



City Council
**Planning & Economic
Development**

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>
Jose Delgado (Chair)

~Final~

April 15, 2026

5:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

In Person

Councilor Jose Delgado (Chair)
John Doleva (Pres. CEO)
Brendan Tassy (man. event operations)
Greg Procino (VP external events & partnerships)

Virtual

Councilor Justin Hurst
Councilor Lavar Click-Bruce
Councilor Victor Davila

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	Excused	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Absent	
Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Virtual	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Virtual	
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Excused	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Virtual	

Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Excused	
Tracye Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Excused	

Call To Order

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on April 15, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Public Portion

1. Basketball Hall of Fame Update

Minutes:

April 15, 2026, Planning and Economic Development Subcommittee Meeting Summary with Naismith Basketball Memorial Hall of Fame Representatives

The subcommittee, chaired by Councilor Jose Delgado, met with representatives of the Naismith Basketball Memorial Hall of Fame, including John Delova, Greg Pasino, and Brendan Tassi, along with Councilors Justin Hurst, Lavar Click-Bruce, and Victor Davila, to review the Hoop Hall Classic and discuss a proposed competitive play center in Springfield, Massachusetts.

John Delova stated that the Hall of Fame honors basketball's originator, James Naismith, and that it supports all levels of play. He reported that the Hoop Hall Classic, founded in 2001 with \$16 million in debt, now generates about \$12 million in annual activity, with the Hall investing roughly \$900,000 plus over \$200,000 in staff time without guaranteed profit.

Greg Pasino reported approximately \$11 million in economic impact, with 85 percent of attendees from outside the region across 35 states, over 150 future NBA and WNBA players produced, and about 250 annual media applications, including ESPN coverage. Brendan Tassi noted operations span 10 gymnasiums, creating inefficiencies.

Key challenges include fragmented venues, limitations at Springfield College, rising hotel costs of about 35 percent, limited lodging, insufficient local transportation, and coordination gaps among stakeholders.

Pasino outlined a competitive play center with 10 to 12 courts as a year-round economic driver, requiring a public-private partnership and professional management; prior sites, including the "Blast site," were unsuitable. New January availability at the MassMutual Center presents expansion opportunities.

Councilor Justin Hurst requested a clear list of actionable needs. Councilor Lavar Click-Bruce emphasized the project's community value and support for it. Councilors agreed to retain the event in Springfield and to improve infrastructure and hospitality coordination.

The Hall reported booking about 3,300 hotel rooms, with total demand up to 6,000, continued financial investment, and constraints on growth due to infrastructure and media capacity limits. Agreed, next steps include defining stakeholder requests, forming a coordinated working group, and advancing the feasibility of the play center.

The Hoop Hall Classic and Hall of Fame were considered major economic and cultural assets. Representatives are committed to remaining in Springfield for at least five years, contingent on addressing operational and partnership challenges.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]