



Sep 12 2025 2:59 pm

WELCOME TO THE FITCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

September 17, 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

Appointments Committee

Oral Report

Meeting of September 17, 2025

New Appointments:

Permanent Full Time Firefighters

Damon M. Suarez

Daniel R. Motyka

Andras Sevigny

Danny Sanchez-Morfin

Connor Caisse

Peter Selig

Sean Donelan

Re-Appointment letter:

Executive Director of the Council on Aging

(For a term to expire August 24, 2028)

Amanda Koeck

IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

Regular City Council meeting minutes of September 2, 2025

V. COMMUNICATION

Her Honor the Mayor

Promotion Letters

1. Promotion letter:

Lieutenant Ryan C. Keenan to the rank of Permanent Police Captain

2. Promotion letter:

Sergeant David M. Gordon to the rank of Permanent Police Lieutenant

VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Economic Development Committee

Meeting of September 17, 2025

Oral Report

- 159-25. Mayor Samantha Squailia, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, to take all Actions necessary and convenient for the formation of a “Fitchburg Tourism Marketing District” in accordance with Chapter 40X of the Massachusetts General Laws.
- Update on Economic Development (Businesses and events)
 - Other

Finance Committee

Meeting of September 10, 2025

Oral Report

- 150-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg approves the expenditure of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$125,000) in Commonwealth of Massachusetts earmark funds to support the design and development of a stage at Riverfront Park.
(Be Adopted)
- 151-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in the approximate amount of SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$750) for the purpose of said grant, which is to promote community engagement under the SAMHSA Communities Talk to Prevent Alcohol and Other Drug Misuse program.
(Be Adopted)
- 152-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative in the approximate amount of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000) for the purpose of said grant, which is to support managed detection and response services to defend against cybersecurity threats.
(Be Held)
- 153-25. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$26,500) 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)**

- 154-25. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$73,973) same to be charged against RESERVE FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL PURPOSES - Expenses and credited to FIRE - Personal Services.
(Be Adopted)

Legislative Affairs Committee
Meeting of September 17, 2025
Oral Report

- 155-25. ORDER THAT: the City Council of the City of Fitchburg hereby adopts this Order to authorize the Mayor and the Assessor to enter into the AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES UNDER M.G.L. c. 59, § 5, CLAUSE 45th, with NESG MA 1 Solar LLC, a copy of which is on file with the City Clerk and appended hereto, and to authorize the Mayor for the City of Fitchburg to take all action necessary to effectuate same.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

- 160-25. Unitil to petition for a new pole, approximately 105' North of existing Pole # 12 on Salem St., 20' North of Birch St., and 17' South of Beekman St.
Three proposed new pole locations with anchors are being installed to extend overhead electric lines from existing Pole #9.

VIII. ORDERS – FINANCE

- 165-25. 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 SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$7,500), 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.
- 166-25. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby raise and appropriate the sum of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$200,000), crediting School Department Expenses, for the purpose of funding a shortfall in the Fiscal Year 2025 Net School Spending requirement.

IX. ORDINANCES

- 156-25. AN ORDINANCE: amending Chapter 3, § 3-21 of the Code of the City of Fitchburg as follows:

§ 3-21 (Reserved) Moratorium on the Naming of City Buildings, Facilities or Public Spaces After Individuals

3-21.1 Purpose.

The naming of public buildings after individuals is a permanent, significant civic gesture that should reflect broad community values and context and, public feedback has indicated the need to review and potentially revise the City's policies and procedures regarding such dedications. As such, the purpose of this section is to place a temporary moratorium on the naming of City of Fitchburg buildings after individuals until such review of City policies and procedures can be completed.

3-21.2 Moratorium.

A moratorium is hereby established on the naming and renaming of any City-owned building, facility, or public space after any individual for a period of one (1) year from the date of adoption of this Ordinance. During this moratorium, no new dedications, plaques, signage, or official designations of any kind shall be approved by any department or board of the City in honor of a specific individual.

3-21.3 Exclusions.

This moratorium shall not apply to dedications previously authorized by formal vote of the City Council prior to the adoption of this Ordinance.

3-21.4 Amendments.

The City Council reserves the right to review and amend this Ordinance or adopt formal criteria and procedures for naming City properties during the moratorium period.

(Final Reading)

- 157-25. Councilor Zarrella, to amend § 111-2 of the City Code by replacing the words "his or her" with the word "Chair".

(Final Reading)

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Next Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 7, 2025 7:00 PM