



City Council
**Maintenance &
Development Meeting**

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Councilor Malo Brown (Chair)

~Final~

**September 3,
2025**

3:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Call To Order

3:00 PM Meeting called to order on September 3, 2025, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Roll Call

Zoom Only:

Councilor Brown

Councilor Govan

John Caldwell (Eversource)

Leslie Gulluni (Eversource)

Andrew Strniste (SHC)

Tim Sheehan (Director Eco & Dev)

Sean Johnson (Preservation Trust President)

Betsy Johnson

Valenjh

Kira Holmes

Erica Swallows

Christopher Kellog

Public Portion

I. Discussion Regarding Placement Of Meters On Historic Homes.

II. Discussion About The Effects The Meters May Have On The Value Of Historic Homes
Across The City.

Minutes:

Quick Recap

The meeting addressed concerns regarding unauthorized smart electric and gas meter installations in Springfield's historic districts, with particular reference to Mattoon Street. Discussion focused on improving coordination between Eversource, the Springfield Historical Commission, electricians, and homeowners to ensure compliance with historic preservation requirements. Participants reviewed current installation practices, the limitations of enforcement authority, and the need for clearer procedures to identify historic district properties before work is undertaken. The group emphasized proactive communication, standardized checks, and clearer guidance to prevent improper installations and avoid costly corrective actions for homeowners.

Key Discussion Points

- Lack of prior coordination with the Historic Commission for meter placements in historic districts.
- Clarification that Eversource replaces meters but does not control socket locations or city-issued permits.
- Challenges in implementing system-wide historic district checks across Eversource operations.
- Importance of using existing tools, including GIS historic district layers.
- Need for clearer guidance for electricians, plumbers, and residents regarding acceptable meter placement.
- Recognition that enforcement authority primarily resides with the Historic Commission and the City.

Next Steps

- John Caldwell to explore adding a historic district identification question to Eversource work request forms.
- John Caldwell to review updates to Eversource's information and requirements book to clarify exceptions for historic districts.
- John Caldwell to coordinate with Eversource's gas division and provide guidance on gas meter placement in historic districts to Councilor Brown.
- Leslie Gulluni to share her contact information with the Historic Commission and preservation organizations for future coordination.
- Andrew Strniste to further develop mechanical equipment and meter placement

guidelines for residents and electricians.

- Andrew Strniste to work with colleagues on expanded Historic Commission outreach to residents in historic districts.
- Tim Sheehan to consult the Law Department regarding the Historic Commission's authority to require reversion of improperly placed meters.
- Springfield Historical Commission to develop a utility meter placement guide, including photos of appropriate placements and homeowner questions to ask contractors.

Overall Outcome

Participants agreed that early identification of historic district properties, clearer guidance, and stronger coordination between all parties are essential to preventing future compliance issues and protecting historic resources while maintaining utility safety and reliability.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]