



**City Council**  
**Sustainability &  
Environment Meeting**

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

**Councilor Zaida Govan (Chair)**

~Final~

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**September 10,  
2025**

**1:00 PM**

**City Hall - Room 200**

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**Call To Order**

1:00 PM Meeting called to order on September 10, 2025 at Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

**Roll Call**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Remote  | Lindsay Hackett<br>Verne Mcarthur<br>Jay Latorre<br>Ricahard Allen<br>Tracye Whitfield                                                                               |  |
| Late    |                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| Absent  |                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| Present | Timothy Allen<br>Zaida Govan<br>Peter Krupczak<br>Cathy Buono<br>Tina Quagliato<br>Alex Sherman<br>Tim Sheehan<br>Steve Longergan<br>Steve Buoniconti<br>Thomas Ashe |  |

**Public Portion**

1. Continued Discussions on the Urban Woodlands Ordinance

## **Minutes:**

### **Meeting Summary**

The meeting on September 10 reviewed the proposed Urban Woodlands Ordinance, with discussion centered on its scope, enforceability, and alignment with existing regulations and development needs. Participants agreed that while urban tree preservation is important, the ordinance requires further refinement to be practical and legally sound.

### **Key Discussion Points**

- The ordinance applies broadly to most parcels in the city and may unintentionally impact homeowners, despite its intent to address large-scale tree removal tied to development.
- The law department identified multiple legal concerns, including unclear definitions, authority limitations, and the absence of an appeal process.
- Existing tree protections are already in place through the Significant Tree Ordinance, raising concerns about overlapping regulations.
- Forestry staff noted insufficient staffing and resources to enforce the ordinance as currently drafted.
- Housing and development impacts were discussed, with concerns that additional regulations could increase complexity and delay projects.
- Integrating tree review into the subdivision approval process and requiring clearance plans prior to subdivision filing were identified as potential alternatives.
- Urban tree preservation was recognized as important for environmental sustainability, air quality, and public health.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps**

- Substantial revisions to the ordinance are needed before further consideration.
- Continued coordination among city departments, legal staff, council members, and developers is necessary.
- Improved outreach to the development community is recommended to gather additional input.
- Funding and staffing limitations will continue to be evaluated as part of future discussions.

[MIN\_SIGNATURES]