

# City of Fall River Massachusetts

## Office of the City Clerk

**ALISON M. BOUCHARD**  
CITY CLERK

**INÊS LEITE**  
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

### JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**MEETING:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.  
Council Chamber, One Government Center

**PRESENT:** President Joseph D. Camara, presiding;  
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart,  
Bradford L. Kilby, Linda M. Pereira, Cliff Ponte, and Laura-Jean Sampson

**ABSENT:** Councilor Andrew J. Raposo

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Seth T. Aitken, City Administrator  
Bridget Almon, Director of Financial Services  
Maria Pontes, Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools  
Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Public Schools  
Kenneth Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools

President Joseph D. Camara called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

The following School Committee Members were present at the meeting:

**PRESENT:** Mayor Paul E. Coogan, Thomas Khoury, Michelle "Mimi" Larrivee,  
Shelli Pereira and Sara Rodrigues

**ABSENT:** Kevin Aguiar and Bobby Bailey

1. Citizen's Input Time - None

*Councilor Cadime arrived at 5:34 p.m.*

2. Review of the fiscal and financial condition of the city, revenue and expense forecasts, and other relevant information in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. *Superintendent Maria Pontes, Fall River Public Schools, provided a brief overview of the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Fall River School Department Budget and emphasized that the department has worked closely with teachers and staff to provide services and staff that are greatly needed, such as special education staff, but have also worked to limit non-essential expenditures to the FY25 budget. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Public Schools, provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation regarding the planned FY25 Fall River School Department Budget. This presentation provided information regarding funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, local contributions, net-school spending, transportation, and staffing.*

*Councilor Kilby requested clarification regarding the noted debt of net school spending for the past year and Mr. Almeida explained that the debt would be balanced at the end of June 2024, like previous fiscal years.*

*Councilor Ponte held a brief discussion with Superintendent Pontes, Mr. Almeida and Kenneth Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools, regarding additional needs for schools that were not able to be addressed in the planned FY25 budget. Superintendent Pontes provided information regarding ongoing projects, such as repairs at the Robert Medeiros Resiliency Preparatory Academy, where an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant elevator was just installed, and that a similar elevator was needed at Edmond P. Talbot Middle School. Superintendent Pontes emphasized that these are ongoing projects and will continue through additional fiscal years, but that the largest need in Fall River Public Schools is currently adequate staffing. Mr. Almeida confirmed that to keep the budget balanced, all necessary hiring couldn't be completed as they had to focus on filling priority positions. Mr. Almeida provided a brief explanation regarding their plan to sustain grant funding for as long as possible and provide funding to maintain the new B.M.C Durfee High School, so the proposed budget has only been increased by \$2,200,000 this year. Mr. Pacheco provided information regarding maintenance plans for the new high school and stated that the electrical utilities in the new facility were much more cost efficient. Councilor Ponte asked if the City owes the School Department any additional net school spending and Mr. Almeida stated that they do not currently have an outstanding balance.*

*Councilor Dionne and Mr. Pacheco held a brief discussion regarding the City's collaboration with the owner of the former Atlantis Charter School, located on South Main Street, such as assisting with utility payments and repairing parts of the property. Mr. Pacheco explained that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for this property would allow the City to continue use of the former Atlantis Charter School and that there is an escrow account for these repairs. Councilor Dionne and Mr. Almeida also discussed the decrease in the Expense Reductions for this property and Mr. Almeida clarified that the City will have the former school property paid off within the next year. A brief discussion was held between Councilor Dionne and Mr. Pacheco regarding current and future solar panel use on school properties, which can help to alleviate electric bills. Mr. Pacheco emphasized that many schools need new roof repairs prior to installing panels, but the long-term goal is to have solar energy panels on all school buildings. President Camara and Mr. Pacheco discussed the estimated lifespan, and lease agreement length, of solar panels, which is about twenty years of use.*

*Vice President Pereira and Mr. Pacheco discussed the costs and challenges with school transportation, as many school buses are not filled to capacity. Mr. Pacheco provided information regarding the long-term plan to adjust bus maps to increase ridership and explained that small school vans are more costly than larger buses.*

*Councilor Cadime and Superintendent Pontes discussed the enrollment rates for all public schools and the consistent increase of students. Mr. Pacheco provided information regarding the cost of maintaining these schools, specifically the new B.M.C. Durfee High School, to help support the growing number of students. Mr. Pacheco also stated that the Robert Medeiros Resiliency Preparatory Academy will have new windows installed in the Fall. Councilor Cadime requested information regarding the ongoing indirect cost agreements and Superintendent Pontes and Mr. Almeida stated that those agreements are currently being developed, but no specific information can be provided at this time.*

*Bridget Almon, Director of Financial Services, provided a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding the planned FY25 Municipal Budget, which included information regarding a 4.1% budgetary increase, surplus revenue retained for the short-term funding of the new Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School, and a moratorium on adding additional debts.*

*Councilor Sampson and Ms. Almon held a brief discussion regarding one-time funding that will be used for FY25. Ms. Almon stated that the City is utilizing \$1,800,000 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and \$1,000,000 from the Retained Revenue (Free Cash) funds. Ms. Almon clarified that a majority of the Retained Revenue fund will go towards the debt for the new B.M.C. Durfee High School.*

*Councilor Dionne requested additional information regarding planned elderly property tax exemption limits, plans for creating more affordable housing, and the plan to install more solar panels in the City. Ms. Almon provided a brief explanation of the increased income limits for elderly property owners and that these changes will allow more property owners to apply for the tax exemption. Seth Thomas Aitken, City Administrator, provided information regarding the Community Development Agency and their work to provide additional affordable housing in Fall River. Mr. Aitken also stated that there are additional, ongoing projects to assist with this matter, such as Councilor Ponte's proposed Affordable Housing Trust. Mr. Aitken stated that this issue is challenging as surrounding communities are not providing enough affordable housing. The City Administrator also explained that the City of Fall River uses Opioid Settlement Funds to provide housing to those who are in addiction recovery. Mr. Aitken provided a summary of the Director of City Operation's plan to install not only solar power machinery, but also wind power machinery, to help offset electricity costs.*

*Councilor Ponte and Mayor Paul E. Coogan, Chair of the School Committee, held a brief discussion regarding the future use of the Nagle Auditorium at the former B.M.C. Durfee High School. Mayor Coogan stated that the City would be funding the roof replacement and the development of classrooms and that the School Department will assist with additional classroom funding in the future. Councilor Ponte and Mr. Aguiar discussed the possibility of the City splitting the cost of transportation for the former B.M.C. Durfee High School and the limitations of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding to help with repairs of the former high school. Councilor Cadime asked for clarification regarding ownership of this property and Mayor Coogan stated that while the School Department still owns the property, the City is assisting with funding. Vice President Pereira and Mayor Coogan held a brief discussion regarding the rentals of school property to churches on Sundays and the increased revenue that these rentals provide for the School Department.*

*Councilor Ponte and Mayor Coogan held a discussion regarding debt payments for new schools that will be due in the next few years and the effect that will have on residents and property owners. Mayor Coogan emphasized the plan to put this topic on the ballot for the November election due to the large debt amount of \$6,000,000. Councilor Kilby stated that the new Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School project should have been on a previous ballot itself, not just the option for debt payments.*

*President Camara and Mayor Coogan discussed transportation costs for Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School and Mayor Coogan stated that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts covers 80% of the transportation costs, as it is a regional school. Mayor Coogan explained that while there is a Massachusetts General Law that states the Commonwealth can also fund public schools, the State Senators and Representatives have never allocated funding to provide that financial assistance.*

*On a motion made by School Committee Member Thomas Khoury and seconded by School Committee Member Michelle "Mimi" Larrivee, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 6:54 p.m., with Committee Members Kevin Aguiar and Bobby Bailey absent and not voting.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Sampson, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:54 p.m., with Councilor Raposo absent and not voting.*

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

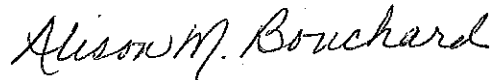
DVD of meeting

PowerPoint Presentation by Kevin Almeida, CFO, Fall River Public Schools

PowerPoint Presentation by Bridget Almon, Director of Financial Services

Packet from Massachusetts Municipal Association regarding their support of S. 2571,  
*An Act Empowering Municipalities and Local Governments*

A true copy. Attest:



City Clerk

In City Council, April 23, 2024  
Approved.



**City of Fall River  
Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor**

**PAUL E. COOGAN**  
*Mayor*

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CITY CLERK  
FALL RIVER, MA

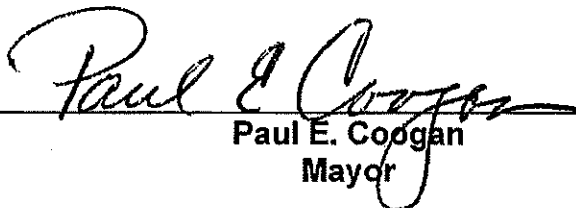
**JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**APRIL 9, 2024 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Citizens Input**
- 2. Review of the fiscal and financial condition of the city, revenue and expense forecasts, and other relevant information in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul E. Coogan  
Mayor

**ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650**





## FALL RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mayor Paul Coogan  
Chairman

Mimi Larrivee  
Vice-Chairman

Maria Pontes  
Superintendent of Schools

Kevin Agular  
Bobby Bailey  
Tom Khoury  
Shelli Pereira  
Sara Rodrigues

Debra Cabral  
Administrative Assistant

### NOTICE

*Joint Meeting  
of the City Council and School Committee*

Tuesday, April 9, 2024  
5:30PM

City Council Chamber  
One Government Center  
Fall River, MA 02722

CITY CLERK  
FALL RIVER, MA

2024 APR -4 P 3:48

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### Agenda

- Roll Call
- Salute to the Flag
- Citizens' Input
- Review of the Fiscal and Financial condition of the City, Revenue and Expense Forecasts, and other relevant information in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.
- Adjourn

*Debra Cabral*  
Administrative Assistant

ADA Coordinator: Gary Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650







City of Fall River Massachusetts  
Office of the City Clerk

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2024 APR -5 A 11: 16

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FALL RIVER, MA

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**APRIL 9, 2024**  
**AGENDA**

**5:30 P.M. JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**5:55 P.M. PUBLIC HEARINGS (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE IF IT RUNS PAST 5:55 P.M.)**

Curb Removal

1. Brandyn Demelo, 64 Division Street, for the removal of curbing as follows:

	Existing Opening	Curbing to be Removed	Curbing to be Added	Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration
64 and 66 Division Street	14'	16'	0'	30'

The parcel is currently serviced by a 14-foot curb opening and driveway. The applicant proposes to extend that opening by an additional 16 feet. The total opening for the location will be 30 feet.

2. Zoning Change – Zoning Map Amendments  
(Joint Hearing with Planning Board)

Waterfront and Transit-Oriented Development District (WTOD) to include areas from Davol Street (Northbound) easterly to North Main Street and from Walnut Street northerly to a point 640 feet North of Wayland Street to the current Waterfront and Transit-Oriented District as delineated on the district map included herewith entitled: Waterfront and Transit-Oriented Development District Map Amendment and dated: January 2024.

**6:00 P.M. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE MEETING (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARINGS IF IT RUNS PAST 6:00 P.M.)**

1. Citizen Input
2. \*Fiscal Year 2025 Enterprise Fund Budget - Emergency Medical Services (referred 3-26-24)
3. Transfers and appropriations

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650

**7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE MEETING IF IT RUNS PAST 7:00 P.M.)**

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

1. \*Mayor and confirmation of the appointment of Reverend James Hornsby to the Community Preservation Committee
2. \*Mayor and confirmation of the appointment of Marlene Santos to the Election Commission
3. \*Mayor and confirmation of the reappointment of Timothy S. Campos to the Election Commission
4. \*Mayor and confirmation of the reappointment of James C. Calkins to the Zoning Board of Appeals
5. \*Mayor and orders appropriating:
  - a. \$135,773.43 from FY23 Free Cash to FEMA COVID Fund
  - b. \$2,662,076.00 from EMS Fund Free Cash to FEMA COVID Fund
6. \*Mayor and grant order of \$8,613 from the Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) for the Inclusive and Accessible Outdoor Recreation Events Grant Program
7. \*Mayor and Community Development Agency Year Five Annual Action Plan
8. \*Mayor and Memorandum of Understanding between Local 1314 International Association of Firefighters and City of Fall River
9. \*Mayor and recommendations from the City Assessor and Board of Assessors re M.G.L. Ch. 59 §5 clause forty-first C re elderly exemptions
10. \*Mayor and communication re Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Audit prepared by Roselli, Clark & Associates

**PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS**

11. \*Traffic Commission recommending amendments to the traffic ordinances

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Committee on Economic Development and Tourism recommending:  
Action
12. \*City Council send letter to the Administration and various departments regarding potential actions to improve tourism and support local groups and the community at-large.
- Committee on Finance recommending:  
Action
13. \*Fiscal Year 2025 Enterprise Fund budgets for Water and Sewer Divisions
- Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:  
First Reading
14. \*Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, miscellaneous  
Handicapped parking removals
    - Birch Street, North, 291 feet east of King Street
    - Cory Street, North, 106 feet east of Oregon Street
    - Holden Street, North, 170 feet west of Fielden Street
    - Lebanon Street, North, 67 feet west of Quequechan Street
    - Prospect Street, North, 30 feet east of Barnaby Street
  15. \*Proposed Ordinance – FY 2025 Sewer Rates

- First Reading, as amended
16. \*Proposed Ordinance – FY 2025 Water Rates
- Refer to Corporation Counsel
17. \*Resolution - Discuss establishment of an ordinance to require ratification of constable applications by the City Council
- Grant Leave to Withdraw
18. \*Resolution – Prohibiting balloon releases
19. \*Resolution – Trash collection and proposal for cart program
20. \*Resolution – Establishment of "Veterans Advisory Board"

## **ORDINANCES**

- Second Reading and Enrollment
21. \*Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, miscellaneous
- Section 1.
- Loading zones
- Locust Street, South, Starting at a point 121 feet east of June Street for a distance of 40 feet east, 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m, Monday through Friday
- Section 2.
- Handicapped parking removals
- 18<sup>th</sup> Street, East, 150 feet south of Merchant Street
  - Bay Street, East, 126 feet north of Pokross Street
  - Brownell Street, North, 64 feet north of North Court Street
  - Cash Street, West, 87 feet south of Pleasant Street
  - County Street, North, 53 feet west of Rocliffe Street
  - Fenner Street, West, 200 feet north of Dwelly Street
  - Fulton Street, West, 87 feet south of Suffolk Street
  - Grant Street, West, 178 feet north of William Street
  - Grant Street, West, 190 feet north of Division Street
  - Grinnell Street, South, 20 feet east of Arlington Street
  - Hambly Street, West, 172 feet south of Globe Street
  - John Street, West, 202 feet south of Morgan Street
  - Middle Street, South, 144 feet west of Broadway
  - Norfolk Street, South, 145 feet east of Fulton Street
  - North Underwood Street, West, 136 feet south of Narragansett Street
  - Oxford Street, West, 20 feet north of Pelham Street
  - Pokross Street, North, 296 feet west of Bowen Street
  - Pokross Street, North, 440 feet east of Bay Street
  - Snell Street, North, 120 feet west of Dover Street
  - Stone Street, West, 35 feet north of Lafayette Street

## **RESOLUTIONS**

22. \*The Administration and Corporation Counsel prepare a report within thirty (30) days to include information regarding disbursement of funds in relation to ongoing litigation involving the City of Fall River

**CITATIONS**

23. Maria Pontes, Fall River Public Schools Superintendent – Retirement after 39 years of working as an educator in Fall River (1985–2024)

**ORDERS – HEARINGS**

Curb Removal

24. Brandyn Demelo, 64 Division Street – removal of 16 feet at 64 and 66 Division Street

**ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS**

25. Police Chief's report on license:

Taxicab Drivers

Derek Leite                      Maurice Mack                      Maritza Rodriguez Carrero

Second Hand License Renewal

TVI, Inc. d/b/a Savers Thrift Store – 109 Mariano Bishop Boulevard

26. Auto Repair Shop License Renewal:

William Sanchez, ABG Holdings, LLC d/b/a  
Lambert Auto Body & Auto Sales – 103 Chavenson Street

27. Auto Repair Shop License Transfer:

Auto Repair Shop License No. 338 located at 182 Stafford Road from Jessica M. Rodrigues d/b/a Stafford Road Auto Repair and Sales to Jaquez Auto Sales, LLC d/b/a Jaquez Auto and Repair.

28. Auto Body Shop License Renewal:

Antonio F. Pinto d/b/a Pinto's Auto Repair and Sales, Inc. – 2447 South Main Street  
William Sanchez, ABG Holdings, LLC d/b/a  
Lambert Auto Body & Auto Sales – 103 Chavenson Street

**COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS**

29. \*Claims

30. Drainlayer Licenses:

Albert Moreira and Son  
Alexandre's Excavating, Inc.  
Century Paving and Construction, Corp.  
D.W. White – SPS JV  
Geosearch, Inc.  
Green Acres Landscape & Construction Co., Inc.  
J & R Resendes Corp.  
JDQ Excavating, LLC  
JLC Construction Co., Inc.  
Khoury Excavating, Inc.  
MJD Excavating, Inc.  
Perry Heavy Equipment Services, LLC  
Raposo Company Landscape & Construction, LLC  
RMT Excavation, Inc.  
Sherry Construction Corporation  
Thermo-Mechanical Systems Inc.

**ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650**

**BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES** - None

*Alison M. Bouchard*  
**City Clerk**

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