



Jan 21 2026 9:24 am

CITY OF FITCHBURG OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

718 Main Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Joanna Bilotta, City Clerk
jbilotta@fitchburgma.gov
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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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:**

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

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 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.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Joanna Bilotta-Simeone

Joanna Bilotta, City Clerk