



## CITY OF FITCHBURG OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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978-829-1820

December 19, 2025

### **WARRANT FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Dear Councilors:

The Organizational Meeting of the 2026 City Council will be held on **Monday, January 5, 2026 at 10:00 AM** in the Legislative Building, 700 Main St., Fitchburg MA.

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 9:00 AM on the day of meeting.

The Meeting has been called for the following purposes:

Election of the Council President for the year 2026;

Election of the Council Vice President for the year 2026;

1 – 26    **ORDER:**   Adopting Rules of the City Council for the year 2026;

2 – 26    **ORDER:**   Setting dates of Regular Meetings of the City Council for the year 2026;

Per Order:

*Joanna Bilotta-Simeone*

Joanna Bilotta-Simeone

City Clerk

Clerk, City Council

The Organizational Meeting of the City Council was called to order by City Clerk Joanna Bilotta at 10:02 a.m. The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Van Hazinga. The City Clerk called the roll and nine (10) members were present (Councilor Cragin absent). Board consists of eleven (11) members. The City Clerk read the warrant for the Organizational Meeting.

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City Clerk Joanna Bilotta administered the Oath of Office to the 2026 Elected Officials, including Mayor Squailia, members of the City Council, and members of the School Committee.

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Nominations for Council President were declared open by the City Clerk. The name of Councilor Anthony Zarrella was placed in nomination and seconded. There were no further nominations. Nominations were declared closed following a roll call vote 10 in favor 0 opposed.

A roll call vote of 10 in favor and 0 opposed resulted in the election of Councilor Anthony Zarrella as President of the City Council for the year 2026. President Zarrella assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

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Nominations for Council Vice President were declared open by President Zarrella. The name of Councilor Derrick J. Cruz was placed in nomination and seconded. There were no further nominations. Nominations were declared closed following a roll call vote of 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

A roll call vote ten (10) in favor and 0 opposed resulted in the election of Councilor Derrick J. Cruz as Vice President of the City Council for the year 2026.

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The following Order were received:

1 – 26. **ORDER:** Adopting Rules of the City Council for the year 2026.

**Proposed Amendments to the 2026 Rules and Orders for the City Council:**

**PROPOSAL #1 (Beauchemin sponsor):**

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.

- Concerns that all councilors would have to be part of the voting Committee
- Concerns that all councilors would have to attend all the subcommittee meetings

Motion and second to hold, until City Solicitor could be present to further discuss unanimous consent 10/0. 10 members present. Board consists of 11 members.

Motion and second to approve the rules and orders of the City Council as previously adopted January 6, 2025 by unanimous consent 10/0. 10 members present

2 – 26. **ORDER:** Setting dates of Regular Meetings of the City Council for the year 2026.

**The dates of the regular meetings of the City Council  
for the year 2026 are as follows:**

|                  |                                 |            |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>JANUARY</b>   | <b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup></b> |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b>  | <b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>   | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>  |
| <b>MARCH</b>     | <b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>   | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>  |
| <b>APRIL</b>     | <b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>  |
| <b>MAY</b>       | <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>  |
| <b>JUNE</b>      | <b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>   | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>  |
| <b>JULY</b>      | <b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>  |
| <b>AUGUST</b>    | <b>NO MEETINGS</b>              |            |                                 |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | <b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>  |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   | <b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>  |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>  | <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>  |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>  | <b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup></b>   | <b>and</b> | <b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>  |

Meetings are scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM  
In the Legislative Building at 700 Main Street

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.

Order was adopted by unanimous consent 10/0. 10 members present. Board consists of 11 members.

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The Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

*Joanna Bilotto-Simeone*

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Joanna Bilotto, City Clerk