



City Council
Finance Committee
Meeting

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

Councilor Zaida Govan (Chair)

~Final~

April 13, 2026

5:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

In Person:

Councilor Govan
Councilor Martin
Chris Fraser (Finance)
Saco Malone (Grants)
Steve Loneragan (Treasurers)
Gene Canosa Albano (Library)
Molly Forgarty (Library)
Council President Whitfield
Cathy Buono (CAFO)
Pat Roach (School Dept)
Peter Garvey (Capital Asset Construction)
Steven Howard (Constituent)
Sonia Dinnall (School Superintendent)

Zoom:

Councilor Maria Perez
Lindsay Jackett (Dept. CAFO)
Councilor Fenton
Councilor Davila *L
Councilor Click-Bruce *L

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	Virtual	
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	Virtual (*L)	5:11 PM
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Virtual	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Virtual (*L)	5:19 PM
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 April 13, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Public Portion

1. **Bond Order to Pay for the Construction of a New East Springfield Branch Library**
2. **East Springfield Library Construction Grant - \$6,837,061 – Match Required**
3. **Bond Order — MSBA School Projects**
4. **FY26 Municipal ADA Improvement Grant - No Match Required - \$250,000**
5. **Bill of Prior Year - ITD - \$748.93**
6. **Order Authorizing a Contract Term Over 3 Years for Food Service Management Company for The Springfield Public Schools (03/02/2026)**

Minutes:

City Council Finance Committee Meeting Summary, April 13, 2026

The meeting, chaired by Councilor Zaida Govan, convened at approximately 5 p.m. to review bond orders, grants, an outstanding invoice, and a major food service contract, with a focus on infrastructure, school facilities, accessibility compliance, and fiscal oversight.

For the East Springfield Branch Library, officials reported the project remains on schedule

within the state program. Planning and design were funded in January 2025 and completed in 2025, with construction expected to begin in April 2026 and conclude by 2028. Total cost is \$12,420,211, with \$11,278,000 eligible and \$6,837,061 awarded in state funding, plus a \$205,112 green incentive. Procurement will comply with state bidding laws and use competitive selection.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority bond order supports schematic design for roofing and facility upgrades at Broughton, Boland, and Van Sickles schools, with approximately 80 percent reimbursement. Project teams are in place, and MSBA requirements are being followed.

The committee reviewed acceptance of a \$250,000 FY26 ADA grant to conduct a citywide accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan, with vendor selection through an RFP as part of a multi-phase compliance effort.

Members considered approval of a delayed, verified invoice to Tyler Technologies for services rendered in August 2024, attributed to administrative oversight.

The proposed food service management contract generated the most discussion. Officials recommended a one-year contract with four renewal options to improve competition, given high startup costs. Sodexo may rebid under revised criteria. A cross-functional committee will evaluate proposals based on cost, capability, and food quality. Concerns regarding food quality and oversight were raised; administrators cited a daily service volume of 28,000 to 30,000 meals at approximately \$4.50 per meal, responsiveness to community feedback, including halal labeling, regional sourcing, and a \$3 million vendor return cap. SNAP reductions were noted to have indirectly increased demand. Waste reduction and summer meal challenges were acknowledged, and transitioning to in-house service was discussed but deemed infeasible at this time.

Overall, the committee advanced funding and planning actions supporting capital improvements, ADA compliance, and continued oversight of contracted services, emphasizing transparency, cost control, and service quality.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]