



**City Council**  
**Sustainability and**  
**Environment Meeting**

36 Court Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

**Victor Davila (Chair)**

~Final~

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**June 22, 2026**

**5:00 PM**

**City Hall - Room 200**

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**Roll Call**

**In Person**

Councilor Davila(Chair)  
Councilor Govan(Committee member)  
Councilor Martin  
Council President Whitfield  
Denise  
Frank  
Jay Latorre(Scans)  
Brian Skelly (Scans)  
Solicitor Buoniconti

**Zoom**

Verne McArthur (constituent)  
Alex Sherman (Forestry)

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Present	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Excused	
Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Excused	
Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Present	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Present	

Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Absent	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Excused	
Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Excused	
Tracye Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Present	

### **Call To Order**

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on June 22, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

### **Public Portion**

1. Update on Woodland Ordinance.

### **Minutes:**

On June 22, 2026, the Sustainability and Environment Subcommittee, chaired by Councilor Victor Davila, met to review and continue the discussion of the proposed Urban Woodlands Ordinance. The committee received an updated draft and discussed the ordinance's purpose, scope, definitions, applicability thresholds, residential exemptions, commission structure, enforcement, and implementation. The proposal is intended to provide greater oversight of large-scale woodland clearing, protect tree canopy, require mitigation for significant tree loss, and increase public input in development projects involving substantial tree removal.

City Forester Alex Sherman reported that Springfield's overall tree canopy coverage is approximately 36%, with significant differences among neighborhoods. Members discussed the environmental benefits of trees, including shade, air quality, and heat reduction, and requested additional information on canopy coverage by neighborhood and the city's overall forested acreage.

The committee, residents, and city officials discussed balancing environmental protection, development needs, property rights, and the city's ability to administer and enforce the ordinance. The Law Department advised that further clarification of the ordinance's goals and scope is needed before substantial legal drafting can be completed. Committee members expressed support for continuing the review process and requested additional revisions and stakeholder feedback.

The matter was held for further refinement and discussion, with a follow-up meeting expected in

approximately three weeks. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM.

[MIN\_SIGNATURES]