



Oct 31 2025 2:15 pm

REVISED

4:19 pm, Oct 31, 2025

WELCOME TO THE FITCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

November 5, 2025

**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

New Appointments:

Fitchburg Historical Commission

(Term to expire November 1, 2028)

Emily S. Randall

Re-Appointment:

Fitchburg Historical Commission

(Term to expire February 1, 2028)

Donald Ostrowski

IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

Regular City Council meeting minutes of October 7th and October 21st, 2025

V. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

Meeting of October 22, 2025

Oral Report

- 170-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg approve the expenditure of funds in the approximate amount of THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND THIRTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$339,036) from the US Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program.
(Be Adopted)
- 171-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg approve the expenditure of a gift from the Nashoba Regional High School class of 1971, made to the Pawlak Playground gift account, in the approximate amount of SEVEN HUNDRED TWELVE AND 50/100 DOLLARS (\$712.50).
(Be Adopted)
- 183-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg approve the expenditure of funds in the approximate amount of EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY-SIX DOLLARS (\$84,996) from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's Digital Equity Implementation Grant program.
(Be Adopted)

184-25. ORDER THAT: *the City of Fitchburg amend Council Order #153-25 as follows:*

there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of ~~TWENTY SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$26,500)~~ TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$24,500) same to be charged against RESERVE FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL PURPOSES - Expenses and credited to the following accounts:

TREASURER - Personal Services	\$1,000
POLICE - Personal Services	\$23,500
AIRPORT - Personal Services	\$2,000

(Be Adopted)

185-25. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000) same to be charged against AIRPORT RECEIPTS RESERVED and credited to AIRPORT - Personal Services - Labor.
(Be Adopted)

186-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg amend Council Order #106-25 to reduce the sum appropriated to Water Expenses by \$350,000, as follows:

there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of ~~NINE MILLION EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$9,018,485)~~ EIGHT MILLION SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$8,668,485) same to be charged against WATER ENTERPRISE FUND RECEIPTS and credited to Fiscal Year 2026 Water Enterprise Fund accounts as follows:

Personal Services	\$2,417,125
Expenses	\$2,421,000
Indirect Costs	\$1,452,300 <u>\$1,102,300</u>
Debt Service	\$2,178,060
Capital Expenses	\$ 550,000

(Be Adopted)

187-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg amend Council Order #107-25 to reduce the sum appropriated to Wastewater Expenses by \$750,000, as follows:

there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of ~~TWENTY MILLION THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$20,037,331)~~ NINETEEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$19,287,331), charging \$17,594,495 against WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE FUND RECEIPTS and \$1,692,836 against WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE FUND RETAINED EARNINGS, and credited to Fiscal Year 2026 Wastewater Enterprise Fund accounts as follows:

Personal Services	\$3,094,268	
Expenses	\$6,313,005	<u>\$5,563,005</u>
Indirect Costs	\$1,555,300	
Debt Service	\$6,673,958	
Capital Expenses	\$2,400,800	
(Be Adopted)		

Legislative Affairs Committee
Meeting of November 5, 2025
Oral Report

188-25. AN ORDINANCE: Chapter 111, § 111.2 of the Code of the City of Fitchburg be amended as follows:

That the General Ordinances of the City of Fitchburg, Chapter 111, § 111.2, as most recently amended, be further amended by adding the language denoted as emboldened:

§111.2 Board officers; quorum.

Amend by inserting the following emboldened language:

111.2 In February of each year the Board of Health shall organize by electing one of its members as **Chair** and a Clerk, who need not be a member of the Board. The salary of the Clerk shall be fixed by the Board. Two members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

189-25. Unitil, to petition relocate p#31-52. The proposed p#31-52 would be moved 14' west from original pole and located approximately 275' from Mount Elam Road., Fitchburg as enclosed outlined in the petition.

VII. ORDERS – FINANCE

- 190-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg approve the expenditure of MassTrails Grant funds awarded to the city by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation in the approximate amount of NINETY-NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE AND 68/100 DOLLARS (\$99,999.68) for access and safety improvements at Coggshall Park.
- 191-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg approve the expenditure of funds awarded to the city by the Friends of Coggshall Park in the approximate amount of NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$9,500), to match the MassTrails Grant, for access and safety improvements at Coggshall Park.
- 192-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg accept a donation of property from the Ron Bouchard Racing Charity and Mrs. Paula Bouchard, in the form of a sculpture memorial, community bench, and story walk installation in Coolidge Park.
- 193-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg approve the expenditure of an earmark from the Commonwealth of Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation in the approximate amount of FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,000) for improvements to Lowe Park.

VIII. PETITION

- 194-25. City Councilor Bernie Schultz, on behalf of Connie Tessi of 80 Elizabeth Street, to repair several sections of sidewalk in front of her residence, to include leveling of sidewalk to prevent older adults from falling.
(Public Works)
- 195-25. The Planning Board, to petition for an amendment to the Fitchburg Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 181 of the Fitchburg City Code by making the following amendments as outlined in the enclosed petition.
[Amending the Fitchburg Zoning Ordinance](#)
(Refer to a Public Hearing December 2, 2025)

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Tax Classification Public Hearing

Classification and taxation of property according to use, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 797 of the Acts of 1979, as amended by Chapter 79 of the Acts of 1983.

2025 Classification and Taxation Hearing

[FY 2026 Final Book Tax Classification](#)

Next Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 7:00 PM