



WELCOME TO THE FITCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

January 20, 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 January 20, 2026

New Appointment:

Board of Trustees for the Public Library

(Term to expire January 20, 2029)

Reverend Daniel W. Spigelmeyer, Jr.

Re-Appointment:

Board of Trustees for the Public Library

Sabrina Holley-Williams – For a term to expire January 1, 2029

Joanne Huse – For a term to expire January 2, 2029

New Appointment:

Fitchburg Council on Aging

(Term to expire January 1, 2029)

Thomas C. Hopkins

Re-Appointment:

Fitchburg Council on Aging

(For a term to expire January 1, 2029)

Deborah Dion

Re-Appointments:

Fitchburg Disability Commission

Tiffany Wells - For a term to expire October 1, 2028

Doris Matte – For a term to expire February 1, 2028

Carolyn Quirk – For a term to expire February 1, 2028

Barbara Slattery – For a term to expire July 1, 2028

IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

Organizational City Council meeting minutes January 5, 2026

Regular City Council meeting minutes of January 6, 2026

V. COMMUNICATION

Her Honor the Mayor

1. Re-Appointment letter:

Hafsa Ahmed Asfa, as a Member of the Fitchburg Human Rights Commission, for a term to expire October 1, 2028.

VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

Meeting of January 14, 2026

Oral Report

003-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant funds in the approximate amount of SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND SEVEN AND 11/100 DOLLARS (\$76,307.11) for the purpose of continuing the Police Department Civilian Domestic Violence Advocate program.

(Be Adopted)

004-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the approximate amount of TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$29,556) for critical technology and equipment upgrades to support community policing efforts.

(Be Adopted)

Legislative Affairs Committee

Meeting of January 6, 2026

Oral Report

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](#)

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](#)

VII. ORDERS – FINANCE

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.

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.

VIII. ORDERS – OTHER

010-26. ORDER THAT: That the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into an Easement and Maintenance Agreement for a portion of the property located 62 Academy Street and 82 Academy Street, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, owned by FAC Owner LLC as indicated in the attached order and agreement.
(Suspension of Rules)

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.
(Legislative Affairs)

IX. PETITIONS

012-26. Councilor Beauchemin, to propose an amendment to Section 4.6 to permit its Councilors to participate in their capacity as such in meetings of Council committees of which they are not a member, provided that, if there is a quorum of the Council present (a committee of the whole) the Council must post its own meeting notice in addition to the committee's notice.
(Suspension of Rules)

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.
(Legislative Affairs)

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](#)
(Legislative Affairs)

015-26. Fitchburg Planning Board, City of Fitchburg, Paula Caron, Chair, request to amend the Fitchburg Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 181 of the City Code in multiple sections as outlined in the attached memo and draft document.
Replacing petition #195-25 – Give Leave Withdraw
(Planning Board & Public Hearing TBD)

016-26. Fitchburg Planning Board, City of Fitchburg, Paula Caron, Chair, to change Section 181.647 of the Fitchburg zoning code the allowable hours of operation for Marijuana retail Establishments from 8AM to 8PM to 8AM to 11PM, as outlined in the attached letter.
Replacing petition #207-25 – Give Leave Withdraw
(Planning Board & Public Hearing TBD)

017-26. Fitchburg Planning Board, City of Fitchburg, Paula Caron, Chair, to change the Table of Principal Use Regulations to allow Marijuana Delivery Courier and Marijuana Delivery Operator uses in the Industrial and Adaptive Industrial Districts, by changing 181.313 E. 15 - Marijuana Delivery Courtier and Marijuana Delivery Operator from “N” under I and AI to “PB”, as outlined in the attached memo.
Replacing petition #208-25 – Give Leave Withdraw
(Planning Board & Public Hearing TBD)

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

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Next Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2026 7:00 PM