



City Council
Joint General Government / Maintenance & Development Meeting

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>
Justin Hurst (Chair)
Lavar Click-Bruce (Chair)

~Final~

April 21, 2026

12:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

In Person

Councilor Hurst (Gen Gov Chair)
Councilor Martin (Gen Gov Member)
Lisa Hurst (Constituent)
Albertha Narrow (Constituent)

Virtual

Councilor Click Bruce (M&D Chair)
Councilor Santaniello
Councilor Davila (Gen Gov Member)
Tom Ashe, Executive Parks Director
Tom Dole, Assistant Open Space Director
Caroline Jim, Budget Analyst
Rob Boone of Yellowstone Landscape,
Peter Krupchek, Director of Open Space
Adam Anulewicz, Natural Resource Manager
Susan?

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Virtual	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Present	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Absent	
Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Excused	

Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Excused	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Virtual	
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Absent	
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	Excused	

Call To Order

12:00 PM Meeting called to order on April 21, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Public Portion

1. Terrace maintenance
2. Overgrown weeds at Watershops Pond

Minutes:

Joint Meeting: General Government, Maintenance and Development Subcommittee met April 21, 2026, at 12:04 PM, chaired by Councilor Hurst in person with Councilor Lavar Click-Bruce presiding virtually.

First item: terrace and hardscape maintenance. Parks Director Tom Ash reported management of ~33 hardscape areas and ~193 terraces, with ~80 irrigated, maintained through Yellowstone Landscape. Hardscape areas are treated twice annually (primarily July–August) due to budget limits, while terraces are mowed and trimmed weekly during peak season and biweekly as growth slows. The Adopt-a-Terrace program was discontinued due to low participation. The budget figures cited were ~\$21,000 for hardscape and ~\$308,000 for terrace maintenance, covering 17 mow/trim cycles. Councilors raised concerns regarding overgrowth, sightline safety, irrigation coverage, and adequacy of service levels. Ash stated, maintenance is weather-dependent, performed within budget constraints, and issues should be reported through 311. The

discussion included a possible reconsideration of a community adoption model.

Second item: Watershops Pond vegetation overgrowth following prior drainage and refill. Ash reported significant expansion of invasive species, including phragmites and cattails. He noted that prior hydro-raking near Springfield College cost approximately \$155,000 for a limited area, while full pond remediation is estimated in the millions. The city has a dredging excavator for limited shoreline work but lacks capacity for full-scale removal.

Adam Anulewicz stated that hydro-raking requires a Notice of Intent under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, involving extensive permitting and documentation. He added that vegetation will persist and spread without intervention, and chemical treatment is possible but unconfirmed and would require separate permitting.

Councilors and the Chair expressed concern about resident impacts, including blocked views, debris accumulation, and potential effects on property values, and noted the absence of a comprehensive remediation plan. Ash agreed to obtain cost estimates and return with options for Council consideration. Public comment from a Garvey Drive resident described severe overgrowth, debris, and incomplete cleanup following pond refilling.

The meeting concluded with agreement to pursue cost estimates and planning for Watershops Pond and to continue current terrace maintenance operations. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]