



FITCHBURG CITY CLERK

Jul 11 2025 9:59 am

WELCOME TO THE FITCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

July 15, 2025

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

REVISED

3:44 pm, Jul 14, 2025

REVISED

8:58 am, Jul 15, 2025

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 July 15, 2025

New-Appointment letter:

Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority

(For a term to expire July 15, 2030)

Joseph S. Bowen

New Appointments:

Poll Workers

For the period of September 1st, 2025, through August 31st, 2026.

(To be sworn in during training sessions)

New-Appointment letter:

Fitchburg Cultural Council

(For a term to expire July 15, 2028)

Sarah Beth Wheeler

Re-Appointment letter:

Commissioner of the Department of Public Works

(For a term to expire July 3, 2028)

Nicholas J. Erickson, PE

IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

Council as a Whole minutes June 11, 2025

Council as a Whole minutes June 17, 2025

Regular City Council meeting minutes of July 1, 2025

V. COMMUNICATION

Her Honor the Mayor

1. New-Appointment letter:

Full-Time Student Police Officers for the City of Fitchburg

Nicholas Gray

Andres Porras

Diandra Boddie

Traer Wilson

2. Re-Appointment letter:

Joyce Jacobs, as a Member of the Fitchburg Conservation Commission, for a term to expire on August 1, 2028.

VI. COMMUNICATION

Board of Health

- 095-25. City Councilor Bernie Schultz, in conjunction with Fire Chief Dante Suarez and Director of Public Health Steve Curry, to address public safety issues at 240 Water Street, the former St. Bernard's Church. The church spire is no longer straight up and down and presents a falling danger. In addition, homeless people frequently have broken into the church buildings and present an ongoing fire hazard for the city. A more permanent securing of the buildings at this address is necessary.

VII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

Meeting of July 9, 2025

Oral Report

- 136-25. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is transferred the sum of SIXTY THOUSAND (\$60,000) from EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – Health Insurance to the following HEALTH DEPARTMENT accounts:

SANITARY LANDFILL – Contracted Services	\$ 45,000
RUBBISH REMOVAL – Clean up Funds	\$ 15,000

(Be Adopted)

- 137-25. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is transferred the sum of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000) from LAW – OTHER EXPENSES – Labor Negotiator to the following accounts:

LAW EXPENSES – Damages Persons & Property	\$7,500
LAW EXPENSES – Registry & Other Fees	\$2,500

(Be Adopted)

- 138-25 ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is transferred the sum of TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$238,500) from EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – Health Insurance to the following accounts:

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – Workers Compensation	\$ 15,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – Unemployment Insurance	\$150,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – Medicare	\$ 57,000
MISCELLANEOUS – Medicaid Billing Commissions	\$ 16,500

(Be Adopted)

Legislative Affairs Committee

Meeting of July 15, 2025

Oral Report

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.

139-25. Josiah Richards, request to raise a Disabilities Pride Flag in front of the Legislative Building from July 21 through July 28.

140-25. The City Clerk, petitions the City of Fitchburg to relocate the polling places for the following wards to more suitable, accessible, and publicly owned locations:

1. Ward 1

Current Location: Knights of Columbus, 165 Electric Avenue

Proposed Location: South Street Elementary School, 376 South Street

2. Ward 2

Current Location: St. Joseph's Church Hall, 49 Woodland Street

Proposed Location: Reingold Elementary School, 70 Reingold Avenue

3. Ward 5

Current Location: Rollstone Congregational Church, 199 Main Street

Proposed Location: Crocker Elementary School, 200 Bigelow Road

These relocations are proposed to:

- Improve accessibility for voters with disabilities, in compliance with ADA standards
- Utilize public buildings that are already familiar and regularly accessed by the community
- Enhance security, parking availability, and site control for city staff and election workers
- Reduce reliance on private or religious venues for public electoral functions

VIII. ORDERS – FINANCE

144-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby transfer the sum of FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,000) from PARKS PERSONAL SERVICES – Labor to PARKS CAPITAL – Parks & Playgrounds.
(Suspension of Rules)

145-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby transfer the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000) from RECREATION PERSONAL SERVICES – General to RECREATION EXPENSES – Building & Grounds.
(Suspension of Rules)

146-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby transfers within the following Fiscal 2025 Departmental Budgets, the respective sums set aside each account:

INFO TECH: TO – Personal Services – Clothing - \$300
INFO TECH: FROM – Expenses – Dues & Subs - \$300

CITY CLERK: TO – Expenses – Dues & Subs - \$325
CITY CLERK: FROM – Personal Services - Overtime - \$325

ELECTIONS: TO - Personal Services – Overtime - \$3,000 ELECTIONS:
FROM - Personal Serv – Election Workers - \$3,000

FACILITIES: TO – Personal Services – Overtime - \$800
FACILITIES: TO – Personal Services – Clothing - \$250
FACILITIES: FROM – Expenses – City Hall Supplies - \$1,050

FIRE: TO – Personal Services – Overtime - \$35,000 FIRE:
FROM – Personal Services – Holidays - \$35,000

(Suspension of Rules)

IX. ORDINANCE

147-25. AN ORDINANCE: by the City of Fitchburg that the Code of the City of Fitchburg, Chapter 23, Section 36, titled Fire Alarm System Monitoring License Fee is hereby amended as follows **(bold and underlined is new)**:

§23-36 Fire Alarm System Monitoring License Fee

The following rate is to be the fee charged **annually** for the City Fire Department to issue a license to monitor fire alarm systems: \$300. This section shall take effect January 1, 2026.

(First Reading)

X. PETITIONS

143-25. Community Development & Planning, to accept Project Implementation services for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at no cost to the City of Fitchburg through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's On-Street Charging Solutions Program.
(Suspension of Rules)

148-25. Jeremy Roche, to obtain a final Council approval of the Crocker solar array and to authorize the Mayor to execute all documents which may be reasonably necessary to effectuate the said project.
(Suspension of Rules)

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Next Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 2, 2025 7:00 PM