



City Council

Finance Meeting

~Final~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Zaida Govan (Chair)

March 2, 2026

5:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

In Person:

Councilor Govan
Councilor Davila
Peter Garvey (Construction)
Roy Goodman (Elders Affairs)
Cathy Buono (Finance)
Andy Doty (IT)
Pat Burns (Comptroller)
Sacyo Malone (Grants)
John Cariet (DPW)
Steven Lonergan (Treasurer)
George (IT)
Kyla Krammer (SPD)
Rick (SPD)
Steven Howard

Virtual:

Helen Caulton (Health & Human Services Commissioner)
Councilor Click-Bruce
Lindsey Hackett (Finance)
Pat Roach (School Dept)
Rich Allen
Molly Fargarty (Library Director)

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Excused	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Excused	

Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Excused	
Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Present	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Present	
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Excused	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Virtual	
Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Excused	
Tracye Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Virtual	

Call To Order

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on March 2, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Public Portion

1. January Revenue Vs. Expenditure Report

Orders

- 2. Bill of Prior Year - Parks - \$1,400.00**
- 3. Cable PEG Access Account Comcast Franchise Fee — \$116,675.22**
- 4. Transfer - Free Cash to Facilities - Snow Removal Services - \$500,000**
- 5. Elementary Schools Upgrade Bond Order - \$1.2 Million**
- 6. Order Authorizing a Contract Term Over 3 Years for Food Service Management Company for The Springfield Public Schools**
- 7. Order Authorizing Contract Term Over 3 Years for School Department Copy, Print, Mail, and Courier Operations**
- 8. Five-Year HP Servers Lease - IT Department**

Grants

9. **Springfield City Library Donation - \$500**
10. **Elder Affairs Donation - \$750.00**
11. **Springfield City Library Donation - \$1,000**
12. **Parks Department - Bench Donation - \$2,492.85**
13. **Police - Project Safe Neighborhood Grant - \$13,900.00 - No Match**
14. **Springfield City Library Donation - \$30,000**
15. **Health Services for the Homeless Grant - No Match Required \$4,725,776.00**

Minutes:

Overview

The Finance Committee Subcommittee, chaired by Zaida Govan, City Councilor for Ward 8, met from 5:00 PM to 5:45 PM to review revenue and expenditures, snow removal budgets, school infrastructure projects, contracts, IT leasing, and grants.

Key Discussions

1. Revenue and Expenditures

Pat Burns reported January financials. Snow removal costs remain a primary concern. Electricity and natural gas are performing better than expected, though a \$400,000 electricity shortfall is projected due to rising delivery charges. Streetlights (~\$6M budget) are impacted by longer nights and delivery costs.

2. Snow Removal

Facilities began with \$119,000 for snow removal; a \$500,000 free cash transfer was approved due to severe winter overages. Yellowstone manages primary and subcontracted snow removal, with oversight via zone managers, custodians, and 311 complaint reporting. Chris Cignoli manages DPW side street snow removal. Additional funds may be needed if major storms occur.

3. Elementary Schools Heat Pump Project

A \$1.2M bond order was approved for heat pump conversions at Zenetti, Talmage, Liberty, Lynch, and Southend. Four additional schools are planned for later, bringing the total to nine approved by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

4. School Food Service Contract

A five-year contract (1+4 options) for Springfield Public Schools' food service was

discussed; the current contract expires June 30, 2026. Council President and others raised concerns about cold meals and student satisfaction. Discussion included community engagement, student feedback surveys, vendor responsiveness grading, culturally sensitive meals (e.g., halal), and Serve Safe certification. The committee recommended further discussion with community input.

5. Copy/Print/Mail Contract

Bids for a 3- or 4-year contract across all district buildings were discussed (\$4.5M for 3 years, \$5.5M for 4 years). Preference for four years due to cost-effectiveness and equipment lifespan.

6. IT Equipment Leasing

A five-year lease extension for critical IT equipment was requested, preferred over purchasing for financial and technology update reasons.

7. Grants and Donations

Library donations: \$500 for non-English children's materials, \$1,000 unrestricted, \$30,000 Carnegie Foundation. Parks: bench memorial for Richard Mastriangelo. Project Safe Neighborhood grant: \$13,900 for police overtime. Homeless Health Services Grant: ~\$4.7M over two years for dental, nursing, and case management; ongoing federal funding uncertainty noted.

Key Insights

Snow removal and electricity delivery costs continue to strain budgets. Heat pump conversions support sustainability and infrastructure goals. School food service quality remains a priority, with an emphasis on accountability and community feedback. Strategic contract management balances cost and oversight. Grants and donations support library, safety, and health services, with federal funding uncertainty affecting homeless programs. Citizen reporting systems (e.g., 311) enhance oversight of service delivery.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]