



City Council

Regular Meeting

~Final~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

March 2, 2026

6:30 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

Councilors Santaniello and Perez were REMOTE for this meeting and both arrived at 7:36 PM.

Moment Of Silence - Pledge Of Allegiance

Reports Of Committee

Finance - Councilor Govan General Government - Councilor Hurst Audit - Councilor Hurst

Councilor Govan reported on the Finance Committee meeting, noting that Order 6 regarding the food service management contract was tabled for further discussion.

Councilor Hurst provided updates on the General Government Subcommittee's meetings, including discussions on the 2025 city elections, parking issues at schools, and the discontinuance of Wilbraham Ave. The subcommittee also addressed the potential amendment to include public speak-out in regular meetings, which will be voted on by the full body on March 9th's Regular meeting.

Resolution

1. No Confidence Resolution

Councilor Whitfield recused herself from this agenda item and asked Councilor Delgado to preside over the meeting.

Councilor Davila introduced a no-confidence resolution against the Council President, citing undisclosed conflicts of interest and self-interested behavior. He argued that the Council President failed to disclose her son's involvement with JETS Development LLC and her own financial interest in the company.

Councilor Hurst criticized the resolution, questioning the credibility of the legal memo supporting it and highlighting what he saw as double standards in how conflicts of interest were being handled.

Councilor Brown expressed opposition to a vote to remove the council president, arguing it was

a distraction and would not actually remove the president. He emphasized that city council positions are part-time jobs and suggested waiting for the December-January transition period instead.

Councilor Walsh urged the council to focus on voting on the issue rather than getting sidetracked by discussions.

Councilor Fenton defended his previous involvement in a street discontinuation matter, clarifying that he had disclosed and recused himself from the case. Councilor Fenton explained his support for the no confidence vote, citing concerns about Whitfield's failure to disclose conflicts of interest and threatening behavior toward a neighborhood council.

Councilors Govan and Click-Bruce opposed the resolution, arguing for patience and allowing the ethics process to play out, with Govan emphasizing the need for grace and avoiding rushing to judgment, particularly given Whitfield's historical significance as the first Black woman Council President.

Councilor Brown emphasized the importance of focusing on individual actions rather than attributing them to race, expressing support for all councilors while urging against divisiveness.

Councilor Edwards addressed concerns about the characterization of recent votes and investigations as racially motivated, stating that the focus should be on the effectiveness of the council presidency rather than personal or political motivations.

The meeting included a point of privilege raised by Councilor Davila regarding comments made by Councilor Hurst, which was later withdrawn after clarification.

Councilor Govan made a motion to call the question. The motion was seconded by Councilor Walsh.

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

Informational

2. Appointment of John McCloskey to the Mobile Home Rent Control Board

Councilor Hurst introduced John McCloskey and he came to the podium and gave a brief introduction. Mayor Sarno submitted a letter on his behalf. Mr. McCloskey is looking forward

to serving.

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

3. Zone Change Referral — Court Square Urban Renewal

Read into the record and referred.

4. January Revenue Vs. Expenditure Report

Comptroller Pat Burns presented the report.

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

Orders

5. Bill of Prior Year - Parks - \$1,400.00

CAFO Cathy Buono spoke on the item.

AYES	None
NAYS	None

AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Gerry Martin

6. Cable PEG Access Account Comcast Franchise Fee — \$116,675.22

CAFO Cathy Buono stated that this was the 3rd quarter payment that goes to Focus Springfield.

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

7. Transfer - Free Cash to Facilities - Snow Removal Services - \$500,000

John Carrigan from Facilities Management spoke on the item.

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

8. Elementary Schools Upgrade Bond Order - \$1.2 Million

Pat Garvey presented on the the topic.

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

9. Order Authorizing a Contract Term Over 3 Years for Food Service Management Company for The Springfield Public Schools

Councilor Govan made a motion to send to committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Davila.

10. Order Authorizing Contract Term Over 3 Years for School Department Copy, Print, Mail, and Courier Operations

Pat Roach from the School Department presented the item.

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

11. Five-Year HP Servers Lease - IT Department

Andy Doty from Information Technology presented on the topic.

AYES	Brian Santaniello, Maria Perez, Malo Brown, Zaida Govan, Kateri Walsh, Justin Hurst, Victor Davila, Michael Fenton, Jose Delgado, Lavar Click-Bruce, Melvin Edwards, Tracye Whitfield
NAYS	None

AWAY	None
RECUSE	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Gerry Martin

Grants

12. Springfield City Library Donation - \$500

Items # 12- # 17 are below the threshold and were taken together with no objections.

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

13. Elder Affairs Donation - \$750.00

Items # 12- # 17 are below the threshold and were taken together with no objections.

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

14. Springfield City Library Donation - \$1,000

Items # 12- # 17 are below the threshold and were taken together with no objections.

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

15. Parks Department - Bench Donation - \$2,492.85

Items # 12- # 17 are below the threshold and were taken together with no objections.

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

16. Police - Project Safe Neighborhood Grant - \$13,900.00 - No Match

Items # 12- # 17 are below the threshold and were taken together with no objections.

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

ABSENT	Gerry Martin
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17. Springfield City Library Donation - \$30,000

Items # 12- # 17 are below the threshold and were taken together with no objections.

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

18. Health Services for the Homeless Grant - No Match Required \$4,725,776.00

Commissioner Helen Caulton Harris spoke on the grant and stated the City has been receiving this grant since 1988.

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

Petitions

19. CET - Myrtle Street

Steve Conti from CET presented the items. Councilor Perez made a motion to send these items to the Maintenance and Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hurst.

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

20. CET- Pearl Street

Steve Conti from CET presented the items. Councilor Perez made a motion to send these items to the Maintenance and Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hurst.

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

21. CET- ST James Blvd.

Steve Conti from CET presented the items. Councilor Perez made a motion to send these items to the Maintenance and Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hurst.

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

ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Gerry Martin

22. CET- Main & Jeferson Ave.

Steve Conti from CET presented the items. Councilor Perez made a motion to send these items to the Maintenance and Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hurst.

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

23. EVERSOURCE GAS - Crestmont Street

Representatives from Eversource were present to speak on items # 23- # 29 were taken together without any objection.

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

24. EVERSOURCE GAS - Oklahoma Street

Representatives from Eversource were present to speak on items # 23- # 29 were taken together without any objection.

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

25. EVERSOURCE GAS - Edgemont Street

Representatives from Eversource were present to speak on items # 23- # 29 were taken together without any objection.

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

26. EVERSOURCE - Central Street

Representatives from Eversource were present to speak on items # 23- # 29 were taken together without any objection.

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

27. EVERSOURCE - Ashmun Street

Representatives from Eversource were present to speak on items # 23- # 29 were taken together

without any objection.

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

28. EVERSOURCE - 170 Blanche Street

Representatives from Eversource were present to speak on items # 23- # 29 were taken together without any objection.

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

29. EVERSOURCE - ST James Cir.

Representatives from Eversource were present to speak on items # 23- # 29 were taken together without any objection.

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

ABSENT	Gerry Martin
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Resolution

30. HOOP HALL CLASSIC RESOLUTION

Councilor Hurst sponsored this Resolution and read it into the record. All Councilors present wanted to sign on as sponsors.

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

[MIN_SIGNATURES]