

Nov 14 2024 2:56 pm



***WELCOME TO THE FITCHBURG CITY COUNCIL***

**November 19, 2024**

**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 COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

(November 6, 2024)

- Review the characterization of Sam Cole's comments in the minutes of the 5/2/23 City Council Meeting.

## IV. COMMUNICATION

Director of Parks and Recreation

- Playground Communication Board In-kind Donation Grant from the Doug Flutie Foundation
- Million Coaches Challenge National Recreation and Parks Association- Positive Coaching Alliance Virtual Coaching In-kind Grant

## V. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

### Finance Committee

### Meeting of November 7, 2024

### Oral Report

- 185-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby raise and appropriate the sum of SIX HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$645,000), crediting School Department Expenses, for the purpose of funding a shortfall in the Fiscal Year 2024 Net School Spending requirement.  
(Be Adopted)
- 186-24. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of ELEVEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR AND 30/100 DOLLARS (\$11,134.30) same to be charged against RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION - TNC PER RIDE ASSESSMENT and credited to DPW CAPITAL EXPENSES - STREET REPAIR for the purpose of road repaving.  
(Be Adopted)
- 187-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grant, for Nature Based Solutions for a Resilient Coolidge Park, in the approximate amount of THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS (\$323,160) to help mitigate flooding impacts by increasing Stormwater storage, recharge, and water quality.  
(Be Adopted)

- 188-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Compact grant program, in the approximate amount of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) to develop a multi-year paving management plan.  
(Be Adopted)
- 189-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Compact grant program, in the approximate amount of FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,000) to develop a capital improvement plan.  
(Be Adopted)
- 190-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Shared Streets and Spaces grant program, in the approximate amount of TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTEEN and 56/100 DOLLARS (\$246,816.56) to create a formal shared-use path along Railroad Street to the future pedestrian bridge.  
(Be Adopted)
- 191-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Massachusetts Department of Culture and Recreation Mass Trails grant program, in the approximate amount of SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE DOLLARS (\$78,005) to improve a section of trail at the summit of Rollstone Hill, and to install Rock Walk signage.  
(Be Adopted)
- 192-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities 40R Smart Growth program in the approximate amount of THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$321,000), for Lowe Park and other activities and city improvements.  
(Be Adopted)

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING – JOINT MEETING  
PLANNING BOARD & CITY COUNCIL**

- 199-24. The Community Development & Planning Board, to amend the Fitchburg Zoning Ordinance to comply with MGL Chapter 40A Section 3A, “multi-family zoning as-of-right in MBTA Communities”.

[ZONING CHAPTER 181](#)

## **VII. ORDERS - FINANCE**

- 195-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of Department of Justice COPS PACT (Promoting Access to Crisis Teams) CIT Grant funds in the approximate amount of THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$371,223) to expand upon the Police Department Crisis Intervention program.
- 196-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of Department of Justice COPS Recruitment & Retention Grant funds in the approximate amount of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$175,000) for the purpose of implementing a Fitchburg Pathways to Employment Program and to further support the police department's professional development program.
- 197-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Commonwealth of Mass Executive Office of Public Safety and Security in the approximate amount of TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO (\$28,732) for a Municipal Road Safety Program to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety through high-visibility police patrols and occupant protection mobilizations.
- 198-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the United Way of North Central Massachusetts, in the approximate amount of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000), awarded to the city Recreation Program from the DESE After School and Out of School Time Program Grant to help cover the cost of weekly STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) activities in collaboration with the Fitchburg Public Library.

## **VIII. ORDINANCE**

- 193-24. AN ORDINANCE: Chapter 44, entitled Salaries, be amended by adding the following position:
- Municipal Hearing Officer  
Report to Executive Director of Community Development & Planning Stipend \$200 per month, \$80 per case.  
(Final Reading)

## **IX. PETITION**

- 199-24. The Community Development & Planning Board, to amend the Fitchburg Zoning Ordinance to comply with MGL Chapter 40A Section 3A, "multi-family zoning as-of-right in MBTA Communities".  
(Suspension of rules)

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

Next Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 7:00 PM