



City Council

Regular Meeting

~Final~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

April 13, 2026

6:30 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

COUNCILORS SANTANIELLO, PEREZ, BROWN, WALSH AND CLICK-BRUCE WERE REMOTE FOR THIS METING. COUNCILOR PEREZ ARRIVED AT 6:36 PM.

Moment Of Silence - Pledge Of Allegiance

Reports Of Committee

COUNCILORS HURST,

Informational

1. Zone Change Referral - 376-378 Main Street, IO from Residence C to Commercial P.

READ INTO THE RECORD

Zone Change

2. 979 Dickinson Street (03910-0362) — From Residence A to Residence C

COUNCILOR FENTON ASKED TO BE MARKED AS RECUSED PRIOR TO THE ITEM BEING HEARD. HE NOTED THAT HE IS EMPLOYED BY THE LAW noted that he is employed by the law office representing the petitioner.

ATTORNEY ELLEN FREYMAN SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER TEMPLE BETH EL.

SHE SHARED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED USE OF THE PROPERTY AND NOTED THE CHANGES TO THE ZONE CHANGE APPLICATION THAT OCCURRED BASED ON FEEDBACK FROM THE FOREST PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION. SHE GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF MEETINGS WITH THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, FOREST PARK

CIVIC ASSOCIATION, WARD 6 COUNCILOR VICTOR DAVILA AND THE ABUTTERS OF THE PROPERTY.

ROBERT LEVESQUE, 40 SCHOOL ST. WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA, OF R. LEVESQUE ASSOCIATES SPOKE AND SHARED MAPS OF THE PROPERTY.
COUNCILOR DAVILA SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED ZONE CHANGE.

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

Petitions

3. EVERSOURCE GAS - Forest Glen Road

EVERSOURCE REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT THIS ITEM IS A PART OF their GAS SAFETY PROGRAM.

AYES	Brian Santaniello, Gerry Martin, 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	None

Orders

4. Bond Order — MSBA School Projects

PETER GARVEY, DIVISION OF CAPITAL ASSETS, PRESENTED THE INFORMATION

ON THE BOND PROJECT.

COUNCILOR FENTON ASKED ABOUT THE TYPE OF ROOF THAT WAS BEING REPLACED.

COUNCILOR WALSH NOTED THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE A LOT OF MSBA SCHOOL PROJECTS.

COUNCILOR GOVAN NOTED THAT THIS ITEM WAS DISCUSSED AT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COUNCILOR DAVILA ASKED CAFO CATHY BUONO WHAT THE CITY'S BOND CAPACITY IS. CAFO BUONO RESPONDED TO COUNCILOR DAVILA'S QUESTIONS.

AYES	Brian Santaniello, Gerry Martin, 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	None

5. Bill of Prior Year - ITD - \$748.93

CAFO CATHY BUONO SPOKE ON THE ITEM STATING THAT THIS IS A 2024 MUNIS SOFTWARE BILL FROM THE IT DEPARTMENT.

AYES	Brian Santaniello, Gerry Martin, 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	None

6. Bond Order to Pay for the Construction of a New East Springfield Branch Library

MOLLY FOGARTY, SPRINGFIELD LIBRARY DIRECTOR, SPOKE ON THE ITEM. COUNCILOR FENTON SPOKE AND SHARED A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY PROJECT AND THANKED ALL STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED.

AYES	Brian Santaniello, Gerry Martin, 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	None

Grants

7. East Springfield Library Construction Grant - \$6,837,061 – Match Required

MOLLY FOGARTY, SPRINGFIELD LIBRARY DIRECTOR, SPOKE ON THE ITEM.

AYES	Brian Santaniello, Gerry Martin, 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	None

8. FY26 Municipal ADA Improvement Grant - No Match Required - \$250,000

COMMISSIONER HELEN CAULTON-HARRIS SPOKE ON THE ITEM.

AYES	Brian Santaniello, Gerry Martin, 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	None
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Resolution

9. Supporting the establishment of the Springfield Community Impact and Stabilization Fund in connection with the Springfield Regional Justice Center Public-Private Partnership Lease

COUNCILOR GOVAN SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE RESOLUTION.
COUNCILOR DAVILA NOTED HIS SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION.
COUNCILOR WALSH MADE A MOTION TO SEND THE RESOLUTION TO COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO.
COUNCILOR DAVILA NOTED THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS VETTED BY THE LAW DEPARTMENT AND EXPRESSED THAT HE WOULD BE VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION TO COMMITTEE.
COUNCILOR PEREZ ASKED IF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT WAS PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THAT SHE HAS.
COUNCILOR GOVAN NOTED THAT THE RESOLUTION HAS BEEN REVIEWED SEVERAL TIMES BY THE LAW DEPARTMENT BEFORE BEING PLACED ON THE AGENDA. SHE NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSING THIS PRIOR TO THE PROJECT BEING AWARDED TO A DEVELOPER. SHE IS AGAINST THE MOTION TO COMMITTEE.

COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO ASKED IF THERE HAS BEEN A STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC SPIN-OFF OF ATTORNEYS.
COUNCILOR WALSH NOTED THAT IN THE PAST WHEN COUNCILORS HAVE HAD QUESTIONS ON RESOLUTIONS, IT HAS BEEN A COURTESY TO SEND THE ITEM TO COMMITTEE.

ON THE MOTION:

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

Unfinished Business

10. City Council Public Speak Out Pilot (01/12/2026)

THE ITEM WAS NOT HEARD.

11. Order Authorizing a Contract Term Over 3 Years for Food Service Management Company for The Springfield Public Schools (03/02/2026)

PATRICK ROACH, 1500 MAIN ST, SPS FINANCE CHIEF, SPOKE ON THE ITEM. COUNCILOR HURST ASKED A QUESTION REGARDING THE REASON FOR THE CONTRACT CHANGE.

COUNCILOR DELGADO ASKED WHY THE CONTRACT IS WRITTEN AS A CONTRACT FOR 1 YEAR WITH 1 YEAR EXTENSIONS.

COUNCILOR FENTON NOTED HIS RETICENCE TO THE CITY COUNCILOR AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR OVER 3 YEARS BEFORE THE CONTRACT IS WRITTEN. COUNCIL OVERSIGHT IS MINIMIZED IF THE CITY COUNCIL DOESN'T KNOW WHO IS AWARDED THE CONTRACT. HE BELIEVES THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE FINAL SAY BEFORE AUTHORIZING 5 YEAR CONTRACT.

COUNCILOR GOVAN NOTED THAT THE CONVERSATIONS REGARDING THIS CONTRACT HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS AND ASKED COUNCILOR FENTON TO EXPAND ON WHAT AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACT OVER 3 YEARS WOULD MEAN AS IT RELATES TO CITY COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT AND AUTHORITY. COUNCILOR HURST ASKED SUPERINTENDENT DINALL TO SHARE HER PERSPECTIVE. SUPERINTENDENT DINALL SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE ITEM TO ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL VENDORS.

COUNCILOR HURST NOTED THAT AUDITOR NO AND HIS DEPARTMENT HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB AS IT PERTAINS TO THE AUDIT OF THE FOOD SERVICE VENDOR (SODEXO).

COUNCILOR DAVILA SPOKE AND ALSO ASKED WHO WOULD COMPROMISE THE CONTRACT REVIEW TEAM. HE ALSO NOTED THAT NO CITY DOLLARS WOULD BE USED. CHIEF ROACH RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE FEDERAL DOLLARS AND STATED THAT ALL RECIPES, APPLIANCES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD BE THE PROPERTY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

COUNCILOR DAVILA NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE VOTING IN SUPPORT OF THE ITEM. HE ASKED CHIEF ROACH FOR A COPY OF EXECUTED CONTRACT ONCE A VENDOR IS SELECTED.

COUNCILOR MARTIN NOTED THAT HE HAS SAT IN MEETINGS REGARDING THE CURRENT FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT. HE NOTED THE HE WOULD BE VOTING NO. COUNCILOR DELGADO NOTED HIS AGREEMENT WITH COUNCILOR FENTON AND WOULD BE VOTING IN FAVOR WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT AUTHORIZING THE 5 YEAR CONTRACT WOULD ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL VENDORS.

COUNCILOR FENTON ASKED IF COUNCILOR WHITFIELD OR A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE ABLE TO SIT ON THE CONTRACT REVIEW COMMITTEE. CHIEF ROACH AGREED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY.

COUNCILOR MARTIN WAS A PART OF THE PLANNING AND THERE IS

DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CURRENT PROVIDER, AND HE IS IN AGREEMENT WITH COUNCILOR FENTON.
COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO NOTED THE RESULTS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE, INCLUDING ITEMS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ADDRESSED. PRESIDENT WHITFIELD ASKED COUNCILOR HURST CHIEF ROACH WILL FOLLOW UP WITH PRESIDENT WHITFIELD IF THERE IS A SEAT AVAILABLE ON THE REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR A CITY COUNCILOR.

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

[MIN_SIGNATURES]