

Aug 28 2026 3:23 pm



WELCOME TO THE FITCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

September 2, 2026

**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 2, 2026

New Appointment:

Trustees of Public Burial Grounds

Lenny R. Laasko

(Term to expire July 21, 2029)

Re-Appointment:

Fitchburg Board of Parks

Mary H. Whitney

(Term to expire on April 1, 2031)

Re-Appointment:

Fitchburg Cultural Council

Catherine Healey

(Term to expire on July 1, 2029)

VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

Regular City Council meeting minutes of July 21, 2026

V. COMMUNICATION

Her Honor the Mayor

1. New-Appointment letters:

The following 5 Fitchburg State University Police Officers as Special Police Officers for the City of Fitchburg:

Patrol Officer Amelia Bailey

Patrol Officer Jenna Peters

Patrol Officer Colin Bozek

Patrol Officer Barry Doucette

Sergeant Douglas Costa

2. New-Appointment letter:

Mr. Robert J. Talbot, as a member of the Fitchburg Trustees of Public Burial Grounds, for a term to expire on September 2, 2029.

VI. COMMUNICATION

Fitchburg Retirement Board

Fitchburg Retirement System Audited Financial Statements for calendar year ended December 31, 2024. The accompanying financial statements were audited by the City's independent certified public accounting firm.

[Letter to Council](#)

[Audited Financial Statements for the Fitchburg Contributory System for the Calendar Year Ended December 31, 2024.](#)

COMMUNICATION

James Bunnell – Director of Parks and Recreation

Communication from the Director of Parks and Recreation regarding the acceptance of grant awards for improvements at Coolidge Park and Coggs Hall Park:

1. **Massachusetts Youth Soccer, U.S. Soccer Foundation, and Musco Lighting Grant Award – Coolidge Park Mini-Pitch Project** — Notification of a grant package valued at approximately **\$150,000** to provide a new mini-pitch facility at Coolidge Park, including surfacing, fencing, goal hardware, lighting equipment, and installation.
[Massachusetts Youth Soccer Grant](#)
2. **2026 UltiPlay Parks & Playgrounds New England Playground Grant Award – Coggs Hall Park** — Notification of a grant award valued at approximately **\$25,000** toward the replacement of the existing playground structure at Coggs Hall Park, with additional equipment funding provided by the Friends of Coggs Hall Park.
[2026 UltiPlay Parks & Playgrounds Grant](#)

VII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Legislative Affairs Committee

Meeting of September 2, 2026

Oral Report

- 124-26. Councilor Beauchemin, respectfully requests a rule change to require In-Person Voting on Official matters as outlined in the enclosed petition.
[In-Person Voting on Official Matters](#)
- 125-26. Councilor Beauchemin and Councilor Fleming, respectfully requests to End-Work-From Home Arrangements as outlined in the enclosed petition.
[End-Work-From-Home-Arrangements](#)
- 144-26 A. AN ORDINANCE: Amending Part II General Legislation, Chapter 169, § 59 of the Code of the City of Fitchburg as outlined in the enclosed Ordinance.
[Amending Chapter 169 § 59](#)
- 144-26 B. AN ORDINANCE: Amending Part II General Legislation, Chapter 169, § 76 of the Code of the City of Fitchburg as outlined in the enclosed Ordinance.
[Amending Chapter 169 § 76](#)

- 144-26 C. AN ORDINANCE: Amending Part II General Legislation, Chapter 169, § 77 of the Code of the City of Fitchburg as outlined in the enclosed Ordinance.
[Amending Chapter 169 § 77](#)

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 145-26. Unitil to petition for a new proposed pole 40 Fairmount St. - #1A on Fairmount St., approximately 213' from Daniels St. and approximately 326' from Clarendon St. as outlined in the enclosed petition.
[40 Fairmount St. - Proposed Pole](#)
- 146-26. Unitil to propose new poles at 515 Alpine Rd. as outlined in the enclosed petition.
- New proposed pole #33 on Alpine Rd., approximately 5328' from Westminster Hill Rd., and approximately 595' from McIntire Rd.
- New proposed pole #34 on Alpine Rd., approximately 5478' from Westminster Hill Rd., and approximately 445' from McIntire Rd.
- New proposed pole #35 on Alpine Rd., approximately 5628' from Westminster Hill Rd., and approximately 185' from McIntire Rd.
- New proposed pole #36 on Alpine Rd., approximately 5738' from Westminster Hill rd., approximately 185' from McIntire Rd.
[515 Alpine Rd. - Proposed Poles](#)

IX. ORDER – FINANCE

- 148-26. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of NINETY THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED ONE AND 40/100 DOLLARS (\$90,401.40) from RESERVE FOR APPROPRIATION - PEG ACCESS Expenses to RESERVE FOR APPROPRIATION - PEG ACCESS Cable Franchise Fee for the purpose of remitting to FATV the second quarter 2026 franchise fee.
(Suspension of Rules)

X. ORDER – OTHERS

- 141-26. ORDER THAT: The Fitchburg City Council accepts the provisions of Section 9A of Chapter 200A of the General Laws to (1) allow the Fitchburg Treasurer, subject to the notice requirements of M.G.L. c.200A, §9A, to record as revenue in the General Fund of the City any funds held in the custody of the City which have remained unclaimed for at least one year after the date payment was issued or the funds were delivered, and (2) to allow the Treasurer to hear and decide all claims on abandoned funds that may arise prior to the date the abandoned funds escheat to the City.
(Ref. petition 126-26)

- 142-26. ORDER THAT: the City Council of the City of Fitchburg hereby accepts M.G.L. c. 60, §23B, Certificate of liens; fee schedule;

The Collector of taxes shall furnish certificates of liens as provided in section twenty-three (23) according to the following fee schedule:

for land upon which is situated no more than a single-family residence and outbuildings, a fee of twenty-five dollars;

for land upon which is situated no more than a two-family residence and outbuildings, a fee of twenty-five dollars;

for land upon which is situated no more than a three-family residence and outbuildings, a fee of twenty-five dollars;

for land upon which is situated a residence for four or more families, a fee of one hundred dollars;

for land upon which is situated a commercial, industrial or public utility structure, a fee of one hundred and fifty dollars;

for farms, forest land and all other real property, a fee of fifty dollars.

THAT in no case shall the fee exceed one-half of one percent of the assessed value of the real estate and the money so received shall be paid into the City Treasury.
(Ref. petition 127-26)

- 143-26. ORDER THAT: That the City accept M.G.L. c 59 Section 5 Clause 54, allowing for the exemption of Personal Property set at a threshold of less than \$2,000.
(Ref. petition 109-26)

- 149-26. ORDER THAT: the City Council of the City of Fitchburg hereby adopts a fee Schedule for the City of Fitchburg Public Burial Grounds, pursuant to Part I, Chapter 11, §11-4 of the City of Fitchburg Ordinance, as attached hereto.
[Schedule of Fees](#)

XI. PETITIONS

- 150-26. Stephen D. Curry, Director of Public Health, requests that the City Council repeal Chapter 164 of the City Ordinances, *Sales of Tobacco Products* as outlined in the enclosed petition.
(Refer to Legislative Affairs)
- 151-26. Vice President Cruz, on behalf of the residents of Greenhurst Ave. to petition for temporary repairs of a private way as outlined in the enclosed petition.
[Petition for Temporary Repairs of a Private Way](#)
(Refer to Public Works)

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

- 077-26. AN ORDINANCE: Amending Chapter 44, Section 10 of the Code of the City of Fitchburg, as most recently amended, by adding thereto the following step assignments as outlined in the enclosed Ordinance.

[Amended Grade Steps Fiscal Year 2027](#)

(VETO OVERRIDE)

Joint Convention of the City Council and the School Committee

Monday, September 14, 2026 5:15 PM

Next Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 7:00 PM