



FITCHBURG CITY CLERK

*Feb 01 2024 9:06 pm*

WELCOME TO THE FITCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

**February 6, 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 THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

#### Appointments Committee

##### Oral Report

##### Meeting of February 6, 2024

##### New Appointment:

##### Zoning Board of Appeals

(Term to expire February 6, 2029)

Robert J. Talbot

##### New Appointment:

##### Fitchburg Cultural Council

(Term to expire February 6, 2027)

Joseph S. Bowen

##### Re-Appointment:

##### Fitchburg Disability Commission

(Term to expire February 1, 2027)

Basil Tolos

### IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

#### V. ANNUAL REPORT

017-24. ANNUAL REPORT: Independent Auditor's report for the year ended June 30, 2023.

#### VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

004-24. ORDER: Laying out a portion of Ethier St. as a public street or way as outlined in the enclosed Order.

006-24. Unitil, to petition for a new pole #1-51, approximately 650' South of Drepanos Dr., and approximately 1020' North of View St., as outlined in the enclosed Petition.

#### VII. ORDERS – FINANCE

018-24. ORDER THAT: The Superintendent of Schools be authorized by this body to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority a Statement of Interest Form for the South Street Elementary School as detailed in the enclosed Order.  
(Suspension of Rules)

- 019-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby appropriates and transfers the sum of \$350,000 (THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) from Available Funds to the Stabilization Fund.
- 020-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby appropriates and transfers the sum of \$250,000 (TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) from Available Funds to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund.
- 021-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby appropriates and transfers the sum of \$500,000 (FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) from Available Funds to the Stabilization Fund.
- 022-24. ORDER THAT: The City of Fitchburg hereby appropriates the sum of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) same to be charged against Available Funds and credited to the following DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SNOW & ICE accounts:
- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| EQUIPMENT RENTAL | \$100,000.00 |
| SALT             | \$400,000.00 |
- 023-24. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$400,000) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to DPW ADMIN/ENGINEERING EXPENSES – Stormwater Contract Services.
- 024-24. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$152,000) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to the following accounts:
- |                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| LIBRARY - PERSONAL SERVICES | \$150,000 |
| EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - OTHER   | \$ 2,000  |
- 025-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby appropriates the sum of \$12,000 (TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLARS) from Available Funds, crediting TREASURER PERSONAL SERVICES – Sick Time Buyback.
- 026-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Shannon Community Safety Initiative Grant awarded by the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security in the approximate amount of \$450,250.50 (FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY AND 50/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of partnering with multiple agencies to reduce gang and youth related violence.
- 027-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby appropriates and transfers the sum of \$305,703.81 (THREE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THREE AND 81/100 DOLLARS) from Available Funds to Receipts Reserved – Opioid Settlement Funds.
- 028-24. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$82,000) same to be charged against AIRPORT RECEIPTS RESERVED and credited to AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS.

029-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds in the amount of EIGHTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$18,000) allocated by Fitchburg State University through Mass Development's Transformative Development Initiative Creative Cities program to support Fitchburg's cultural initiatives including marketing, program activation, pop-up events, and Mill St. venue activation.

### **VIII. PETITIONS**

- 030-24. Andrew Couture on behalf of the residents of Oak Ridge Condominiums to investigate an offensive odor (suspected from Grief paper).  
(Board of Health/Health Department)
- 031-24. Andrew Couture on behalf of Charles Piermarini to investigate the excessive water on Read Street and to repair/clear out the catch basins.  
(Public Works)
- 032-24. Andrew Couture on behalf of Chris Couture to remove the brush at the Electric/Rollstone rotary.  
(Public Works)
- 033-24. Andrew Couture on behalf of Michael Couture to repair the trench on Sheldon Road by 112 Sheldon Rd.  
(Public Works)
- 034-24. Andrew Couture on behalf of Chris Knolls to install a stop sign at the bottom of Stickney Rd. at the intersection of Stickney and Ashburnham.  
(Public Safety)
- 035-24. Andrew Couture on behalf of Michael Couture to install stop signs on the intersection of Stickney and Sheldon Road. A 3-way stop may be necessary.  
(Public Safety)
- 036-24. Councilor Marisa Fleming to accept local option statute M.G.L. c. 140 § 139(c), exempting dogs owned by persons over 70 from dog licensure fees.  
(Legislative Affairs)
- 037-24. That 84 North St., more fully described as Fitchburg Assessors Map 44, Block 110, Lot 0, be declared as surplus property.  
(City Property)

### **IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

Next Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM