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Water & Wastewater Commission wishes to disclose the interest in the contract and have this body formally waive any potential conflict of interest.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that this Honorable Body look favorably upon this Petition and endorse the disclosure, indicating its approval of the waiver of any potential conflict of interest.

- 270-23. Marisa Fleming on behalf of Ward 5 residents to relocate the election polling site either back to Saima Park or any other suitable location where traffic is not so dense.
- 271-23. Liz Murphy, Executive Director Community Development & Planning Board, to establish, order and designate members of the Planning Board as special municipal employees under M.G.L. c. 268A §1(n), also known as the Conflict of Interest Law. (Previously filed as 218-23)

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Next Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 7:00 PM