



City Council

Regular Meeting

~Final~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

November 17,
2025

7:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

Councilors Brown, Santaneillo, Click-Bruce and Perez were REMOTE for this meeting.
Councilor Santaneillo arrived at 7:06 PM and Councilor Allen arrived at 8:00 PM.

Moment Of Silence - Pledge Of Allegiance

Reports Of Committee

Councilor Wals reported on the Finance Committee. Councilors Delgado and Whitfield were present at the meeting and discussed and voted on the 12 items that are on the City Council agenda, Councilor Delgado made a motion to move forward 11 items to the City Council.

Councilor Davila stated the General Government Committee met and approved Geraldine McCaffery to the Mobile Home Rent Control Board and Kevin Coffee's appointment to the Historical Commission. There was also a lengthy discussion on the Food Truck Ordinance.

Informational

1. Order Authorizing Mayor to Execute Quitclaim Deed for Sale of NS Tyler St. (11715-0021) to Christopher J. Spears & Billie Jo Spears for Consideration of \$734.00

Julissa Davila Ramos from the Treasurer's office spoke on the item. Lot in the Old Hill neighborhood. Councilor Curran asked what the parcel is assessed at? Council President Fenton found that it is assessed at \$25,700.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None

RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

2. September Revenue Vs. Expenditure Report

Comptroller Patrick Burns spoke on the report.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

Grants

3. AHO26 Grant - \$20,000 - No Match

Items 3–6 were taken together because they are beneath the threshold.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	Jose Delgado
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

4. FY26 Council on Aging Grant Increase - No Match Required \$30,561.00

Items 3–6 were taken together because they are beneath the threshold.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None

AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	Jose Delgado
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

5. FY26 SHINE Grant Increase - No Match Required \$57,342.13

Items 3–6 were taken together because they are beneath the threshold.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

6. FY26 GGCP Grant - \$100,000 - No Match

Items 3–6 were taken together because they are beneath the threshold.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	Jose Delgado
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

7. FY26 Chapter 90 Fair Share Supplemental Appropriation - \$1,302,093.35

DPW Director Chris Cignoli spoke on the item. Awarded 1.3 million dollars from the MASS DOT, it is from the Fair Share Amendment (Millionaires Tax). This goes into the Chapter 90 allotment. Councilor Whitfield asked if the Councilors asked if there could be a priority list of streets ahead of time. Director Cignoli will have it available within 2 months. Councilor Davila asked if sidewalks are included, and they are not. The paving project that was started in June is about 60% complete. This will be an entire new list of road repairs. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission generated a report that the DPW is working from. Councilor Brown thinks that this is a great project, but would like the sign at the Knox Street building to be

addressed, as it has been over 2 years.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

Orders

8. Bond Authorization — Body-Worn Cameras & Tasers - \$2,500,000

The CAFO, Cathy Buono spoke on the item. This bond was approved on February 10, 2025.

There was an error on her part. It should have been in the FY25 Capitol Improvement Plan, and it was not. It was added in March to the FY26 plan. The Bond Council is requesting that the City Council reapprove the item. Councilor Davila asked for specifics on the original package that was 7.2 million dollars. Councilor Santaniello would like a breakdown on the cost of each camera and taser cost.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

9. PEG Access and Cable Related Fund FY26 Q2 Appropriation — \$124,152.77

CAFO Cathy Buono presented on the topic. Quarterly payment from Comcast. These funds are handed over to FOCUS Springfield. The CAFO stated that the payments have been going down. The difference from 2024 to 2025 went down \$84,000. They continue to go down from the first and second quarters. Councilor Whitfield inquired if there is enough funding for FOCUS and what can we do to supplement FOCUS. The CAFO has been trying to get financials from FOCUS for the past year and has been unsuccessful. It is a concern because we need the services from FOCUS and the City may need to supplement funds. Councilor Whitfield inquired on the \$350,000 that was supposed to help them move. The CAFO stated that the funds for that were not from the City.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

10. School Department Supplemental Budget - Increase in Charter Tuition State Aid

Comptroller Patrick Burns spoke on the item. This will balance the budget for state aid for Charter School tuition \$7,190 coming back to the City.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

11. Order Authorizing Contract Over 3 Years for Lease-Purchase Financing of School Department Computers

Chief Information Officer Robert St. Lawrence from the School Department spoke on the item.

Staff and student replacement laptops every 4 years. Councilor Davila asked what company is used for this. The Whalley Computer Associates handle the upkeep, and the manufacturer that is used is Hewlet-Packard. Replacing 1/4 of the fleet annually for approximately 5 million dollars over 4 years. Councilor Davila asked that he get the information as to how much money the City is saving. Councilor Delgado asked what is done with the computers that are "retired." The department tries to utilize the laptops for 6 years, otherwise, they are recycled.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None

ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

12. Order Authorizing Contract Term Over 3 Years for Cybersecurity Firewall for School Department

Chief Information Officer Robert St. Lawrence from the School Department spoke about the item. The life cycle of the firewall appliance is for 5 years. \$30,000 annually of savings of purchasing the software up front. Councilor Santaneillo asked if the school department had ever been hacked. Mr. St Lawrence stated that there was an incident back in 2020, but not since then. It was a ransomware incident, and the City did not pay the ransom. The matter was handled internally, and there was only one day of downtime. Councilor Whitfield inquired if the School Department was eligible for the cybersecurity grant from the state. Yes, the City is eligible and this is the 3rd year that they have participated. Councilor Curran asked how much this would cost. Negotiations are still happening, but it looks like between \$438,000 and \$450,000. This contract is through Custom Computer Associates. Councilor Curran asked how much the commission that Whalley gets on the contract. Mr. St. Lawrence did not have the information at that moment.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

Ordinances

13. Amending Ordinance Chapter 275 Article IV

The Law Department asked that these items be continued to the next Regular meeting. Councilor Tim Alen was ABSENT and Councilor Brian Santaneillo was AWAY for this vote.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Zaida Govan, Maria Perez, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None

RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	Timothy Allen, Brian Santaniello
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

14. Amending Ordinance Chapter 245 Article II

The Law Department asked that these items be continued to the next Regular meeting.

Councilor Tim Alen was ABSENT and Councilor Brian Santaneillo was AWAY for this vote.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	Brian Santaniello
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

15. Amending Chapter 279: Peddling and Soliciting

Councilor Davila thanked Director Cignoli for his work on this item. Councilor Whitfield inquired if this item was to pass first steps, will it automatically go to committee? Council President Fenton advised that it does not. Councilor Walsh asked the Director for a timeline.

Director Cignoli advised that he would like to see it pass by February/March to be able to notify vendors for the Spring. Councilors Delgado and Perez agreed that the item needs to be looked into further.

Councilor Davila made a motion to send this to the General Government Committee and it was seconded by Councilor Perez.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

16. Amending Chapter 275 to include a new Article V: Prohibiting the Manufacture Sale and Distribution of Kratom

Councilor Curran spoke on the topic. Stated that the Health and Human Services Committee meeting that was held earlier in the day was extremely informative. He urged his colleagues to watch the meeting. He gave a brief overview of Kratom. There is a synthetic version 7 0 H that mimics the same response from morphine or heroin. This could usher in a 4th wave of overdoses and has been banned in several states, including Vermont and Rhode Island. It is known as "gas station heroin."

Councilors Click-Bruce, Walsh, Perez, Santaneillo Delgado and Whitfield thanked Councilor Curran and Helen Caulton Harris for their work on this. Councilor Whitfield could not be there in person at the meeting but will be watching it.

Councilor Curran made a motion to return to committee so the Law Department may catch up. This was seconded by Councilor Walsh. The item will be heard at the next regular meeting.

AYES	Malo Brown, Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Victor Davila, Jose Delgado, Melvin Edwards, Michael Fenton, Maria Perez, Brian Santaniello, Tracye Whitfield, Kateri Walsh, Timothy Allen
NAYS	None
AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Zaida Govan

[MIN_SIGNATURES]