



City Council
General Government
Committee Meeting

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

Councilor Justin Hurst (Chair)

~Final~

March 18, 2026

5:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

Inperson:
Councilor's
Justin Hurst
Victor Davila
Gerry Martin
Maria Perez
Zaida Govan
Tracye Whitfield

Mike Jachym (Zoning)
Dave Bolier (Constituent)
Thomas Moore (Law Dept)

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Present	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Present	
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	Present	
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	Excused	
Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Excused	
Tracye Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Present	

Call To Order

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on March 18, 2025, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Public Portion

1. **Amending Springfield Zoning Ordinance Section 4.4.40**
2. **City Council Public Speak Out Pilot**

Minutes:

On March 18, 2026, the General Government Subcommittee, chaired by Councilor Hurst, discussed amending zoning ordinances for mobile home and RV storage and integrating a public speak-out program into regular meetings.

Dave Bolier raised concerns that the 20-foot size limit on mobile homes is outdated, noting modern units often exceed it. A resident described enforcement action against a 14-year-old camper that was registered, maintained, and regularly used, questioning consistency.

Zoning Administrator Mike Jachym noted Springfield's small average lot size of 7,000 square feet complicates enforcement and suggested larger RVs in single-family zones could be approved via site plan review, while multifamily areas face more constraints. Committee Chair Hurst emphasized balancing flexibility with preventing nuisances. Options discussed included site plan review, special permits, lot size thresholds, and historic district exclusions. Councilor Davila highlighted enforcement consistency, resident costs, and impacts in historic districts. Attorney Moore clarified that zoning could exclude areas if carefully drafted. Councilor Martin noted constituent interest and staff support.

Further discussion addressed limiting storage to property owners, prohibiting use as housing, fire safety, and neighborhood input. The group agreed to prioritize cost-effective, enforceable solutions and review other municipalities' regulations. Mike Jachym will exercise discretion in enforcement while revisions are developed.

Regarding the public speak-out program, Attorney Moore explained that integrating it into meetings would maintain time, place, and manner restrictions while increasing participation. Concerns about compliance with the open meeting law and council engagement were raised. Councilor Davila suggested five speakers in 15 minutes before the 6:30 PM start, while Moore referenced the existing structure of eight speakers, each for three minutes. Residents may speak

on any city business, but members cannot respond during comments. The committee confirmed constitutional protections remain unchanged. Councilor Davila moved to forward the proposal to the full council for a vote, which passed.

Next steps: Councilor Hurst will coordinate with Attorney Moore, Dave Bolier, and Mike Jachym on draft ordinance language; Attorney Moore will prepare proposed amendments and a public speak-out summary; neighborhood councils will be consulted; a follow-up subcommittee meeting will be scheduled; Mike Jachym will continue discretionary enforcement; and Councilor Davila will engage the Forest Park Civic Association. The full council will consider the pilot public speak-out program at a future meeting.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]