# City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Clerk

**INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE**
CITY CLERK

**CHELSEA PACHECO**
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: June 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

*Councilor Peckham exited the Chamber at 7:16 p.m.*

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

1. Mayor and request for confirmation of the appointment of John Sylvia, Chair, Board of Park Commissioners, as the Board of Park Commissioners representative on the Community Preservation Committee

*On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to confirm the appointment, with Councilor Peckham absent and not voting.*

*Councilor Peckham returned to the Chamber at 7:18 p.m.*

2. Mayor and communication to City Council for Massachusetts House Bill (H.5482) re: extending operating hours for liquor licenses and public alcohol consumption

*Vice President Dionne and Councilors Camara and Canuel expressed concern regarding this matter, as increased alcohol consumption late in the evening increases various public safety risks. Councilor Pereira stated that she supported this decision, as it is temporary for the ongoing Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup soccer tournament, which has some late games that would run past the business' normal operating hours. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, that the communication be accepted and placed on file, with Vice President Dionne and Councilors Canuel and Peckham voting in the negative.*

*On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to take item 3b out of order.*

3. Mayor and revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget:

b. Emergency Medical Services Appropriation Order

*On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to vote on the appropriation order by line item.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve line item A1, EMS, Salaries.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve line item A2, EMS, Expenses.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve line item A3, EMS, Capital.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve line item A4, EMS, Transfers (Indirect Costs).*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to reconsider the vote to approve line item A4, EMS, Transfers (Indirect Costs).*

*A further motion was made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham to reject line item A4, EMS, Transfers (Indirect Costs).*

*Vice President Dionne and Councilor Raposo discussed the City Council's potential actions in relation to this line item, and Councilor Raposo suggested that the line item total be reduced, not rejected. Vice President Dionne rescinded the motion to reject line item A4, EMS, Transfers (Indirect Costs). A brief discussion was held between President Ponte and the City Clerk regarding a numerical typographical error in the appropriation order creating a $1 discrepancy in the final total.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 9 yeas to reduce line item A4, EMS, Transfers (Indirect Costs) by $1,050,001.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve line item A5, EMS, Debt.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to approve the new appropriation total of $16,894,935.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to approve line item Direct, Salaries.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve line item Direct, Expenses.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve line item Direct, Capital.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to approve line item Direct, Debt.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve the Direct, Subtotal of $12,825,545.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to reduce Indirect, Health Insurance, by $100,000.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to reduce Indirect, Pensions, by $614,000.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to reduce Indirect, Other, by $336,000.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to approve the reduced Indirect, Subtotal of $4,069,390.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order, as amended, with a new total of $16,894,935.*

a. General Fund Appropriation Order

*On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to vote on the appropriation order by line item.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to reject line item A1 for Mayor, Salaries.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to take line items A2 through A10, Mayor, Expenses; City Council, Salaries; City Council, Expenses; City Clerk, Salaries; City Clerk, Expenses; Elections, Salaries; Elections, Expenses; Veterans' Benefits, Salaries; and Veterans' Benefits, Expenses, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays to reject line items A2 through A10, Mayor, Expenses; City Council, Salaries; City Council, Expenses; City Clerk, Salaries; City Clerk, Expenses; Elections, Salaries; Elections, Expenses; Veterans' Benefits, Salaries; and Veterans' Benefits, Expenses, respectively, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Raposo voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted to take line items B1 through B3, Administrative Services, Salaries; Administrative Services, Expenses; Judgements and Claims, respectively, together.*

*Councilor Canuel stated that the changes to the Indirect Costs within the EMS Enterprise Fund budget will create a deficit within the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Municipal Budget, therefore the budget cannot be approved as it is written and must be rejected to allow revisions to occur. Councilor Raposo stated that the Councilors could work to reduce various line items to eliminate the deficit created with the changes to the EMS Enterprise Fund FY27 budget without rejecting the budget in its entirety. A discussion was held between Councilors Canuel and Raposo regarding the process of revising or rejecting the budget. Councilor Cadime stated that the Police Department budget will have a significant deficit as well, and the Administration should work to rectify that matter when drafting a newly revised budget.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nay, to reject line items B1 through B3, Administrative Services, Salaries; Administrative Services, Expenses; and Judgements and Claims, respectively, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays to reject line item C1 for Financial Services, Salaries, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to reject line item C2 For Financial Services, Expenses, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to take line items D1 through D3, Facilities, Salaries; Facilities, Expenses; and Facilities, Capital, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to reject line items D1 through D3, Facilities, Salaries; Facilities, Expenses; and Facilities, Capital, respectively, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to take line items E1 through E3, Community Maintenance, Salaries; Community Maintenance, Expenses; and Community Maintenance, Capital, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to reject line items E1 through E3, Community Maintenance, Salaries; Community Maintenance, Expenses; and Community Maintenance, Capital, respectively, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to take line items F1 through F3, Community Services, Salaries; Community Services, Expenses; and Community Services, Transfers, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to reject line items F1 through F3, Community Services, Salaries; Community Services, Expenses; and Community Services, Transfers, respectively, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to take line items G1 through G3, School Appropriation, School Transportation, and Education Assessments, respectively, together.*

*Councilor Cadime stated that the City Council has received two different School Transportation cost totals from the School Department and the Administration. Councilor Raposo stated that he had shared a data sheet related to School Transportation costs from the Chief Financial Officer of the Fall River School Department with all Councilors.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to reject line items G1 through G3, School Appropriation; School Transportation; and Education Assessments, respectively, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to take items H1 through H8, Police, Salaries; Police, Expenses; Police, Capital; Harbor Master, Salaries; Harbor Master, Expenses; Fire & Emergency Services, Salaries; Fire & Emergency Services, Expenses; and Fire & Emergency Services, Capital, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to reject items H1 through H8, Police, Salaries; Police, Expenses; Police, Capital; Harbor Master, Salaries; Harbor Master, Expenses; Fire & Emergency Services, Salaries; Fire & Emergency Services, Expenses; and Fire & Emergency Services, Capital, respectively, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Periera, it was unanimously voted to take items I1 through I4, Debt – Service; Insurance; Pension Contributions; Reserve Fund, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to reject items I1 through I4, Debt – Service; Insurance; Pension Contributions; Reserve Fund, respectively, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to reject the following funding sources: $4,000,000 from Stabilization Fund; $150,000 from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash); $1,547,435 from the EMS Rate Revenues for Insurance; $2,306,975 from the EMS Rate Revenues for Pension; $1,264,980 from the EMS Rate Revenues for Other Indirect; $618,839 from the Water Rate Revenues for Insurance; $1,195,932 from the Water Rate Revenues for Pension; $813,438 from the Water Rate Revenues for Other Indirect; $154,615 from the Sewer Rate Revenues for Insurance; $292,624 from the Sewer Rate Revenues for Pension; and $500,761 from the Sewer Rate Revenues for Other Indirect, respectively, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to reduce the appropriation order total to $0, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays to adopt the appropriation order, as amended, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*Councilor Canuel suggested that the City Council schedule a Special Meeting for June 30, 2026, in anticipation of a newly revised budget being presented by the Administration. Councilor Camara stated that the City Council has now rejected the budget twice and that this matter will not be approved as the $40,000 appropriation for City Council outside legal services has not been placed within the City Council budget as requested. Councilor Canuel stated that he had discussed a 1/12th budget with the Mayor and stated that this process would have a negative impact on the City.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff, to answer questions.*

*Councilor Canuel and Ms. O'Neil-Souza discussed the resubmission of a new budget. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff stated that the Administration could not provide a definite timeline for a new budget to be submitted and that there are currently no recommendations for any amendments from the City Council. Ms. O'Neil-Souza also stated that the Administration understands that the budget was rejected again due to the legal counsel account, indirect cost amendments within the EMS Enterprise Fund Budget, creating a $1,050,000 deficit within the Municipal Budget, and School Transportation cost discrepancies.*

*The City Clerk and the Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff provided information regarding the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's protocol for a 1/12th budget and that each monthly appropriation will be submitted by the Mayor based on departmental needs. The City Clerk also stated that, while the Mayor needs to present the monthly budgetary appropriation to the City Council, if it is not rejected or reduced by the City Council, it will automatically go into effect since DOR has opined that a vote of the City Council to adopt the order is not required for the order to go into effect.*

*Councilor Canuel and Ms. O'Neil-Souza discussed scheduling a Special Meeting of the City Council on June 30, 2026, to discuss a new budgetary submission. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff stated that the Director of Financial Services would not be available on that date and that while an appropriation will be submitted, it may not be a full fiscal year budget.*

*Vice President Dionne stated that the City Council acted upon the proposed revised budget and that it is now within the Mayor's jurisdiction to determine how to address the matter. Vice President Dionne also stated that preemptively scheduling a Special Meeting of the City Council is not merited.*

*Councilor Pereira stated that the location of the outside legal counsel funding doesn't change its availability to the Councilors and should not affect the decision to approve or reject the budget. Councilor Pereira and Ms. O'Neil-Souza discussed the potential amendments that could be submitted with a new budget, but both agreed that the outside legal counsel account location would determine the overall vote on the matter. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff reiterated that she could not confirm a time for the submission of a new budget.*

*Councilors Cadime and Pereira discussed the location of the outside legal counsel account, currently listed within the Law Department, Expenses, budget, and the potential methods that could be used to relocate the account. Councilor Pereira stated that she would discuss the matter further with the Mayor.*

*Councilor Raposo suggested that the City Council enter a recess until the Mayor can be contacted, as this matter should be addressed immediately. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff explained that the Mayor is participating in a Special Meeting of the School Committee and is not available.*

*Vice President Dionne and Ms. O'Neil-Souza discussed the need for additional School Transportation information and communication between the School Department and Administration.*

*Councilor Camara stated that no compromise will occur on the various portions of this rejected budget over the next week and that a Special Meeting of the City Council is not warranted. Councilor Camara also stated that the City Council has now rejected the budget twice and that the Councilors must accept the 1/12th budgetary process, as no reductions were made to amend the proposed budget and it was rejected. Councilor Raposo emphasized that there is still one week where the Administration and the City Council can work together on this matter prior to the end of the fiscal year.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay, to move the question regarding the scheduling of a Special Meeting of the City Council on June 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., with Councilor Raposo voting in the negative.*

*On further motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was voted 3 yeas, 6 nays, to schedule a Special Meeting of the City Council on June 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., with President Ponte and Councilors Canuel and Raposo voting in the affirmative and the motion failed to carry.*

4. Mayor, Planning Board Report and resolution re: proposed amendment to expand the Waterfront/Downtown Housing Development Zone a/k/a Central Market Housing Development District Zone and Plan Amendment

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, that the resolution be adopted and that the Planning Board report be accepted and placed on file, with Vice President Dionne and Councilors Cadime and Peckham voting in the negative.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

5. Mayor and the following appropriations:

a. $3,670,000 from FY25 Sewer Retained Earnings to Sewer, Transfers

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, that the order be adopted, with President Ponte and Councilor Peckham voting in the negative.*

b. $1,770,000 from FY25 Water Retained Earnings to Water, Transfers

*On a motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, that the order be adopted, with President Ponte and Councilor Peckham voting in the negative.*

6. Mayor and order appropriating $1,400,000 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Fire, Salaries

*A motion was made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart to adopt the order. On a roll call vote, Councilors Cadime and Peckham objected and the matter was laid on the table in accordance with the Charter.*

*Councilor Pereira exited the Chamber at 8:27 p.m.*

7. Mayor and end-of-year appropriations totaling $475,750 from the following accounts:
- City Council, Expenses ($2,750)
- Reserve for Employee Benefits ($223,000)
- Administrative Services, Salaries ($100,000)
- Financial Services, Salaries ($50,000)
- Facilities, Salaries ($100,000)

to:

- City Council, Salaries ($2,750)
- City Clerk, Salaries ($23,000)
- Police, Salaries ($450,000)

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted that the order be adopted, with Councilor Peckham opposed and Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.*

8. Mayor with resolutions for Tax Increment Exemption Agreements as follows:

a. Jefferson Realty LLC at 37 Park Street

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 5 yeas, 3 nays, that the resolution be adopted, with Vice President Dionne and Councilors Canuel and Peckham voting in the negative and Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

b. Second Street Trust at 377 Second Street

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 5 yeas, 3 nays, that the resolution be adopted, with Vice President Dionne and Councilors Canuel and Peckham voting in the negative and Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

*Councilor Pereira returned to the Chamber at 8:29 p.m.*

9. Mayor and Memorandum of Agreement for Fall River EMS Unit, AFSCME Council 93, Local 1202

*On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted that the order be adopted.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

**PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS**

10. Board of Election Commissioners and order authorizing polling places for the State Primary Election on September 1, 2026, and the Biennial State Election on November 3, 2026, and designating polling places and changes to polling places for such elections

*On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, that the orders be adopted, with Vice President Dionne and Councilor Canuel voting in the negative.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

**ORDINANCES** – None

**RESOLUTIONS**

11. Administration and School Department convene to finalize indirect cost agreement

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted that the resolution be adopted.*

12. Committee on Ordinances and Legislation convene to discuss development, traffic and parking concerns within the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor area

*Councilor Pereira emphasized the need to be proactive with the planned development of this area and that the City should address any concerns prior to structures and parking lots being constructed. Councilor Canuel expressed his support of the resolution. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted that the resolution be adopted.*

13. Committee on Ordinances and Legislation convene to review City ordinances re: outside billboards and advertising signs

*Councilor Pereira stated that many constituents have expressed concern regarding a billboard that was recently installed in the City. Councilor Pereira explained that, while the existing billboard cannot be removed, the City should work to place limitations on them in the future. Vice President Dionne agreed and stated that billboards negatively affect the visual appeal of the City. On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the resolution be adopted.*

**CITATIONS**

14. Mary E. Goff, Retired Captain, U.S. Army Nurse Corps. – Dedication and commitment to Fall River veterans

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the citation be accepted and placed on file.*

**ORDERS – HEARINGS**

Jointly Owned Pole Location

15. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Eastern Avenue – One (1) new jointly owned pole location

*On a motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the order be adopted.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

**ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS**

16. Police Chief's Report on Licenses
Taxicab Driver
Steven B. Rebello

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted that the order be adopted.*

17. Auto Repair Shop License Renewal
Timothy Pinto, SM Automotive, LLC d/b/a E&T Auto Concepts, 196 Oak Grove Avenue

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted that the order be adopted.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

Auto Repair Shop License Transfers

18. License no. 168 located at 697 Pleasant Street from Wilson Frank Elias d/b/a One Stop Auto Center, Inc. to Jefferson Moises d/b/a One Stop Auto Center, Inc.

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the order be adopted.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

19. License no. 217 located at 400 Stafford Road from Francisley J. Grizotte d/b/a Shea's Automotive Center to Brandon Rocha d/b/a Shea's Automotive Center

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the order be adopted.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

**COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS**

20. Claims

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted that the claims be referred to Corporation Counsel.*

21. Communication from city resident re: traffic and parking conditions on Progress Street

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the communication be referred to the Committee on Public Safety.*

22. Application for a License to Conduct One-Day Bingo – The Children's Museum of Greater Fall River, October 22, 2026, at 4500 North Main Street

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the application be approved.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to take items 23 through 34 together.*

City Council Minutes

23. Public Hearings – May 26, 2026
24. Public Hearings – June 2, 2026
25. Public Hearings – June 9, 2026
26. Committee on Finance – May 26, 2026
27. Committee on Finance – May 28, 2026
28. Committee on Finance – June 1, 2026
29. Committee on Finance – June 2, 2026
30. Committee on Finance – June 3, 2026
31. Committee on Finance – June 9, 2026
32. Regular Meeting of the City Council – May 26, 2026
33. Special Meeting of the City Council – June 3, 2026
34. Regular Meeting of the City Council – June 9, 2026

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted that the minutes be approved.*

**BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES**

35. Notice of Casualty and Loss at 183 Winthrop Street

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the notice be accepted and placed on file.*

**ITEMS FILED AFTER THE AGENDA DEADLINE**
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JUNE 23, 2026**

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

9a. Mayor and proposed Home Rule Petition re the use of the Gold Room at the Liberal Club to serve as a polling location for the 2026 State Elections

*On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to adopt an emergency preamble, with Vice President Dionne and Councilor Canuel voting in the negative. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to adopt the order, with Vice President Dionne and Councilor Canuel voting in the negative.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:

10a. All readings with emergency preamble:
Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Handicapped Parking
- Pitman Street, East, 110 feet south of Webster Street
- Richmond Street, West, 196 feet north of Cambridge Street
- Smith Street, West, 268 feet south of Warren Street
- Stanley Street, North, 45 feet east of Madison Street
- Wade Street, South, 80 feet west of Fifth Street
- Woodman Street, North, 292 feet west of King Street

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 9 yeas to adopt the emergency preamble. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through first and second reading, passed to be enrolled and passed to be ordained.*
*Approved, June 25, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

*Councilor Camara exited the Chamber at 8:45 p.m.*

First reading, as amended:

10b. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous
Parking prohibited during certain hours
- Hyacinth Street, East, 763 feet north
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., from September 1 to June 30
- Hyacinth Street, West, 763 feet north
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., from September 1 to June 30
- Locust Street, North, 658 feet east
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., from September 1 to June 30
- Locust Street, South, 658 feet east
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., from September 1 to June 30

*On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 6 yeas, 2 nays to pass the proposed ordinance through first reading, as amended, with President Ponte and Councilor Raposo voting in the negative and Councilor Camara absent and not voting.*

*Councilor Camara returned to the Chamber at 8:47 p.m.*

10c. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous
Fifteen-minute parking
- South Main Street, East, 76 feet north of Slade Street
  Monday through Saturday, 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.
  Sunday, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading, as amended.*

10d. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous
Handicapped parking removals
- Albion Street, West, 30 feet south of Downing Street
- Bowen Street, West, 160 feet south of Charles Street
- Brow Street, North, 143 feet east of Fifth Street
- Center Street, North, 147 feet west of South Main Street
- Kellogg Street, West, 392 feet north of Hamlet Street
- Lewis Street, East, 30 feet north of Slade Street
- Merchant Street, North, 27 feet west of Eighteenth Street
- Montgomery Street, South, 111 feet east of Robeson Street
- North Main Street, West, 20 feet south of Weaver Street
- North Main Street, West, 144 feet north of Marier Street
- N. Underwood Street, West, 206 feet north of Weetamoe Street
- Oxford Street, West, 143 feet south of Warren Street
- Quequechan Street, West, 255 feet south of County Street
- South Main Street, West, 283 feet south of Woodman Street
- Walnut Street, North, 127 feet west of Linden Street

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading, as amended.*

First reading:

10e. Proposed Ordinance – Amending §62-2(C), Solid waste – Collection and disposal, generally

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay, that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading, with Councilor Peckham voting in the negative.*

First reading, as amended:

10f. Proposed Ordinance – Salary amendments for the Director of Health and Human Services

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading, as amended.*

First reading:

10g. Proposed Ordinance – Amending §50-301, Salary schedule for executive officers, department heads, and non-union personnel

*On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 5 yeas, 4 nays, that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading, with President Ponte and Councilors Canuel, Peckham and Pereira voting in the negative.*

10h. Proposed Ordinance – Amending §50-303, Salary schedule for political appointments and boards/committees

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading, with Councilor Peckham opposed.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to reconsider the vote taken for item 10g.*

10g. Proposed Ordinance – Amending §50-301, Salary schedule for executive officers, department heads, and non-union personnel

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading, with President Ponte and Councilors Canuel and Peckham voting in the negative.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Hart and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.*

<u>List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:</u>

Agenda packet (attached)

School Transportation costs data sheet from the Chief Financial Officer of the Fall River School Department

A true copy Attest:

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite

City Clerk

In City Council, July 14, 2026

Approved.

# City of Fall River Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk



RECEIVED

2026 JUN 23 P 12: 55

CITY CLERK FALL RIVER, MA



**INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE**
CITY CLERK

**CHELSEA PACHECO**
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK


**ORIGINAL POSTING: JUNE 18, 2026, AT 2:33 P.M.**

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED
## CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER
## JUNE 23, 2026
## REVISED AGENDA

### 5:00 P.M. COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND LEGISLATION

### 5:55 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND LEGISLATION IF IT RUNS PAST 5:55 P.M.)

**Jointly Owned Pole Location**

1. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

   Eastern Avenue — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned 55-foot class H1 pole (P50-50), approximately 100 feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Barnes Street and between Pole 50 and Pole 52 on Eastern Avenue. In accordance with Plan No. 31285764.

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

**Presentation of Citations** – None

1. Citizen Input
2. *Resolution – Convene with the Chair of the Board of Elections, the Administration, and a representative of the Fall River Commission on Disability to discuss election cycle trends within new polling facilities (adopted 11-25-2025)
3. Transfers and appropriations

### 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 request for confirmation of the appointment of John Sylvia, Chair, Board of Park Commissioners, as the Board of Park Commissioners representative on the Community Preservation Committee
2. *Mayor and communication to City Council for Massachusetts House Bill (H.5482) re: extending operating hours for liquor licenses and public alcohol consumption

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

3. *Mayor and revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget:
   a. General Fund Appropriation Order
   b. Emergency Medical Services Appropriation Order
4. *Mayor, Planning Board Report and resolution re: proposed amendment to expand the Waterfront/Downtown Housing Development Zone a/k/a Central Market Housing Development District Zone and Plan Amendment
5. *Mayor and the following appropriations:
   a. $3,670,000 from FY25 Sewer Retained Earnings to Sewer, Transfers
   b. $1,770,000 from FY25 Water Retained Earnings to Water, Transfers
6. *Mayor and order appropriating $1,400,000 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Fire, Salaries
7. *Mayor and end-of-year appropriations totaling $475,750 from the following accounts:
   - City Council, Expenses ($2,750)
   - Reserve for Employee Benefits ($223,000)
   - Administrative Services, Salaries ($100,000)
   - Financial Services, Salaries ($50,000)
   - Facilities, Salaries ($100,000)

   to:
   - City Council, Salaries ($2,750)
   - City Clerk, Salaries ($23,000)
   - Police, Salaries ($450,000)
8. *Mayor with resolutions for Tax Increment Exemption Agreements as follows:
   a. Jefferson Realty LLC at 37 Park Street
   b. Second Street Trust at 377 Second Street
9. *Mayor and Memorandum of Agreement for Fall River EMS Unit, AFSCME Council 93, Local 1202

**PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS**

10. *Board of Elections Commissioners and order authorizing polling places for the State Primary Election on September 1, 2026, and the Biennial State Election on November 3, 2026, and designating polling places and changes to polling places for such elections

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

**ORDINANCES** – None

**RESOLUTIONS**

11. *Administration and School Department convene to finalize indirect cost agreement
12. *Committee on Ordinances and Legislation convene to discuss development, traffic and parking concerns within the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor area
13. *Committee on Ordinances and Legislation convene to review City ordinances re: outside billboards and advertising signs

**CITATIONS**

14. Mary E. Goff, Retired Captain, U.S. Army Nurse Corps. – Dedication and commitment to Fall River veterans

**ORDERS – HEARINGS**

Jointly Owned Pole Location

15. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Eastern Avenue – One (1) new jointly owned pole location

**ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS**

16. Police Chief's Report on Licenses
    Taxicab Driver
    Steven B. Rebello

17. Auto Repair Shop License Renewal
    Timothy Pinto, SM Automotive, LLC d/b/a E&T Auto Concepts, 196 Oak Grove Avenue

    Auto Repair Shop License Transfers

18. License no. 168 located at 697 Pleasant Street from Wilson Frank Elias d/b/a One Stop Auto Center, Inc. to Jefferson Moises d/b/a One Stop Auto Center, Inc.

19. License no. 217 located at 400 Stafford Road from Francisley J. Grizotte d/b/a Shea's Automotive Center to Brandon Rocha d/b/a Shea's Automotive Center

**COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS**

20. *Claims
21. *Communication from city resident re: traffic and parking conditions on Progress Street
22. Application for a License to Conduct One-Day Bingo – The Children's Museum of Greater Fall River, October 22, 2026, at 4500 North Main Street

    City Council Minutes

23. *Public Hearings – May 26, 2026
24. *Public Hearings – June 2, 2026
25. *Public Hearings – June 9, 2026
26. *Committee on Finance – May 26, 2026
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30. *Committee on Finance – June 3, 2026
31. *Committee on Finance – June 9, 2026
32. *Regular Meeting of the City Council – May 26, 2026
33. *Special Meeting of the City Council – June 3, 2026
34. *Regular Meeting of the City Council – June 9, 2026

**BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES**

35. *Notice of Casualty and Loss at 183 Winthrop Street

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
**City Clerk**

**ITEMS FILED AFTER THE AGENDA DEADLINE**
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JUNE 23, 2026**

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

9a. *Mayor and proposed Home Rule Petition re the use of the Gold Room at the Liberal Club to serve as a polling location for the 2026 State Elections

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

## OTHER POTENTIAL MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (if received):

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:

10a. All readings with emergency preamble:

*Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Handicapped Parking

- Pitman Street, East, 110 feet south of Webster Street
- Richmond Street, West, 196 feet north of Cambridge Street
- Smith Street, West, 268 feet south of Warren Street
- Stanley Street, North, 45 feet east of Madison Street
- Wade Street, South, 80 feet west of Fifth Street
- Woodman Street, North, 292 feet west of King Street

10b. First reading:

*Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous

Section 1

Parking prohibited during certain hours

- Hyacinth Street, East, 763 feet north
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Hyacinth Street, West, 763 feet north
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Locust Street, North, 658 feet east
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Locust Street, South, 658 feet east
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Section 2

Fifteen-minute parking

- South Main Street, East, 76 feet north of Slade Street
  Monday through Saturday, 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.
  Sunday, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Section 3

Handicapped parking removals

- Albion Street, West, 30 feet south of Downing Street
- Bowen Street, West, 160 feet south of Charles Street
- Brow Street, North, 143 feet east of Fifth Street
- Center Street, North, 147 feet west of South Main Street
- Kellogg Street, West, 392 feet north of Hamlet Street
- Lewis Street, East, 30 feet north of Slade Street
- Merchant Street, North, 27 feet west of Eighteenth Street
- Montgomery Street, South, 111 feet east of Robeson Street
- North Main Street, West, 20 feet south of Weaver Street
- North Main Street, West, 144 feet north of Marier Street
- N. Underwood Street, West, 206 feet north of Weetamoe Street
- Oxford Street, West, 143 feet south of Warren Street
- Quequechan Street, West, 255 feet south of County Street
- South Main Street, West, 283 feet south of Woodman Street
- Walnut Street, North, 127 feet west of Linden Street

Action:

Proposed Ordinance – Amending §62-2(C), Solid waste – Collection and disposal, generally

Proposed Ordinance – Salary amendments for the Director of Health and Human Services

Proposed Ordinance – Amending §50-301, Salary schedule for executive officers, department heads, and non-union personnel

Proposed Ordinance – Amending §50-303, Salary schedule for political appointments and boards/committees

9a

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

**PAUL E. COOGAN**
*Mayor*

RECEIVED

2026 JUN 22 P 3:59

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 22, 2026

Council President
Members of the Honorable Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Council President and Members of the Honorable Council,

Attached please find a request from the Chairman of the Board of Elections for your review and approval of the Home Rule Petition allowing for the Gold Room at the Liberal Club to serve as a designated polling location for the 2026 State Elections.

For any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or my office.

Sincerely,

Paul E Coogan

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

PC/amos

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722
TEL (508) 324-2600 • FAX (508) 324-2626 • EMAIL mayor@fallriverma.org

9a

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 24 of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the city council in the city of Fall River may, by recorded and public vote, change any polling place previously designated under said section 24 to be used at the election not less than 20 days prior to the date of the election if it is determined that the public convenience or public health would be better served; provided, however, that alcoholic beverages shall not be served or consumed in that portion of a building used as a polling place during voting hours or while ballots are being counted therein. The city council may designate polling places in non-adjacent precincts if they determine the public convenience or public health would be better served. In making a decision to change a polling place, the city council shall evaluate and report on whether such change would have a disparate, adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age and, not later than 3 days prior to changing a polling place, the city council shall make publicly available on its website and at the office of the city clerk a report on its evaluation. When the polling places have been designated pursuant to this act, the board of registrars shall post on the municipal website and at other such places as it may determine a description of the polling places and shall notify voters by using an electronic means, to the extent available, such as via email or reverse 911 call.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

9a

**BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

RECEIVED
2026 JUN 22 P 3:59
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

22 June 2026

Honorable Paul E. Coogan, Mayor
One Government Center
Fall River, MA. 02722

Dear Mayor Coogan,

I respectfully request that the accompanying Home Rule Petition containing the legal language drafted by the Office of the House Counsel be submitted to the City Council for their approval. As we were informed by Senator Rodrigues this Petition can be acted upon by the legislature if submitted before the end of their formal session.

If approved by the City Council, the Gold Room at the Liberal Club would serve as the designated polling location for Precincts 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A & 2B. The facility was evaluated by the Secretary's ADA compliance officer who found that the room complies with the legal requirements for a polling precinct.

As required by the General Laws, all registered voters affected by a change in polling location will be notified in writing by my office. In addition, signage will be posted at all cancelled polling locations informing voters of the change in location for a seven-day period prior to and including Election Day.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lyons

Ryan Lyons
Chairman & Director
Chief Elections Official
Board of Elections Dept.

Ryan Lyons, Chairman & Director
One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722
TEL (508) 324-2630 • FAX (508) 324-2633 • EMAIL rlyons@fallriverma.gov

# City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Clerk


RECEIVED

2026 JUN 18 P 2: 33

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED
## CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER
## JUNE 23, 2026
## AGENDA

### 5:00 P.M. COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND LEGISLATION

### 5:55 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND LEGISLATION IF IT RUNS PAST 5:55 P.M.)

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

**Presentation of Citations** – None

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2. *Resolution – Convene with the Chair of the Board of Elections, the Administration, and a representative of the Fall River Commission on Disability to discuss election cycle trends within new polling facilities (adopted 11-25-2025)
3. Transfers and appropriations

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2. *Mayor and communication to City Council for Massachusetts House Bill (H.5482) re: extending operating hours for liquor licenses and public alcohol consumption

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

3. *Mayor and revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget:
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4. *Mayor, Planning Board Report and resolution re: proposed amendment to expand the Waterfront/Downtown Housing Development Zone a/k/a Central Market Housing Development District Zone and Plan Amendment
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   to:
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**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

**ORDINANCES** – None

**RESOLUTIONS**

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**CITATIONS**

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    Taxicab Driver
    Steven B. Rebello

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34. *Regular Meeting of the City Council – June 9, 2026

**BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES**

35. *Notice of Casualty and Loss at 183 Winthrop Street

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
**City Clerk**

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

## OTHER POTENTIAL MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (if received):

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:

10a. All readings with emergency preamble:

*Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Handicapped Parking

- Pitman Street, East, 110 feet south of Webster Street
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- Wade Street, South, 80 feet west of Fifth Street
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10b. First reading:

*Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous

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Parking prohibited during certain hours

- Hyacinth Street, East, 763 feet north
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Hyacinth Street, West, 763 feet north
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- Oxford Street, West, 143 feet south of Warren Street
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Proposed Ordinance – Amending §62-2(C), Solid waste – Collection and disposal, generally

Proposed Ordinance – Salary amendments for the Director of Health and Human Services

Proposed Ordinance – Amending §50-301, Salary schedule for executive officers, department heads, and non-union personnel

Proposed Ordinance – Amending §50-303, Salary schedule for political appointments and boards/committees

City of Fall River, *In City Council* FINANCE

(Councilors Michelle M. Dionne and Shawn E. Cadime)

WHEREAS, there have been two election cycles following the changes in polling locations in Fall River, and

WHEREAS, the percentage of registered voters who participate in the voting process has been, and continues to be declining, and

WHEREAS, many voters have reacted negatively to some of the changes in polling locations, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Finance convene with the Chair of the Board of Elections, a member of the Administration, and a member of the Fall River Commission on Disability to discuss, and evaluate, these changes and trends.

In City Council, November 25, 2025
Adopted.

A true copy. Attest:

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite

City Clerk

# City of Fall River
# Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

**PAUL E. COOGAN**
*Mayor*

RECEIVED
2026 JUN -9 A 10: 47
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 8, 2026

Council President
Members of the Honorable Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Council President and Members of the Honorable Council,

Attached please find correspondence from the Board of Park Commissioners advising of their vote to appoint John Sylvia, Chairman Board of Park Commissioners, as their representative on the Community Preservation Committee.

For any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or my office.

Sincerely,

Paul E Coogan

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

PC/amos

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722
TEL (508) 324-2600 • FAX (508) 324-2626 • EMAIL mayor@fallriverma.org

PARK BOARD
CITY OF FALL RIVER

June 8th, 2026

Mayor Coogan,

At the Park Board meeting on June 3rd, 2026 the Commissioners approved BJ McDonald's resignation from the Park Board, as Chairman of the Board, and as the CPC representative. The Commissioners of the Park Board elected John Sylvia, 51 Ada St., Fall River, MA 02721 contact number 508-367-1366, as the new Chairman of the Park Board and CPC representative.

*Sincerely,*
*Holly*

*Holly Mota*
*Head Clerk*
*City of Fall River*
*Dept. Of Parks & Recreation*
*450 Middle St.*
*Fall River, MA 02721*
*Phone: (508)324-2551*

2

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

PAUL E. COOGAN
*Mayor*

RECEIVED

2026 JUN -9 P 1:12

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 9, 2026

Council President
Members of the Honorable Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Council President and Members of the Honorable Council,

Massachusetts House Bill (H.5482) sponsored by Representative Carole Fiola is an emergency amendment for a temporary pilot program authorizing municipalities to opt-in to extended operating hours for liquor licenses and allowing public alcohol consumption in designated districts for summer 2026. This legislation overwhelming passed in the House, complete with an emergency preamble, and returned to the Senate for concurrence. The bill was signed into law by Governor Maura Healey on June 8, 2026.

The City of Fall River Licensing Board will be holding a special meeting within the coming days to adopt only Section 3 of H5482 allowing for a licensed establishment subject to the approval of the local licensing authority to sell alcoholic beverages on premises for one (1) additional hour beyond the time set forth in the establishment's license, but may not exceed 3:00am through July 31, 2026. If approved by the local licensing authority this will be a blanket approval and will not require that any additional paperwork be submitted to the local authority.

For any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or my office.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Coogan

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

PC/amos

2

**REVISED**
**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**
**CITY OF FALL RIVER**
**LICENSING BOARD**
**First posting June 9, 2026 @ 1:20pm**

The City of Fall River Licensing Board hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting will be held on ***Thursday June 11, 2026, at 2:00pm*** in the First Floor Hearing Room, One Government Center, Fall River, MA, to hear the following matters:

1. PUBLIC INPUT

   A.

**2. Discussion of House Bill H.5482 – Section 3 (one-hour extension of alcohol service hours for existing licensees)**

3. ADJOURNMENT

RECEIVED
2026 JUN -9 P 1:46
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

**ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. [508] 324-2650**
**Contact Person: Courtney Pereira [cpereira@fallriverma.gov]**

3

PAUL E. COOGAN
MAYOR

RECEIVED

2026 JUN 12 P 2: 54

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

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

Honorable Members of the City Council,

The Fiscal Year 2027 REVISED Proposed Municipal Budget is hereby submitted for your review and approval. The General Fund is being submitted for appropriation in the amount of $484,255,787, which is a 5.0% increase from the Fiscal Year 2026 Revised Budget. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Enterprise Fund is being submitted for appropriation in the amount of $17,944,936, which is an increase of 8.8% from the Fiscal Year 2026 Revised Budget. The Sewer and Water Enterprise Funds have previously been approved for appropriation with a combined total of $48,559,989, which is an increase of 1.2% – the approved orders and supporting detail have been included.

The total General Fund increase can be attributed to a few very specific categories: State mandated Net School Spending requirements, Solid Waste expenses, the Diman Regional Debt Assessment, Health Care, the annual Pension assessment, and cost of living adjustments to salaries and expenses. These increases are being added to the base budget and will at a minimum be maintained, however we are expecting more normalized increases in these lines in the subsequent fiscal years.

The revenue projected for the FY2027 General Fund Local Receipts is about 87% of the Projected FY2026 receipts, in line with DOR's recommendation of no more than 90% of the previous year's actuals. Through State Aid, at the Senate's Proposed budget, we are anticipating an 8.1% increase from the FY2026 budget.

Prior to this fiscal year, the goal was to increase the Free Cash certification to rebuild our General Fund Stabilization balance. Great progress has been made, with a current balance of $22.7M, and anticipating ending the year with a $22.9M balance. While there is still more work to be done to meet the State and National standards set for General Fund Stabilization balances, we feel it is at a comfortable enough level to shift our focus to allocating funds to these other large financial matters for the next several fiscal years. By returning to zero-based budget practices, while continuing to keep capital expenditures and one-time purchases out of the General Fund budget and being less conservative on revenue budgets

– we are anticipating Free Cash Certifications return to previous values of $3-8M after FY2026. Given the level of uncertainty surrounding Federal funding, which would also impact State funding local municipalities, the Administration and Finance team is committed to leaving the current General Fund Stabilization balance at this level, only utilizing the funds as a last resort option. In turn, it is our intent to use future surplus strategically for capital expenditures, rebuilding the Employer Health Care Trust fund balance, and to cover the increasing State mandated Net School Spending requirements, Solid Waste expenses, the Diman Regional Debt Assessment, Health Care costs, annual Pension assessment, and cost of living increases. We are committed to working hard on improving the City's financial plans and practices with the City Council, to not just keep the City afloat but to keep us moving forward.

Through this Budget we reaffirm our continued commitment to education, public safety, and serving the needs of the citizens of Fall River. This Budget represents a collaboration between all City Departments and our Finance Team to review budgetary requests and maintain an increase in the Tax Levy of not more than 2.5%.

Budget development is an important process that takes much time, analysis, coordination and teamwork to get to a final product. We thank the City's Department Heads, Division Managers, and School Department leadership, who have worked seamlessly with the Finance Team and Administration to make this possible while still providing their daily services to the community.

Best Regards,

Paul E Coogan

Mayor Paul E. Coogan

3

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

BE IT ORDERED, that the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2027 from various funds, is $484,265,787 of which the amount of $471,410,187 be raised from ordinary revenue and municipal receipts for appropriation as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A. for the purpose of GENERAL GOVERNMENT** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for MAYOR, Salaries | $ | 314,803 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for MAYOR, Expenses | $ | 20,250 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for CITY COUNCIL, Salaries | $ | 258,664 | |
| 4. from the General Fund, for CITY COUNCIL, Expenses | $ | 170,700 | |
| 5. from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Salaries | $ | 381,990 | |
| 6. from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Expenses | $ | 35,875 | |
| 7. from the General Fund, for ELECTIONS, Salaries | $ | 367,638 | |
| 8. from the General Fund, for ELECTIONS, Expenses | $ | 104,300 | |
| 9. from the General Fund, for VETERANS' BENEFITS, Salaries | $ | 301,077 | |
| 10. from the General Fund, for VETERANS' BENEFITS, Expenses | $ | 1,651,055 | |
| | | | **$3,606,352** |
| **B. for the purpose of ADMINISTRATION** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Salaries | $ | 1,544,380 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Expenses | $ | 3,632,805 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for JUDGEMENTS AND CLAIMS | $ | 350,000 | |
| | | | **$5,527,185** |
| **C. for the purpose of FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for FINANCIAL SERVICES, Salaries | $ | 1,892,473 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for FINANCIAL SERVICES, Expense | $ | 344,990 | |
| | | | **$2,237,463** |
| **D. for the purpose of FACILITIES MAINTENANCE** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Salaries | $ | 1,009,797 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Expense | $ | 2,181,465 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Capital | $ | - | |
| | | | **$3,191,262** |
| **E. for the purpose of COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Salaries | $ | 5,655,974 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Expense | $ | 17,891,532 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Capital | $ | - | |
| | | | **$23,547,506** |
| **F. for the purpose of COMMUNITY SERVICE** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Salaries | $ | 2,894,654 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Expense | $ | 672,631 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Transfers | $ | 30,000 | |
| | | | **$3,597,284** |
| **G. for the purpose of EDUCATION** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for SCHOOL APPROPRIATION | $ | 212,582,416 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION | $ | 12,350,048 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for EDUCATION ASSESSMENTS | $ | 10,225,442 | |
| | | | **$235,157,906** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **H. for the purpose of COMMUNITY PROTECTION** | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Salaries | $ 24,780,499 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Expenses | $ 2,130,062 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Capital | $ - | |
| 4. from the General Fund, for HARBOR MASTER, Salaries | $ 4,500 | |
| 5. from the General Fund, for HARBOR MASTER, Expenses | $ 31,000 | |
| 6. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Salaries | $ 20,021,736 | |
| 7. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Expenses | $ 1,187,798 | |
| 8. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Capital | $ - | |
| | | **$48,155,595** |
| **I. for the purpose of OTHER GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSES** | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for DEBT - SERVICE | $ 13,719,946 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for INSURANCE | $ 52,402,162 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS | $ 45,191,673 | |
| 4. from the General Fund, for RESERVE FUND | $ 603,013 | |
| | | **$111,916,794** |
| **TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET** | **$ 436,937,348** | |
| **CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENTS** | **$ 47,318,439** | |
| **GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET** | **$ 484,255,787** | |
| **FUNDING SOURCES:** | | |
| from Stabilization Fund | $ 4,000,000 | |
| from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) | $ 150,000 | |
| from the EMS Rate Revenues for INSURANCE | $ 1,547,435 | |
| from the EMS Rate Revenues for PENSION | $ 2,306,975 | |
| from the EMS Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT | $ 1,264,980 | |
| from the Water Rate Revenues for INSURANCE | $ 618,839 | |
| from the Water Rate Revenues for PENSION | $ 1,195,932 | |
| from the Water Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT | $ 813,438 | |
| from the Sewer Rate Revenues for INSURANCE | $ 154,615 | |
| from the Sewer Rate Revenues for PENSION | $ 292,624 | |
| from the Sewer Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT | $ 500,761 | |
| from Ordinary Revenue and Municipal Receipts | $ 471,410,187 | |
| **GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET** | **$ 484,255,787** | |

3

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

BE IT ORDERED, that the following Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations be provided through the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) rates under Chapter 53F 1/2 in the aggregate, amounting to $17,944,935 be appropriated as follows:

A. Voted: That the following sums be appropriated for the EMS Enterprise:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| from EMS Rate Revenues, for EMS, Salaries | $ | 9,925,027 |
| from EMS Rate Revenues, for EMS, Expenses | $ | 2,599,485 |
| from EMS Rate Revenues, for EMS, Capital | $ | 241,200 |
| from EMS Rate Revenues, for EMS, Transfers (Indirect Costs) | $ | 5,119,391 |
| from EMS Rate Revenues, for EMS, Debt | $ | 59,833 |
| TOTAL: | $ | 17,944,936 |

and that $17,944,935 be raised as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Departmental Receipts | $ | 17,944,936 |
| EMS Stabilization Fund | $ | - |
| | $ | 17,944,936 |

Recommend that the following sums be appropriated to operate the EMS Enterprise:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Direct** | | |
| Salaries | $ | 9,925,027 |
| Expenses | $ | 2,599,485 |
| Capital | $ | 241,200 |
| Debt | $ | 59,833 |
| Subtotal | $ | 12,825,545 |
| **Indirect** | | |
| Health Insurance | $ | 1,547,435 |
| Pensions | $ | 2,306,975 |
| Other | $ | 1,264,980 |
| Subtotal | $ | 5,119,390 |
| TOTAL: | $ | 17,944,935 |

4

# City of Fall River
# Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

PAUL E. COOGAN
*Mayor*

RECEIVED

2026 JUN 17 P 2:43

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 16, 2026

Cliff Ponte
President
Fall River City Council
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

RE: City Waterfront/Downtown HD Zone Amendment

Dear Council President Ponte and Members of the Honorable Council:

By letter dated April 21, 2026, I requested that the City Council amend the boundaries of the City's Waterfront/Downtown HD Zone, also known as the City of Fall River Central Market Housing Development (HD) District Zone and Plan, which the City originally approved and adopted on March 10, 2016, to include the boundaries shown on the attached map.

At its meeting held on April 28, 2026, the City Council voted to refer this proposal to the Fall River Planning Board for the purpose of conducting a public hearing, as required by applicable regulations, including MGL Ch. 40A, sec.5 and 760 CMR 66.08, and submitting its recommendations to the City Council.

Following the referral, the Fall River Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on June 10, 2026, and unanimously recommended extending the Waterfront/Downtown Housing Development Overlay District to include the area shown on the attached map. In its June 15, 2026 letter to the City Council, the Planning Board unanimously approved the proposed amendment.

I concur with the Planning Board's unanimous recommendation that the City Council approve the proposed amendment which will advance the goals of the Housing Development Incentive Program under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40V by supporting market-rate and non-market rate residential growth, housing diversity, economic development, and neighborhood stability.

I, therefore, respectfully request the City Council approve the amendment to allow for the submission of an application to the Massachusetts Department of Community and Development to amend the City of Fall River Central Market Housing. Development (HD) District Zone and accomplish the aforementioned goals.

Sincerely

Paul E. Coogan

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

4

**PLANNING**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

RECEIVED
2026 JUN 16 A 9:37
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 15, 2026

Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

RE: **Planning Board Report**

**Proposed Zoning Map Amendment**

**Housing Development Overlay District (HD Zone)**

This report is provided to the City Council in accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, sec. 5. On April 28, 2026, the City of Fall River City Council referred a matter to the City of Fall River Planning Board requesting a public hearing and recommendation regarding the proposed Housing Development Overlay District (HD Zone) Map Amendment.

Subsequently, on June 10, 2026, a public hearing of the City of Fall River Planning Board was held at One Government Center in the first-floor hearing room of City Council Chambers. Due notice was given in accordance with the requirements of MGL Ch. 40A, sec. 5 and with the Ordinances of the City of Fall River.

The hearing was opened on June 10, 2026, at 5:30 PM, at which time the Director of Engineering and Planning, Daniel N. Aguiar, delivered a presentation detailing the proposed map amendment, the ability for testimony and public comment was offered to the public, and then the hearing was formally closed.

The Planning Board then deliberated and unanimously voted to recommend the attached Zoning Map Amendment for approval to the City Council.

Sincerely,

Daniel N. Aguiar
Director of Engineering and Planning
On behalf of the Planning Board

City of Fall River, *In City Council*

4

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT TO WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN HD ZONE (a/k/a CITY OF FALL RIVER CENTRAL MARKET HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (HD) DISTRICT ZONE AND PLAN)**

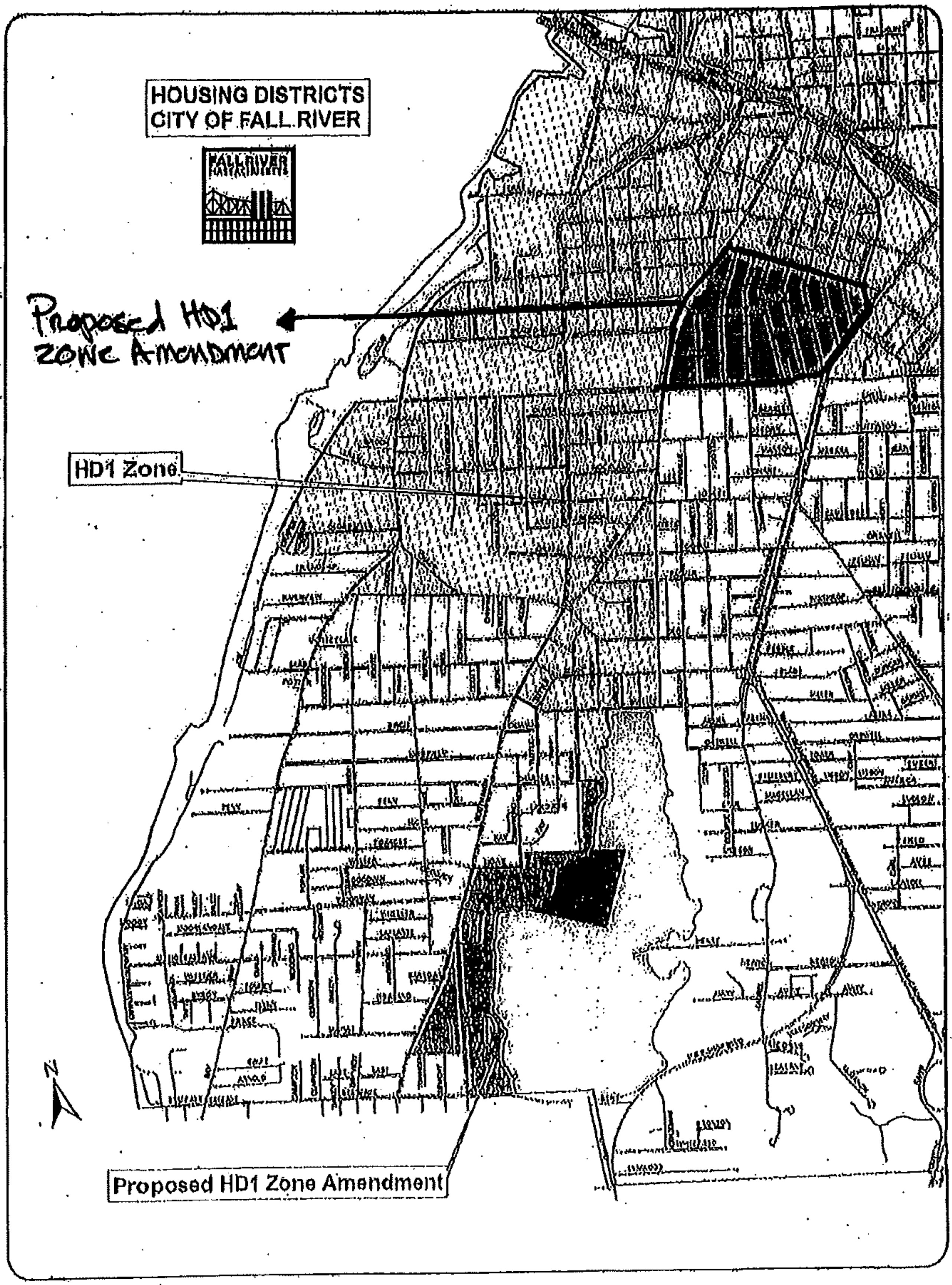
WHEREAS, The City of Fall River, acting through the Office of the Mayor, has presented a request for Amendment to the boundaries of the City's Waterfront/Downtown HD Zone (a/k/a the City of Fall River Central Market Housing Development (HD) District Zone and Plan) originally approved and adopted by the City on March 10, 2016, and

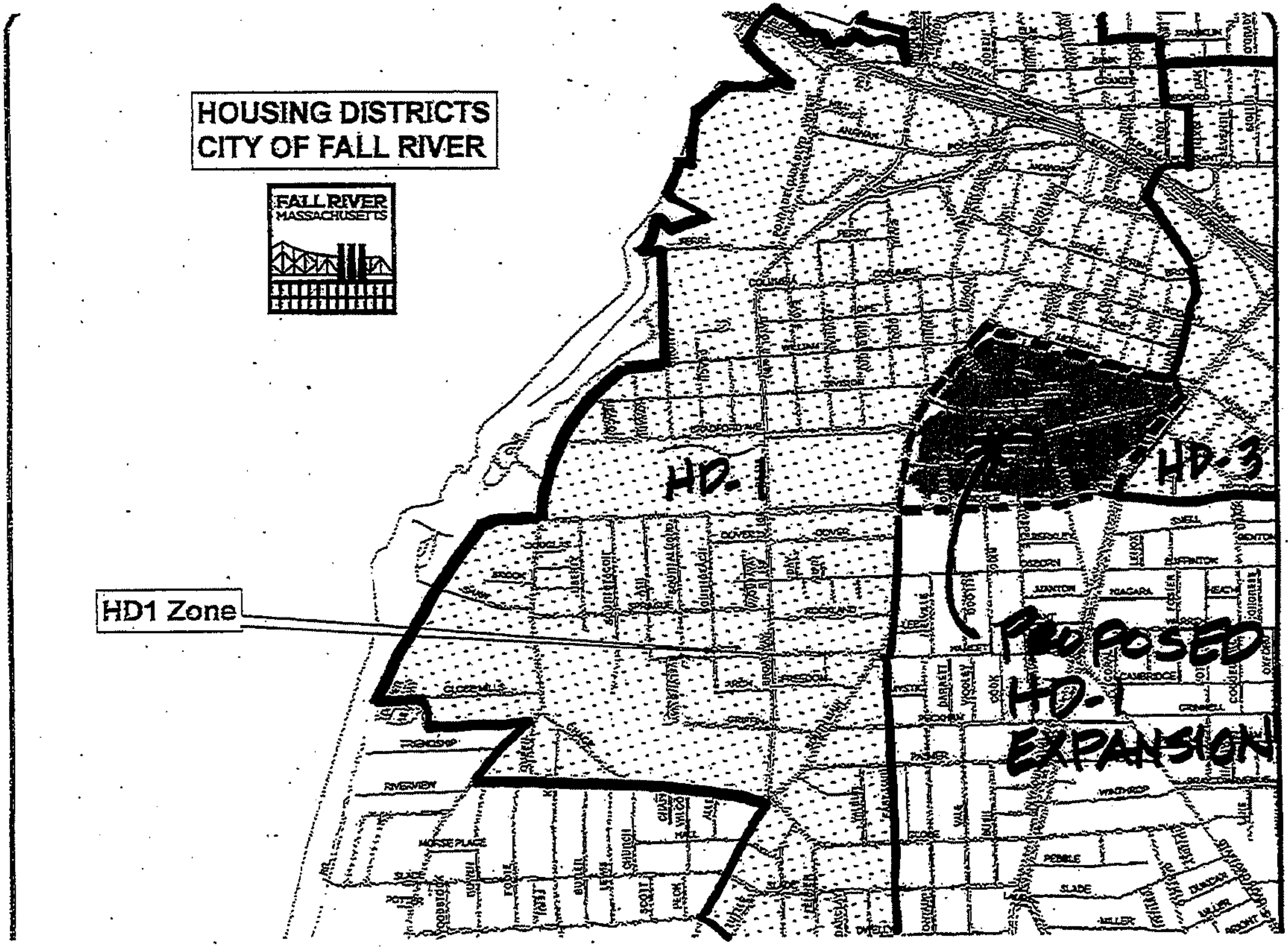
WHEREAS, on April 28, 2026, the Fall River City Council referred this proposed Amendment to the Fall River Planning Board to conduct a public hearing, as required under applicable regulations, MGL Ch. 40A sec. 5 and 760 CMR 66.08 and to submit its recommendations to the Council, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this referral, the Fall River Planning Board convened a duly noticed public hearing on June 10, 2026 and the Planning Board thereupon unanimously voted to recommend to this City Council that the "City of Fall River Central Market Housing Development [HD] District Zone and Plan" originally approved and adopted by the City of Fall River on March 10, 2016, and as approved by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development on May 10, 2016, be amended to incorporate, within the existing zone and plan, the mapped area identified by the Fall River Planning Board and noted as Exhibit A in correspondence and submitted to the Council President on June 15, 2026 and

WHEREAS, by letter dated June 16, 2026, the Mayor has stated that he concurs in the determination and unanimous recommendation of the Planning Board and has requested that the Council approve the amendment for submission to the Department of Housing and Community Development for final approval, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Fall River approves the proposed Amendment to the City's Waterfront/Downtown HD Zone and hereby authorizes the Mayor's office to submit the proposed amendment application to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for final approval.


HOUSING DISTRICTS
CITY OF FALL RIVER
FALL RIVER
Proposed HD1 zone Amendment
HD1 Zone
Proposed HD1 Zone Amendment
N


HOUSING DISTRICTS
CITY OF FALL RIVER
FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS
HD1 Zone
HD-1
HD-3
PROPOSED
HD-1
EXPANSION

5

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

RECEIVED

2026 JUN 17 P 2:42

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

**PAUL E. COOGAN**
*Mayor*

June 17, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Honorable Council Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, I recommend the following appropriations to your Honorable Body.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | $3,670,000.00 | That the sum of $3,670,000.00 be, and the same is, hereby appropriated to Sewer, TRANSFERS from FY25 SEWER RETAINED EARNINGS. |
| 2. | $1,770,000.00 | That the sum of $1,770,000.00 be, and the same is, hereby appropriated to Water, TRANSFERS from FY25 WATER RETAINED EARNINGS. |

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Paul Coogan
Mayor

5a

City of Fall River, *In City Council*

June 23, 2026

**ORDERED:**

**That the sum of $3,670,000.00 be, and the same is, hereby transferred to Sewer, Transfers from FY25 Sewer Retained Earnings:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **FY25 Sewer Retained Earnings** | **$3,670,000.00** |

5b

City of Fall River, In City Council

June 23, 2026

**ORDERED:**

**That the sum of $1,770,000.00 be, and the same is, hereby transferred to Water, Transfers from FY25 Water Retained Earnings:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **FY25 Water Retained Earnings:** | **$1,770,000.00** |

5

**COMMUNITY UTILITIES - WATER - SEWER**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

CITY OF FALL RIVER
Community Utilities
WATER & SEWER SYSTEMS

TO: Mayor, Paul E. Coogan

FROM: Paul J. Ferland, EIT
Administrator/Community Utilities

DATE: June 17, 2026

RE: Sewer and Water Retained Earnings spending

Please see the attached spending plans that have been approved by the Watuppa Water Board and the Sewer Commission. The attached documents provide details regarding the use of funds for the identified projects. The requested work and equipment are essential to the daily operation, maintenance, and reliability of the water and sewer systems. These investments will help ensure continued service quality and support necessary infrastructure improvements. Additionally, the proposed transfers to the stabilization fund will help secure the long-term financial stability of both enterprise funds and provide a reserve for unforeseen emergencies and critical operational needs.

Please contact me with any questions you may have. Thank you for your time.

PJF/cg

Attachments

5a

**Sewer FY26 Retained Earnings Spending Plan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Certified Retained Earnings | | $ 4,971,921.00 | |
| Transferred to Stabilization | $ 1,500,000.00 | | |
| | | $ 3,471,921.00 | |
| Plant Operations | | | |
| Wet Weather Influent Pump | $ 170,000.00 | | New Multi Year Fund |
| Rebuild /Rteplace Pumps | | $ 3,301,921.00 | |
| Dry Weather Influent Pump | $ 75,000.00 | | New Multi Year Fund |
| Rebuild /Rteplace Pumps | | $ 3,226,921.00 | |
| Biological Tratment Upgrades | $ 500,000.00 | | New Multi Year Fund |
| Replace Surface mixers and Gear Boxes on train 4 | | $ 2,726,921.00 | |
| Chemical Pump Upgrades | $ 250,000.00 | | New Multi Year Fund |
| Replace Sodium Hypo and Bisulfite Chemical Feed Pumps | | $ 2,476,921.00 | |
| Pump Stations | | | |
| President Ave and Cove Street Upgrades | $ 200,000.00 | | New Multi Year Fund |
| Install countinuoue discharge monitors | | $ 2,276,921.00 | |
| Upgrade chemical pacing | | | |
| Collections | | $ 2,276,921.00 | |
| Vactor Truck | $ 600,000.00 | | New Multi Year Fund |
| Replace 2006 Truck | | $ 1,676,921.00 | |
| Stetco Truck | $ 375,000.00 | | New Multi Year Fund |
| Replace 2006 Truck | | | |
| **Retained Earnings Balance for Cash Flow** | | $ 1,301,921.00 | |

5b

**Water FY26 Retained Earnings Spending Plan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Certified Retained Earnings | | $ 2,218,051.00 | |
| Transferred to Stabilization | $ 600,000.00 | | |
| | | $ 1,618,051.00 | |
| Plant Operations | | | |
| Raw and Finish Water Pump Rehab | $ 850,000.00 | | Fund 4515, Balance new Multi Year Fund |
| | | $ 768,051.00 | |
| Copicut Pump Station Improvements | $ 200,000.00 | | New Multi Year Fund |
| Roof Electrical and other needed upgrades | | $ 568,051.00 | |
| Dinam Reg Voc to do a lot of work | | | |
| Reservation | | | |
| Reservation Equiptment | $ 120,000.00 | | New Multi Year Fund |
| Flail Moer Replacement, Ventract for steep slopes | | | |
| Other mainteance equiptment as needed | | | |
| **Retained Earnings Balance for Cash Flow** | | $ 448,051.00 | |

5a

# FY26 Appropriation/Transfer Number Analysis

| Line | Fund Balance | Original/Revised Appropriation | Amount Transferred | Adjusted Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sewer Retained Earnings | $ 4,971,921.00 | | $ (3,670,000.00) | $ 1,301,921.00 |
| Sewer Stabilization Fund | $ 643,015.14 | $ - | $ 1,500,000.00 | $ 2,143,015.14 |
| Sewer Fund - Capital | | $ 300,000.00 | $ 2,170,000.00 | $ 2,470,000.00 |

I certify that there are sufficient funds available for these transfers.

Christopher Murphy

Christopher Murphy, City Auditor
June 17, 2026

5b

# FY26 Appropriation/Transfer Number Analysis

| Line | Fund Balance | Original/Revised Appropriation | Amount Transferred | Adjusted Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Water Retained Earnings | $ 2,218,051.00 | | $ (1,770,000.00) | $ 448,051.00 |
| Water Stabilization Fund | $ 833,701.47 | $ - | $ 600,000.00 | $ 1,433,701.47 |
| Water Capital Fund #4515 | $ (312,033.61) | | $ 312,033.61 | $ - |
| Water Capital Fund | $ - | | $ 857,966.39 | $ 857,966.39 |

I certify that there are sufficient funds available for these transfers.

Christopher Murphy

Christopher Murphy, City Auditor
June 17, 2026

6

# City of Fall River
# Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

**PAUL E. COOGAN**
*Mayor*

RECEIVED
2026 JUN 17 P 2:42
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 17, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Honorable Council Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws, I recommend the following appropriation to your Honorable Body:

1. $1,400,000 That the sum of $1,400,000.00 be, and the same is hereby transferred to FIRE, Salaries from the FY25 SURPLUS REVENUE.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Paul Coogan

Paul Coogan
Mayor

6

City of Fall River, *In City Council*

June 23, 2026

**ORDERED:**

**That the sum of $1,400,000 be, and the same is hereby transferred to Fire, Salaries from FY25 Surplus Revenue:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **FY25 Surplus Revenue:** | **$1,400,000.00** |

6

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

June 15, 2026

Mayor Coogan,

I am requesting a transfer of $1.4 million into the Fire Department's overtime account to cover costs associated with the increase in daily staffing levels implemented in July 2025.

The additional manpower has improved firefighter safety and our ability to provide emergency services to the residents of Fall River. However, maintaining these staffing levels has resulted in overtime expenditures that exceed the amount originally budgeted for the fiscal year.

Based on current spending and projected costs through the end of the fiscal year, the department anticipates an overtime deficit of approximately $1.4 million. This transfer will allow the department to meet its payroll obligations while maintaining the staffing levels necessary to provide safe and effective service.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey P. Bacon

Jeffrey P. Bacon • Fire Chief
140 Commerce Drive • Fall River, MA 02720
TEL (508) 324-2740 • FAX (508) 672-5993 • EMAIL firechief@frfd.org

## FY26 Appropriation/Transfer Number Analysis

| Line | Fund Balance | Original/Revised Appropriation | Amount Transferred | Adjusted Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General Fund Surplus Revenue | | $ 1,584,830.10 | $ (1,400,000.00) | $ 184,830.10 |
| Fire Department - Salaries | | $ 17,998,780.61 | $ 1,400,000.00 | $ 19,398,780.61 |

I certify that there are sufficient funds available for these transfers.

Christopher Murphy

City Auditor

June 17, 2026

6

7

# City of Fall River
# Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

RECEIVED

2026 JUN 17 P 4:00

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

**Paul E. Coogan**
*Mayor*

June 17, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Honorable Council Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws, I recommend the following appropriations to your Honorable Body.

These appropriations are necessitated due to the year-end review of the operating budget. The following appropriations will assist the City in meeting its Fiscal Year 2026 obligations:

**FROM:**

| | |
|---|---|
| City Council, Expenses | $2,750 |
| Reserve for Employee Benefits | $223,000 |
| Administrative Services, Salaries | $100,000 |
| Financial Services, Salaries | $50,000 |
| Facilities, Salaries | $100,000 |
| Total | **$475,750** |

**TO:**

| | |
|---|---|
| City Council, Salaries | $2,750 |
| City Clerk, Salaries | $23,000 |
| Police, Salaries | $450,000 |
| **Total** | **$475,750** |

The City Council Salaries are short due to the COLA adjustment. City Clerk had a retirement buyout that was significant, we knew some of it would be absorbed by the turnover and are requesting to cover the rest with funding from the Reserve. Police overtime and retirement buyouts are what require additional appropriation.

We anticipate another year-end transfer request to be submitted for the July 14 meeting, to cover the Snow Removal overages after the State support is released.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722
TEL (508) 324-2600 • FAX (508) 324-2626 • EMAIL mayor@fallriverma.org

7

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

June 23, 2026

**ORDERED: (FY 26 Orders)**

**Transfer and appropriate $475,750 from:**

| | |
|---|---|
| City Council, Expenses | $2,750 |
| Reserve Fund for Employee Benefits | $223,000 |
| Administrative Services, Salaries | $100,000 |
| Financial Services, Salaries | $50,000 |
| Facilities, Salaries | $100,000 |
| Total | $475,750 |

**And Transfer and appropriate $475,750 to:**

| | |
|---|---|
| City Council, Salaries | $2,750 |
| City Clerk, Salaries | $23,000 |
| Police, Salaries | $450,000 |
| Total | $475,750 |

7

# City of Fall River Massachusetts
## Office of the City Clerk

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

June 17, 2026

Honorable Paul E. Coogan, Mayor
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Mr. Mayor:

On behalf of the City Council President, and in consultation with the Director of Financial Services, it is respectfully requested that a transfer in the amount of $2,750.00 be made from the City Council, Expenses (11010002 530200) to City Council, Salaries (11010001 511000) to cover the City Council office's salaries for the remainder of the Fiscal Year.

The transfer is necessary due to the updated salaries associated with the AFSCME collective bargaining agreement, which applies to the two employees in the office.

Sincerely,

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

/ispl

c: Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
Christopher Murphy, City Auditor

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722
TEL 508-324-2220 • FAX 508-324-2211 • EMAIL city_clerk@fallriverma.gov

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# City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Clerk

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

June 17, 2026

Honorable Paul E. Coogan, Mayor
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Mr. Mayor:

It is respectfully requested that a transfer in the amount of $23,000.00 be made to City Clerk, Salaries (11610001 511000) to cover the City Clerk office's salaries for the remainder of the Fiscal Year.

The transfer is necessary due to the buyouts of two former employees.

Sincerely,

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

/ispl

c: Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
Christopher Murphy, City Auditor

7

**CITY OPERATIONS**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

*PAUL E. COOGAN*
*Mayor*

Al Oliveira
Director

June 17, 2026

The Honorable Paul E. Coogan
Mayor of the City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, Massachusetts 02721

Mayor Coogan,

Due to vacancies in Facilities during Fiscal Year 2026, it is determined there will be at least $100,000 in surplus. This can be transferred as the Administration requires to cover other projected shortfalls in other General Fund departments.

Sincerely,

Al Oliveira
Director of City Operations

One Government Center, Room 511 • Fall River, MA 02722
OFFICE (508)324-2584 • FAX (508)324-2568 • EMAIL aoliveira@fallriverma.gov

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**DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

June 17, 2026

The Honorable Paul E. Coogan
Mayor of the City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, Massachusetts 02721

Mayor Coogan,

Due to turnover in the Financial Services block group during Fiscal Year 2026, we have determined there will be at least $50,000 in surplus. This can be transferred as the Administration needs to cover other projected shortfalls in the General Fund.

Sincerely,

Emily Arpke
Director of Financial Services

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722
TEL (508) 324-2260 • FAX (508) 324-2040

7

# City of Fall River, Massachusetts
## Police Department

Office of the Chief of Police

James T. Hoar
Provisional Chief of Police

685 Pleasant St.
Fall River, MA 02721
Tel. 508-324-2787
Fax: 508-324-2809

June 17, 2026

The Honorable Paul E. Coogan
Mayor of the City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, Massachusetts 02721

Mayor Coogan,

As a result of several employee retirement buyouts not previously budgeted and overtime expenses exceeding the FY26 budgeted amounts, I am seeking the transfer of $450,000.00 USD to the Police Department GL budget salaries line to cover these additional costs. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief

James T. Hoar
Provisional Chief of Police

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# City of Fall River
# Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

PAUL E. COOGAN
*Mayor*

RECEIVED

2026 JUN 17 P 3:34

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 17, 2026

Council President
Members of the Honorable Council
Fall River City Council
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Council President and Members of the Honorable Council:

Attached for your information, review and Council approval at the City Council meeting scheduled for June 23, 2026, please find the following:

(i) a draft Local Only Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) Agreement for Jefferson Realty, LLC, 753 Davol Street, Fall River, MA 02720 and

(ii) a draft Local Only Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) Agreement for Second Street Trust, 30 Admas Street, Milton, MA 02186

Also attached are copies of City Council Resolutions for approval of the TIE Agreements for Jefferson Realty LLC as well as the TIE Agreement for Second Street Trust.

Below, please find project descriptions of the above referenced projects;

Jefferson Realty Trust, LLC

New construction or substantial rehabilitation of the property at 37 Park Street, Fall River, MA. a former school/ convent that will be converted to market rate residential units, a total of 66 residential units consisting of twenty-eight (28) one bedroom, three (3) PE, two (2) studio and thirty-three (33) two bedroom residential rental units

The base value is $1,388,000.00 and equal to the assessed value (or aggregate thereof) and the exemption percentage commencing on the effective date: 80% for Fiscal Years 1-5 and 20% for Fiscal Years 6-10.

Second Street Trust

New construction or substantial rehabilitation of the property located at 377 Second Street, Fall River, MA a former commercial property that will be converted to market rate residential units, a total of 10 one (1) bedroom residential rental units created in the project of which four (4) shall be HOME funded units with the price consistent with prevailing rents and sales prices in the Municipality as determined on criteria established by HUD.

The base value is $ 692,700.00 and equal to the assessed value (or aggregate thereof) and the exemption percentage commencing on the effective date: 80% for Fiscal Years 1-5 and 20% for Fiscal Years 6-10.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul Coogan
Mayor

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# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

RESOLUTION

APPROVING
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM
AND
TAX INCREMENT EXEMPTION
AND
CERTIFIED PROJECT STATUS
OF
SECOND STREET TRUST OR ITS NOMINEE

WHEREAS on June 12, 2026, Jefferson Realty LLC submitted a Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) and Certified Project Status request to the City of Fall River and the Fall River City Council approved said TIE and Certified Project Status for Jefferson Realty LLC in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth in the Massachusetts Housing Development Incentive Program created by Chapter 40V of the Massachusetts General Laws and promulgated there under at 760 CMR 66.00 (HD TIE); and

WHEREAS Jefferson Realty LLC or its Nominee previously submitted Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) and Certified Project Status request to the City of Fall River Tax Increment Financing Board which unanimously approved the request on June 12, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fall River has been designated a gateway municipality by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Jefferson Realty LLC or its Nominee plans to invest an estimated $13.5m to create sixty- six market rate residential units 37 Park Street, Fall River, Massachusetts; and

Whereas Jefferson Realty LLC or its Nominee is seeking approval for a Local Tax Increment Exemption as part of the Certified Project Status approval and HDIP Investment Tax Credit and meets the minimum requirements of 760 CMR 66.00 and the project described in the Housing Development Incentive Program Tax Increment Exemption; and

Whereas, the proposed Local Housing Development Certified Project is located at 37 Park Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, which is within the boundaries of the gateway municipality of Fall River and a designated Housing Development Zone; and

Whereas, approval of the Jefferson Realty LLC or its Nominee Housing Development Incentive Program Tax Increment Exemption and Certified Project Status request is in accordance with the above referenced laws, rules and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is hereby accepted by the City Council; now therefore

BE RESOLVED that the City Council of Fall River approves the JEFFERSON REALTY LLC or its Nominee Housing Development Incentive Program Tax Increment Exemption and Certified Project Status and forwards the same for final project certification to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Department of Housing for its approval and endorsement.

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# HOUSING DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

# TAX INCREMENT EXEMPTION (TIE) AGREEMENT

# BETWEEN

# THE CITY OF FALL RIVER

# AND

# JEFFERSON REALTY, LLC

THIS AGREEMENT is made this ____ day of ______________, 2026 by and between the City of Fall River, a municipal corporation, One Government Center, Fall River, Massachusetts, 02722 ("Municipality") and Jefferson Realty, LLC, a Limited Liability Company duly created and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts an address of 753 Davol Street, Fall River, MA 02720.

**Section 1 – Agreement**
The Municipality and the Sponsor, for good and valuable consideration and in consideration of the covenants and agreements herein contained, hereby make this agreement regarding a tax increment exemption pursuant to the Housing Development (HD) Incentive Program, M.G.L. c. 40V and the regulations promulgated thereunder at 760 CMR 66.00 (HD TIE), with respect to the Property as herein defined.

**Section 2 – Definitions**
Each reference in this Agreement to the following terms shall be deemed to have the following meanings:

| | |
|---|---|
| Act: | M.G.L. c. 40V as may be amended from time to time. |
| Completion: | Certificates of Occupancy have been issued for the entire Project. |
| EOHLC: | Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities |
| DHCD: | Department of Housing and Community Development |
| Event of Default: | An "Event of Default" as defined in Section 5 below. |
| Final Certification: | Determination by EOHLC that the Sponsor has completed the new construction or substantial rehabilitation of the Property, consistent with the New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans, including the creation of MRRUs, as set forth in the Act and the Regulations. |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Fiscal Year: | An annual period of July 1 through June 30. |
| HD Project: | A Certified Housing Development Project as defined in the Act and the Regulations. |
| HD Zone: | The Amended Fall River Waterfront/Downtown Market Rate Housing Development Zone adopted by City Council on October 22. 2024 and approved by EOHLC (formerly DHCD) as evidenced by a Certificate of Approval dated XXX XX, 2026 and recorded with the Bristol County Registry of Deeds. |
| Lead Municipality: | City of Fall River |
| MRRU: | Market Rate Residential Unit(s) as defined at Section 3.B.1. |
| Property: | 37 Park Street, Fall River Assessors Parcel ID# G06-0029, as shown in Exhibit 1, "Map of Property" and further described in Exhibit 2, "Legal Description of Property". |
| Regulations: | 760 CMR 66.00. |
| New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans: | The material submitted for Conditional Certification pursuant to 760 CMR 66.05(3)(a) and approved by EOHLC. |
| Sponsor: | Jefferson Realty, LLC, a Limited Liability Company duly created and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts an address of 753 Davol Street, Fall River, MA 02720, its successors and assigns. |

**Section 3 – Sponsor's Covenants**

A. New Construction or Substantial Rehabilitation of the Property. Sponsor will undertake the new construction or substantial rehabilitation of the Property in accordance with the work and schedule set forth in the New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans.

B. Market Rate Residential Units.

1) There shall be a total of sixty-six (66) residential units consisting of twenty-eight (28) one-bedroom, three (3) PE, two (2) studio and thirty-three (33) two- bedroom residential rental units created in the Project. The monthly rent for such units shall be priced consistently with prevailing rents in the Municipality as determined based on criteria established by the Department, as set forth in Exhibit 3, "Market Rate Residential Units – Pricing Plan".

2) Sponsor shall use good faith efforts to maintain the units as MRRUs for a minimum of 10 years.

C. Marketing. Sponsor shall cause the MRRU to be marketed in a manner that is consistent with the strategies, implementation plan and affirmative fair housing efforts set out in the HUD HOME Funding Regulations and New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans.

D. HD Project Certification. Sponsor shall take all actions reasonably necessary to obtain Final Certification of the Property as an HD Project including but not limited to submitting applications to EOHLC for Conditional Certification and Final Certification consistent with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations.

**Section 4 – Tax Increment Exemption**

Municipality agrees to grant Sponsor an exemption to the real property taxes due on the Property pursuant to G.L. c.59 according to the following terms.

A. Base Value. Consistent with 760 CMR 66.06(c), the Base Value is $1,388,000.00 and equal to the assessed value (or aggregate thereof) of the parcel(s) that comprise the property as of the fiscal year in which a HD Tax Increment Exemption Agreement is executed by the Sponsor and the Municipality with respect to the parcel or parcels, as the case may be, and prior to the start of any new construction or Substantial Rehabilitation activities, including demolition, minus the assessed value attributable to any portion of the property that was assessed as other than residential in the applicable fiscal year and remains non-residential after completion of new construction or Substantial Rehabilitation.

B. MRRU Percentage. 100 per cent. The MRRU Percentage shall be confirmed as required in paragraph F, below.

C. Exemption Percentage. Commencing on the Effective Date which shall be Fiscal Year 1: 80% for Fiscal Years 1-5 and 20% for Fiscal Years 6-10.

D. The Increment. As defined at 760 CMR 66.06(1)(b)(1).

E. Calculation. For each Fiscal Year during the term of this Agreement, the HD TIE shall be determined by applying the Exemption Percentage to the property tax on the Increment.

F. Confirmation or Amendment of Calculation. Upon Completion, and prior to applying for Final Certification of the Project, the Sponsor and Municipality shall file a "Tax Increment Exemption – Confirmation of Calculation" in the form attached as Exhibit 4 ("TIE Confirmation"). To the extent that the dates or figures in the TIE Confirmation differ from those set forth in this Agreement, the contents of the TIE Confirmation shall control and shall be deemed to have amended this Agreement.

**Section 5 – Default**

A. Event of Default. An "Event of Default" shall arise under this Agreement upon the occurrence of any one or more of the following events:

1. Breach of Covenant Prior to Final Certification. Subject to the limitations set forth in the Regulations at section 66.05(4)(b), Sponsor defaults in the observance or performance of any material covenant, condition or agreement to be observed or performed by Sponsor pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, and the continuance of such default for thirty (30) days after written notice thereof from the Municipality; provided, however, that if the curing of such default cannot be accomplished with due diligence within said period of thirty (30) days, then Sponsor shall have such additional reasonable period of time, not to exceed thirty (30) days, to cure such default provided the Sponsor shall have commenced to cure such default within the initial thirty (30) day period, such cure shall have been diligently prosecuted by the Sponsor thereafter to completion.

2. Breach of Covenant Subsequent to Final Certification. Sponsor's conduct is materially at variance with the representations made in its New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans; such variance is found to frustrate the public purposes that Final Certification was intended to advance, and the continuance of such default for thirty (30) days after written notice thereof from the Municipality; provided, however, that if the curing of such default cannot be accomplished with due diligence within said period of thirty (30) days, then Sponsor shall have such additional reasonable period of time, not to exceed thirty (30) days, to cure such default provided the Sponsor shall have commenced to cure such default within the initial thirty (30) day period, such cure shall have been diligently prosecuted by the Sponsor thereafter to completion.

3. Misrepresentation. Any representation made herein or in any report, certificate, financial statement or other instrument furnished in connection with this Agreement shall prove to be false in any material respect.

B. Rights on Default.

1. Prior to Final Certification. Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default prior to Final Certification, then this Agreement shall become null and void.

2. Subsequent to Final Certification. Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default subsequent to Final Certification, then:

   Revocation of Certification. Pursuant to the terms of the Act, the Municipality, may, at its sole discretion, request that EOHLC revoke the Final Certification of the Project, such revocation to take effect on the first day of the fiscal year in which EOHLC determines that a material variance commenced.

i. Termination of Agreement. Upon revocation of certification, this Agreement shall become null and void as of the effective date of such revocation.

ii. Recoupment of Economic Benefit. Upon revocation of certification, the Municipality may bring a cause of action against Sponsor for the value of any economic benefit received by Sponsor prior to or subsequent to such revocation.

3. Other Remedies. The Municipality's rights upon the occurrence of an Event of Default are in addition to those granted to EOHLC and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Revenue under the terms of the Act.

**Section 6 – Miscellaneous**

A. Effective Date. The effective date of the HD TIE shall be July 1st of the first Fiscal Year following EOHLC's Final Certification of the HD Project pursuant to the requirements of the Act and the Regulations. The Effective Date shall be confirmed as required under Section 4.F above.

B. Term of Agreement. This Agreement shall expire upon the Municipality's acceptance of the annual report, as required below, for the final Fiscal Year for which the Municipality is granting the TIE.

C. Reporting. Sponsor shall submit reports to the Municipality not later than thirty (30) days after June 30 of each Fiscal Year for the term of this Agreement. Each report shall contain the following information:

1. Until Completion, the status of construction in relation to the schedule contained in the New Construction or Rehabilitation Plan;

2. Until Completion, the status of marketing in relation to the New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans; and

3. For each MRRU, the number of bedrooms in the unit, whether it was leased as of the end of the most recent fiscal year and the monthly rent charged.

D. Assignment. The Sponsor shall not assign any interest in this Agreement, and shall not transfer any interest in the same, without the prior written consent of the Municipality, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. The foregoing notwithstanding, the rights and obligations of this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of any entity succeeding to the interests of the Sponsor by merger.

E. Notices. In conjunction with concurrent electronic submission as provided for below or, if reasonable efforts can determine that such information is no longer current, otherwise reasonably obtainable and verifiable electronic contact information, any notice, request, instruction or other document to be given hereunder to either party by the other shall be in writing and delivered personally or sent by recognized overnight courier, receipt confirmed

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or sent by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, as follows, and, unless general measures for electronic receipt as a substitute are in place at such time or can otherwise be reasonably assumed due to publicized or immediately foreseeable remote working conditions, shall be conclusively deemed to have been received and be effective on the day on which personally delivered or, if sent by certified or registered mail, three (3) days after the day on which mailed or, if sent by overnight courier, on the day after delivered to such courier.

1. Municipality: Attention: Mayor's Office
   1. City of Fall Ricer
      One Government Center
      Fall River, MA 02722
      Email: Mayor@fallriverma.gov

   with copy to:
   Corporation Counsel's Office
   City of Fall River
   One Government Center
   Fall River, MA 02722
   Email: corporatecounsel@fallriverma.gov

2. Sponsor: Michelle Pellitier
   Jefferson Realty, LLC
   753 Davol Street
   Fall River, MA 02720
   Email: michelle@jeffersonrealty.com

3. Copy to EOHLC: All such notices shall be copied to EOHLC at:

   HDIP Program Coordinator
   Department of Housing & Community Development
   100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300
   Boston, MA 02114
   eohlchdip@mass.gov

F. Change of Address. Either party may change the address to which notices are to be sent to it by giving written notice of such change of address to the other party in the manner herein provided for giving notice.

G. Modifications. No modification or waiver of any provision of this Agreement, nor consent to any departure by the Sponsor therefrom shall in any event be effective unless the same shall be in writing, and then such waiver or consent shall be effective only in the specific instance and for the purpose for which given. No failure or delay on the part of Municipality in exercising any right, power or privilege hereunder shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall a single or partial exercise thereof preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right, power or privilege.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Sponsor has caused this Agreement to be duly executed in its name and behalf and its seal affixed by its duly authorized representative, and the Municipality has caused this Agreement to be executed in its name and behalf and its seal duly affixed by its Mayor and City Council as of the day and year first above written.

**City of Fall River**

By: Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

By: Clifford Ponte
President, City Council

As to Form & Legality

Matthew J. Thomas, Esq
Special Counsel

**Jefferson Realty, LLC**

By: Michelle Pelletier
Authorized Signatory

## EXHIBIT 1

## MAP OF PROPERTY

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## EXHIBIT 2

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

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## EXHIBIT 3

## MARKET RATE RESIDENTIAL UNITS – PRICING PLAN

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Proposed Initial Monthly Rent(s)*: | Studio | $1900.00 |
| | PE | $1900.00 |
| | One Bedroom | $1900.00 |
| | Two Bedroom | $2550.00 |

*units shall be priced in compliance with DHCD's HDIP Guidelines and 760 CMR 66.04(2)(f)

## EXHIBIT 4

## TAX INCREMENT EXEMPTION – CONFIRMATION OF CALCULATION

## [FORM TO REMAIN BLANK UNTIL PROJECT COMPLETED AND ELIGIBLE FOR FINAL CERTIFICATION]

In connection with the Tax Increment Exemption Agreement dated _____, 20_____ by and between the City of Fall River and Jefferson Realty, LLC, a Limited Liability Company duly created and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts an address of 753 Davol Street, Fall River, MA 02720 with respect to the property at 37 Park Street, Fall River, MA (the "Agreement"), the parties hereby confirm the following elements of the Agreement. Unless otherwise stated, capitalized terms have the meaning set forth in the Agreement.

1. The effective date of the Agreement is: _____
2. The MRRU Percentage is: 100%
3. The assessed value of the residential portion of the Property upon Completion is: _____

To the extent that the dates or figures in this "Tax Increment Exemption – Confirmation of Calculation" differ from those set forth in the Agreement, the contents of this document shall control and shall be deemed to have amended the Agreement.

**City of Fall River**

______________________________
By: Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

______________________________
By: Clifford Ponte
President, City Council

**Jefferson Realty, LLC**

______________________________
By: Michelle Pelletier
Authorized Signatory

Dated: ________________

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CITY OF FALL RIVER
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING BOARD

# JUNE 12, 2026 MEETING

Motion to recommend approval of the 37 Park Street Tax Increment Agreement to the City Council, contingent upon Jefferson Realty, LLC providing a Certificate of Good Standing.

| | Yea | Nay | Abstain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Paul E. Coogan | X | | |
| Cliff Ponte | | | NP |
| Shawn Cadime | X | | |
| Linda Pereira | X | | |
| Ann O'Neil Sousa | X | | |
| Richard Gonsalves | X | | |
| Frank Machione | | | NP |

Motion By: Shawn Cadime
Second By: Linda Pereira
Vote: 5-0

Acting Clerk of the Board

June 12, 2026

8b

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

RESOLUTION

APPROVING
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM
AND
TAX INCREMENT EXEMPTION
AND
CERTIFIED PROJECT STATUS
OF
SECOND STREET TRUST OR ITS NOMINEE

WHEREAS on June 12, 2026, Second Street Trust submitted a Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) and Certified Project Status request to the City of Fall River and the Fall River City Council approved said TIE and Certified Project Status for Jefferson Realty LLC in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth in the Massachusetts Housing Development Incentive Program created by Chapter 40V of the Massachusetts General Laws and promulgated there under at 760 CMR 66.00 (HD TIE); and

WHEREAS Second Street Trust or its Nominee previously submitted Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) and Certified Project Status request to the City of Fall River Tax Increment Financing Board which unanimously approved the request on June 12, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fall River has been designated as a gateway municipality by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Jefferson Realty LLC or its Nominee plans to invest an estimated $2.0m to create ten market rate residential units at 377 Second Street, Fall River, Massachusetts; and

Whereas Second Street Trust or its Nominee is seeking approval for a Local Tax Increment Exemption as part of the Certified Project Status approval and HDIP Investment Tax Credit and meets the minimum requirements of 760 CMR 66.00 and the project described in the Housing Development Incentive Program Tax Increment Exemption; and

Whereas, the proposed Local Housing Development Certified Project is located at 377 Second Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, which is within the boundaries of the gateway municipality of Fall River and a designated Housing Development Zone; and

Whereas approval of the Second Street Trust or its Nominee Housing Development Incentive Program Tax Increment Exemption and Certified Project Status request is in accordance with the above referenced laws, rules and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is hereby accepted by the City Council; now therefore

BE RESOLVED that the City Council of Fall River approves the SECOND STREET TRUST or its Nominee Housing Development Incentive Program Tax Increment Exemption and Certified Project Status and forwards the same for final project certification to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Department of Housing for its approval and endorsement.

8b



# HOUSING DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

## LOCAL ONLY TAX INCREMENT EXEMPTION (TIE) AGREEMENT

## BETWEEN

## THE CITY OF FALL RIVER

## AND

## SECOND STREET TRUST

THIS AGREEMENT is made this ____ day of ______________, 2026 by and between the City of Fall River, a municipal corporation, One Government Center, Fall River, Massachusetts, 02722 ("Municipality") and Second Street Trust, a Massachusetts Trust with an address at 30 Adams Street, Milton, MA 02186.

**Section 1 – Agreement**
The Municipality and the Sponsor, for good and valuable consideration and in consideration of the covenants and agreements herein contained, hereby make this agreement regarding a tax increment exemption pursuant to the Housing Development (HD) Incentive Program, M.G.L. c. 40V and the regulations promulgated thereunder at 760 CMR 66.00 (HD TIE), with respect to the Property as herein defined.

**Section 2 – Definitions**
Each reference in this Agreement to the following terms shall be deemed to have the following meanings:

| | |
|---|---|
| Act: | M.G.L. c. 40V as may be amended from time to time. |
| Completion: | Certificates of Occupancy have been issued for the entire Project. |
| EOHLC: | Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities |
| DHCD: | Department of Housing and Community Development |
| Event of Default: | An "Event of Default" as defined in Section 5 below. |
| Final Certification: | Determination by EOHLC that the Sponsor has completed the new construction or substantial rehabilitation of the Property, consistent with the New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans, including the creation of MRRUs, as set forth in the Act and the Regulations. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Fiscal Year: | An annual period of July 1 through June 30. |
| HD Project: | A Certified Housing Development Project as defined in the Act and the Regulations. |
| HD Zone: | The Amended Fall River Waterfront/Downtown Market Rate Housing Development Zone adopted by City Council on October 22. 2024 and approved by EOHLC (formerly DHCD) as evidenced by a Certificate of Approval dated May 10, 2016 and recorded with the Bristol County Registry of Deeds. |
| Lead Municipality: | City of Fall River |
| MRRU: | Market Rate Residential Unit(s) as defined at Section 3.B.1. |
| Property: | 377 Second Street, Fall River Assessors Parcel ID# I09-0021, as shown in Exhibit 1, "Map of Property" and further described in Exhibit 2, "Legal Description of Property". |
| Regulations: | 760 CMR 66.00. |
| New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans: | The material submitted for Conditional Certification pursuant to 760 CMR 66.05(3)(a) and approved by EOHLC. |
| Sponsor: | Second Street Trust, a Massachusetts Trust with an address at 30 Adams Street, Milton MA 02186 its successors and assigns. |

**Section 3 – Sponsor's Covenants**

A. New Construction or Substantial Rehabilitation of the Property. Sponsor will undertake the new construction or substantial rehabilitation of the Property in accordance with the work and schedule set forth in the New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans.

B. Market Rate Residential Units.

1) There shall be a total of 10 one (1) bedroom residential rental units created in the Project of which four (4) units shall be HOME funded units. The monthly rent for such units shall be priced- consistently with prevailing rents or sale prices in the Municipality as determined based on criteria established by the Department, as set forth in Exhibit 3, "Market Rate Residential Units – Pricing Plan" and HUD Regulations.

2) Sponsor shall use good faith efforts to maintain the units as MRRUs for a minimum of 10 years.

C. Marketing. Sponsor shall cause the MRRU to be marketed in a manner that is consistent with the strategies, implementation plan and affirmative fair housing efforts set out in the HUD HOME Funding Regulations and New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans.

D. HD Project Certification. Sponsor shall take all actions reasonably necessary to obtain Final Certification of the Property as an HD Project including but not limited to submitting applications to EOHLC for Conditional Certification and Final Certification consistent with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations.

**Section 4 – Tax Increment Exemption**
Municipality agrees to grant Sponsor an exemption to the real property taxes due on the Property pursuant to G.L. c.59 according to the following terms.

A. Base Value. Consistent with 760 CMR 66.06(c), the Base Value is $692,700.00 and is equal to the assessed value (or aggregate thereof) of the parcel(s) that comprise the property as of the fiscal year in which a HD Tax Increment Exemption Agreement is executed by the Sponsor and the Municipality with respect to the parcel or parcels, as the case may be, and prior to the start of any new construction or Substantial Rehabilitation activities, including demolition, minus the assessed value attributable to any portion of the property that was assessed as other than residential in the applicable fiscal year and remains non-residential after completion of new construction or Substantial Rehabilitation.

B. MRRU Percentage. 60 per cent. The MRRU Percentage shall be confirmed as required in paragraph F, below.

C. Exemption Percentage. Commencing on the Effective Date which shall be Fiscal Year 1: 80% for Fiscal Years 1-5 and 20% for Fiscal Years 6-10.

D. The Increment. As defined at 760 CMR 66.06(1)(b)(1).

E. Calculation. For each Fiscal Year during the term of this Agreement, the HD TIE shall be determined by applying the Exemption Percentage to the property tax on the Increment.

F. Confirmation or Amendment of Calculation. Upon Completion, and prior to applying for Final Certification of the Project, the Sponsor and Municipality shall file a "Tax Increment Exemption – Confirmation of Calculation" in the form attached as Exhibit 4 ("TIE Confirmation"). To the extent that the dates or figures in the TIE Confirmation differ from those set forth in this Agreement, the contents of the TIE Confirmation shall control and shall be deemed to have amended this Agreement.

**Section 5 – Default**

A. Event of Default. An "Event of Default" shall arise under this Agreement upon the occurrence of any one or more of the following events:

1. Breach of Covenant Prior to Final Certification. Subject to the limitations set forth in the Regulations at section 66.05(4)(b), Sponsor defaults in the observance or performance of any material covenant, condition or agreement to be observed or performed by Sponsor pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, and the continuance of such default for thirty (30) days after written notice thereof from the Municipality; provided, however, that if the curing of such default cannot be accomplished with due diligence within said period of thirty (30) days, then Sponsor shall have such additional reasonable period of time, not to exceed thirty (30) days, to cure such default provided the Sponsor shall have commenced to cure such default within the initial thirty (30) day period, such cure shall have been diligently prosecuted by the Sponsor thereafter to completion.

2. Breach of Covenant Subsequent to Final Certification. Sponsor's conduct is materially at variance with the representations made in its New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans; such variance is found to frustrate the public purposes that Final Certification was intended to advance, and the continuance of such default for thirty (30) days after written notice thereof from the Municipality; provided, however, that if the curing of such default cannot be accomplished with due diligence within said period of thirty (30) days, then Sponsor shall have such additional reasonable period of time, not to exceed thirty (30) days, to cure such default provided the Sponsor shall have commenced to cure such default within the initial thirty (30) day period, such cure shall have been diligently prosecuted by the Sponsor thereafter to completion.

3. Misrepresentation. Any representation made herein or in any report, certificate, financial statement or other instrument furnished in connection with this Agreement shall prove to be false in any material respect.

B. Rights on Default.

1. Prior to Final Certification. Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default prior to Final Certification, then this Agreement shall become null and void.

2. Subsequent to Final Certification. Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default subsequent to Final Certification, then:

Revocation of Certification. Pursuant to the terms of the Act, the Municipality, may, at its sole discretion, request that EOHLC revoke the Final Certification of the Project; such revocation to take effect on the first day of the fiscal year in which EOHLC determines that a material variance commenced.

i. Termination of Agreement. Upon revocation of certification, this Agreement

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shall become null and void as of the effective date of such revocation.

ii. Recoupment of Economic Benefit. Upon revocation of certification, the Municipality may bring a cause of action against Sponsor for the value of any economic benefit received by Sponsor prior to or subsequent to such revocation.

3. Other Remedies. The Municipality's rights upon the occurrence of an Event of Default are in addition to those granted to EOHLC and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Revenue under the terms of the Act.

**Section 6 – Miscellaneous**

A. Effective Date. The effective date of the HD TIE shall be July 1st of the first Fiscal Year following EOHLC's Final Certification of the HD Project pursuant to the requirements of the Act and the Regulations. The Effective Date shall be confirmed as required under Section 4.F above.

B. Term of Agreement. This Agreement shall expire upon the Municipality's acceptance of the annual report, as required below, for the final Fiscal Year for which the Municipality is granting the TIE.

C. Reporting. Sponsor shall submit reports to the Municipality not later than thirty (30) days after June 30 of each Fiscal Year for the term of this Agreement. Each report shall contain the following information:

1. Until Completion, the status of construction in relation to the schedule contained in the New Construction or Rehabilitation Plan;

2. Until Completion, the status of marketing in relation to the New Construction or Rehabilitation Plans; and

3. For each MRRU, the number of bedrooms in the unit, whether it was leased as of the end of the most recent fiscal year and the monthly rent charged.

D. Assignment. The Sponsor shall not assign any interest in this Agreement, and shall not transfer any interest in the same, without the prior written consent of the Municipality, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. The foregoing notwithstanding, the rights and obligations of this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of any entity succeeding to the interests of the Sponsor by merger.

E. Notices. In conjunction with concurrent electronic submission as provided for below or, if reasonable efforts can determine that such information is no longer current, otherwise reasonably obtainable and verifiable electronic contact information, any notice, request, instruction or other document to be given hereunder to either party by the other shall be in writing and delivered personally or sent by recognized overnight courier, receipt confirmed or sent by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, as follows, and, unless general measures for electronic receipt as a substitute are in place at such time or can otherwise be reasonably assumed due to publicized or immediately foreseeable remote working conditions, shall be conclusively deemed to have been received and be effective on the day on which personally delivered or, if sent by certified or registered mail, three (3) days after the day on which mailed or, if sent by overnight courier, on the day after delivered to such courier.

1. Municipality: Attention: Mayor's Office
   1. City of Fall Ricer
   One Government Center
   Fall River, MA 02722
   Email: Mayor@fallriverma.gov

   with copy to:
   Corporation Counsel's Office
   City of Fall River
   One Government Center
   Fall River, MA 02722
   Email: corporatecounsel@fallriverma.gov

2. Sponsor: Fred Grizotte, Trustee
   Second Street Trust
   377 Second Street
   Fall River, MA 02721
   Email:

3. Copy to EOHLC: All such notices shall be copied to EOHLC at:

   HDIP Program Coordinator
   Department of Housing & Community Development
   100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300
   Boston, MA 02114
   eohlchdip@mass.gov

F. Change of Address. Either party may change the address to which notices are to be sent to it by giving written notice of such change of address to the other party in the manner herein provided for giving notice.

G. Modifications. No modification or waiver of any provision of this Agreement, nor consent to any departure by the Sponsor therefrom shall in any event be effective unless the same shall be in writing, and then such waiver or consent shall be effective only in the specific instance and for the purpose for which given. No failure or delay on the part of Municipality in exercising any right, power or privilege hereunder shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall a single or partial exercise thereof preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right, power or privilege.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Sponsor has caused this Agreement to be duly executed in its name and behalf and its seal affixed by its duly authorized representative, and the Municipality has caused this Agreement to be executed in its name and behalf and its seal duly affixed by its Mayor and City Council as of the day and year first above written.

**City of Fall River**

By: Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

By: Clifford Ponte
President, City Council

As to Form & Legality

Matthew J. Thomas, Esq
Special Counsel

**Second Street Trust**

By: Fred Grizotte
Trustee

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# EXHIBIT 1

## MAP OF PROPERTY

**EXHIBIT 2**

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

## EXHIBIT 3

## MARKET RATE RESIDENTIAL UNITS – PRICING PLAN

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Proposed Initial Monthly Rent(s)*: | One Bedroom | $1900.00* |
| | One Bedroom | $1340.00** |

*units shall be priced in compliance with DHCD's HDIP Guidelines and 760 CMR 66.04(2)(f)
** Home funded units

# EXHIBIT 4

## TAX INCREMENT EXEMPTION – CONFIRMATION OF CALCULATION

## [FORM TO REMAIN BLANK UNTIL PROJECT COMPLETED AND ELIGIBLE FOR FINAL CERTIFICATION]

In connection with the Tax Increment Exemption Agreement dated _____, 20_____ by and between the City of Fall River and Second Street Trust, a Massachusetts Trust with an address at 30 Adams Street, Milton, MA 02186, with respect to the property at 277 Second Street, Fall River, MA (the "Agreement"), the parties hereby confirm the following elements of the Agreement. Unless otherwise stated, capitalized terms have the meaning set forth in the Agreement.

1. The effective date of the Agreement is: _____
2. The MRRU Percentage is: 60%
3. The assessed value of the residential portion of the Property upon Completion is: _____

To the extent that the dates or figures in this "Tax Increment Exemption – Confirmation of Calculation" differ from those set forth in the Agreement, the contents of this document shall control and shall be deemed to have amended the Agreement.

**City of Fall River**

______________________________
By: Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

**Second Street Trust**

______________________________
By: Fred Grizotte
Trustee

______________________________
By: Clifford Ponte
President, City Council

Dated: ________________

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# CITY OF FALL RIVER
# TAX INCREMENT FINANCING BOARD

## JUNE 12, 2026 MEETING

Motion to recommend approval of the 377 Second Street Tax Increment Agreement to the City Council, contingent upon Second Street Trust providing a Trustee's Certificate.

| | Yea | Nay | Abstain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Paul E. Coogan | X | | |
| Cliff Ponte | | | NP |
| Shawn Cadime | X | | |
| Linda Pereira | X | | |
| Ann O'Neil Sousa | X | | |
| Richard Gonsalves | X | | |
| Frank Machione | | | NP |

Motion By: Shawn Cadime
Second By: Richard Gonsalves
Vote: 5-0

Acting Clerk of the Board

June 12, 2026

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

**Paul E. Coogan**
*Mayor*


RECEIVED

2026 JUN 17 P 3: 34

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 16, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

In September 2025 I submitted a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Fall River and the Fall River EMS Unit, AFSCME Council 93, Local 1202. That Agreement was not ratified, and we have since negotiated a new Agreement. Consistent with the requirements of MGL Chapter 150E, Section 7, I am submitting the recently negotiated Memorandum of Agreement. This Agreement will become a part of the contractual obligations of their prior contracts. I respectfully request you grant an appropriation necessary to fund the cost items contained therein.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Coogan

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

CITY OF FALL RIVER

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

THROUGH

JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2028

# FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

AFSCME COUNCIL 93, LOCAL 1202

| | | FY2026 | FY2027 | FY2028 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pensionable | **Base Salary** | -520,060.98 | 153,022.14 | 125,769.03 | |
| Non-Pensionable | **Scheduled OT** | 872,963.14 | 20,903.12 | 16,594.40 | |
| | **Holiday Pay** | 12,879.61 | 14,453.60 | 11,972.82 | |
| Fringe Benefit | **Medicare** | 5,303.84 | 2,731.49 | 2,237.88 | |
| | **Total** | **$357,655.05** | **$191,110.36** | **$156,698.81** | **$718,770.08** |

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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE CITY OF FALL RIVER

AND

AFSCME COUNCIL 93, LOCAL 1202

This **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT** is entered into by and between the City of Fall River (hereinafter "the City") and the Fall River EMS Unit, Local 1202, AFSCME Council 93, ("Union");

**WHEREAS**, the City and the Union are parties to a collective bargaining agreement for the period July 1, 2022 through and including June 30, 2025; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City and the Union have, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 150E negotiated a successor contract for the aforementioned agreement;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of mutual covenants and promises, the Parties agree that the following changes will be made to the Parties' July 1, 2022 through and including June 30, 2025 agreement:

1. **Article I: Recognition**

   Update list of positions to reflect the following:

   MIH Scheduling Coordinator
   Administrative MIH Scheduling Coordinator
   Executive Administrative Assistant
   EMT-Basic
   EMT-Advanced
   EMT-Paramedic
   Community Paramedic
   Field Training Officer (EMT-Basic, EMT-Advanced or Paramedic)
   Lieutenant
   Captain
   Deputy Chief

2. **Article IV: Grievance and Arbitration**

Replace entire article as follows:

Any grievance or dispute which may arise between the parties, including the application, meaning or interpretation of this agreement, shall be settled in the following manner:

**STEP 1.** The aggrieved employee shall take up the grievance or dispute with the Chief of EMS within five (5) working days of the date of the grievance or knowledge of its occurrence. The Chief of EMS shall attempt to adjust the matter and shall respond back to the employee within five (5) working days. If the employee is not satisfied with the decision, she/he shall, within seven (7) working days, proceed to Step 2.

**STEP 2.** The Union Officers, with the aggrieved employee, shall take up the grievance of dispute in writing to the Human Resources Director within five (5) working days of the date of the Chief's response or said grievance shall be deemed waived. The Human Resources Director or Designee shall attempt to adjust the matter and shall respond to the Officers within five (5) working days. Upon receipt of the Human Resource Director's reply to the grievance, the Union Officers, if not satisfied with the Human Resource Director's decision, will within five (5) working days proceed to Step 3. Failure to do so will render the grievance moot.

**STEP 3.** If the grievance has not been settled it shall be presented in writing to the office of the Corporation Counsel within seven (7) working days after the Chief's response. A copy of the grievance shall also be filed with the City's Human Resource Department. The office of the Corporation Counsel shall respond to the representative in writing within five (5) working days.

**STEP 4.** If the grievance is still unsettled, either party may within thirty (30) days after the office of the Corporation Counsel has responded or failed to respond pursuant to Step 3 herein, by written notice to the other, request arbitration. The City and Union agree to joint utilization of the services of the State Board of Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration as presented in paragraph 178K of Chapter 149, its' successor, or the Labor Relations Connection under its rules relating to grievance arising out of the contract excluding matters regarding wages and suspensions, demotions and discharges under Chapter 31. The decision shall be final and binding on the parties to the extent provided by the rules of the Labor Relations Connection and the arbitrator shall be requested to issue his decision within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the testimony and argument. The expense for the arbitrator's services and the proceeding shall be borne equally by the employer and the Union. The implementation of any final decision shall be applied immediately after the decision is rendered. If the case reaches arbitration, the arbitrator shall have the power to direct a resolution of the grievance up to and including restoration to the job with all compensation and privileges that would have been due the employee.

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3. Article VI: Hours of Work

Replace Entire Article as Follows:

The regular work week will be Sunday from 12:00 a.m. to Saturday at 11:59 p.m. Employees who work over forty (40) hours during their regular work week will be paid at an overtime rate of one and one half times the employee's regular hourly rate of pay for those hours so worked. Vacation, Personal, and Sick leave utilization do not count as hours worked for the purposes of calculating overtime.

**Employees Assigned to 24 Hour Shifts**

The rotating schedule shall consist of:

Twenty-Four (24) hours on
Forty-Eight (48) hours off
Twenty-Four (24) hours on
Ninety-Six (96) hours off.

The twenty-four (24) hour tour shall be defined as the period from 0730 to the following 0730. A shift shall be defined as one ten (10) hour (0730-1730) and or one fourteen (14) hour shift (1730-0730).

Any employee required to remain on duty in excess of his/her normal hours, day or night, shall be paid at their straight rate until they work in excess of forty (40) hours during their regular work week.

Only except in the case of a declared state of emergency or recall ordered by the Chief or Designee, EMS employees can be held up to forty-eight (48) consecutive hours.

EMS employees will be allowed to work no more than thirty – eight (38) consecutive hours unless the Chief or his/her designee declares an emergency in which case an employee may be held up to forty-eight (48) consecutive hours.

During a short week, employees may use accrued vacation and personal leave with the approval of the Chief or his/her designee to be paid for a forty (40) hour regular work week. Payment under this paragraph will not be allowed if it creates overtime, and will be paid by the following pay cycle.

**Early Relief**

Early relief at the change of shifts is allowed.

**Swaps**

Swaps within the same pay week may be allowed as long as they are equal shifts. Denial of swaps shall not be grievable.

**Employees Assigned to Command Staff**

The command staff shall consist of the Deputy Chief of Administration, Deputy Chief of Operations, Captain of Training, Captain of Professional Standards, Captain of MIH, Captain of Operations, Lieutenant of Professional standards, Lieutenant of MIH, Lieutenant of Training, and EMS Administrative Clerk.

EMS Command Staff assigned to headquarters shall work a four (4) day work week. The four-day work week shall include four (4) ten (10) hour days. With one day off per week. The hours of operation shall be 0730 – 1730 Monday through Friday. The day off shall be assigned by seniority with the approval of the Chief of EMS. When a holiday falls during the week Monday – Friday the holiday shall be considered the day off for EMS Command Staff for that particular week. The Chief of EMS at any time can reassign the scheduled day off for departmental operational needs when necessary.

**4. Article VII: Overtime**

Replace the entire Article as follows:

Employees shall accrue overtime pay for any hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours during a work week. Overtime shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half an employee's regular hourly rate,-but in no event shall overtime compensation take the form of mandatory compensatory time off. The Employer shall retain the right to assign mandatory overtime. Vacation, Personal, and Sick leave utilization do not count as hours worked for the purposes of calculating overtime.

Employees who are held beyond their regular shift in a short week will be paid at the rate of time and one-half the employee's regular hourly rate. Vacation, Personal, and Sick leave utilization do not count as hours worked for the purposes of calculating overtime.

The employer shall keep records in each department time book regarding the overtime work. In case of a grievance involving such records, they shall be subject to examination by the Union representative. A record of the overtime hours worked by each employee shall be posted on the Department Bulletin Board monthly. Any employee called back to work after having completed his assigned work and left his place of employment and before his next regular scheduled starting time, shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half for all hours worked on recall. He will be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) hours pay at time and one-half.

**Recall to Duty/ Holdover Overtime**

The off going shift will be responsible for being held for the day and night portion of the shift that is open. A list will be sent out for employees to review and have knowledge where they are on the hold list/order in list. When employees are out on accrued time or swaps the department will choose the next employee on the list. During a state of emergency, the Chief or designee has the right to fill shifts as needed to ensure operational needs are met for the department.

**Extra Details:** EMS employees shall receive the same detail hourly rate as fire and police.

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5. **Article VIII: Civil Service**

Update list of names to reflect:

William Lonardo
Jennifer Rodriques

6. **Article IX: Shift Differential**

Rename article "Medical Rounds." Entire section reads as follows:

EMS personnel shall be required to attend four (4) department medical rounds annually. Employees that complete the four (4) rounds with our department shall receive a personal day the following calendar year. All personnel are required to attend a minimum of three (3) medical rounds with our department, one (1) medical round will be accepted by an outside agency with approval from the Captain of Training. However, that employee shall not receive the personal day for that particular year. All employees must attend a minimum of three (3) medical rounds off duty to receive the personal day.

7. **Article XI: Holidays**

Strike the following language:

Holiday pay shall be paid at the rate of Thirty (30%) of the employee's regular weekly salary.

Replace with:

Holiday pay shall be paid at twelve (12) hours of the employee's regular hourly rate plus 5%.

8. **Article XII: Vacations**

Replace entire article as follows:

Compensation:

Vacation Time is compensated at an employee's regular hourly rate plus 5%.

Accruals:

Employees with 0-1 year of service with the City shall receive a prorated vacation after one hundred twenty (120) days: twenty-four (24) hours of earned vacation time not to exceed ninety-six (96) hours.

Employees who complete or will complete one (1) year of service in any contract year shall receive ninety-six (96) hours of earned vacation time.

Employees who complete or will complete two (2) years of service in any contract year shall receive one hundred forty-four (144) hours of earned vacation time.

Employees who complete or will complete five (5) years of service in any contract year shall receive two hundred sixteen (216) hours of earned vacation time.

Employees who complete or will complete ten (10) years of service in any contract year shall receive two hundred forty (240) hours of earned vacation time.

Employees who complete or will complete fifteen (15) years of service in any contract year shall receive two hundred sixty-four (264) hours of earned vacation time.

Employees who complete or will complete twenty (20) years of service in any contract year shall receive two hundred eighty-eight (288) hours of earned vacation time.

Employees who complete or will complete twenty-five (25) years of service in any contract year shall receive three hundred twelve (312) hours of earned vacation time.

Employees who complete or will complete twenty-nine (29) years of service in any contract year shall receive three hundred thirty-six (336) hours of earned vacation time.

9. **Article XIII: Sick Leave**

Replace entire article as follows:

Sick leave for employees hired prior to July 1, 2016 shall be in accordance with Section 23-20 of the City of Fall River Ordinances as amended and in effect at the date of this agreement as follows: Sick leave credit for employees as set forth under this division shall be one and one-half (1 1/2) days for each computed calendar month of service including the probationary period. Such credit when not used shall be cumulative over the period of employment. (S-25-59/15; Ord. No. 1967-11).

Employees pursuant to 23-18 of the newly revised ordinances of the City of Fall River covered by the Agreement, hired as of July 1, 1984 shall earn sick leave credits at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2) days per month and shall be cumulative to a maximum of 230 days. Upon attaining the maximum, sick leave is no longer earned.

Employees who demonstrate perfect attendance for a consecutive period of (3) three months (Based on a calendar quarter, i.e. Jan-Mar, April-June, July-Sept., Oct.-Dec) shall earn (1) one additional vacation shift not to exceed (4) four vacation shifts per year. Such earned vacation time must be taken within the calendar year; with exception to the last quarter 1 day earned which will be taken in the next calendar year. Vacation shifts accrued under this article must be requested 24 hours in advance.

Sick Leave (Medical Certification): An employee who is out on sick leave for two (2) working days (three (3) for administrative staff) may be required to submit a written medical certificate which supports the employee's absence upon their return. If an employee is out beyond the consecutive days stipulated above, and not on FMLA, the employee shall remain at their residence, unless they receive permission from the Chief of EMS or his/her designee to leave the residence. The City and Union agree to establish a policy covering routine necessities that exempt the member from requesting the Chief's permission to leave their residence.

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Requests for sick leave shall be in accordance with current EMS Department policy. Notwithstanding circumstances of direct employee illness, an employee may request to work the remainder of a shift that they previously called out sick from at the discretion of the executive call officer. The executive call officer's decision to approve or deny the request is binding and may not be grieved.

Emergency Leave

If there is an unforeseen family emergency, the shift commander may grant leave up to twenty- four (24) hours. The Squad Lieutenant must notify the EMS Call Officer prior to releasing the employee from duty.

MONOTORING SICK LEAVE

The City shall review all employees' sick leave every six (6) months. However, a review can occur at any time for an individual if sick leave abuse is suspected. The City of Fall River will set five (5) undocumented days per year as an acceptable standard of sick leave utilization. The five (5) days of undocumented leave may be used for family illness.

An undocumented day is defined as an absence not supported by a physician note.

After five (5) undocumented sick days, twenty-four (24) hours will be added to the employee's overtime totals for each subsequent undocumented day. These hours do not represent hours worked, are not compensable, and are for overtime prioritization only.

An employee who calls out sick to work a second job shall be subject to immediate termination.

The City reserves the right to take action against any employee who it believes is setting a pattern of abuse. A pattern of abuse is defined as:

a. Regular or repeated use of sick leave
b. Excessive undocumented leave
c. Absence when a request for accrued leave is denied
d. Multiple absences the shift before or after weekends, holidays, and other planned time off
e. Multiple instances calling out after an overtime shift

Suspected abuse of sick time shall result in the implementation of progressive discipline as follows:

Verbal warning
Written reprimand
Suspension
Termination

Discipline for undocumented sick leave is not subject to the grievance and arbitration process outlined in Article IV unless said discipline results in termination.

Injured on Duty

Employees that are incapacitated for duty because of an injury or illness sustained in the performance of their duty shall be compensated pursuant to General Laws, c. 41, sec. 111M and 111N, so long as it can be conclusively shown that such injury or illness was a direct result of performance of duties associated with emergency medical care, pursuant to the above cited statutes.

In all cases the city reserves the right to have the employees evaluated by the city's doctor.

Injury on duty is paid at the employee's regular hourly rate plus 5% based on the employee's regular schedule.

**10. Article XIV: Personal Leave**

Replace Article as follows:

**Personal Days**

Any employee who has been continuously employed for a period of more than one (1) year, shall be granted one (1) tour. A shift is either a ten (10) or fourteen (14) hour segment of the twenty-four (24) hour tour. These shifts taken cannot exceed a twenty-four (24) hour tour. Requests for personal days shall be requested by written notice to the Chief of EMS at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the intended personal days. The Chief shall have the discretion to approve or deny such requests, depending upon the number of personnel already on approved personal or vacation time for the date requested at the time of the request. Personal time shall be approved unless one other person is scheduled for personal time off during the requested date. Approval of personal time shall be awarded by the date the request was sent to the Chief first and second by seniority in cases that multiple members send in requests for the same personal time on the same date.

Holiday Meal Periods – All EMS employees receive one (1) tour (two (2) days) due to the removal of lunch breaks on Thanksgiving/Christmas Day.

The maximum number of personal days an employee can accrue is as follows:

Two (2) days after one year of employment
One (1) day after completion of medical rounds (effective January 1 the following calendar year)
Two (2) days for removal of Thanksgiving/Christmas Day Lunch breaks

Personal days are compensated at employee's regular hourly rate plus 5%.

SLID DAYS

One SLID day shall be equal to one shift. A shift is either a ten (10) or fourteen (14) hour segment of the twenty-four (24) hour tour.

SLID days are compensated at employee's regular hourly rate plus 5%.

**Article XVIII: Materials and License Fees**

Replace entire Article as follows:

License Fees – The City will reimburse the full cost of EMT or Paramedic re-certification (State and National) upon proof of payment.

## 11. Article XIX: Job Posting and Bidding

Replace entire Article as follows:

**Promotional Criteria:**

The City, in collaboration with the Union, shall establish selection procedures and criteria for formation of promotional lists, which may include interview panels and/or assessment centers. The principle of seniority shall be a consideration in promotions where qualifications and ability are otherwise equal. Changes to previously approved selection procedures shall be established a minimum of 12 months prior to use in a selection process.

All promotional lists will be valid for a period of two (2) years. The City shall call for the formation of promotional lists in a timely manner to ensure that all promotional lists are renewed upon expiration.

**Bid System:**

Fall River EMS shall implement and follow a bid system by seniority. A bid opportunity shall be posted to all union members for all positions that are vacant for any reason within thirty (30) days of the position being vacated, with the exception of non-bidded positions as defined below. The City shall post all vacancies to bargaining unit positions for a period of seven (7) days. Should a second round of bidding be required due to the vacating of a bidded position, the process will be repeated. Should a third round of bidding be required, the bid opportunity must be posted within sixty (60) days.

For the purposes of this article, a "position" shall be defined as follows:

- For street level assignments, a position shall constitute a specific apparatus and slot assignment.
- For administrative staff assignments, a position shall constitute a specific rank or EMT Certification level and division assignment.

At all times there may be up to three "non-bidded" positions per apparatus. These positions shall be those held by the apparatus Field Training Officer, their partner, and one additional position as determined by the Chief. The Chief shall submit a list of these non-bidded positions to the union within thirty (30) days of this article being placed into effect. Should the Chief choose to move a non-bidded position, they will submit written notice of this change to the union a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to the change taking place. The movement of a non-bidded position shall not displace the permanent assignment of a bidded individual.

Employees that have completed at least thirty-six months of current continuous service with Fall River EMS shall be eligible to submit bids for posted positions, with the exception of newly certified EMT-Paramedics. An EMT-Paramedic will be considered newly certified for a period of time determined by their previous certification level: twenty-four (24) months for a previous EMT-Basic, or twelve (12) months for a previous EMT-Advanced. Bids will be accepted from all eligible members who hold the minimum requirements and rank, if applicable, for the posted position.

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Employees with fewer than thirty-six (36) months of continuous service and newly certified EMT-Paramedics, as defined in the previous paragraph, may be assigned to different divisions and positions according to operational needs as determined by the Chief, in accordance with management rights. Bids from these employees shall be considered invalid.

After the bid collection period of seven (7) days, the bid shall be awarded to the individual with the most seniority in grade. For the purposes of this article, seniority in grade shall be defined as the length of service in which an individual has held the rank or EMT certification level required for the posted position. That individual shall be reassigned to their new bidded position, and may not request to move from the position, or submit a bid for another position for a period of one year.

A bidded employee may be moved from their bidded position for purposes of discipline, remediation, or failure to obtain the minimum requirements of the position within the posted timeframe. If a bidded employee is involuntarily and permanently removed from their bidded position due to the aforementioned reasons, the employee retains the right to submit to future bid openings after the completion of their remediation or acquisition of the minimum requirements of the posted position.

A bidded employee may be temporarily removed from their bidded position for a period of up to ninety (90) days to accommodate operational needs, as determined by the Chief. Once that employee completes their involuntary visitation, the employee shall be returned to the bidded position, and that employee shall not be involuntarily removed from their bidded position for at least a period of one (1) calendar year. A bidded employee may be voluntarily removed from their bidded position in excess of these restrictions without limit as long as the employee is in agreement. In such cases, the bidded employee will provide express written consent to the voluntary removal to be retained by the department until the employee is returned to their bidded position. A voluntarily removed employee may withdraw their consent to voluntary removal in writing at any time, after which the employee shall be returned to their previously bidded position within thirty (30) days.

Emergency Provision:

The standard of care for 911 ambulances is ALS staffed by a Paramedic. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the Chief from removing a bidded employee from their bidded position for a period in excess of 90 days, or during their 1 year grace period, in order to maintain this standard.

In such events, the Chief shall submit in writing the rationale for such details to the union within 7 calendar days. In any circumstance that a bidded employee is involuntarily removed from their bidded position during their 1 year grace period, the employees grace period shall be extended by an additional three (3) months or by an additional amount of time equal to the length of the excess involuntary transfer, whichever is greater.

Effective upon ratification of this Agreement, members who meet eligibility to submit bids shall be considered bidded to their current position, with no restriction on placing future bids. All other previous bids shall be considered null and void.

**12. Article XX: Miscellaneous Provisions**

Amend the sections below and renumber accordingly.

E. Maternity Leave

The employer will grant four (4) weeks of paid time off prior to the birth of said child, additional paid accrued leave (vacation, personal) may also be taken in addition to the four (4) weeks prior to the birth of said child, with the approval from the Chief of EMS with proper documentation.

The employer will also grant eight (8) weeks of paid time off after the birth of said child with approval from the Chief. Maternity leave will be paid the employee's regular hourly rate plus 5%.

Unpaid Leave - Employees on maternity leave shall be able to request additional unpaid leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Employees requesting such additional unpaid leave shall be required to provide medical documentation consistent with that required under the FMLA. Said unpaid leave shall be concurrent with and not in addition to the paid maternity leave in the above paragraph.

H. Squad Staffing: Staffing shall consist of eight (8) Lieutenants. Squad 11 and Squad 12 shall be staffed with eight (8) total lieutenants. The department will make its best effort to staff four (4) total EMT Basics to Squad 11 and four (4) total Community Paramedics to Squad 12. EMT Basics may be reassigned on a daily basis to maintain adequate staffing levels. Squad units shall be implemented as command vehicles for 911 operations. Squad 11 shall provide oversight of 911-unit personnel. Squad 12 shall provide oversight of IFT unit personnel. Squad 12 may be used for STAT ALS transfers.

J. There will be five (5) Field Training Officer (FTO) positions. One FTO per rescue shall be assigned to Frontline Rescues (excluding Rescue-10). There shall be an FTO assigned to every Medical Rescue. Being on the FTO list shall not preclude the employee from being on the Acting Lieutenant list. Assignments shall be based on operational needs for the department by the Chief or his/her designee.

K. There will be one (1) Community Paramedic (CP) position assigned to command staff. Members designated as CPs will have one (1) year to complete the CP course and obtain their CP certification. Assignments shall be based on operational needs for the department by the Chief or his/her designee.

L. Delete entire paragraph

**New Section:**

MIH Scheduling Coordinators hired after July 1, 2025 must be at a minimum EMT-Basic Certified within 12 months from their date of hire. If said employee for whatever reason is unable to obtain his or her EMT-Basic within one year, they must notify the Chief of EMS as soon as possible. The EMS Chief, will assess the situation and may grant an extension of up to 3 months, for the employee to finish and obtain their EMT-Basic certification. During this time, the employee's probationary period will also be extended. If the employee fails to become certified as an EMT-Basic by the end of their extension, the City may terminate the employee.

9

New Section:

An employee licensed as a Registered Nurse will receive an additional 3.5% above their regular rate of pay should their assignment require the performance of duties utilizing said licensure. Designation shall be at the Chief's discretion.

13. **Article XXVI: Educational Benefit**

Add New Section 3:

Each street level provider will receive one (1) ten (10) or fourteen (14) hour training day for educational purposes appropriate to the provider's level of certification per calendar year, and each member of command staff will receive two (2) ten (10) hour in-service training days per year for educational training purposes, not including medical rounds.

14. **Article XXVII: Drug and Alcohol Prohibition**

Replace Entire Article as Follows:

It is impermissible for employees to be impaired or under the influence of alcohol or narcotics while on duty. The Fall River EMS Department shall have a drug testing program, to be conducted in the manner set forth below:

**Section A: Reasonable Suspicion**

1. Employees shall be required to submit to drug tests if there is reasonable suspicion that the employee is using or under the influence of drugs. "Reasonable suspicion" shall be defined as follows:

A belief based on objective facts sufficient to lead a reasonably prudent person to suspect that an employee is using or is under the influence of drugs so that the employee's ability to perform his/her duties is impaired. Reasonable suspicion shall be based on information of objective facts obtained by the department and the rational inferences which may be drawn from those facts. The credibility of the sources of information, the reliability of the information, the degree of corroboration, the results of the investigation or inquiry, and or other factors shall be weighed in determining the presence or absence of reasonable suspicion.

A street supervisor and Administrative Officer (as designated by the Chief), shall be the appropriate Department official to initiate the order to submit to drug testing. Any employee driving during a motor vehicle accident, or involved in an incident that causes injury to a coworker or patient, may be evaluated for reasonable suspicion.

2. The testing shall be performed at a reputable medical facility, after consultation with the association. Said medical facility shall collect the specimens and shall be required to maintain documentation of its chain of custody.

   A. The employee shall be advised of the specimen collection procedure.

   B. The employee shall observe the medical facility's labeling procedures as follows:

      1. Each specimen shall be placed in individual containers, including a split sample, and shall, in the presence of the employee, be sealed, labeled, and initialed by the employee.

      2. The employee shall be given a drug screening information sheet prior to the testing which shall permit the employee to make note of any prescription and/or over-the –counter drugs take within the last 90 days. This information sheet shall be used by the medical facility in making its findings.

      3. The medical facility shall provide the employee with access to a "split sample" which the employee may have forwarded for a testing to a laboratory of his own choosing. The split sample shall be processed in accordance with acceptable medical laboratory procedures and costs shall be borne by the employee.

   C. The medical facility/laboratory shall determine (1) the specific testing methodology to be used in performing the initial screening and/or the confirmatory test, (2) the panel of drugs to be tested, and (3) the detection level for the substance tested.

   D. The Chief of EMS shall be notified of the final test results and shall then immediately notify the employee.

3. Any employee who tests positive shall be provided the opportunity to enroll in a rehabilitation program, except in those situations in which the employee used, sold, or purchased drugs while on active duty. In these situations, the employee may be subject to discipline.

   A. The rehabilitation program must be designed by the employee to be approved by the Chief. The expenses of the rehabilitation program will be borne by the individual employee.
   B. If the employee refuses to participate in the rehabilitation program, he/she will be discharged, subject to his/her statutory appeal rights.
   C. The employee, while enrolled in the rehabilitation program, must comply with all the requirements and regulations of the program: failure to comply shall subject the employee to discharge, subject to statutory appeal rights. The employee must provide periodic reports of the progress of the rehabilitation program to the Chief of EMS. The employee may be permitted to use sick leave or to request leave without pay while enrolled in the program.

4. The employee who successfully completes the rehabilitation program, which is appropriately documented by a physician, and who returns to work shall be subject to random testing for a period of up to one year. If the employee subsequently tests positive, then the employee may be immediately disciplined, up to and including discharge, subject to statutory appeal rights.

9

### Section B: Standards for Drug Testing

Drug testing for reasons other than reasonable suspicion may be conducted under the following guidelines:

A. All testing shall be performed in accordance with the Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs with respect to form of testing, specimen collection, testing procedures, procedures for declaring a test positive/negative, and testing laboratories;
B. Drugs for which employees will be tested are the following: amphetamines, barbituates, benzodiazepenes, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, phencyclidine, propoxythene, steroids, and synthetic opiates.
C. Employees with a valid prescription for any of the tested drugs shall be considered negative for such drugs;
D. The consequences of a positive drug test shall be the same as those specified in Section A, above.

## 15. Article XXIX: Term of Agreement

Update to reflect the following:

**Section 1:**

July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028

**Section 2:**

Until June, 30, 2028

## 16. Article XXX: Management Rights

Replace the entire Article as follows:

Except as expressly limited by other provisions of this agreement, all of the authority, rights, and responsibilities possessed by the city are retained by it, including, but not limited to, the right to determine the mission, purpose, objectives, and policies of the city; to determine the facilities, methods, means and number of personnel required for conduct of city programs, to discipline or discharge employees for just cause in accordance with applicable law and the provisions of this agreement. All of these rights shall be recognized if not in conflict with the provisions of this agreement.

Unless specifically stated otherwise in Article XIX: Job Posting and Bidding, under the "Bid System" and "Emergency Provision" sections, the Chief of Emergency Medical Services, or their designee, has exclusive authority to assign EMT-Basics to all units handling primary ("911") emergency medical responses. The Chief, or their designee, also has full discretion over which department personnel, qualified at the EMT-Basic level, serve on those units, regardless of seniority or similar factors, and may place EMT-Basics who are currently enrolled in a paramedic program on these units preferentially.

9

17. **Article XXXI: Personnel Files**

Replace entire Article as follows:

Each department shall keep a personnel file for each employee. Supervisors may keep working files, but material not maintained in the employee's personnel file may not be used as documentation for action against/for an employee.

A. No material originating from the City derogatory to an employee's conduct, service, character or personality shall be placed in the personnel file unless the employee has had an opportunity to read they material. The employee shall acknowledged that he/she has read such material by affixing his/her signature on the actual copy to be filled. Such signature does not necessarily indicate agreement with its contents, but merely signifies that the employee had the opportunity to read the material to be filed.

B. The employee shall have the right to answer any material filed and this answer shall be attached to the file copy.

Inspection – Upon appropriate request, an employee may inspect his/her personnel file subject to the following:

A. Inspection shall occur during non-working hours, including lunch and break period, at a time and in a manner mutually acceptable to the employee and the City. Upon request, an employee who has a written grievance, who is inspecting his/her personnel file with respect to such grievance, may have a representative present during such inspection.

B. Copies of materials in an employee's personnel file shall be provided to the employee upon request. The employee shall bear the cost of duplication.

C. The employer may maintain disciplinary records on file as part of the member's working file for not longer than:

Verbal Warnings – 12 Months
Written Warnings- 18 Months
Suspensions – Permanently

Any repeat infraction of the same nature within that time period will make that disciplinary action permanent in the personnel file.

18. **Article XXXIII Wages:**

Effective July 1, 2025: New Wage Table Attached as Appendix A.
Effective July 1, 2026: 1.5% across-the-board wage increase
Effective July 1, 2027: 1.5% across-the-board wage increase

9

19. New Article XXXV Accrual True-Up:

Employees with less than ten (10) hours of remaining vacation and/or personal leave as of December 31st will be paid out for the remaining balance at straight time by the second payroll in January.

9

This Agreement is subject to ratification by the American Federation of State, County, And Municipal Employees, Local 1202 and full funding by the City Council.

Signed and Agreed to this 28th day of May, 2026.

FOR THE CITY

Paul Coogan

Paul Coogan, Mayor

FOR THE UNION

Dominic Morse, President, Local 1202

Scott E. Taveira

Scott Taveira, Staff Representative

9

| Current Pay - Effective 7/1/2024 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
| Admin Assistant | 11M | 2,586.97 | | |
| EMT Basic (84 Hours) | 19BB | 1,811.52 | 1,938.32 | 2,142.00 |
| EMT Paramedic (84 Hours) | 20D | 2,586.96 | 2,768.07 | 2,961.81 |
| FTO/Comm Paramedic | 3.5% | 3,065.48 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant (84 Hours) | LT | 3,406.09 | | |
| EMS Captain (84 Hours) | CAPT | 3,916.99 | | |
| Deputy Chief of EMS (80 Hours) | DPDR | 4,504.53 | | |

| Current Pay - Effective 7/1/2024 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
| Admin Assistant | 11M | 67,519.92 | | |
| EMT Basic (84 Hours) | 19BB | 47,280.67 | 50,590.15 | 55,906.20 |
| EMT Paramedic (84 Hours) | 20D | 67,519.66 | 72,246.63 | 77,303.24 |
| FTO/Comm Paramedic | 3.5% | 80,009.03 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant (84 Hours) | LT | 88,896.95 | | |
| EMS Captain (84 Hours) | CAPT | 102,233.44 | | |
| Deputy Chief of EMS (80 Hours) | DPDR | 117,568.23 | | |

| | Pay OT CHANGE Effective 7/1/2025 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Hours | | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
| | Executive Admin Assistant | 80 | 11M | 34.91 | | |
| | MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 84 | 19C | 21.57 | 23.08 | 25.50 |
| | Admin MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 80 | 19C3 | 24.45 | 26.16 | 28.91 |
| | EMT Basic | 84 | 19BB | 21.57 | 23.08 | 25.50 |
| | EMT Advanced | 84 | 19B3 | 26.39 | | |
| | Field Training Officer *(Basic)* | 84 | 19B3 | 26.38 | | |
| | EMT Paramedic | 84 | 20D | 30.80 | 32.95 | 35.26 |
| 5 | Field Training Officer *(Paramedic)* | 84 | 20D3 | 36.49 | | |
| 5 | Community Paramedic | 84 | 20D3 | 36.49 | | |
| | Community Paramedic | 80 | 20D8 | 39.98 | | |
| 4 | EMS Lieutenant | 84 | LT84 | 40.55 | | |
| 5 | EMS Lieutenant | 80 | LT | 44.42 | | |
| 4 | EMS Captain | 80 | CAPT | 51.08 | | |
| 2 | Deputy Chief of EMS | 80 | DPDR | 58.74 | | |

1.5%

| Pay - Effective 7/1/2026 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Hours | | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
| Executive Admin Assistant | 80 | 11M | 35.43 | | |
| MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 84 | 19C | 21.89 | 23.42 | 25.88 |
| Admin MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 80 | 19C3 | 24.82 | 26.55 | 29.34 |
| EMT Basic | 84 | 19BB | 21.89 | 23.42 | 25.88 |
| EMT Advanced | 84 | 19B3 | 26.79 | | |
| Field Training Officer *(Basic)* | 84 | 19B3 | 26.79 | | |
| EMT Paramedic | 84 | 20D | 31.26 | 33.45 | 35.79 |
| Field Training Officer *(Paramedic)* | 84 | 20D3 | 37.04 | | |
| Community Paramedic | 84 | 20D3 | 37.04 | | |
| Community Paramedic | 80 | 20D8 | 40.58 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant | 84 | LT84 | 41.16 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant | 80 | LT | 45.08 | | |
| EMS Captain | 80 | CAPT | 51.85 | | |
| Deputy Chief of EMS | 80 | DPDR | 59.62 | | |

1.5%

| Pay - Effective 7/1/2027 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Hours | | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
| Executive Admin Assistant | 80 | 11M | 35.98 | | |
| MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 84 | 19C | 22.22 | 23.77 | 26.27 |
| Admin MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 80 | 19C3 | 25.19 | 26.95 | 29.78 |
| EMT Basic | 84 | 19BB | 22.22 | 23.77 | 26.27 |
| EMT Advanced | 84 | 19B3 | 27.18 | | |
| Field Training Officer *(Basic)* | 84 | 19B3 | 27.19 | | |
| EMT Paramedic | 84 | 20D | 31.73 | 33.95 | 36.33 |
| Field Training Officer *(Paramedic)* | 84 | 20D3 | 37.60 | | |
| Community Paramedic | 84 | 20D3 | 37.60 | | |
| Community Paramedic | 80 | 20D8 | 41.18 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant | 84 | LT84 | 41.77 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant | 80 | LT | 45.76 | | |
| EMS Captain | 80 | CAPT | 52.62 | | |
| Deputy Chief of EMS | 80 | DPDR | 60.52 | | |

| Pay OT CHANGE Effective 7/1/2025 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Hours | | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
| Executive Admin Assistant | 80 | 11M | 72,888.09 | | |
| MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 84 | 19C | 49,326.18 | 52,778.84 | 58,324.88 |
| Admin MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 80 | 19C3 | 51,052.48 | 54,625.98 | 60,366.11 |
| EMT Basic | 84 | 19BB | 49,326.18 | 52,778.84 | 58,324.88 |
| EMT Advanced | 84 | 19B3 | 60,366.25 | | |
| Field Training Officer *(Basic)* | 84 | 19B3 | 60,386.25 | | |
| EMT Paramedic | 84 | 20D | 70,440.77 | 75,372.24 | 80,647.62 |
| Field Training Officer *(Paramedic)* | 84 | 20D3 | 83,470.28 | | |
| Community Paramedic | 84 | 20D3 | 83,470.28 | | |
| Community Paramedic | 80 | 20D8 | 83,470.10 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant | 84 | LT84 | 92,744.76 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant | 80 | LT | 92,744.55 | | |
| EMS Captain | 80 | CAPT | 106,856.24 | | |
| Deputy Chief of EMS | 80 | DPDR | 122,654.67 | | |

| Pay - Effective 7/1/2026 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Hours | | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
| Executive Admin Assistant | 80 | 11M | 73,981.41 | | |
| MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 84 | 19C | 50,066.07 | 53,570.52 | 59,199.75 |
| Admin MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 80 | 19C3 | 51,818.27 | 55,445.37 | 61,271.60 |
| EMT Basic | 84 | 19BB | 50,066.07 | 53,570.52 | 59,199.75 |
| EMT Advanced | 84 | 19B3 | 61,271.74 | | |
| Field Training Officer *(Basic)* | 84 | 19B3 | 61,271.74 | | |
| EMT Paramedic | 84 | 20D | 71,497.38 | 76,502.82 | 81,857.33 |
| Field Training Officer *(Paramedic)* | 84 | 20D3 | 84,722.34 | | |
| Community Paramedic | 84 | 20D3 | 84,722.34 | | |
| Community Paramedic | 80 | 20D8 | 84,722.15 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant | 84 | LT84 | 94,135.93 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant | 80 | LT | 94,135.72 | | |
| EMS Captain | 80 | CAPT | 108,256.08 | | |
| Deputy Chief of EMS | 80 | DPDR | 124,494.49 | | |

| Pay - Effective 7/1/2027 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Hours | | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
| Executive Admin Assistant | 80 | 11M | 75,091.13 | | |
| MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 84 | 19C | 50,817.06 | 54,374.08 | 60,087.74 |
| Admin MIH Scheduling Coordinator | 80 | 19C3 | 52,595.54 | 56,277.05 | 62,190.68 |
| EMT Basic | 84 | 19BB | 50,817.06 | 54,374.08 | 60,087.74 |
| EMT Advanced | 84 | 19B3 | 62,190.82 | | |
| Field Training Officer *(Basic)* | 84 | 19B3 | 62,190.82 | | |
| EMT Paramedic | 84 | 20D | 72,569.84 | 77,650.37 | 83,085.19 |
| Field Training Officer *(Paramedic)* | 84 | 20D3 | 85,993.17 | | |
| Community Paramedic | 84 | 20D3 | 85,993.17 | | |
| Community Paramedic | 80 | 20D8 | 85,992.98 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant | 84 | LT84 | 95,547.97 | | |
| EMS Lieutenant | 80 | LT | 95,547.76 | | |
| EMS Captain | 80 | CAPT | 109,879.92 | | |
| Deputy Chief of EMS | 80 | DPDR | 126,361.91 | | |

10

**BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

RECEIVED
2026 JUN 12 P 2:18
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

12 June 2026

Honorable Cliff A. Ponte, President
Honorable Members of the City Council
One Government Center
Fall River, MA. 02722

Dear Honorable City Councilors,

In accordance with Chapter *54, Section 24* of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, I respectfully request that you vote to approve the accompanying order regarding the designation of polling locations for the 2026 election cycle to be held on the following dates:

- **State Primary:** *Tuesday, September 1st*
- **Biennial State Election:** *Tuesday, November 3rd*

The polls shall be open on Election Day from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. At a meeting of the Election Commission held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 the changes that I am recommending for your approval were unanimously supported by the Board. In addition, the proposed changes have been endorsed by the Disability Commission. Each of the new consolidated polling locations are handicapped accessible with parking lots available for voters to use on Election Day. Further, there are no additional rental costs incurred by my office, as the newly merged locations are part of the existing list of polling precincts. Transportation will continue to be offered to voters by my department for those who require assistance getting to and from their polling locations on Election Day.

As required by statute, all registered voters affected by a change in polling location will be notified in writing by my office. In addition, signage will be posted at all cancelled polling locations informing voters of the change in location for a seven-day period prior to and including Election Day.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lyons

Ryan Lyons
Chairman & Director
Chief Elections Official
Board of Elections Dept.

Ryan Lyons, Chairman & Director
One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722
TEL (508) 324-2630 • FAX (508) 324-2633 • EMAIL rlyons@fallriverma.gov

10

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

ORDERED, that the following places be and the same are hereby designated as polling places for the State Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, and the Biennial State Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. The polls are to be opened from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., and all polling places shall be used.

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

ORDERED, that the following locations, formally designated as polling locations in the City of Fall River be and the same are hereby cancelled:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ward 4 Precinct B | James A. O'Brien Apartments<br>34 Whipple Street |
| Ward 6 Precinct A | Francis J. Barresi Heights<br>1863 Pleasant Street |
| Ward 6 Precinct B | George H. Cottell Heights<br>1685 Pleasant Street |
| Ward 7 Precinct A | Union United Methodist Church<br>600 Highland Avenue |
| Ward 8 Precinct B | Bristol Community College, Building "G"<br>777 Elsbree Street |
| Ward 8 Precinct C | Bristol Community College, Building "G"<br>777 Elsbree Street |
| Ward 9 Precinct A | Bristol Community College, Building "G"<br>777 Elsbree Street |

and, BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the following places be designated as polling locations:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ward 4 Precinct B | Atrium at One Government Center<br>One Government Center |
| Ward 6 Precinct A | St. Anthony of the Desert Church (Hall)<br>300 North Eastern Avenue |
| Ward 6 Precinct B | St. Anthony of the Desert Church (Hall)<br>300 North Eastern Avenue |
| Ward 7 Precinct A | Durfee High School, old Nagle Building<br>367 Ray Street *(entrance via Chestnut & Ray St.)* |
| Ward 8 Precinct B | Durfee High School, old Nagle Building<br>367 Ray Street *(entrance via Chestnut & Ray St.)* |
| Ward 8 Precinct C | Durfee High School, old Nagle Building<br>367 Ray Street *(entrance via Chestnut & Ray St.)* |
| Ward 9 Precinct A | Durfee High School, old Nagle Building<br>367 Ray Street *(entrance via Chestnut & Ray St.)* |

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF FALL RIVER

# City of Fall River Polling Locations

***All Polling Locations Shall Be Open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Election Day***

| | |
|---|---|
| **1A:** Alfred Letourneau Elementary School | 323 Anthony Street |
| **1B:** Edward F. Doolan Apartments | Corner of Laurel St. & Mitchell Dr. |
| **1C:** Alfred Letourneau Elementary School | 323 Anthony Street |
| **2A:** Blessed Trinity Church *(Hall)* | 1340 Plymouth Ave *(Entrance on Winthrop St.)* |
| **2B:** Blessed Trinity Church *(Hall)* | 1340 Plymouth Ave *(Entrance on Winthrop St.)* |
| **2C:** Candeias-Niagara Fire Station | Corner of Plymouth Ave & Warren St. |
| **3A:** Good Shepherd Parish *(Hall)* | 1598 South Main Street |
| **3B:** Good Shepherd Parish *(Hall)* | 1598 South Main Street |
| **3C:** Matthew J. Kuss Middle School | 52 Globe Mills Avenue *(Entrance on Shaw St.)* |
| **4A:** Matthew J. Kuss Middle School | 52 Globe Mills Avenue *(Entrance on Shaw St.)* |
| **4B:** Atrium at Government Center | One Government Center *(Ent.on Sullivan Dr.)* |
| **4C:** Atrium at Government Center | One Government Center *(Ent.on Sullivan Dr.)* |
| **5A:** Candeias-Niagara Fire Station | Corner of Plymouth Ave & Warren St. |
| **5B:** St. Anthony of the Desert Church *(Hall)* | 300 North Eastern Avenue |
| **5C:** Mary Fonseca Elementary School | 160 Wall Street |
| **6A:** St. Anthony of the Desert Church *(Hall)* | 300 North Eastern Avenue |
| **6B:** St. Anthony of the Desert Church *(Hall)* | 300 North Eastern Avenue |
| **6C:** St. Anthony of the Desert Church *(Hall)* | 300 North Eastern Avenue |
| **7A:** Durfee High School *(old Nagle Building)* | 367 Ray Street *(Entrance via Chestnut St & Ray St.)* |
| **7B:** Atrium at Government Center | One Government Center *(Ent.on Sullivan Dr.)* |
| **7C:** Raymond D. Holmes Apartments | 140 Essex Street *(Entrance on Fulton St.)* |
| **8A:** Mary Fonseca Elementary School | 160 Wall Street |
| **8B:** Durfee High School *(old Nagle Building)* | 367 Ray Street *(Entrance via Chestnut St & Ray St.)* |
| **8C:** Durfee High School *(old Nagle Building)* | 367 Ray Street *(Entrance via Chestnut St & Ray St.)* |
| **9A:** Durfee High School *(old Nagle Building)* | 367 Ray Street *(Entrance via Chestnut St & Ray St.)* |
| **9B:** Calvary Temple Assembly of God | 4321 North Main Street |
| **9C:** Calvary Temple Assembly of God | 4321 North Main Street |

Ryan Lyons, Chairman & Director
One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722
TEL (508) 324-2630 • FAX (508) 324-2633 • EMAIL rlyons@fallriverma.gov

# City of Fall River
# Massachusetts

## Fall River
## Commission on Disability

PAUL E. COOGAN
*Mayor*

**Dennis Polselli**
Chairman

**Debbie Pacheco**
Vice Chairman

Dennis Polselli Chair Fall Commission on Disabilities

To the Fall River City Council: Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Vice-President Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Linda M. Pereira, President Cliff Ponte, Andrew J. Raposo, Michael G. Canuel and Christopher M. Peckham

I'm writing on behalf of the Fall Commission on Disability to urge you to vote in favor of the changes being recommended by the Chair of the Fall River Elections Commission, Ryan Lyons.

These changes had the full consultation and participation of members of the Fall River Commission on Disability, namely Commissioner Dan Robillard and myself.

We want to express our thanks, on behalf of the Disability Commission, to Chair Ryan Lyons and other agencies that participated in the various site surveys we undertook On May 5.

We were quite pleased and continue to be pleased with the quality of collaboration that Chair Lyons has had in this process and we can that we endorse all of these changes and urge the Fall River Council to vote in favor of these recommendations.

Finally, we wish to thank Council Vice-President Michelle Dionne and Shawn Cadime for their time in meeting with us prior to the survey.

We appreciate your time commitments very much.

Respectfully,

Dennis Polselli Chair Fall River Commission on Disability, Debbie Pacheco, Commission Vice-Chair, Commissioners Dan Robillard, Lisa Silva, Katie Driscoll and City Representative to the Commission Anne O'Neil-Souza

11

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

(President Cliff A. Ponte)

WHEREAS, the City of Fall River and the Fall River School Department last signed an indirect cost agreement in 2017, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Administration and the School Department convene to discuss finalizing a proper indirect cost agreement.

(Filed 6-10-2026)

12

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

(Councilor Linda M. Pereira)

WHEREAS, the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor Improvements Project is nearing completion, and

WHEREAS, there is an anticipated construction of new buildings in this area resulting in new restaurants, businesses, housing, and parking lots within this development, and

WHEREAS, the existing City code does not address all aspects of this potential new construction and the creation of allowances and restrictions on these new installations should be discussed ahead of time, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation convene with various parties, including Corporation Counsel, the Director of Engineering and Planning, the Director of Inspectional Services and the Director of Traffic and Parking, over the course of multiple meetings, to discuss the changes that may occur within the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, at the will of the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation, Corporation Counsel draft a proposed ordinance, or multiple proposed ordinances, to address all development, traffic and parking concerns within the area of the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor Improvement Project.

(Filed 6-12-2026)

**City of Fall River,** *In City Council*

13

(Councilor Linda M. Pereira)

WHEREAS, the City of Fall River is actively engaged in the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor redevelopment project, aiming to reclaim the waterfront, attract private investment and improve quality of life, and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of large, intrusive outdoor billboards, both electronic and otherwise, can degrade the visual character of the City, create traffic distractions for motorists, and negatively impact residential property values, and

WHEREAS, the current City code governing outdoor advertising signs and billboards does not adequately reflect modern aesthetic standards or the specific economic development goal of the newly redesigned waterfront corridor, nor quality of life for residents within view of these billboards, and

WHEREAS, updating and strengthening regulations on the size, height, lighting, spacing, and placement of billboards will protect public safety and enhance the visual appeal of our gateways, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation convene to review the existing City ordinances concerning outside billboards and advertising signs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee investigate and draft specific amendments to establish stricter guidelines for billboards City-wide, with particular restrictions, prohibitions, or special permit requirements tailored to the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor development zone, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee report its findings, along with recommended ordinance revisions, back to the full City Council for implementation.

(Filed 6-16-2026)

20

**MAPFRE | INSURANCE**

May 28, 2026

RECEIVED

2026 JUN -5 P 1:26

CITY CLERK #120
FALL RIVER, MA

City of Fall River
Attn: City Clerk's Office
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

| | |
|---|---|
| Named Insured: | Ana Larrosa |
| Claim Number: | AU10815491-1 |
| Date of Loss: | Feb 26, 2026 |
| Time of Loss: | 08:37 AM |
| Loss Location: | 227 Harrison St, Fall River, MA. |
| Type of Loss: | Rear-end collision |
| Responsible Party: | City of Fall River |
| Reimbursement Due: | $1,256.56 |
| Property Damage: | $1,256.56 |
| PIP Medical/Wage: | $0 |

Dear City of Fall River:

Please accept this letter of presentment as required by M.G.L. c. 258 Sec. 4. Our investigation reveals that City of Fall River is responsible for damages sustained by our insured.

Attached are our supports for this loss. If you require additional documentation to investigate this claim pursuant to your statutory obligation, please contact us. If you are inclined to discuss settlement of this claim or deny this claim within the six (6) month statutory period, please forward the appropriate communication to my attention.

A city dump truck, MA plate #M6727A, struck our insured's stopped vehicle.

We have settled the loss with our insured and would appreciate your immediate payment of the amount listed above. Please make your check payable to Commerce Insurance Company in the amount of $1,256.56 and be sure to note our file number to ensure proper credit.

Copies Forward To ✓ City Clerk ✓ Law ✓ City Council DCM
City Ad

6/5/26
DATE



Commerce Insurance Company
211 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570

20

City of Fall River
Notice of Claim

RECEIVED
2026 JUN -9 P 12:35
CITY CLERK FALL RIVER, MA
#26-115A

1. Claimant's name: Lisa Torres
2. Claimant's complete address: 397 A. Snell St., River, MA 02721
3. Telephone number: Home: 6366899123 Work: ____________
4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage):
Auto Accident
5. Date and time of accident: 01/24/2026 8:40pm Amount of damages claimed: $6406.93
6. Exact location of the incident: (Include as much detail as possible):
363 SNELL ST FALL RIVER MA
7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary):
Your vehicle 2015 FORD HEAVY RESCUE 1 made right hand turn from Lawrence St onto Snell St and struck our insureds vehicle parked/unoccupied. Your driver Scott Lovenbury failed to keep a proper distance.
8. Have you submitted a claim to any insurance company for damages arising from this incident? If so, name and address of insurance company: ☑ Yes ☐ No
SubroIQ a/s/o Liberty Mutual Ins PO BOX 6228 Hermitage PA 16148

Be sure to attach the original of any bills issued or any written estimates of repair or replacement costs. (Any documents that you provide will become the property of the City of Fall River; therefore, please retain copies of any such documents for your files.) Attach any other information you believe will be helpful in the processing of your claim (for example, names and addresses of any witnesses, written medical records if personal injury was sustained).

I swear that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge.

Date: 06/01/2026 Claimant's signature: Corey J Furtado

WHEN TO FILE: If your claim is based on a defect in a public way, you must file within 30 days of the incident. If your claim is based on the negligence or wrongful act or omission of the City or its employees, you must file within two years of the incident. PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

**Return this from to : City Clerk, 2nd Fl., One Government Center, Fall River, MA 02722**

You should consult with your own attorney in preparing this claim form to understand your legal rights. The Office of the Corporation Counsel is unable to provide legal assistance to private citizens.

For official use only:
Copies forwarded to: ☒ City Clerk ☒ Law ☒ City Council ☐ City Administrator ☒ FRFD Date: 6/9/26

20

RECEIVED

2026 JUN 15 A 8:25

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

#26-121

**City of Fall River**
**Notice of Claim**

1. Claimant's name: Maria agostino
2. Claimant's complete address: 4 gKlar Dr. Somerset 02726
3. Telephone number: Home: 7745282577 Work: ~
4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage): POT HOLE Plymouth AVA
5. Date and time of accident: 4-18-26 Amount of damages claimed: $ 143.66
6. Exact location of the incident: (include as much detail as possible): Plymouth AVA
7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary): Big Pot Hole
8. Have you submitted a claim to any insurance company for damages arising from this incident? If so, name and address of insurance company: ☐ Yes ☑ No

Be sure to attach the original of any bills issued or any written estimates of repair or replacement costs. (Any documents that you provide will become the property of the City of Fall River; therefore, please retain copies of any such documents for your files.) Attach any other information you believe will be helpful in the processing of your claim (for example, names and addresses of any witnesses, written medical records if personal injury was sustained).

I swear that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge.

Date: 4/13/26 Claimant's signature: Maria Agostinho

WHEN TO FILE: If your claim is based on a defect in a public way, you must file within 30 days of the incident. If your claim is based on the negligence or wrongful act or omission of the City or its employees, you must file within two years of the incident. PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Return this from to : City Clerk, 2nd Fl., One Government Center, Fall River, MA 02722

You should consult with your own attorney in preparing this claim form to understand your legal rights. The Office of the Corporation Counsel is unable to provide legal assistance to private citizens.

| For official use only: |
|---|
| Copies forwarded to: ☑ City Clerk ☑ Law ☑ City Council ☐ City Administrator ☑ DCM Date: 6/15/26 |

20

RECEIVED

2026 JUN 16 P 12: 16

#26-122

# City of Fall River
## Notice of Claim

1. Claimant's name: WILBER & ASSOCIATES O/B/O SAFETY INSURANCE COMPANY A/S/O RICHARD FLETCHER FALL RIVER, MA
2. Claimant's complete address: 210 LANDMARK DRIVE, NORMAL, IL 61761
3. Telephone number: Home: ____________ Work: 800-313-5169 ext. 3213
4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage):
   VEHICLE DAMAGE
5. Date and time of accident: 07/024/2025 5:28 PM Amount of damages claimed: $ 5,780.90
6. Exact location of the incident: (include as much detail as possible):
   33 STRAND ST, FALL RIVER, MA
7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary):
   CITY OF FALL RIVER TREE FELL ONTO OUR INSURED, RICHARD FLETCHERS' VEHICLE, CAUSING DAMAGES.
8. Have you submitted a claim to any insurance company for damages arising from this incident? If so, name and address of insurance company: ☒ Yes ☐ No
   SAFETY INSURANCE COMPANY

Be sure to attach the original of any bills issued or any written estimates of repair or replacement costs. (Any documents that you provide will become the property of the City of Fall River; therefore, please retain copies of any such documents for your files.) Attach any other information you believe will be helpful in the processing of your claim (for example, names and addresses of any witnesses, written medical records if personal injury was sustained).

I swear that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge.

Date: 06/04/2026 Claimant's signature: Kelsey Kroll

WHEN TO FILE: If your claim is based on a defect in a public way, you must file within 30 days of the incident. If your claim is based on the negligence or wrongful act or omission of the City or its employees, you must file within two years of the incident. PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

**Return this from to : City Clerk, 2nd Fl., One Government Center, Fall River, MA 02722**

You should consult with your own attorney in preparing this claim form to understand your legal rights. The Office of the Corporation Counsel is unable to provide legal assistance to private citizens.

| For official use only: |
|---|
| Copies forwarded to: ☑ City Clerk ☑ Law ☑ City Council ☐ City Administrator ☑ ~~DC~~ Trees & Cemeteries Date: 6/16/26 |

5/12/2026 21

**Fall River City Council**
**Fall River, MA**
**Attention: Cliff Pont, President**

We, the residents and taxpayers of Progress Street, Fall River have become increasingly concerned and frustrated over the traffic and parking conditions on our street. These conditions have become increasingly worse since the rebuild of the A.S. Letourneau Elementary School in 2006, and the establishment of the adjacent Market Basket and shopping center.

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Recently, there have been two occasions that have brought reason for direct action to be taken to correct the conditions and hazards that affect our neighborhood. One is the parking restrictions implemented on the West end of Progress Street. Residents and taxpayers can no longer park in front of their own homes during school drop-off and pickup hours. As a result of this, school personnel have taken over the East End Progress Street in effect of making a school/employee parking lot. Residents aren't able to park in front of their own homes.

Another situation occurred during the first week of June, 2026. One of the many parents who use Progress Street to pick up their children drove down the street at a fast rate of speed, turning around the cul-de-sac and hitting a resident's vehicle, which was partially backed out of her driveway. Not only has our neighborhood been affected by excessive traffic conditions, but also parents picking up their children and school personnel who are parking on the street are creating an excessive amount of litter on our street and property! Candy and food wrappers, ciggarette buds, and nip bottles are found daily. Not to mention, cars are blocking driveways and idling excessively. We ask that the Fall River City Council take up this matter and order the necessary actions to rescind the recent parking restrictions, and take the necessary measures to alleviate these dangerous traffic conditions, excessive littering, and the takeover of residents' and taxpayers' streets and neighborhoods by school personnel and parents picking up students during school dismissal.

Sincerely,

| Resident's Name | Signature | Street Address |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Robert Talbot | [illegible] | 121 Progress St. |
| JUDITH TALBOT | Judith M Talbot | 121 Progress St |
| Denise Gendreau | Denise Gendreau | 112 Progress St. |
| GERALD MONTIGNY | [illegible] | 98 PROGRESS ST |
| Ken Daugherty | [illegible] | 1234 Stafford rd APT 2 |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | 1234 Stafford Rd Apt |
| Tania Freitas | [illegible] | 1214 Stafford Rd apt 1 |
| Carlos Freitas | [illegible] | 1214 Stafford Rd apt 1 |
| Jennifer Machado | [illegible] Machado | 1234 Stafford Rd, Apt 3 |

| Resident's Name | Signature | Street Address |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DAVID M. BURNS | David M. Burns | 146 PROGRESS ST |
| Maria A. BURNS | Maria A. Burns | 146 PROGRESS St |
| Rosa Gonalves | Rosa Gonalves | 1215 Stafford st |
| Heiber Solito | [illegible] | 20 progres st |
| Jesse Fain | Jesse Fain | 5 progress |
| WANDERSON MGOINA | [illegible] | 48 PROGRESS ST |
| Maria M Carreiro | M M C | 8 Progresse |
| Saima Mir | Saima Mir | 84 Progress st, Fall River |
| Mohammad T Mir | A Mir | 84 Progress st. |
| Mohammad J Mir | M J Mir | 84 Progress st. |
| Raheela Mir | Raheela Mir | 84 Progress st. |

# CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS

MEETING: May 26, 2026 at 5:55 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: Councilor Joseph D. Camara

IN ATTENDANCE: Aaron Roy, National Grid Engineer
1250 Brayton Point Road, Somerset, MA, 02725

The President called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium and that the purpose of the hearings was to hear all persons interested and wishing to be heard on the following:

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to open the hearings, with Councilor Camara absent and not voting.*

**Jointly Owned Pole Locations**

1. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

King Philip Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned 45-foot class H1 pole (P16-50) on King Philip Street approximately 250 feet easterly of the centerline of the intersection of King Philip Street and King Street between existing Pole 16 and Pole 17. In accordance with Plan No. 31293970.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and Aaron Roy, National Grid Engineer, came forward. Mr. Roy explained that there is an ongoing project to install new reliability equipment and devices throughout the City, and this pole is included in this project. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

2. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

<u>Meridian Street</u> One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned NE midspan pole (P3-50) on Meridian Street approximately 100 feet southerly of the centerline of the intersection of Meridian Street and Aldea Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31303691.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and Aaron Roy, National Grid Engineer, came forward. Mr. Roy explained that the pole on Meridian Street will have a reliability device installed to improve service in the area. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

3. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

<u>New Boston Road</u> One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned midspan pole (P32-50) on New Boston Road approximately 100 feet easterly of the centerline of the intersection of New Boston Road and Charlotte Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31303697.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and Aaron Roy, National Grid Engineer, came forward. Mr. Roy stated that the new pole on New Boston Road will also include the installation of new devices to improve reliability. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to close the hearings at 6:06 p.m., with Councilor Camara absent and not voting.*

<u>List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:</u>
Agenda (attached)

A true copy. Attest:

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite

City Clerk

## CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

| | |
|---|---|
| MEETING: | June 2, 2026 at 5:55 p.m.<br>Council Chamber, One Government Center |
| PRESENT: | President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;<br>Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo |
| ABSENT: | None |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Collin Dias, 560 Ray Street |

The President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium and that the purpose of the hearing was to hear all persons interested and wishing to be heard on the following:

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted to open the hearing, with Councilor Peckham absent and not voting.*

**Municipal Budget**

1. Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget

*The President asked if any proponents were present and no one came forward. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and Collin Dias, 560 Ray Street, came forward.*

*Councilor Peckham arrived at 6:02 p.m.*

*Mr. Dias clarified that he was speaking as an individual member of the Fall River School Committee. Mr. Dias expressed concern regarding the budgetary review process, specifically regarding the changes that were made by the Administration in relation to the School Department budget that had been voted upon by the School Committee. Mr. Dias stated that the School Department was not properly informed of these changes prior to the budget being presented to the City Council and encouraged the Councilors to seek additional information regarding this change prior to voting on the proposed budget. Mr. Dias also commended President Ponte and Councilor Peckham for their efforts to decrease the property tax levy percentage and stated that all Councilors should continue to ask detailed questions during the review of the FY27 budget.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to close the hearing.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the hearing at 6:05 p.m.*

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:
Agenda (attached)

A true copy. Attest:
Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

## CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS

MEETING: June 9, 2026 at 5:55 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: Councilor Christopher M. Peckham, Sr.

IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Berube, Pro-Line Engineering,
190 Gardners Neck Road, Swansea, MA 02777
Aaron Roy, National Grid Engineer
1250 Brayton Point Road, Somerset, MA, 02725

The President called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium and that the purpose of the hearings was to hear all persons interested and wishing to be heard on the following:

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to open the hearings, with Councilors Camara and Peckham absent and not voting.*

**Auto Repair Shop License**

1. Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC., 200 4th Avenue S, Suite 100, Nashville, TN 37201 d/b/a Firestone Complete Auto Care for a license to operate an auto repair shop at 748 Pleasant Street, on Lot M-10-82 Assessors Plan.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and no one came forward. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

**Curb Removals**

2. 28 McDonald Street Realty LLC, 317 Lindsey Street, for the removal of curbing as follows:

| | Existing Opening | Curbing to be Removed | Curbing to be Added | Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 McDonald Street | 0' | 20' | 0' | 20' |

The existing parcel currently has no curb opening or driveway. The applicant proposes to create a new 20-foot curb opening/driveway. The total opening for the location will be 20 feet.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and Robert Berube of Pro-Line Engineering, came forward. Mr. Berube explained that the property does not currently have a driveway and that this curb removal will allow cars to be parked on the property and not on the street. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

3. Steven T. Gomes Living Trust, 721 Oak Grove Avenue, for the removal of curbing as follows:

| | Existing Opening | Curbing to be Removed | Curbing to be Added | Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23-25 Salisbury Street | 0' | 32' | 0' | 32' |

The applicant proposes to create two (2) new 16-foot curb opening/driveway on Salisbury Street to provide access and parking. The total opening for the location will be 32 feet. This project has received Site Plan Review Approval.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and no one came forward. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

4. 87 Aetna Street, LLC, 87 Aetna Street, for the removal of curbing as follows:

| | Existing Opening | Curbing to be Removed | Curbing to be Added | Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vale Street | 16' | 0' | 0' | 16' |
| 87 Aetna Street | 0' | 16' | 0' | 16' |
| Total | | | | 32' |

The existing parcel is served by a 16-foot curb opening on Vale Street. The applicant proposes to create a new 16-foot curb opening on Aetna Street to provide improved access to an existing parking area and parking. The total opening for the location will be 32 feet.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and no one came forward. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

5. BISWAS, LLC, 80 Jenson Farm Road, Braintree, MA 02184 for the removal of curbing as follows:

| | Existing Opening | Curbing to be Removed | Curbing to be Added | Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Walnut Street | 14' | 0' | 0' | 14' |
| 386 High Street | 0' | 20' | 0' | 20' |
| Total | | | | 34' |

The existing parcel is served by a 14-foot curb opening on Walnut Street. The applicant proposes to create a new 20-foot curb opening/driveway on High Street to provide access and parking. The total opening for the location will be 34 feet. Site Plan review has been completed.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and no one came forward. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

**Jointly Owned Pole Locations**

6. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

<u>Bay Street</u> — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned 45-foot class 2 pole (P88-50) on Bay Street approximately 200 feet northeasterly of the centerline of the intersection of Bay Street and Mount Hope Avenue between existing Pole 88 and Pole 89. In accordance with Plan No. 31292208.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and Aaron Roy, National Grid Engineer, came forward. Mr. Roy explained that this petition is part of an ongoing project to install reliability equipment to improve service access. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

7. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

<u>County Street</u> — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned 45-foot class 2 mid-span pole (P53-50) on County Street, beginning at a point approximately 45 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of California Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31285703.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and Aaron Roy, National Grid Engineer, came forward. Mr. Roy stated that this petition was also part of the ongoing reliability installation project, which will increase the quality of service for customers. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

*Councilor Camara entered the Chamber at 6:06 p.m.*

8. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

<u>Eclipse Street</u> One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned 35-foot class 4 pole (P2) and one new jointly owned anchor on Eclipse Street, approximately 130 feet south of existing P31 on Tucker Street and between the property lines of 81 Tucker Street and 190 Eclipse Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31307175.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and Aaron Roy, National Grid Engineer, came forward. Mr. Roy explained that this petition was submitted at the request of a customer to allow new services to be supplied to a property that is currently under construction on Eclipse Street. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

9. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

<u>Jefferson Street</u> One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned midspan pole (P9-50) on Jefferson Street approximately 100 feet northerly of the centerline of the intersection of Oman Street and Jefferson Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31304008.

*The President asked if any proponents were present, and Aaron Roy, National Grid Engineer, came forward. Mr. Roy stated that this petition is also being submitted to install reliability equipment to better serve the customers in the neighborhood. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted to close the hearings, with Councilor Peckham absent and not voting.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:08 p.m., with Councilor Peckham absent and not voting.*

<u>List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:</u>
Agenda (attached)

A true copy. Attest:
Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

| | |
|---|---|
| MEETING: | May 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.<br>Council Chamber, One Government Center |
| PRESENT: | President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;<br>Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Cañuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo |
| ABSENT: | None |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff<br>Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services<br>Al Oliveira, Director of City Operations<br>Nicholas A. Macolini, Director of Human Resources<br>Inês da Silva Paulino Leite, City Clerk<br>Ryan Lyons, Director, Board of Elections Department<br>Talos Farris, Director of Veterans Services/Veterans Services Officer<br>Nicholas A. Macolini, Director of Human Resources<br>Tyler Antaya, Director of Management Information Systems<br>Alan J. Rumsey, Corporation Counsel<br>Trevor Coelho, Purchasing Agent<br>Daniel R. Lane, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Assessors<br>Ian M. Schachne, Treasurer-Collector<br>Christopher Murphy, City Auditor |

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

In accordance with a resolution adopted, as amended May 8, 2012, persons are allowed to address the Council for a period of three minutes prior to the beginning or at the conclusion of business in the Committee on Finance.

**Presentation of Citations**

• First Responders – Emergency Medical Services Week

*Councilor Raposo commented on the services provided by the police, fire, and emergency medical services employees throughout the City. Councilor Raposo expressed admiration for the work they do for Fall River. Chief Beth Faunce, Emergency Medical Services, commended her staff and stated that many challenges, such as the Gabriel House Fire and the Blizzard of 2026, were faced by the EMS Department in the past year.*

*Councilor Camara arrived at 6:10 p.m.*

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1. Citizen Input Time
Sarah Guillemette, 121 Eastern Avenue – Bishop Connolly

2. Transfers and appropriations
*Councilor Dionne and Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, discussed the proposed appropriation of $1,700,000, to the Diman Stabilization Fund, which currently has a balance of approximately $4,670,000. Councilor Dionne expressed concern regarding numerical discrepancies between the Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 3 Budget Report, and the current budget documents. Ms. Arpke provided information regarding various transfers of funds within different accounts related to the debt for the new Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School and stated that this appropriation would assist with ensuring the account balance is even at the end of the fiscal year. The Director of Financial Services also stated that the data within the quarterly budget reports are just snapshots of financial status within various accounts.*

*Councilor Cadime also clarified that there is a savings account and operating budget account for the school and that may be causing confusion. Councilor Pereira stated that this requested transfer of funds should have been presented prior to the proposed budget being presented to the City Council. Councilor Cadime reiterated that the Free Cash funding is being appropriated into the school's savings account, and another appropriation will be taken from the savings account to the General Fund. Ms. Arpke confirmed and explained that portions of these transfers were approved while the budget was being created.*

3. Discussion of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget as follows:
- Municipal Budget Presentation

*The Council President provided a summary of the Committee's scheduled budget meetings on May 26, May 28, June 1, June 2 and June 3, 2026. President Ponte and Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, held a brief discussion and it was determined that the Committee would proceed to discussing the designated sections of the agenda without a formal presentation.*

- General Fund Revenue

*Councilor Raposo requested information regarding solid waste costs, the Third Street and Pearl Street parking garages, and revenue from rented offices inside of Government Center. Ms. Arpke stated that many different businesses and employees rent these parking spaces, including employees of Government Center and private businesses. Ms. Arpke explained that there will be a different payment protocol for the School Department going forward in relation to the new solid waste disposal contract, and there will be direct payments for the services in the future. The Director of Financial Services also explained that there are ongoing renovations within the garages, which limit the number of parking spaces that may be used, and stated that the City is currently receiving final bids for the repair projects. Ms. Arpke stated that the Redevelopment Authority, the Community Development Authority, and the Bristol County Training Consortium rent office spaces within Government Center, but that the offices used by members of the State Legislative Delegation are offered at no charge. Councilor Raposo and Ms. Arpke discussed permit revenue for construction projects, which have declined over the past year, and President Ponte inquired as to whether the financial offices collect data regarding this type of fee collection. The Director of Financial Services stated that, while historical income data is available, it's challenging to identify the factor that resulted in lower revenue in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), but it may be related to the increased costs throughout the construction market.*

*Councilor Raposo and Ian M. Schachne, Treasurer-Collector, discussed projected investment income, changes in interest rates and anticipated budgetary reductions following the end of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) capital use. Mr. Schachne emphasized that investment performance can never be guaranteed, but that he works diligently to conservatively invest City funds and stated that a revenue total of $4,100,000 was received during FY26, to date. The Treasurer-Collector also explained that interest rates may change and affect future revenue totals.*

*Councilor Canuel and Ms. Arpke discussed decreased local receipt revenue and projections for cannabis excise tax totals. The Director of Financial Services explained that she follows the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's recommendations to use conservative projections which assist with balanced budgeting. Councilor Canuel and the Director of Financial Services also held a brief discussion regarding non-recurring revenue, such as insurance recovery funds and unclaimed state funds. Ms. Arpke emphasized that these earnings would not occur every year and the City should not rely on receipt of this type of revenue.*

*Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke held a detailed discussion regarding long-term sustainability of the City's budgetary funds, as expenses seem to be increasing at a faster rate than revenue totals. Councilor Cadime emphasized that increased costs for bargaining agreements, as well as the needs of emergency departments, will negatively affect the City's fund balance. Ms. Arpke clarified that the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) is balanced, but agreed that some costs, including those for health insurance, solid waste disposal and school expenses, have increased significantly. The Director of Financial Services stated that close management and monitoring of those expenses, along with necessary increases in fines and fees issued by the City, would support long-term sustainability. Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding the total funds provided by state aid. Ms. Arpke stated that diligent review of five-year financial forecasts, the Capital Improvement Plans and adjustments to cost-sharing protocols with the School Department will ensure balanced, but limited budgets in the next few years.*

*Councilor Camara made brief remarks regarding the decrease in revenue, including funds collected in relation to vital records, parking fees and business licenses. Ms. Arpke explained that the anticipated total for the end of FY26 in relation to this revenue may be larger than anticipated within the budget pages, but that the goal is to plan for a conservative total of funds for FY27. Councilor Camara and the Director of Financial Services also held a discussion regarding the investment practices of the City, which are conservative, but generate steady interest revenue.*

*Councilor Raposo requested clarification regarding Free Cash projections for FY27, as it is listed at a lower total than FY26. The Director of Financial Services explained that the balances for this funding always begin with a total of $0 and slowly increase throughout the fiscal year. Ms. Arpke also stated that there were unusually high expenditures within the Law Department during FY26, which are not expected to continue in FY27.*

*Councilor Cadime and Mr. Schachne discussed historical investment totals prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and compared them to the totals following that event. Mr. Schachne explained that higher interest rates and more active investment management practices resulted in increased investment income since 2020.*

*Councilor Pereira and Ms. Arpke held a discussion regarding the Third Street and Pearl Street parking garages, related revenue and plans to sell one of the structures. The Director of Financial Services explained that a Request for Proposals (RFP) is ongoing for the Pearl Street parking garage. Councilor Pereira also inquired about state or federal funding that is anticipated to assist with repairs of structures and streets damaged by the Blizzard of 2026. Ms. Arpke stated that reimbursement, if received, would be delayed significantly and should not be anticipated for the FY27 budget.*

*Vice President Dionne requested information regarding the decrease for penalties and interest revenue for unpaid property taxes as well as the lower total listed for littering fines. The Director of Financial Services and the Treasurer-Collector explained that this revenue fluctuates depending on the number of delinquent tax payments. Ms. Arpke and Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff, explained that the City has been working with the Fall River Police Department and Litter Enforcement to use state felony charges for dumping. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that the state charges require restitution payments to the City, which assists with clean-up costs.*

*Councilor Canuel requested additional information regarding the conservative parking revenue estimates, as they conflicted with the increased credit card fee projections. Ms. Arpke requested that this matter be discussed during the May 28, 2026, Committee on Finance meeting, as the Director of Traffic and Parking will be present to answer that question.*

*Councilor Peckham asked if the Pearl Street parking garage would be repaired prior to the RFP process being completed. Ms. Arpke clarified that the repairs would not occur if the property was being sold. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that the assessment of the structure had been completed.*

*Councilor Peckham expressed concern regarding future fiscal year budgets for Fall River, including Net School Spending (NSS) requirements, state aid dependency and long-term impacts on the taxpayers. Councilor Peckham also made detailed remarks regarding an ongoing request to obtain public records through the Law Department and stated that he was told he'd need to submit a fee payment for these documents. Councilor Cadime expressed concern that a City Councilor would be charged to obtain these documents. President Ponte clarified that, following a discussion with Corporation Counsel, no fees would be charged to a City Councilor looking to obtain public information. Ms. O'Neil-Souza also clarified that these fees are sometimes charged to the public due to the large amount of office supplies and staff time used to share the information.*

*Councilor Peckham inquired about the Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School debt obligations and asked if state aid projections would support a portion of the costs. Ms. Arpke referenced various budget projections within the local receipts section and stated that they are projected conservatively to assist with a zero-based budgeting process. Councilor Peckham also expressed concern regarding solid waste expenditure, overcrowded housing, and litter enforcement in Fall River. Councilor Peckham suggested that the City Council reject the proposed budget and request that the Administration revise all totals to reflect a tax levy increase of only 1%, instead of the anticipated 2.5% for FY27.*

*The Director of Financial Services clarified that the increases in pension obligations, health insurance, bargaining agreements and school spending contributed to the increase in the FY27 budget. Ms. Arpke also explained that the City Council could amend the line items within the appropriation order for this budget if they wanted to reduce totals for various departments, and that this action may be taken without a formal rejection of the proposed budget.*

*Councilors Cadime, Camara, Hart, and Pereira held a detailed discussion regarding the rejection of the proposed FY27 budget, including potential layoffs, the elimination of funding for unfilled vacancies and reduction in services offered by various departments. Ms. Arpke explained that personnel compensation represented most departmental funds within the proposed budget.*

*President Ponte relinquished the podium to Vice President Dionne at 7:26 p.m.*

*President Ponte expressed support for Councilor Peckham's suggested rejection of the budget as it would save a significant amount of capital for the taxpayers. President Ponte also made remarks regarding the use of Free Cash over the past few years. Ms. Arpke explained that the City has worked to use zero-based budgeting and any necessary funding for projects would need to be presented to the City Council for appropriations. The Director of Financial Services also explained that the bargaining agreements that have not been finalized are being funded within FY26. Ms. Arpke stated that, to reduce the budget further, positions would need to be eliminated. The Director of Financial Services explained that, during the budget discussions for FY26, she had provided information, in detail, regarding the anticipated increased costs in FY27 due to the Diman debt payments. Councilor Peckham stated that the anticipated Fiscal Year 2028 and Fiscal Year 2029 budgets would result in negative financial conditions if no major adjustments are made this year.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by President Ponte, it was voted 2 yeas, 7 nays, to recommend the City Council reject the proposed FY27 budget and request that the Administration adjust the revenues for the tax levy to 1% instead of 2.5%, with President Ponte and Councilor Peckham voting in the affirmative, and the motion failed to carry.*

*President Ponte returned to the podium at 7:30 p.m.*

*A motion was made by Councilor Peckham to recommend the City Council reject the proposed FY27 budget and request that the Administration adjust the revenues for the tax levy to 1.5% instead of 2.5%, but there was no second.*

*Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke continued discussions regarding the proposed FY27 budget, including the current debt status for the City and health insurance expenses. The Director of Financial Services stated that she had forwarded a debt schedule spreadsheet to all Councilors via email, but that this schedule only reflects loans for the past five years. Councilor Cadime stated that the health insurance totals in the proposed budget were provided by Gallagher Insurance, Risk Management and Consulting, and that the City is working to increase capital within the Employee Health Trust Fund.*

*Councilor Cadime stated that the Committee should provide information regarding the previous failed motions, and whether they voted against the recommendation due to the adjustment of the tax levy or the action of rejecting the budget itself, as that may affect the questions asked during the budgetary meetings. Councilor Cadime clarified that he was not in support of adjusting the revenues for the tax levy, but others may have different interpretations of the matter.*

*Vice President Dionne asked if the rejection of the budget would have the same impact as the change to the tax levy percentage. Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke explained that each action would affect the City budget in different ways and the change of the tax levy percentage rate would prompt the need for very large changes within the proposed FY27 budget. Vice President Dionne stated that the rejection of the budget should not occur during the first meeting for discussion of the matter.*

- General Government

  *Mayor; City Council; City Clerk; Elections; Veterans*

*Councilor Raposo inquired about the length of Ms. O'Neil-Souza's appointment as Interim City Administrator. Ms. O'Neil-Souza explained that her temporary appointment ends at the end of June and recommended that the Councilors speak directly with the Mayor if they have questions regarding any plans to extend the appointment. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff also stated that the Chief of Staff position will remain vacant for the time being.*

*Vice President Dionne made remarks regarding the City Council creating a new account within the budget to allocate $40,000 for Outside Legal Services and that this funding can be reduced elsewhere in the City's proposed budget. Vice President Dionne also explained that this fund existed within the City Council's budget during Fiscal Years 2021 (FY21), 2022 (FY22) and 2023 (FY23).*

*Councilor Camara inquired about the total funds spent out of that account over the years. Vice President Dionne stated that between $700 and $800 was spent during FY22 and no funds were utilized during FY23 and FY24, as the City Council did not want to use the capital if it was not necessary. Councilor Camara stated that if only $700-800 out of $40,000 was used for one year it was not beneficial to the taxpayers.*

*Councilors Cadime and Canuel stated that they agreed with Vice President Dionne's suggestion to create an account for Outside Legal Services within the City Council budgetary accounts. President Ponte asked if the Administration would submit an amended version of the municipal budget to supply that appropriation. Ms. O'Neil-Souza explained that, historically, this fund was appropriated by the Law Department and inquired if the $40,000 would need to be removed from the current budget for that department. Ms. Arpke stated that the Administration has started to research this matter recently and no definitive answer can be provided at this time.*

*Councilor Raposo asked if the Assistant City Clerk receives a stipend for attending the City Council Meetings. Inês da Silva Paulino Leite, City Clerk, explained that a stipend exists for her role as the City Clerk, as well as the Clerk of Committees, but not for the Assistant City Clerk. Mrs. Leite stated that she has discussed the creation of a stipend with the Administration. The Director of Financial Services stated that this would require an amendment within the City code and that the Administration will send down a proposed ordinance to create this stipend before the end of FY26. The City Clerk clarified that, historically, a stipend for the Assistant City Clerk has never existed in the City code.*

*Councilor Raposo also requested information regarding the ongoing renovations in the City Clerk and City Council offices. Ms. Arpke clarified that this project is funded by the Facilities Division. President Ponte stated that these renovations were very necessary and that additional updates will take place in the lobby of the Council Chamber.*

*Vice President Dionne requested additional information in relation to the Board of Elections Department budget, including equipment repair costs. The Director of Financial Services explained that additional repairs and maintenance will be needed this year and Ryan Lyons, Director, Board of Elections Department, clarified that this is due to a higher number of elections occurring during calendar year 2026. Ms. Arpke also stated that the machines are getting older and require additional repairs. Mr. Lyons agreed and stated that the ballot machines were purchased in 2019.*

*Councilor Raposo and Mr. Lyons held a brief discussion regarding changes to the City's polling places that will occur in the future, and that these changes will reduce the costs within the department's Building Rental line item. The Director of the Board of Elections Department explained that formal documents regarding the changes in polling places will be presented to the City Council very soon.*

*Councilor Canuel and Ms. Arpke discussed the costs for machine maintenance and coding. Ms. Arpke explained that the cost is roughly $115 per coding program while the maintenance cost is about $225 per machine. Mr. Lyons also provided information regarding the Universal Serial Bus (USB) drives that are utilized for the machines. Councilor Canuel requested that a detailed document be provided to the Committee in relation to the Repair and Maintenance line item, which reflects a total anticipated cost of $19,000. The Director of the Board of Elections Department stated he would provide that information as soon as possible.*

*Councilor Camara and Mr. Lyons discussed the new polling place that will be utilized at the former B.M.C. Durfee High School. Mr. Lyons explained that the polling place will be located inside of the Robert J. Nagle Auditorium and clarified that additional information will be shared with the City Council within the next few weeks.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by President Ponte, it was voted 2 yeas, 7 nays, to recommend the City Council reject the proposed FY27 budget and request that the Administration adjust the revenues for the tax levy to 2% instead of 2.5%, with President Ponte and Councilor Peckham voting in the affirmative, and the motion failed to carry.*

*Councilor Pereira asked if Mr. Lyons could reduce his departmental budget in any way to assist in reducing the budget total. The Director of the Board of Elections Department explained that he would not be able to reduce the salaries or expenses in his office any further. Ms. Arpke explained that the department recently reduced its budget by $16,000 in relation to ballot printing costs.*

*Councilor Canuel stated that turnout for elections has significantly decreased and asked if the polling places may be adjusted to ease the travel burden on voters. Mr. Lyons explained that assigned polling places are dependent on the voter's zoned precinct. The Director of the Board of Elections also provided information regarding the travel assistance that the department provides on voting day for all elections.*

*Councilor Raposo requested additional information regarding the Department of Veterans Services budget, including the decrease in the non-Chapter 115 Veterans Funds and the elderly and veterans ride services. Talos Farris, Director of Veterans Services/Veterans Services Officer, explained that there is a need for emergency assistance for many veterans, and M.G.L. Chapter 115 funding, which relates to Veterans benefits, has income limits that disqualify certain individuals. Mr. Farris stated that he has worked to decrease the overall budget for the department but confirmed that the funds within the FY27 budget are comparable to other nearby* *municipalities. The Director of Veterans Services/Veterans Services Officer also explained that the ride service used to be supervised by the Council on Aging and it was transferred to his office a few years ago. Mr. Farris stated that this service assists elderly residents, as well as veterans, but that a majority of those utilizing the service are not veterans and the number of passengers remains high. Councilor Raposo expressed concern that the Department of Veterans Services is funding a program that helps non-veterans.*

*Councilor Canuel inquired if caseloads for veterans that are eligible for Chapter 115 funding have increased, as the budgeted amount has grown. The Director of Veterans Services/Veterans Services Officer and Director of Financial Services clarified that this funding is reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, so even if the total amount budgeted is overdrawn, the City will be able to reconcile the fund. Councilor Canuel also asked for additional information regarding veterans' quarters and memorial monument funding. Mr. Farris explained that the veterans' quarters services are dictated by state laws, and that the funding has not been used in large amounts due to unclear policies in years past. The Director of Veterans Services/Veterans Services Officer also explained that the City will be repairing or replacing multiple veterans' headstones in Oak Grove Cemetery prior to the end of this fiscal year.*

*Councilor Pereira and Mr. Farris discussed the 64 veterans receiving Chapter 115 funding and the 75% reimbursement rate for this financial assistance. Councilor Pereira and Mr. Farris agreed that restrictions on this funding should be changed, as many veterans earn a small total over the state limitation and are not eligible for assistance.*

*Vice President Dionne and the Director of Veterans Services/Veterans Services Officer discussed funding that is utilized for various types of events, parades and ceremonies. Mr. Farris explained that more days related to veterans are being recognized and the cost of services, such as sound equipment and musicians, have risen drastically over the years. Councilor Pereira made brief remarks regarding the need for more volunteer work by musicians for these types of events.*

*Councilor Peckham and Mr. Farris discussed ARPA funding that was allocated to the Department of Veterans Services. The Director of Veterans Services/Veterans Services Officer explained that the department had received roughly $230,000 but returned a total of $185,000. Mr. Farris stated that most of this funding was received prior to his appointment as department head. Councilor Peckham asked where the funding was transferred to as the capital should have remained in the department funds to assist veterans, and Ms. Arpke stated that she would obtain that information and share it with the Committee members. Ms. Arpke also stated that these funds were supervised by the ARPA Director, who recently resigned. Councilor Peckham stated that, after reviewing the totals that were spent versus the funds that were allocated, the Department of Veterans Services may be receiving too much funding that goes unused.*

*Councilor Camara asked if there were any budgetary reductions that would be possible within the Department of Veterans Services accounts to decrease taxpayer costs. Mr. Farris explained that small portions of the parade budget could be reduced, but otherwise the department does not purchase anything outside of its means for supplies. The Director of Veterans Services/Veterans Services Officer stated that the ride share program could be reduced if a new plan was created to serve the elderly but also clarified that an outsourced program may be more expensive.*

*A recess was held from 8:36 p.m. to 8:41 p.m.*

- Administrative Services
  *City Administrator; Human Resources; Management Information Systems; Law; Judgement and Claims*

*Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke held a detailed discussion regarding salaries within various departments, including those that are affected by bargaining agreements and Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA). Ms. Arpke clarified that the department head salaries and contracts are not affected by COLAs. The Director of Financial Services also explained that certain position salaries are amended to reflect the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke also discussed the typical percentage increases in salaries. Ms. Arpke stated that most adjustments are within the 2% to 3% range. The Director of Financial Services also clarified that a few bargaining agreements will be presented to the City Council prior to the end of FY26, which will also affect salary totals.*

*Councilor Canuel and Ms. Arpke discussed the existing Grant Writer position. Ms. Arpke explained that this position is held by one individual and that some department heads assist with the drafting of grants. Councilor Canuel suggested increasing funding for these types of positions to achieve a greater return in grant funding. Ms. Arpke stated that these positions can be funded entirely through grant funding and stated that she agreed with Councilor Canuel.*

*Councilor Raposo and Nicholas A. Macolini, Director of Human Resources, discussed Mr. Macolini's existing contract, positions within the Department of Human Resources and methods being utilized to lower costs related to health insurance enrollment. Mr. Macolini explained that his contract does not contain increases for CPI or COLA and only reflects an increase that was negotiated in the past. The Director of Human Resources also explained that there was one retirement within the department, and he is waiting to fill that position as it may no longer be warranted. Mr. Macolini stated that the City is now utilizing a new digital enrollment program to assist with the health insurance enrollment process for employees and the vacant position may no longer be needed or may be reduced to a lower pay scale.*

*Councilor Cadime and Mr. Macolini discussed the salary increases within the department, as two employees received a 2.5% increase in compensation. The Director of Human Resources clarified that, as one position was now vacant, additional tasks were assigned to the existing employees. Ms. Arpke also explained that this adjustment in compensation was related to the COLA.*

*Councilor Raposo and Tyler Antaya, Director of Management Information Systems (MIS), discussed various sections of the MIS Department's budget, including Mr. Antaya's contract increase, cell phone expenses, telecommunication costs, software services, third-party security services and online permit programs. Mr. Antaya explained that his current contract has a flat rate increase and expires in November of 2027. The Director of MIS also provided information regarding the yearly contracts for cell phones, as well as the increases in costs for cellular service due to the need for hotspots and program updates. Mr. Antaya provided information regarding fax and data lines that are still utilized by certain offices, such as the Department of Health and Human Services and the Fall River Police Department and explained that his long-term goal is to transfer these offices to an online fax service. The Director of MIS also explained that the City utilizes MUNIS as its financial software and that this software price increased by $60,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Antaya clarified that the City employees within Government Center assist with day-to-day troubleshooting within the offices, but that Micro Technology Solutions, Inc. (MTSi) provides third-party outsourcing for cyber security, maintenance and software updates. Councilor Raposo and Mr. Antaya discussed the fee for OpenGov listed within the department's budget, which assists with online application* submissions to various governmental departments. The Director of MIS clarified that this fee is charged by the outside software company, not by the City of Fall River, and Ms. Arpke explained that the additional cost is considered a transaction fee. A brief discussion was held between Councilor Raposo and Mr. Antaya regarding different ways the City website calendar could be improved, with emphasis on the need for a user-friendly mobile version.

Councilor Canuel, the Director of Financial Services and the Director of MIS discussed payment for software programs, which are often large annual payments that occur at the beginning of each fiscal year, as well as changes in this portion of the department's budget from FY26. Mr. Antaya explained that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act assisted with payments for software in the past few years, but those expenditures are now entirely in the City's operating budget for FY27. Councilor Canuel asked how many software licenses are being used for City offices, the public records request process in relation to the online software, computer costs and rental costs within the department. Mr. Antaya stated that all licenses purchased are in use and the software licenses include Adobe and Microsoft 365. Ms. Arpke explained that, while the MIS Department pays for the public record request software, the department does not process these requests and all digital inquiries are forwarded to the Law Department, unless they are related to email records. Mr. Antaya clarified that the City leases most printers and large plotters for offices that create maps, such as the Department of Engineering. Ms. Arpke explained that the decrease in the computer line-item funds may be an error in the budget software. The Director of MIS also explained that the department's advertising budget was utilized for an RFP process.

Councilor Canuel and Ms. Arpke discussed summer hours issued to a small number of employees. The Director of Financial Services explained that this is an old program that only applies to five employees and those who still have this benefit have been grandfathered in after the policy change. Councilor Canuel asked if there have been any discussions about using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to increase City efficiency. Mr. Antaya stated that AI programs are used for basic troubleshooting and that many boards and commissions have discussed utilizing AI software to transcribe meeting minutes.

Councilor Cadime, the Director of Financial Services and the Director of MIS discussed the various salary differences for employees within the MIS Department. Ms. Arpke stated that the salary totals are comparable with years of experience for the position. Councilor Cadime emphasized the need for equal pay grades. Ms. Arpke explained that the Director of Human Resources is working to create new payment grade systems for all employees. Councilor Raposo remarked that the highest paid employee in the MIS Department has reached the "not to exceed" limit of that position.

Councilor Pereira and Mr. Antaya held a discussion regarding cyber security and insurance, as other municipalities have experienced security breaches. Mr. Antaya explained that the City has cyber security insurance and Ms. Arpke clarified that the cost of that insurance is categorized under the Insurance Services section of the budget booklet.

Vice President Dionne and Mr. Antaya discussed the various equipment that is categorized under "cell phones" in the MIS Department line items, including telephones, police cruiser technology and hotspot devices on light poles outside. Vice President Dionne suggested creating a new line item in the budget to separate the cell phone costs from other forms of cellular technology.

Councilor Canuel asked if an independent technology audit has ever been performed and Mr. Antaya clarified that only cyber security audits have occurred within the MIS Department.

President Ponte and Alan J. Rumsey, Esq., Corporation Counsel, discussed Attorney Matthew J. Thomas, Esq., who works as outside counsel for multiple City departments, including the Law Department and the Collector's Office. Attorney Rumsey stated that Attorney Thomas is compensated through the "Other Professional Services" expenses account within the Law Department's budget. Councilor Raposo requested additional information regarding other expenses that are paid for from this fund. Attorney Rumsey explained that the City hires outside counsel, experts for court cases and uses the account to pay deposition invoices. Corporation Counsel also provided a detailed summary of ongoing lawsuits involving the City and stated that two of them will be actively litigated in court during FY27.

Councilor Raposo and Attorney Rumsey discussed the vacant Paralegal/Public Records position within the Law Department and how this new position would assist the office in processing all public record requests. Attorney Rumsey explained that an AssistantCorporation Counsel has been assisting with this matter, but ultimately one individual should hold this type of task. Councilor Raposo asked about the duties assigned to Assistant Corporation Counsel Matthew F. Burke, Esq., and Attorney Rumsey explained that Attorney Burke works limited hours but specializes in cases related to firearms.

Councilor Canuel and Attorney Rumsey discussed the proposed $40,000 to allow the City Council to hire outside counsel. Attorney Rumsey reiterated that he would not support this action and explained that, while the School Department has their own attorney, that lawyer is a City employee who works closely with the Law Department. Corporation Counsel also made remarks regarding the large costs of outside legal counsel utilized in the past and the strife that was generated in the Law Department regarding the hourly wages for outside counsel.

Vice President Dionne asked if the City Council required Corporation Counsel's permission to obtain outside counsel, and Attorney Rumsey confirmed that this was necessary. Vice President Dionne stated that the Mayor could create this account without input from the Law Department. Attorney Rumsey stated that outside counsel was utilized in the past due to staffing shortages within the Law Department, but that paying an hourly rate of $275 for an outside attorney to attend City Council meetings would be very costly to the City. Councilor Cadime stated that outside counsel is used frequently by the Law Department at similar hourly rates and expressed opposition to the legal opinion provided by Attorney Rumsey. Vice President Dionne reiterated that the City Council should have the right to obtain outside legal counsel services.

Councilor Cadime inquired as to how many lawsuits Attorney Rumsey had participated in while representing the City and Attorney Rumsey stated that the total was roughly five to ten cases. Councilor Cadime reiterated Councilor Peckham's concerns regarding a City Councilor being charged to obtain public records and stated that the compensation total for Attorney Thomas as outside counsel is large. Councilor Cadime stated that Attorney Thomas is hired to work on Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) Agreements, as well as real estate matters. Ms. Arpke confirmed that Attorney Thomas does work for many different departments and Ms. O'Neil-Souza clarified that a former attorney hired by the City had managed the TIF and TIE Agreements. A discussion occurred between Councilor Cadime and Corporation Counsel regarding the use of outside counsel for City departments and the hourly rates for these services. Councilor Cadime stated that the allocated $700,000 for "Other Professional Services" within the Law Department should be reduced to $0 within the FY27 budget. Councilor Cadime also expressed concern that no City employee within the Law Department was qualified to process TIF and TIE Agreements.

*A motion was made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham to recommend, that the City Council reduce the Law Department, Expenses, from $700,000 to $0.*

*Councilor Pereira stated that various attorneys are educated in different sections of law, such as real estate or criminal cases, and that there are third-party attorneys currently working on the City's lawsuit cases that are going to trial. Councilor Pereira explained that, if the $700,000 in funding for these attorneys was eliminated, the City would lose these cases in court. Attorney Rumsey agreed and explained that there has already been a large amount of legal review and preparation for these lawsuits and eliminating these services would result in dire consequences for the City.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules and allow the discussion to continue until 10:30 p.m.*

*A lengthy debate was held between Councilor Peckham and Attorney Rumsey in relation to a public records request Councilor Peckham had submitted for financial email records. Councilor Peckham stated that he was told he would need to pay hundreds of dollars to obtain records as an elected official. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff clarified that this original communication regarding a fee being applied to Councilor Peckham's request was incorrect, and the Administration worked to remedy this matter very quickly after speaking with the Law Department. President Ponte asked when the requested public records information would be provided to Councilor Peckham. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that she would work to share this information very quickly, but that it contained over 4,000 email files.*

*Councilor Camara and Attorney Rumsey discussed the ramifications of removing $700,000 from the Law Department budget. Attorney Rumsey explained that lawyers must be qualified in certain sections of law to be present in court and an attorney who doesn't follow those requirements is at risk of malpractice. Attorney Rumsey also stated that, if this were to occur, it would be very challenging to find any lawyers that would be willing to work for the City.*

*President Ponte stated that if the $40,000 is provided to the City Council to hire outside counsel, the City Council would not remove the $700,000 from the Law Department, Expenses, budget. Councilor Camara expressed concern regarding that statement, as the motion to reduce this budgetary amount was made by Councilors Cadime and Peckham, not by President Ponte. President Ponte stated that this would be a compromise between the City Council and the Law Department. A lengthy debate between President Ponte and Councilor Camara was held regarding this matter. Vice President Dionne stated that discussions regarding proper legal interpretation of the City code and City Charter must include outside counsel. Councilor Peckham emphasized the City Council's need to challenge the Administration and the Law Department on various matters.*

*A recess was held from 10:10 p.m. to 10:13 p.m.*

*President Ponte suggested that the City Council send a letter to the Mayor requesting an amended appropriation order to provide $40,000 to the City Council for outside legal services.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, to send a letter to the Mayor requesting the Administration fund $40,000 for the City Council to obtain outside legal counsel, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.*

*Councilor Canuel and Attorney Rumsey discussed the funds currently allocated for "Other Professional Services" and the ongoing legal cases that utilize this funding. Attorney Rumsey reiterated that, if this funding was removed, it would have catastrophic results for the City. Councilor Cadime noted that Attorney Matthew J. Thomas stated, at a recent Committee on Ordinances and Legislation meeting, that the City Council may control the appointment process by utilizing budgetary powers.*

*Councilor Canuel stated that, if the City Council reduced this funding and the City lost numerous lawsuits, the City Council would be responsible for the costs that would fall on the taxpayers. Vice President Dionne stated that this matter would be referred to the full Council for action and that the Committee on Finance is only making a recommendation for a future appropriation order.*

*Councilor Camara inquired as to whether he, alone, could obtain his own outside legal firm if he disagreed with the City Council's outside attorney and stated that in the past there was an outlined policy for utilizing legal services as City Councilors. Councilor Pereira requested that the City Clerk provide copies of this historic policy as soon as possible and agreed with Councilor Canuel that this action would have negative results for the taxpayers of Fall River.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 5 yeas, 4 nays to move the question, with President Ponte and Councilors Camara, Hart, and Raposo voting in the negative.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 4 yeas, 5 nays, to recommend that the City Council reduce the Law Department, Expenses, from $700,000 to $0, with President Ponte, Vice President Dionne and Councilors Cadime and Peckham voting in the affirmative, and the motion failed to carry.*

*A brief discussion was held between Councilor Raposo and Attorney Rumsey regarding utilizing additional City employees within the Law Department for specialty cases, such as real estate matters. Councilor Raposo requested a copy of all expenses within the "Other Professional Services" account over the past fiscal year.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to extend the budgetary discussions for an additional fifteen minutes.*

- Financial Services
  *Director of Financial Services; City Auditor; Analysis and Compliance; Purchasing; Assessors; Treasurer; Collector*

*Councilor Raposo discussed the vacant Finance Analysis and Compliance Manager position with the Director of Financial Services. Ms. Arpke stated that the long-term goal of the finance team is to hire an Assistant City Auditor with that funding in the FY27 budget. Councilor Raposo requested that, if a new financial position is being created, the City Council be notified of this plan as soon as possible. Vice President Dionne stated that she would support this vacant position being removed from the City code if it is not being utilized and also expressed support to fill the vacant Assistant City Auditor position and Councilor Raposo agreed.*

*Councilor Camara and Ms. Arpke discussed who would be promoted to her position if she were to leave the City and potential structural changes to the organization of the financial departments. The Director of Financial Services stated that she would need to consider that question, as the current financial team may not want to pursue her position. Councilor Camara stated that, while he understands this is a scenario question, the goal of the finance team should be to increase education for all department heads to ensure there will be a plan if a position ever becomes vacant.*

*Councilor Raposo requested information regarding the vacant Procurement Project Specialist position within the Purchasing Department. Trevor Coelho, Purchasing Agent, stated that he has performed interviews for this position over the past few months and an offer was made to an outside candidate, but it was declined. Mr. Coelho stated that the hiring process is still ongoing.*

*Councilor Cadime inquired as to who reviews the procurement documents to ensure the legality of the text. Mr. Coelho stated that a majority of procurement documents are made from established templates and guidance from procurement programs, but that when legal advice is necessary, the department utilizes Attorney Matthew J. Thomas. The Purchasing Agent explained that Attorney Thomas is often contacted for assistance with major contracts, such as the new solid waste contract or the contracts with businesses who use City-owned parking garages.*

*Vice President Dionne asked if this vacant position was affecting the department's day-to-day procurement operations. Mr. Coelho explained that the Purchasing Department has been understaffed, historically, and that since he began working for the City he has handled 32 bidding processes. The Purchasing Agent stated that nearby municipalities usually have multiple employees to manage the procurement tasks. Mr. Coelho also provided information regarding certifications for procurement agents and confirmed that the City is in compliance with all state laws regarding procurement procedures.*
*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to extend the budgetary discussions for an additional fifteen minutes.*

*Councilor Cadime requested clarification regarding the budgetary line item related to management consultants, which had a total of $45,000. Daniel R. Lane, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Assessors, explained that this funding supports property inspections that are required by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, which assists in avoiding large lump-sum costs in the future. Mr. Lane also stated that this funding is utilized for outside services, such as real estate contract services and outside legal assistance from Attorney Thomas. Councilor Cadime and Mr. Lane discussed Attorney Thomas' involvement with Appellate Tax Board cases as well as TIF Agreements. Mr. Lane explained that this fund is also utilized for consulting services for the City's MUNIS software.*

*Councilor Pereira made brief remarks regarding property tax exemptions that are available for property owners. Mr. Lane stated that the City Council recently increased the exemptions for seniors, veterans and disabled veterans and explained that the exemptions had increased from $490,000 to approximately $1,000,000 during FY26.*

*Councilor Cadime requested information regarding the expenses that are associated with bond titles, property tax titles and other legal matters within the Collector's Office. Mr. Schachne explained that the Collector's Office utilizes outside counsel, including Attorney Thomas, and clarified that most of the legal fees are recoverable through the tax collection process.*

*Vice President Dionne, Ms. Arpke and Mr. Schachne discussed the title of Treasurer-Collector, and Vice President Dionne commended Mr. Schachne for serving two City offices. Councilor Raposo and Mr. Schachne discussed changes in employee grades within the Treasurer's office and Mr. Schachne explained that these were amended through the collective bargaining agreement process. A brief discussion was held between Councilor Raposo and the Treasurer-Collector regarding various methods property owners may use to pay their property tax bills, including online services, lockbox processing and payment services offered at BayCoast Bank. Mr. Schachne explained that the current staffing within the departments is adequate but may change in the future if payment processing arrangements with BayCoast Bank change.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to table the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:59 p.m.*

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:
Agenda packet (attached)

Lauren L. Ellwood

Clerk of Committees

26

# City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Clerk

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

May 27, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Mayor Coogan:

At a meeting of the City Council Committee on Finance held on May 26, 2026, a discussion was held regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget.

Following that discussion, and on a motion made and seconded, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays to request that $40,000 be added to City Council Expenses in the Fiscal Year 2027 proposed budget for purposes of hiring outside legal counsel for the City Council.

Sincerely,

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEETING: May 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: Councilor Shawn E. Cadime

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff
Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
Daniel N. Aguiar, City Engineer/Planner
Stephanie MacArthur, Director of Traffic and Parking
Glenn Hathaway, Director of Inspectional Services
Tess Curran, Director of Health and Human Services
Fellisha Desmarais, Library Administrator

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

In accordance with a resolution adopted, as amended May 8, 2012, persons are allowed to address the Council for a period of three minutes prior to the beginning or at the conclusion of business in the Committee on Finance.

1. Citizen Input

C.J. Ferry, 300 Buffinton Street – Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Discussion
(Written communication submitted and read aloud by the City Clerk)

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to lift the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget from the table, with Councilor Cadime absent and not voting.*

2. Continue discussion of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget as follows:

- Departments carried over from the May 26, 2026, Committee on Finance agenda, if needed

*President Ponte stated that there were no carry-overs from the May 26, 2026, Committee on Finance meeting. President Ponte also requested that all Committee members focus on budgetary discussions and work to minimize questions related to departmental operations.*

*Vice President Dionne made remarks clarifying her statements during the May 26, 2026, Committee on Finance meeting in relation to the filling of the vacant Assistant City Auditor position. Vice President Dionne explained that this position would not increase the budget in any way, so long as the Finance Analysis and Compliance Manager position remains vacant.*

- Community Services

  *City Planning.*

*Councilor Raposo and Daniel N. Aguiar, City Engineer/Planner, discussed the vacancy of the Assistant City Planner position as well as the Administrative Clerk position, the salaries offered for these positions and the assignments of various clerical duties within the Planning Department. Mr. Aguiar explained that the Assistant City Planner position recently became vacant and that the department is working to repost the position online with the Director of Human Resources. The City Engineer/Planner also explained that retention is difficult for this position due to the limited salary level, which is currently $70,000. Mr. Aguiar also explained that the Administrative Clerk position has been vacant for a long time and that other employees in the office have absorbed those duties, such as clerking meetings of the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The City Engineer/Planner provided a detailed summary of the long-term plan to consolidate the functions of the Planning Department and Engineering Department, including staff training.*

*Councilor Raposo and Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, discussed the potential use of salary funds from the vacant Administrative Clerk position. Councilor Raposo suggested that the salary funds be reallocated to assist with overtime pay that is issued for after-hours meetings. Ms. Arpke and Mr. Aguiar expressed support for this budgetary change. President Ponte cautioned that the City Council cannot increase the budgetary allocations and that an amended appropriation would be needed from the Administration.*

*Councilor Peckham and Mr. Aguiar discussed overtime payments issued for meetings of various boards and commissions and Councilor Peckham inquired if these costs could be reduced to streamline the budget total. The City Engineer/Planner explained that the department is limited by the collective bargaining agreement, which ensures that the administrative employees receive no less than three hours of overtime pay per month. Mr. Aguiar stated that the only way to reduce this pay would be to reduce the employees' regular hours during the week and cautioned that decreasing this funding may result in operational challenges if an employee retires or is unable to continue attending the evening meetings.*

*Vice President Dionne stated that Councilor Cadime, who was unable to attend the meeting, requested she ask if the City Engineer/Planner utilizes any outside resources for legal zoning determinations. Mr. Aguiar stated that the Director of Inspectional Services serves as the zoning enforcement officer for the City and that any legal matters addressed by the Zoning Board of Appeals are processed by the Law Department. Mr. Aguiar stated that for specific matters, such as land takings, outside Attorney Matthew J. Thomas is often contacted.*

*Councilor Pereira and Mr. Aguiar discussed the current organization of the Department of Engineering and Planning and Councilor Pereira stated that a full-time City Planner is necessary for City development and funds from the vacant Administrative Clerk position could be used to fund this new position. The City Engineer/Planner clarified that the department is currently working to hire a new Assistant City Planner, not a City Planner, and he provided additional information regarding the hiring process. Mr. Aguiar also explained that the City worked to adjust the salary of this position to encourage additional applicants. Councilor Pereira expressed concern that overtime pay for employees is not applicable to their retirement totals.*

*Ms. Arpke clarified that this calculation for retirement must follow state statutes and overtime pay is not eligible to be included. Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff, explained that any changes to compensation practices would require consideration for all departments and employees and the financial impact on the City would need to be assessed.*

*Councilor Raposo and Ms. Arpke discussed the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Collective Bargaining Agreement that is utilized for employees within the Planning Department. Councilor Raposo and Mr. Aguiar also discussed how the department utilizes vacant position funding for overtime pay after all allocated funds for the overtime account have been depleted.*

*Councilor Peckham made remarks regarding the taxpayer funds that are being saved by having a City Engineer/Planner instead of two separate positions. Ms. Arpke stated that Mr. Aguiar's performance in both roles has reduced the necessary funding for both the Planning and Engineering Departments and Councilor Peckham expressed support to continue this type of employment.*

*Councilor Camara and Mr. Aguiar discussed the proposed budget for the Planning Department and the various sections of previous fiscal year budgets that have been eliminated over time. Mr. Aguiar provided information regarding past accounts for street acceptance costs that have been deleted from his budget, as the allocations are only necessary after a City Council vote to accept a road. The City Engineer/Planner stated that this new protocol of requesting a financial transfer for these acceptances only when necessary has reduced the use of taxpayer funding. Mr. Aguiar also stated that the only method that would reduce even more capital would be to eliminate the vacant clerk position, but that further staffing reductions may create significant challenges. Councilor Camara commended Mr. Aguiar's work to reduce the departmental budget and asked what the long-term plans are for succession in his role. The City Engineer/Planner provided a detailed overview of the 2022 reorganization plan for the Planning and Engineering Departments, and the structural employment plan to ensure all employees and department heads are properly trained and prepared for any change of leadership. Mr. Aguiar reiterated that, if this structure was changed to have a separate City Planner, the cost of employment would increase significantly within the City's budget in comparison to his stipend provided to perform both duties.*

- Community Maintenance
  *Engineering*

*Councilor Raposo requested information on various portions of the Engineering Department budget, including the current vacancy of the GIS Specialist position, the departmental reorganization to combine the Planning and Engineering Department staff and technical consulting services utilized by the Engineering Department. Mr. Aguiar explained that the former GIS Specialist for the Engineering Department recently transferred to a position within the Management Information Systems (MIS) Department and that the Engineering Department is working to hire a new candidate. The City Engineer/Planner stated that the former employee was very well trained and is still assisting the Engineering Department as needed until a new candidate is hired. Mr. Aguiar also explained that he and the Administration have been working to adjust employee duties and assignments to conform to this new organizational structure. Councilor Raposo asked that Mr. Aguiar attend a future meeting of the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation to discuss another proposed ordinance regarding departmental reorganization that includes some duties for his departments.*

*The City Engineer/Planner also provided information regarding the technical consulting services within the budgetary line items and stated that this outside service has only recently been used following a long-term absence of an inspector. Mr. Aguiar emphasized that this outside service is only being utilized as needed and that he is very conscious of the costs incurred with these services.*

*Councilor Canuel requested information regarding various portions of the Engineering Department budget, including the educational supplies line-item, the concept of tuition reimbursement and the need for additional grant writer positions in various departments. The City Engineer/Planner explained that many positions within the Engineering Department require additional training or continuing education for various programs, such as AutoCAD and Excel, and that he works to offer this education to all who are interested. Councilor Canuel suggested the City consider tuition reimbursement to assist with education. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that the Quinn Bill provides reimbursement for police officer training and Ms. Arpke explained that continuing education is typically less costly than full tuition. The City Engineer/Planner reiterated that additional employees would increase the efficiency of the department and potentially increase grant submissions to further lower budgetary expenditure. Councilor Canuel agreed and stated that additional employees who are knowledgeable about writing and submitting grant applications could result in additional projects and funding opportunities.*

*Councilor Pereira agreed that additional employees within the Engineering Department would be beneficial and requested information regarding the reimbursement role being undertaken by a former City Engineer. Mr. Aguiar explained that the position is being funded with Chapter 90 funding and that he will be assessing use of this type of consulting and related benefits. Mr. Aguiar also provided information regarding the road repair coordination tasks assigned to this position and stated that letters would be sent to excavator companies regarding their obligations to repair roadways.*

*President Ponte inquired as to how long an employee may utilize FMLA and Mr. Aguiar clarified that this matter is discussed with the Director of Human Resources and he is unable to provide that information. A detailed discussion between President Ponte and Ms. Arpke was held regarding road repairs and the timing of Chapter 90 fund reimbursements. The Director of Financial Services explained that the projects would be funded with borrowed capital, and debt payments would begin during Fiscal Year 2028, as outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan.*

*Councilor Hart provided insight into the FMLA process and explained that the matter is handled by both the Department of Human Resources as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and confirmed that Mr. Aguiar had no power over the process.*

- Community Services
  *Inspectional Services; Health and Human Services; Library*

*Councilor Raposo requested information regarding the Inspectional Services Department budget, including the line item related to gas allowances, "Other Professional Services," and "Other Purchased Services." Ms. Arpke explained that there have been adjustments for various departments regarding fuel stations for vehicles and that this department will now utilize the City gas yard instead of receiving gasoline cost stipends. Glenn Hathaway, Director of Inspectional Services, stated that the line-item for "Other Professional Services" is utilized for outside inspection assistance when City inspectors are ill or on vacation, while "Other Purchased Services" is used to fund contracts for landfill well monitoring and the disposal of abandoned campers.*

*Mr. Hathaway provided information regarding the increased costs for these services due to the towing of, and hazardous material within these campers. The Director of Inspectional Services stated that the City had recently disposed of two abandoned vehicles at a cost of roughly $4,000. Ms. Arpke clarified that this expenditure was not included in prior budgets, which resulted in the increased "Other Purchased Services" line-item. Councilor Raposo suggested that this funding be reduced from $68,000 to $55,000 to offset the budgetary expenditure. Mr. Hathaway cautioned that there are fluctuating contract costs for disposal, towing and maintenance companies and this reduction may have a negative effect on the City's ability to quickly remove these abandoned vehicles.*

*Councilor Peckham and the Director of Financial Services discussed the various methods used to provide gasoline to City-operated vehicles. Ms. Arpke explained that employees who perform property assessments, the Director of Minimum Housing and a nurse within the Department of Health and Human Services receive a vehicle allowance in their payroll instead of fuel access through the City gas yard. Councilor Peckham inquired as to whether there were any interest costs for gasoline credit cards and Ms. Arpke clarified that that type of payment is not utilized, and that placard cards are provided to some employees to access the gas yard, not credit cards. Councilor Peckham and Mr. Hathaway discussed the current method used by Building Inspectors to obtain gasoline, the monthly allowances of $200 and the overage policy, which reduces the employee's pay if their costs exceed the monthly limitation.*

*Councilor Canuel requested information regarding the "Repair and Maintenance – Vehicles," and "Dues and Memberships," line-items within the Inspectional Services Department budget. Mr. Hathaway explained that the department utilizes a 1992 pick-up truck for the Sealer of Weights and Measures and that this low mileage vehicle does require minimal repairs and maintenance to ensure proper operation. The Director of Inspectional Services also stated that the department utilizes professional memberships to obtain training and certifications that are required for their assigned duties. Mr. Hathaway stated that these training programs are also required for building inspector licensure and to obtain updated building code books. Ms. Arpke explained that the increase within these line-items is a result of annual increases for memberships and related fees. Councilor Canuel acknowledged the need for continuing education but expressed concern that the budget may be overestimating the necessary expenditure and requested that historic data be provided in relation to prior fiscal year costs for these memberships and fees.*

*Councilor Pereira requested information regarding demolition funding and staffing requirements within the Inspectional Services Department. Mr. Hathaway stated that an additional full-time building inspector would have a very positive impact on the department's efficiency, and that this matter has been discussed over the past few years. The Director of Inspectional Services also provided information regarding various demolition projects, including the former Fall River Police Station, and stated that there are a few other properties in the City that may need to be addressed within the next fiscal year. Ms. Arpke clarified that the line-item within this department budget for demolitions is also supplemented by a revolving fund and that private property demolition includes a property lien to ensure the City is reimbursed. Mr. Hathaway provided a detailed description of the demolition process, including asbestos abatement and the large costs associated with that portion of the project. The Director of Inspectional Services explained that a large property may cost up to $150,000 just for the asbestos abatement process. Councilor Pereira commended the Inspectional Services Department employees for their hard work within the City.*

*Councilor Peckham asked if the current demands for the Inspectional Services Department would be remedied with an additional building inspector. Mr. Hathaway stated that increased construction projects and residential complaints throughout the City have expanded the workload of the department and that an additional inspector would have a positive impact on the department. The Director of Inspectional Services also provided information regarding enforcement fines issued by the City for violations such as living in an outdoor camper and explained that an additional inspector would assist with this type of duty. Councilor Peckham suggested that other vacant positions within the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget could assist with offsetting the cost of an additional inspector. Ms. Arpke stated that the anticipated waterfront development in the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor project neighborhood may assist with additional revenue for another inspector following the completion of the anticipated state property transfer to the City.*

*Councilor Camara and the Director of Inspectional Services discussed the need for additional staffing within the department. Ms. O'Neil-Souza clarified that this matter was not addressed during the recent budget review discussions, but that the Administration could pursue further discussions regarding the hiring of an additional building inspector.*

*Councilor Canuel requested clarification regarding the Project Specialist position within the department and Mr. Hathaway explained that this position is held by an experienced employee who specializes in administrative, payroll, accounts payable and permit-related responsibilities. Ms. Arpke stated that this position is comparable to Assistant Director roles in other departments and said that this title may be amended in the future to properly reflect the tasks of the employee.*

*Vice President Dionne requested clarification regarding the costs of outsourcing inspectional services in comparison to hiring additional employees. Mr. Hathaway stated that independent contractors are more expensive and require additional coverage for on-the-job injuries. Vice President Dionne stated that she supports the hiring of an additional building inspector and emphasized that this may assist with reducing overtime costs while an employee is out on medical leave or FMLA. Ms. Arpke stated that staffing adjustments are considered when an employee is out for six months to one year, but that the Administration is focused on presenting a zero-based budget for FY27 and employing short-term staff may not be cost effective. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff stated that she would discuss this matter with the Mayor for consideration. Vice President Dionne reiterated that reallocating funds from other areas in the budget could offset any costs necessary to create an additional building inspector position.*

*Councilor Raposo and Tess Curran, Director of Health and Human Services, held a detailed discussion regarding the vacant Senior Aide position for the North End Senior Center. Ms. Curran explained that this part-time role assists with custodial services, meal preparation, event planning and programming and offers both morning and afternoon shift options. Ms. Curran stated that the vacancy creates staffing challenges for the senior center. Councilor Raposo expressed concern regarding the salary listed for the Director of Minimum Housing, as it exceeds the City ordinance "not to exceed" limit for this position. A detailed discussion was held between Councilor Raposo, the Director of Financial Services and the Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff regarding this matter and methods that the Administration is utilizing to remedy this issue. Ms. Arpke stated that the Director of Human Resources will be submitting proposed ordinances to adjust five positions that will need to be adjusted in relation to Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) to their salaries and that the total budgetary effect the changes will have on the FY27 budget would be approximately $6,600.*

*Councilor Peckham and the Director of Health and Human Services discussed the overtime line-item within the department budget. Ms. Curran explained that overtime compensation is utilized for events, emergencies and operation needs, which average about $20,000 per fiscal year. Councilor Peckham asked if volunteer work could be utilized to reduce this line-item and Ms. Curran stated that the department faces challenges obtaining adequate numbers of volunteers. Councilor Peckham suggested that the vacant Senior Aide position be eliminated to reduce the budgetary expenditure and stated that alternative approaches for these services should be explored.*

*Vice President Dionne made remarks regarding the salaries that are currently exceeding the "not to exceed" limitations within the City code and requested information regarding the auto allowances within the departmental budget. Ms. Arpke and Ms. Curran stated that the Public Health Nurse and Staff Nurse utilize the auto allowance funds as well as the uniform allowances as they travel around the City to provide medical services.*

*A discussion was held between Councilor Canuel and the Director of Health and Human Services regarding the line-items for "Dues and Memberships," and "Conferences." Ms. Curran explained that these funds are used when staff can attend continuing education seminars and clarified that the memberships are required to attend these events. Ms. Curran also explained that she was unable to participate in these conferences last year which is reflected in the lower total of funds utilized in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). Councilor Canuel requested historical financial data for the use of this type of funding be forwarded to the Committee members.*

*Councilor Camara asked if the Director of Health and Human Services could provide more information regarding the vacant Senior Aide position and volunteer opportunities within the department, as some viewers of the meeting may be interested in applying or participating. Ms. Curran provided information regarding the vacant position, which requires working for 19 hours a week with morning and afternoon shifts, and explained that volunteers must complete Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) checks and file the appropriate paperwork with the Department of Human Resources. Councilor Camara inquired as to whether there were any portions of her budget that could be reduced to save taxpayer funds. Ms. Curran stated that there were significant budget cuts during FY26 and that most of the financial support is now based on a zero-based budget and grant funding.*

*Councilor Raposo requested additional information regarding the contractual increases for the Library Administrator, retirement contribution allocations, security protocols and supply costs within the library's FY27 budget. Fellisha Desmarais, Library Administrator, explained that her contract is a multi-year agreement and is scheduled to increase in January of 2027. Ms. Arpke clarified that the retirement contributions for the library were previously misapplied in the mandated calculation process and are now budgeted separately from the library line items. Ms. Desmarais explained that the library has been utilizing police details to increase security in the building but that a long-term security solution is being discussed. The Library Administrator also provided information regarding the increased costs of supplies, including digital materials, e-books and vendor pricing changes. Ms. Desmarais explained that she would like to fill an Archivist position within the library but that she must obtain additional funding and wait for facility improvements to be completed prior to hiring a new employee.*

*Councilor Canuel and Ms. Arpke discussed the Natural Gas line item within the Library budget, and Ms. Arpke clarified that invoices were overpaid during FY26 and are reflected in the decreased budgetary amount listed. Councilor Canuel requested a copy of the payment ledger for these bills for further review. A detailed discussion was held between Councilor Canuel, the*

*Library Administrator, and the Director of Financial Services regarding the staffing and expenses for the Library's Bookmobile. Ms. Desmarais explained that the Bookmobile Section Head organizes all events, outreach activities, such as school and senior center visits, and assists with coverage in other areas of the library, while the Bookmobile driver is also a Library Assistant who helps with other library tasks. Ms. Arpke noted that maintaining service levels for the Bookmobile is necessary to sustain state aid funding, as that is tied to minimum spending requirements. Councilor Canuel expressed concern regarding two staff members being assigned to the Bookmobile and asked if one employee could drive the vehicle and then host the events. The Library Administrator explained that a second staff member is necessary for safety and program support, particularly for events involving children or those with large attendance numbers.*

*Councilor Peckham stated that security has been an overall concern for the library programs and asked if hiring security guards had been considered. The Director of Financial Services explained that this method was used in the past, but the police department was being called very frequently and the Administration determined that police details were a safer option for the library. Ms. Arpke also clarified that the driver also holds the Library Assistant role and is employed through a collective bargaining agreement and stated that overall costs for the library are being reviewed to reduce any unnecessary expenditure. Ms. Desmarais agreed and stated that the Bookmobile has reduced overtime needs on weekends.*

*Councilor Raposo made brief remarks regarding the history of the staffing within the Bookmobile, which began in Fiscal Year 2023 and received additional employees during calendar years 2024 and 2025.*

*Councilor Pereira stated that the Bookmobile program was a great asset to the City and required two employees as many events have high levels of attendance. Councilor Pereira commended the Library employees for their community service and made remarks regarding other resources, such as the bookstore and passport services offered within the Library.*

*Councilor Camara suggested that the Library Administrator and Acting Chief of Police discuss placing a Fall River Police Department sub-station inside the Library, as this would allow officers to complete paperwork and be present if an emergency arises. A discussion was held between Councilor Camara and Ms. Desmarais regarding potential revenue that the Library could generate with book sales. The Library Administrator explained that state laws prohibit them from profiting from the sale of sold items, but that fundraisers have occurred to assist with necessary facility improvements. Councilor Camara asked if the Library's budget could be reduced in any way and Ms. Desmarais emphasized that, while small budgetary cuts are possible, her priority is to ensure staffing and morale of employees remain adequate and clarified that the salaries offered to Library employees are dependent on collective bargaining agreements.*

- Community Maintenance
  *Traffic and Parking*

*Councilor Canuel requested information regarding several revenue and expense line items within the Traffic and Parking Division budget, including credit card fees, parking meter revenues, gasoline costs, snow stipends, electricity costs, and parking enforcement expenses. Stephanie MacArthur, Director of Traffic and Parking, and Ms. Arpke explained that the credit card fee revenue represents third-party processing costs for online payments and that the parking meter revenue projections are based on prior-year estimates. Ms. Arpke also stated that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue has minimal budgetary totals that must be included* *in each fiscal year budget for this type of income. The Director of Financial Services explained that current fuel price increases have increased the gasoline line item estimate for FY27, but that expenditure may change if the market prices decrease. The Director of Traffic and Parking clarified that the snow removal stipends are dictated within the collective bargaining agreement for employees who assist during snow storms. Ms. MacArthur explained that the City has been installing additional light-based traffic signals, which have increased electricity bills, and stated that these costs are expected to rise as additional signal apparatus is installed in and around the Route 79/Davol Street project area. The Director of Traffic and Parking also stated that the parking enforcement expenses are related to the IPS Group, Inc., system, which assists with ticket issuance, Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles integration, handheld ticket devices and kiosk supplies. Ms. MacArthur explained that the reported ticket revenue reflects the issuance of tickets, not necessarily the collected revenue of paid tickets.*

*A detailed discussion was held between Councilor Hart, Ms. Arpke and Ms. MacArthur regarding the City's goal to install additional speed tables to reduce speeding in various neighborhoods. Ms. Arpke explained that this equipment is being purchased with FY26 Free Cash funds, funding from the Capital Improvement Plan and available state capital obtained through the Massachusetts rideshare revenue program. Ms. MacArthur stated that the City would like to install permanent structures and that each piece of equipment costs roughly $8,000. Councilor Hart commended the installation of this speed table system. A brief discussion was held regarding the low number of Crossing Guards that have been hired by the City and Ms. MacArthur stated that the role is challenging to fill. Ms. Arpke agreed and stated that the daily hours are unusual and there are not many individuals who apply.*

*Councilor Raposo and Ms. MacArthur discussed the current parking rates in the City parking garages, as well as the parking meter fees. Ms. MacArthur and Ms. Arpke confirmed that they are currently working with the Administration to review the increase of certain parking rates in the City.*

*Vice President Dionne, the Director of Financial Services and the Director of Traffic and Parking discussed the state mandates that require the City to fund the Crossing Guard positions and Vice President Dionne suggested that half of that salary cost be assigned to the School Department budget, as the Division of Traffic and Parking generates a large amount of revenue that is then spent on these salaries. Ms. Arpke and Ms. MacArthur agreed that this funding procedure would be ideal, but that they cannot amend the current statutes within the Commonwealth related to this funding. Ms. Arpke also provided information regarding Enterprise Funds being created for parking revenue in other municipalities, such as New Bedford, MA. A brief discussion was held regarding the need to hire an additional Administrative Clerk and Ms. Arpke clarified that the Administration would need to discuss this with the union representatives who oversee the department's staff.*

*Councilor Pereira and Ms. MacArthur discussed the City's pay-by-phone parking application, which began in July of 2025. Councilor Pereira requested that additional signage be installed to inform the public of this option and inquired as to whether any traffic studies had occurred for narrow streets with parking allowed on both sides. Ms. Arpke stated that these studies are not currently ongoing. Ms. O'Neil-Souza clarified that she would discuss this matter with the City Engineer/Planner.*

*Councilor Camara and Ms. MacArthur discussed how parking fines may be paid, how the City enforces traffic violations and the funding of crossing guard salaries. Councilor Camara also asked if additional parking meters would be installed in the new Route 79/Davol Street project* *area. The Director of Traffic and Parking stated that kiosks have been purchased for this neighborhood and they will be installed as soon as possible. Councilor Camara asked if any portion of the budget for the division could be reduced. Ms. MacArthur stated that the office generates large amounts of revenue and focuses on public safety, and that the budget cannot be decreased without having a negative effect on those matters. Ms. Arpke also stated that a bid had recently been awarded for repairs for the Third Street Parking Garage and additional parking spaces may become available for rent. Ms. Arpke assured the Committee members that this information will be forwarded to the City Council very soon.*

*President Ponte provided an overview of the Committee on Finance meetings scheduled for June 1, June 2, and June 3, 2026, as well as the Public Hearing scheduled for June 2, 2026. Councilor Camara asked if there would be a formal presentation from the School Department next week and President Ponte stated that he would contact the School Department to obtain that information.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to table the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget, with Councilor Cadime absent and not voting.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:04 p.m., with Councilor Cadime absent and not voting.*

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:
Agenda packet (attached)

Clerk of Committees

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

| | |
|---|---|
| MEETING: | June 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.<br>Council Chamber, One Government Center |
| PRESENT: | President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;<br>Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo |
| ABSENT: | None |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff<br>Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services<br>Dr. Kathleen Smith, Interim Superintendent of Fall River Public Schools<br>Elizabeth Legault, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools<br>Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Public Schools<br>Kenneth C. Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools<br>Debby Sardinha, Communications Specialist, Fall River Public Schools<br>Al Oliveira, Director of City Operations<br>Christopher Hathaway, Director of Community Maintenance<br>Darren Medeiros, Director of Parks |

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

In accordance with a resolution adopted, as amended May 8, 2012, persons are allowed to address the Council for a period of three minutes prior to the beginning or at the conclusion of business in the Committee on Finance.

1. Citizen Input – None

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to lift the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget from the table.*

2. Continue discussion of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget as follows:

    - Departments carried over from the May 28, 2026, Committee on Finance agenda, if needed

- School Budget Presentation

*President Ponte inquired as to whether a presentation was necessary, and the representatives of the School Department stated that they were amendable to beginning budget discussions without a formal presentation.*

- Education

*School Department; School Transportation; Vocational School Assessments*

*Dr. Kathleen Smith, Interim Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools (FRPS), read a formal statement aloud celebrating the achievements of the FRPS and highlighted the budgetary planning process and increased student enrollment. Dr. Smith also provided information regarding retreats that are being developed to benefit teachers and the department's goal of actively recruiting and hiring additional staff.*

*Councilor Cadime commended Dr. Smith and Elizabeth Legault, Interim Deputy Superintendent, FRPS, for their leadership. Councilor Cadime requested additional information regarding the Net School Spending (NSS) requirements for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) and if these totals would result in any staff layoffs. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer, FRPS, explained that the School Department's goal is to avoid any layoffs for the upcoming fiscal year. Councilor Cadime and Mr. Almeida held a detailed discussion regarding the overall transportation costs for the schools, which will make up roughly 3% of the City's entire budget for FY27. Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding the lack of state reimbursement for these costs and suggested that the Committee request assistance regarding this matter from the Fall River Legislative Delegation.*

*Councilor Canuel asked if the Committee could also request financial assistance for the funding of Crossing Guards, as the City is providing these funds for the safety of schools. Councilor Cadime clarified that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would not provide state funding for the Crossing Guard positions, which are funded by a local indirect cost agreement. Councilor Pereira expressed support for this idea and stated that the Fall River Legislative Delegation needs to advocate for all Gateway Cities in the state.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted that the Committee on Finance send a letter to the Fall River Legislative Delegation requesting that they advocate for state reimbursement of transportation funds to Gateway Cities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a copy of which is attached and hereto made a part of these minutes.*

*Councilor Cadime and Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, discussed the budgetary discrepancies between the funds allocated for transportation costs between booklets, as the municipal budget total is roughly $900,000 lower than the total in the School Department budget. Ms. Arpke explained that the higher figure represented the School Committee's total that was voted upon, but following discussions with the Mayor regarding the district-wide redistricting and reorganization of bus routes, it was decided to reduce the original total due to anticipated cost reduction. Ms. Arpke and Mr. Almeida also provided information regarding the inclusion of various salaries within certain funding sections of the budget, which changes the overall total.*

*Councilors Cadime and Raposo requested clarification regarding the McKinney-Vento Reimbursement line item within the School Department's budget and how this affects transportation costs. Mr. Almeida explained that the total in the budgetary lines is the net reimbursement amount and Ms. Arpke stated that the City expects lower overall costs for transportation in FY27. The Director of Financial Services also stated that the current spending on transportation is lower than the budgeted totals for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).*

*Councilor Cadime and the Chief Financial Officer of the FRPS discussed the contracts for school buses and transportation and the potential financial shifts that may occur if the transportation reorganization and redistricting is not successful in reducing expenditure. Dr. Smith stated that, while that information is not currently available, she would work to provide regular updates of transportation costs to the Committee members. Councilor Cadime reiterated that there could be a potential variance of necessary funds of up to $1,500,000 and asked what would remedy this discrepancy. Councilor Cadime also emphasized that the budgetary meetings exist to discuss these matters and that the City and School Department should not rely on future financial transfers to properly balance necessary portions of the budget, as proposed transfers and appropriations are not guaranteed to be approved. Ms. Arpke clarified that the McKinney-Vento Reimbursement Fund currently holds a balance of several million dollars. Mr. Almeida agreed and stated that this account operates similarly to a grant fund and does not require formal City Council approval to transfer necessary funds and provided information regarding how long it takes the City to receive the related reimbursement payments for this fund. Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding the protocol for this fund and cautioned against using it as a back-up account for transportation costs.*

*President Ponte requested the exact total that the School Committee voted upon for the FY27 transportation budget. The Chief Financial Officer stated that the School Committee had submitted a proposed budget that was $3,000,000 more than the budget submitted to the City Council and stated that the Administration had decreased this budgetary amount. Mr. Almeida also explained that, regarding transportation costs, the School Committee had suggested a total of roughly $17,000,000, which had been decreased to about $16,100,000 in the budget that was submitted.*

*Councilor Raposo stated that the larger proposed budgetary total should be utilized for the School Department's FY27 budget to avoid the need for future financial appropriations. President Ponte asked how the Administration calculated the reduction to the final total for the School Department's budget. Ms. Arpke reiterated that the current year's spending is lower than projected for FY26 and that she was confident in the reduced baseline budget for transportation. Councilor Cadime inquired as to whether the Administration discussed the funding decrease with the School Department prior to it being decreased and the Director of Financial Services stated that this discussion did not occur. Councilor Raposo also inquired as to how the City can verify that the costs for transportation will decrease during FY27. The Interim Superintendent explained that there is currently no definitive answer, as the student enrollment for the upcoming school year is still active and there isn't a final total of students that will need transportation services.*

*Councilor Raposo and Ms. Arpke discussed the budget sections for Vocational Tuition, including the costs per pupil for Diman Regional Vocational Technical (RVT) High School and Bristol County Agricultural High School (BCAHS), as well as the effect that debt will affect these totals. Ms. Arpke stated that the cost per pupil for Diman RVT High School is currently $3,734, but when the new debt service is factored in, the total will increase to $8,797. The Director of Financial Services also stated that the cost per pupil at BCAHS totals $9,917, as fewer Fall River residents attend this school.*

*President Ponte and Kenneth C. Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer of FRPS, discussed that these tuition shifts were not factored into the preliminary budget presented by the School Department.*

*Councilor Raposo requested additional information regarding shifting paraprofessional positions to Special Education roles and the overall school lunch budget increases. Dr. Smith stated that they are working to increase Special Education teachers and that they have developed a personnel plan to begin shifting these positions. Mr. Almeida stated that he would obtain information regarding which schools would see positional changes during FY27. Mr. Pacheco stated that many schools will be receiving new kitchen equipment and upgrades. Mr. Almeida agreed and provided information regarding the three-month operational budget that is maintained in the school lunch fund.*

*Councilor Pereira, Ms. Arpke and Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff, discussed grant funding, available financial rebates and the reimbursement information that was provided by Gallagher Insurance, Risk Management and Consulting in relation to the health insurance costs incurred by the School Department. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that the health insurance costs for the School Department have increased by 8.4% and provided information regarding available rebates. Ms. Arpke also clarified that certain portions of these expenditures are included in the Insurance and Other Governmental Expenditures section of the FY27 budget, and that this matter was scheduled for discussion on June 3, 2026.*

*Councilor Pereira and Mr. Pacheco discussed the planned transportation contract and the potential for an escalation clause that would increase the City's overall costs if the fuel prices for the vehicles exceeded the contractual limit. The Chief Operating Officer of FRPS stated that the purchase of electric buses will help to offset the fuel use and clarified that, while the contractual clause is included, the transportation companies do not typically bill for all eligible fuel increase costs and only do so when the amount becomes very high.*

*Councilor Pereira, Dr. Smith and Ms. Legault discussed the recent notices that were sent out to teachers who have not yet completed their licensing requirements. The Interim Superintendent stated that they are currently reviewing all necessary certifications but emphasized that the School Department values all teachers and wants to help them succeed. The Interim Deputy Superintendent provided information regarding the 178 teachers who are currently working under certification waivers and clarified that the notices had simply asked for updates regarding their progress in obtaining licensure requirements. Ms. Legault stated that, so long as the individual was actively working toward the required certifications, they would re-issue all waivers to allow them to continue teaching.*

*Councilor Pereira requested additional information regarding the potential purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School and asked what type of budgetary amendments would be necessary following that transaction. The Interim Deputy Superintendent explained that updated materials regarding the proposed purchase had recently been distributed and that the revised version contains updated information regarding anticipated debt obligations. Mr. Pacheco stated that, if the building was purchased, the City would be eligible to participate in the Massachusetts School Building Authority reimbursement process and that the project would include roof repair, window replacement and updates to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning units. The Chief Operating Officer stated that the City would be eligible for up to 80% reimbursement and the Interim Superintendent expressed support for this project. Councilor Peckham and Mr. Pacheco discussed the process for obtaining MBTA reimbursement funds, and Mr. Pacheco clarified that the reimbursements occur after the project expenses are incurred.*

*Councilor Canuel, Ms. Arpke and Mr. Almeida discussed the McKinney-Vento transportation reimbursement line-item amounts for both FY26 and FY27, the cost per-student compared to a peer district transportation map and the total net positions included in this area of the School Department budget. Ms. Arpke explained that the actual expenses may be lower than projected, so a smaller reimbursement total would be transferred at the end of FY26. Mr. Aguiar clarified that he did not have the per-student transportation costs available, but that he would obtain that information and share it with the Committee members. Mr. Aguiar also explained that the employment figures originated from the budget voted upon by the School Committee and clarified that the total number of positions had increased from 15 to 20 over the past few months. The Chief Financial Officer stated that the updated documents provided at this meeting will have the most up-to-date information regarding the staffing totals.*

*Councilor Cadime expressed concerns regarding the differences between the projected and actual budget figures and asked if a detailed discussion had occurred between the School Department and the Administration prior to submitting the final proposed budget for FY27. Mr. Almeida stated that he'd need to review the proposed budget in-depth, as he does not agree with all the anticipated financial expenditures for FY27. Ms. Arpke stated that transportation costs are discussed throughout the year between the Administration and the School Department, but actual figures are not available yet and that hinders the clarity of the budgetary decisions. Councilor Cadime emphasized the need for inter-departmental communication and stated that the final budget totals do not seem congruent with the proposed budget that was voted upon by the School Committee. Mr. Aguiar stated that transportation costs have increased in recent years, as pre-kindergarten programs are expanding and district expenses are rising significantly. Councilor Cadime reiterated the need for better communication and stated that the current protocol is resulting in a budget that may not have adequate funding.*

*Councilor Hart and the Interim Deputy Superintendent discussed absenteeism in the FRPS, the number of students using school transportation and attendance officers who assist in enforcing attendance for students. Councilor Hart and the Chief Operating Officer of FRPS discussed the number of existing pre-kindergarten classrooms throughout different schools. Mr. Pacheco clarified that additional classrooms will be created if the City purchases the former Bishop Connelly High School.*

*President Ponte asked that the Committee members focus their discussions on the proposed budget, as the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School will be addressed at an upcoming meeting.*

*Councilor Hart recognized Mr. Almeida's work in the City of Fall River and wished him well on his new employment endeavor. Dr. Smith provided insight into the hiring process to find a candidate for the Chief Financial Officer position. The Interim Superintendent of FRPS also stated that she is working to increase discussions between the Administration and the School Department's financial team.*

*Councilor Peckham requested copies of the financial reports for the McKinney-Vento fund and other transportation funds that were utilized in determining the School Department's budget totals. Ms. Arpke stated that she did not have those documents with her and Councilor Peckham requested that the Committee hold a recess to allow the Director of Financial Services to obtain this information.*

*A recess was held from 7:23 p.m. to 7:36 p.m.*

*The Director of Financial Services provided aMUNIS report of the account summary for the McKinney-Vento transportation fund, which totaled $8,495,580.87, and the year-to-date budget report from the McKinney-Vento transportation fund and the Student Transportation fund, which totaled $13,238,739. Councilor Peckham stated that he was satisfied with the documents provided.*

*Councilor Raposo requested clarification regarding the custodial positions and the Technology/Cyber Security Coordinator position that were listed on the "Listing of unfunded positions and expenses," within the School Department budget. Mr. Pacheco explained that it was more efficient to move custodial staff to different schools throughout the week instead of hiring part-time employees to be assigned to each school. Mr. Almeida explained that other staff have assumed responsibility for the cyber security tasks.*

*Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke discussed the MUNIS documents that were provided in relation to the transportation funds, including the balance of approximately $800,000 in the School Department's accounts. Ms. Arpke clarified that an additional $300,000 to $400,000 is also available in the Circuit Breaker Fund. The Director of Financial Services stated that there are positive financial balances in all the transportation funds,*

*Councilor Camara commended Mr. Almeida and wished him success in his future endeavors. Councilor Camara also inquired as to how long the Interim Superintendent and Interim Deputy Superintendent would be working in the School Department. Dr. Smith stated that the School Committee is scheduled to discuss this matter during their meeting on June 3, 2026. Dr. Smith also stated that she intends to provide periodic "State of the Schools" updates to the City Council going forward.*

- City Operations/Facilities
  *Director of Operations; Facilities; Streets and Highways; Solid Waste; Parks; Cemeteries; Trees; Snow Removal*

*Vice President Dionne requested information regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project numbers 64 and 64a, which both relate to Lewiston Street Reconstruction, as well as project number 47, which relates to Capital Improvements – City Operations, included on the City ARPA Funds Overview list, and asked if all ARPA funded projects would be completed by the deadline of September 30, 2026. Al Oliveira, Director of City Operations, provided an overview of the renovation phases for the Lewiston Street garage and also stated that new vehicles are being procured with this ARPA funding. Mr. Oliveira also clarified that he has been working with the new Director of Community Maintenance to ensure all expenditures match the department's needs.*

*Vice President Dionne and the Director of Financial Services discussed the staffing changes within the Facilities and Capital Projects positions. Vice President Dionne noted that one full-time employee position was eliminated, but the salary expenditures had increased by about $122,000. Ms. Arpke clarified that the position was not eliminated, but transferred to the Fall River Police Department. Vice President Dionne and Mr. Oliveira also discussed the vacant electrician and plumber positions. The Director of City Operations explained that the available funding for these positions are is low and therefore the City has been unable to recruit qualified candidates. Vice President Dionne asked about the increase in the Building Rental Costs line item. Ms. Arpke explained that, historically, vehicles were budgeted separately but that the Administration had consolidated these expenditures in the budget, reflecting in higher reported rental costs. Mr. Oliveira also explained that this line item included leased spaces used for vehicle maintenance and repairs. Vice President Dionne and Mr. Oliveira also discussed the line* item titled "Other Additional Services," which represented costs for architectural and design services for Capital Projects.

Vice President Dionne and the Director of Financial Services held a detailed discussion regarding the longevity compensation columns throughout the budget book, and Ms. Arpke stated that some of this data is automated in MUNIS, while other information must be entered manually. Vice President Dionne stated that she would assist in noting which sections appeared incorrect in relation to previous fiscal year budgetary books.

Vice President Dionne, Ms. Arpke and Mr. Oliveira discussed staffing allocations and "Service Out of Rank" compensation listed for one of the department's Administrative Assistant positions, totaling $13,000. Mr. Oliveira provided a detailed overview of this employee's tasks, which include vendor payments for Capital Projects, change order processing and project administration. Ms. Arpke also explained that this compensation had been presented as a stipend in previous budgets but is more accurately classified as "Service Out of Rank." Mr. Oliveira also stated that 90% of the work performed by this employee is related to Capital Projects, while the remaining 10% of tasks are related to Facilities. The Director of City Operations also provided information regarding other Administrative Assistant and Clerk positions in the Facilities budget and explained that these employees work in the print room and mail room.

Councilor Raposo expressed concern regarding the vacant electrician position listed in the Facilities budget and suggested that this position be removed so the funding may be allocated elsewhere. Mr. Oliveira stated that this position cannot be removed without amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement and explained that the City would benefit from an in-house electrician. The Director of City Operations agreed that the offered salary total is far too low to hire qualified candidates. Councilor Raposo reiterated that the funding for this position was not being used and would be more beneficial in other sections of the budget. Councilor Raposo stated that he would make a motion to amend the Facilities, Salaries line item in the budgetary appropriation order. Mr. Oliveira stated that he would discuss this matter with the Director of Human Resources as this position has been vacant for six years. Councilor Peckham and Mr. Oliveira discussed the limitations for hiring candidates, as the department cannot hire apprentices and may only employ a journeyman or master electrician unlike the Fall River Police Department, who recently hired an apprentice because they have an electrician on staff.

Councilor Peckham requested information regarding the administrative staffing and the responsibilities that will be assigned if the proposed ordinance related to the reorganization of various departments were to be ordained. Mr. Oliveira stated that, if the reorganization occurred, he would be responsible for overseeing Capital Projects, including project planning, procurement of architects and designers, and project development. The Director of City Operations also provided information regarding the administrative tasks of processing payments and change orders. Councilor Peckham and Ms. Arpke discussed the potential absorption of various positions within the reorganization. The Director of Financial Services clarified that the proposed budget does not include any changes anticipated with the reorganization, as the proposed ordinance would need to be voted upon to take effect. Councilor Peckham and Ms. Arpke discussed the vacant position listed as Supervisor of Concrete and Asphalt, and Ms. Arpke clarified that this position was once held by the current Director of Parks. Councilor Peckham encouraged the Administration to consider removing the funding allocated for positions that have been vacant and are not necessarily needed.

Councilor Peckham, Ms. O'Neil-Souza and Ms. Arpke discussed the planned departmental leadership within the new reorganization of the Department of City Operations and the Department of Community Maintenance. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff explained that multiple functions had been assigned to the current Director of City Operations and that his salary totals have not increased to reflect this work. Ms. Arpke also noted that certain positions, such as the Cemetery Director, would be eliminated to reduce costs within this reorganization.

A brief discussion was held between Vice President Dionne and Councilor Peckham in relation to the expenditures related to the incinerator project that was funded with ARPA capital. Vice President Dionne stated that the project's budget increased from $14,900,000 to over $16,000,000 and that roughly half of the project funding has been expended. Councilor Peckham and Mr. Oliveira discussed the environmental impact of the incinerator and the plan to keep the lot covered. Councilor Peckham requested a written correspondence sharing the findings of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection inspection of the site.

Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke held a detailed discussion regarding the Administrative Assistant position that was receiving $13,000 in "Service Out of Rank" compensation, the timeline of this type of payment over the years and the need to amend this position to reflect the appropriate type of compensation, as none of the tasks assigned to this employee appear to be "Service Out of Rank." Councilor Cadime stated that he will most likely propose a reduction to the salary line item to address this issue when the appropriation order is voted upon. Councilor Cadime also expressed support for either reallocating the funding associated with the vacant electrician position or increasing the funding allocated to the position to improve recruitment efforts. Ms. Arpke made remarks regarding the limitations of collective bargaining agreements, salary steps and the reevaluation of various clerk positions during prior union negotiations.

Councilor Canuel, the Director of Financial Services and the Director of City Operations discussed the electrician and plumbing services line item, the tools budget and the rental costs of special equipment. Ms. Arpke stated that some funding is used for large machinery that needs to be rented and Mr. Oliveira explained that this machinery is utilized for building maintenance. Mr. Oliveira also stated that he is working to update the tools used within the City department. Councilor Canuel also inquired about the "Other professional services" account. The Director of City Operations stated that this line item assists with funding architectural, engineering and design services for the early stages of Capital Projects. The Director of Financial Services also clarified that these costs for designers occur prior to the project being authorized through Capital Project funding. Councilor Canuel and Mr. Oliveira discussed the increase in the "Generator Maintenance" line item. The Director of City Operations explained that there were many generator units throughout the City that require preventative maintenance and that he is working to continue this maintenance to avoid higher repair costs in the future.

Councilor Peckham and Ms. Arpke discussed the expenditures of the department, which had an overall decrease department-wide for the FY27 budget, as well as the need to eliminate or defund vacant positions. Councilor Cadime requested that a copy of the job description for the Administrative Assistant be provided for review.

Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke discussed the Special C/L-BA position within the Streets and Highways Division budget, which increased from $500 to $1,000 in longevity compensation, as well as the MEO Laborer 2A position which has no longevity compensation listed, unlike FY26. Ms. Arpke explained that this position has been budgeted across two different departments in the past, and is now listed in one single department, resulting in a larger total within the longevity compensation column. The Director of Financial Services stated that the *lack of longevity compensation for the MEO Laborer 2A position may be an error in the budget software and that she would review the matter.*

*Councilor Raposo, the Director of Financial Services and the Director of City Operations discussed the "Repair and Maintenance – Vehicles" line item, which had increased from FY26. Ms. Arpke stated that the expenditure on that account exceeded the budgeted amount in FY26, so the increase was necessary. Mr. Oliveira also provided information regarding the hiring of a new mechanic, increased maintenance costs and the age of the City's vehicles, which increase the need for repairs.*

*Councilor Pereira and Ms. Arpke discussed the ongoing collective bargaining agreement for this department, which has not yet been finalized. Councilor Pereira also asked if the City owns a road grader and Christopher Hathaway, Director of Community Maintenance, stated that the only machine owned by the City in the past was very old, from 1978 or 1979, and that the City has not purchased a new apparatus. Mr. Oliveira also clarified that this type of machinery will be more cost-effective if contractors are hired for work as needed.*

*Councilor Pereira and Mr. Oliveira discussed sidewalk repairs throughout the City and the potential use of third-party contractors to assist with this work. The Director of City Operations explained that other departments, such as the Engineering Department, received state funding to assist with large projects, but that the Streets and Highways Division focuses on small repairs and does not perform sidewalk construction as a volume that merits third-party vendors. Councilor Pereira emphasized the need for improved sidewalk infrastructure in Fall River.*

*Councilor Raposo asked if the FY27 proposed budget included the anticipated solid waste and recycling contract that is being finalized. Ms. Arpke stated that the budget does include estimated costs for the contract but emphasized that changes may be necessary if the agreement is amended from the original draft. Ms. O'Neil-Souza explained that the negotiations of the contract are being conducted by Corporation Counsel, the Mayor's Office, the Director of Inspectional Services and the Director of City Operations with a goal of finalizing the agreement prior to July 1, 2026. Ms. Arpke reiterated that she anticipates the costs listed within the budget will be congruent with the final agreement. Councilor Raposo requested clarification regarding various line items related to recycling. Ms. Arpke stated that the "Recycling" line item was budgeted for items that are recycled in the bins, including cardboard and aluminum, while the "Other Recycling" line item was providing funds to recycle other types of products, such as mattresses and electric waste. The Director of Financial Services also provided information regarding the "Other Waste Disposal" line item, which provides capital for the disposal of environmental hazards, such as paint and other contaminated items.*

*Councilor Raposo, Ms. Arpke and Mr. Oliveira discussed how the new solid waste disposal contract may affect yard waste collection methods and costs. The Director of City Operations explained that no operational changes are anticipated. The Director of Financial Services clarified that the total costs may be adjusted once the contract negotiations are finalized. Councilor Raposo requested additional information regarding the cardboard pilot program. Mr. Oliveira explained that the program has not expended any capital, which is good, but it also hasn't generated any revenue for the City, so the Administration needs to determine whether it would be beneficial to continue the program. Ms. Arpke also stated that the City has received a small number of commodity credits for the cardboard items but stated that the financial impact has been negligible. Councilor Raposo inquired as to whether the City was planning to perform an audit of all recycling and refuse carts. The Director of Financial Services stated that the City has utilized outside funding to replace these carts and Mr. Oliveira clarified that a formal audit of* *the containers is not currently planned. Councilor Raposo stated that this program was discussed at a recent meeting of the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation and asked why the audit was not being pursued. Mr. Oliveira explained that the audit could be incorporated into the upcoming contract agreement. Councilor Raposo and Ms. O'Neil-Souza discussed the City's planned protocol to prevent residents from violating trash and recycling regulations. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff explained that this matter is scheduled to be discussed during the contract negotiations for the new disposal services.*

*Vice President Dionne requested additional information regarding the City's expenses for yard waste disposal. The Director of Financial Services explained that previous contracts had separate trash, recycling and yard waste services among multiple companies and that the new proposed contract will consolidate these services with one vendor. Ms. Arpke stated that this consolidation may result in a higher cost for the City and that this will be closely monitored to ensure that alternative options are considered, if necessary. Vice President Dionne suggested that the City research other third-party vendors for yard waste disposal services, as that may assist in reducing the City's expenditure. Ms. Arpke agreed and stated that the Administration is waiting for the final contract totals prior to making any changes in the disposal portion of the Solid Waste budget. Vice President Dionne asked if Attorney Matthew J. Thomas, Esq., would continue to assist the City with legal matters related to these negotiations and emphasized the need to secure cost-effective agreement. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff confirmed that Attorney Thomas would assist the City with these negotiations.*

*Councilor Peckham asked why the Solid Waste Collection line item had increased to $10,050,000. Ms. Arpke explained that, in the past, numerous types of services were included in the former contract at no additional cost, and the new agreement will now be charging additional fees for these services. The Director of Financial Services stated that this increase is to reflect the total costs of services that will be rising. Ms. Arpke also explained that the other fees, such as the per-ton disposal fees, have also resulted in this financial increase. Councilor Peckham asked if this account funding should be reduced and Ms. Arpke clarified that the disposal estimates will be adjusted to remove school-related disposal costs and that the Administration is still reviewing how these changes may affect the City's overall expenses. Councilor Peckham expressed concern regarding the increase in costs for this portion of the Solid Waste Division budget. The Director of Financial Services stated that historical costs under the prior contract were related to the City's Pay-As-You-Throw program, which assisted in decreasing the volumes of solid waste and provided additional revenue to the City funds.*

*A recess was held from 9:06 p.m. to 9:10 p.m.*

*Vice President Dionne identified various positions listed within the Parks Division salary chart that were listed with incorrect longevity compensation amounts and requested that this matter be reviewed. Ms. Arpke and Darren Medeiros, Director of Parks, confirmed that they would review the listed compensation and provided information regarding various bargaining units who negotiate agreements within the Parks Division, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Vice President Dionne requested clarification regarding the various compensation totals for Foreman positions within different departments, as the salaries were very different between Parks and Solid Waste employees. Mr. Medeiros explained that the salary steps for employees of the Parks Division were removed from their collective bargaining agreement in 2023 and are now limited to Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA). The Director of Financial Services explained that the position classifications and job descriptions vary drastically between the different divisions, even if the titles are very similar. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that adjusting the salaries of* certain employees would result in salary changes throughout the collective bargaining agreements and stated, when reorganizations occur within departments, the Administration works to discuss salary amendments with employees and their unions to determine if adjustments are warranted due to new duties or classifications for the position.

Vice President Dionne inquired about a recent correspondence received from the Redevelopment Agency regarding the upkeep of landscaping in and around the Davol Street Corridor project, as the area is very large and new maintenance protocols should be implemented. Mr. Hathaway explained that he plans to discuss this matter with the Mayor as he agrees additional procedures are warranted to ensure the neighborhood is properly maintained. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff also noted that there are some trash receptacles in the area that will require further upkeep and that the Administration is working to remedy this matter. Councilor Pereira suggested that seasonal employees be hired by the City during the summer months to maintain this neighborhood. Mr. Medeiros explained that the Parks Division currently operates with 13 employees and manages a substantial volume of tasks.

Councilor Raposo requested clarification regarding the "Civic Celebration" line item within the Parks Division budget. Ms. Arpke explained that this funding is used for fireworks, supplies and barges. Councilor Raposo made remarks regarding the importance of maintaining funding for community events in Fall River.

Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke discussed various positions within the Cemeteries Division that reflected inaccurate longevity compensation and Ms. Arpke confirmed she would review the totals listed in this area of the budget. Councilor Raposo and Mr. Oliveira held a brief discussion regarding updates to cemetery fees and the increased cost of burial supplies.

Councilor Raposo requested clarification regarding the "Purchased Services" line item decrease within the Trees Division. Ms. Arpke stated that the City has received additional grant funding that can be used for these projects, so the City funding has been reduced. The Director of Financial Services explained that this grant funding provides $1,000,000 to be used over a five-year period and stated that additional ARPA funding has also become available for tree-related projects. Councilor Raposo asked if the line item could be reduced to zero and Ms. Arpke stated that the grant funding only covers the costs of certain projects, so a fund is still necessary for other types of expenditure. The Director of City Operations stated that the City currently has allocated $71,000 with these funds and that the program assists with the removal of fallen trees.

Councilor Canuel asked why the snow removal budget has not been increased following the Blizzard of 2026 and expressed concern regarding the lack of a long-term funding strategy for future snowstorms. Ms. Arpke explained that there are state laws the prevent municipalities from lowering this fund amount if it is ever increased, and many cities are cautious about increasing these appropriations, as they may not be needed if a mild winter occurs. The Director of Financial Services stated that the Fiscal Year 2025 expenditures for snow removal were well below the budgeted total. Ms. Arpke stated that the budgeting is not based on worst-case scenarios but instead are arranged based on total averages over multiple years. Councilor Canuel also noted that the salt and sand costs totaled approximately $29,000 and are not expected to decrease as they are used even when no snow occurs. Ms. Arpke clarified that reallocation of funds from other accounts may occur, as needed. Councilor Canuel expressed concern regarding the proposed financial totals for the salt and sand line item in the Snow Removal budget. Mr. Oliveira stated that, while he agrees that adequate funding should be allocated, the state budgeting guidelines are flexible for Snow Removal and agreed that *increasing the funding would prevent the capital from being used in other portions of the FY27 budget.*

*Councilor Cadime explained that these accounts often result in a funding deficit that is legal, as municipalities cannot estimate the exact amount of snowfall each year. Councilor Cadime also stated that no other city or town in the state raises this budget total, as it can never be decreased in the future.*

*Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke discussed the Massachusetts Department of Revenue – Division of Local Services' review related to the City's snow and ice expenditures. Ms. Arpke clarified that the letter received by the City states the matter is still under review, but that once guidance from the state is received, an end-of-year supplemental appropriation for this fund will be submitted to the City Council. The Director of Financial Services confirmed that, to the best of her knowledge, all vendors that served the City during the Blizzard of 2026 have been paid.*

*Vice President Dionne asked for more information regarding the Signal Division being relocated from the Fall River Police Department to the Department of Community Maintenance. The Director of Financial Services explained that, if the proposed ordinance related to the reorganization of the Department of Community Maintenance and the Department of Facilities is passed to be ordained, the Fall River Police Department budget will be reduced to reflect that division reorganization. Ms. Arpke clarified that the budgetary total will not change, the line items related to the Signals Division will just be relocated.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to table the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.*

<u>List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:</u>
Agenda packet (attached)
Packet re Fiscal Year 2027 School Department Budget,
provided by Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officers, Fall River Public Schools.
Packet re Former Bishop Connelly High School, provided by Interim Deputy Superintendent
Elizabeth Legault and Kenneth Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools
MUNIS Account summary for the McKinney-Vento Transportation fund,
provided by Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
MUNIS Year-to-date budget report for Student Transportation funds,
provided by Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
City American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Overview, provided by Vice President Dionne

James A. Wilbur(?)
Clerk of Committees

28

# City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Clerk

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

June 3, 2026

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Alan Silvia
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Steven J. Ouellette
State House, Room B1
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Carole A. Fiola
State House, Room 236
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Members of the Fall River Legislative Delegation:

At a meeting of the City Council Committee on Finance held on June 1, 2026, a discussion was held regarding the increased school transportation costs for Gateway Cities within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the challenges these municipalities face in relation to achieving required Net School Spending.

On a motion made my Councilor Shawn E. Cadime and seconded by Vice President Michelle M. Dionne, it was unanimously voted to request that that the Fall River Legislative Delegation advocate for the creation of a state reimbursement program to assist Gateway Cities with these school transportation expenses.

A state-funded reimbursement program would allow Gateway Cities in Massachusetts to reallocate the capital to their public schools to achieve the Net School Spending goals, or could be shifted to other vital public services, such as Police and Fire Departments.

The City Council Committee on Finance respectfully requests your support and assistance in working towards this reimbursement program. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me at 508-324-2220.

Sincerely,

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

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## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

| | |
|---|---|
| MEETING: | June 2, 2026 at 6:05 p.m.<br>Council Chamber, One Government Center |
| PRESENT: | President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;<br>Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo |
| ABSENT: | None |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff<br>Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services<br>Acting Chief J.T. Hoar, Fall River Police Department<br>Sergeant Peter DaLuz, Administrative Assistant, Fall River Police Department<br>Chief Jeffrey Bacon, Fall River Fire Department<br>Captain Barrett Castro, Fall River Fire Department<br>Chief Beth Faunce, Emergency Medical Services |

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

In accordance with a resolution adopted, as amended May 8, 2012, persons are allowed to address the Council for a period of three minutes prior to the beginning or at the conclusion of business in the Committee on Finance.

1. Citizen Input

Andre Lopes, 64 Hunter Street – Our City

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted to lift the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget from the table.*

2. Continue discussion of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget as follows:

- Departments carried over from the June 1, 2026, Committee on Finance agenda, if needed

- Public Safety
  *Police; Harbor Master; Fire*

*Councilor Raposo commended the recent Police Academy graduates and requested additional information regarding the Police Department's current staffing levels, vacancies and how the department is working to reduce overtime compensation. Acting Chief J.T. Hoar explained that the staffing funds within the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget include the new Police Academy graduates, as well as the thirteen recruits that are expected to enter the academy soon. Acting Chief Hoar also stated that the goal is to add an additional eight positions over the next year to compensate for employee retirements and promotions. Acting Chief Hoar noted that the Police Department is working to reduce overtime compensation with both the Fall River Police Superior Officers' Association, MCOP Local 1844, and Fall River Police Association, MassCop Local 1854. The Acting Chief of Police clarified that newer officers have less accrued vacation time, which assists the department to achieve adequate staffing availability.*

*Councilor Raposo also requested additional information for various line items within the department's budget, including "Other Professional Services," "Other Communications," and "Gasoline." Acting Chief Hoar explained that assessment centers and contracted investigations are funded by the "Other Professional Services" line item, while "Other Communications" provides capital for the Flock surveillance camera systems throughout the City. Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, explained that the "Gasoline" line item had been reduced from $250,000 to $230,000, as the department typically spends roughly $205,000 on fuel each year. Acting Chief Hoar also stated that, as employment numbers increase, the goal of the Police Department is to assign two officers to each cruiser, which will improve public safety without increasing gasoline costs. Ms. Arpke stated that the City's gas rate is roughly $2.70 per gallon, which is higher than usual with the current fuel market.*

*Councilor Canuel requested information regarding the Signal Division being moved from the Police Department to the Department of Community Maintenance. Acting Chief Hoar explained that the new Director of Community Maintenance was previously the leader of the Signal Division, and this division transfer would ensure that all duties and services are continued properly. Ms. Arpke also provided information on the Traffic Signal Replacements line item in the Police Department budget and the decreased funding for this account due to a lower expenditure on these funds during Fiscal Year 2026. Acting Chief Hoar explained that this account helped to replace damaged streetlights due to vehicular accidents. Councilor Canuel and the Acting Police Chief discussed the "Communications Lines and Equipment" line item, which funds the subscriptions for security cameras installed throughout the City. Acting Chief Hoar clarified that the City Council had provided additional funding to lease this equipment in the previous fiscal year, but a subscription payment is required annually. Councilor Canuel also requested additional information regarding the "Other Purchased Services" line item. Acting Chief Hoar explained that this fund is used for vehicle washing and decontamination services, traffic management software and software that provides information regarding vehicular collisions in Fall River. Councilor Canuel requested an update regarding the recently allocated funds for updated firearms for the Police Department. Acting Chief Hoar explained that the new firearms are anticipated to be delivered in October and explained that the ammunition will provide an overall cost savings. Acting Chief Hoar also clarified that the firearms themselves would be exchanged with no additional cost or savings for the City. Councilor Canuel and Acting Chief Hoar also discussed updates to furniture in various offices and the history of compensation practices related to the Executive Assistant position for the Chief of Police.*

Councilor Pereira requested additional information regarding the staffing of the Police Department, including the multiple vacant dispatcher positions, and the number of anticipated retirements during FY27. Acting Chief Hoar explained that there are approximately 15 employees who are nearing retirement eligibility, 10 employees on long-term leave, and a few employees who are on leave following the use of a firearm. The Acting Police Chief clarified that, of the 15 employees that are going to become eligible for retirement, there are 5 anticipated retirements for FY27. Acting Chief Hoar explained that finding additional dispatchers is very challenging due to current shift schedules and necessary training and stated that only four trainees may be hired at one time. Councilor Pereira stated that she supported the plan to increase the number of officers in the police cruisers. Acting Chief Hoar agreed and stated that the department is also working to develop neighborhood maps to identify neighborhoods where additional officer assignments would be beneficial.

Councilor Pereira and the Acting Chief of Police also discussed the costs of administrating a state-wide civil service exam to find a new, permanent Police Chief. Acting Chief Hoar explained that a third-party vendor must be hired for the exam and that the average cost per candidate is about $1,000, but that this cost may be offset by fees charged to candidates, totaling $250. Acting Chief Hoar stated that the funding for this process is still under review and Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff, confirmed that this matter has not yet been finalized by the Administration.

Councilor Pereira also requested additional information regarding the Harbormaster position, including the requirement for the individual to be a Police Officer, and additional staffing that may be hired over the next fiscal year. Acting Chief Hoar explained that the Harbormaster's funds are generated entirely by dedicated revenue from the docks and marina and explained that the Harbormaster position now requires Police Academy training to carry a firearm with proper certification. Ms. Arpke stated that there are separate funds for the Harbormaster expenses and revenues and Councilor Pereira requested that information regarding these funds be shared with the Committee members. Councilor Pereira requested information regarding any grant funding that would be received for the Police Department during FY27. Acting Chief Hoar explained that the department receives funding from the federal COPS Hiring and Retention Grant, as well as the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. The Acting Police Chief stated that these grants will assist with increased hiring of officers. Acting Chief Hoar explained that there are currently 218 officers employed by the City and that the FY27 budget would fund up to 224 officers. Acting Chief Hoar stated that the long-term goal of the department is to employ 240 to 250 police officers.

Councilor Cadime and the Director of Financial Services discussed the lack of employee buyout funding in the Police Department budget. Ms. Arpke explained that, while the Fire Department has included buyouts in their budgetary line items, the Police Department usually utilizes vacant position funding but acknowledged that this practice may need to change if the vacant positions are filled. The Acting Chief of Police explained that current staffing levels, anticipated retirements and grant funding assist with buyout costs, but agreed that this approach may need to be changed going forward. Councilor Cadime emphasized the importance of increasing staffing within the department to avoid increased overtime costs.

Councilor Cadime and Acting Chief Hoar discussed body camera funding, upgrades to the Information Management Corporation public safety software that is used by the Police Department, and the lower funding levels for bulletproof protective gear. Acting Chief Hoar explained that one year remains for the current camera program and clarified that the department may change the current public safety software contracts in the future. Sergeant

*Peter DaLuz, Administrative Assistant, Fall River Police Department, explained that the bulletproof vest budget line item will supplement existing grant funding to ensure that vest replacements that may not qualify for grant reimbursement can still be funded. Councilor Cadime and Acting Chief Hoar also discussed the department's expenses in the "Workers Compensation" line item. Acting Chief Hoar explained that the fund assists with various employee support services. Councilor Cadime inquired as to whether this included M.G.L., Ch. 41, §111F, which relates to Injured on Duty Leave, and Ms. Arpke explained that this type of leave is processed through a third-party provider. Councilor Cadime expressed concern that the Police Department was responsible for processing workers' compensation claims, as that produces a heavy workload and stated that this should be the responsibility of the Department of Human Resources or the Law Department.*

*Councilor Camara and Acting Chief Hoar discussed the potential installation of a sub-station for the Police Department in, or near, the Fall River Public Library. Acting Chief Hoar stated that he's open to this possibility, but that this development would be dependent on staffing levels within the department. The Acting Chief of Police also provided information regarding plans to conduct roll calls of officers in City parks to increase the visibility of the police officers and encourage community engagement.*

*Councilor Peckham agreed with Councilor Cadime and expressed concern regarding the financial strategy being utilized to cover the costs of employee buyouts within the Police Department. Councilor Peckham and Acting Chief Hoar also discussed increasing walking beats for officers, specifically in the Flint Neighborhood and near Old Second Street to enhance patrol operations.*

*Councilor Hart and Acting Chief Hoar discussed foot patrols funded by the Community Development Agency, and the future staffing needs that will occur following the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor project's completion. The Acting Chief of Police emphasized the importance of community engagement in and around this neighborhood to improve public safety. Acting Chief Hoar provided information on officer education, including the current reduction of reliance on funding from the former Quinn Bill, now known as the Police Career Incentive Pay Program, and instead providing educational opportunities to those who achieve longevity within the department to improve employee retention.*

*Councilor Pereira and the Acting Chief of Police discussed staffing challenges for police details, including restrictions within collective bargaining agreements that prevent officers from being assigned to details, as well as age limitations for the use of retired police officers for events and road work. Councilor Pereira also expressed concern regarding illegal e-bike and moped use in the City and asked how the Police Department is working to deter these activities. Acting Chief Hoar emphasized that public safety is the priority of the department, so chasing these small vehicles is not encouraged. The Acting Chief of Police stated that Flock camera technology will assist the department with illegal vehicle investigations without risking injury to those involved.*

*Councilor Cadime and Acting Chief Hoar discussed the sustainability of increased employment over the next few years when utilizing grant funding. Acting Chief Hoar stated that the COPS Hiring and Retention Grant, as well as the SAFER Grant, will assist with hiring new officers but that he is working closely with the Administration to determine how these new positions will be funded once the grant funding expires. Ms. Arpke explained that the hiring of grant-funded employees would be slow to ensure long-term financial sustainability and avoid layoffs in the future.*

*Councilor Camara and Acting Chief Hoar held a brief discussion regarding the history of the Harbormaster position and changes to this role to improve public safety. The Acting Chief of Police stated that requiring a police officer to perform the duties of Harbormaster ensures that the individual is adequately trained in firearms use. The Director of Financial Services also clarified that other positions under the Harbormaster would remain civilian positions. Councilor Camara and Acting Chief Hoar also discussed potential grant funding that would assist with hiring up to 19 new employees and methods that the department may use to extend this funding to future fiscal years. Councilor Pereira asked Ms. O'Neil-Souza if she had been involved in the discussions regarding hiring grant-funded police officers and the Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff stated that she did not participate in these discussions.*

*Councilor Canuel requested additional information on various line items within the Fire Department budget, including "Overtime," "Preventative Maintenance," "Other Professional Services," "Parts and Accessories," "Firefighter Supplies," and "Dues and Memberships." Chief Jeffrey Bacon, Fall River Fire Department, explained that overtime costs were significantly affected by the Gabriel House fire and explained that the City was required to expend FY27 state grant funding very early in the calendar year, during FY26, so this line item was increased to compensate for the decreased funding sources. Chief Bacon also stated that "Preventative Maintenance," and "Other Professional Services," assist with funding the Keltron system, which is a Wi-Fi mesh network used for commercial fire alarms. The Fire Chief also explained that the "Parts and Accessories" and "Firefighter Supplies" line items were related to the costs for apparatus maintenance and the replacement of aging thermal imaging cameras used to identify victims in a fire. Captain Barrett Castro, Fall River Fire Department, clarified that the "Dues and Memberships" line item reflects a subscription expense that was erroneously placed in the wrong line item.*

*Councilor Canuel and Chief Bacon also discussed a previous SAFER grant application that was not successful during FY26 due to the Fire Department submitting a request to hire five additional firefighters. Chief Bacon explained that a representative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency explained that this request was not high enough to ensure that the grant funding would have a meaningful effect on the firefighting capacity of the City. Chief Bacon stated that future applications should be submitted with a request to hire at least twenty new firefighters and stated that the City should plan to slowly generate funding for these positions to avoid layoffs when the grant funding expires. Ms. Arpke also provided clarifications regarding how the SAFER Grant funds can be used and stated that it cannot be applied to new, but existing positions.*

*Councilor Raposo and Chief Bacon discussed the staffing totals within the Fire Department. Chief Bacon explained that there are currently 194 firefighters and five clerical or custodial staff members, creating a total of 199 employees, including himself. The Fire Chief stated that there are four employees currently out on injury-related leave and that additional, new firefighters will begin employment at the beginning of July and will also be receiving their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. Chief Bacon stated that the Fire Department is working to hire additional staff to compensate for anticipated retirements. Councilor Raposo requested clarification regarding the "Total Additional Pay" column within the salary portion of the budget. Captain Castro explained that the compensation within this column is used for holiday pay reimbursement as well as uniform allowances for the department's mechanics.*

*Councilor Peckham and Chief Bacon discussed employee buyouts and anticipated retirements within the Fire Department during FY27. Chief Bacon explained that seven firefighters are expected to retire before January 1, 2027. The Fire Chief also explained that the vacation buybacks for the Fire Department assist with scheduling flexibility, as some firefighters choose not to use their guaranteed time off in exchange for other vacation time benefits and this helps to reduce staffing shortages. Councilor Peckham asked where the Fire Department keeps their rescue boat during the winter months. Chief Bacon explained that the vehicle is kept at Captain O'Connell, Inc., on River Street in Fall River and is stored in a way that allows rapid deployment into the water if necessary. Chief Bacon also clarified that, during the summer months, the boat is kept at Heritage State Park.*

*Vice President Dionne requested additional information in relation to Preferred Personal Days. Chief Bacon clarified that the collective bargaining agreement guarantees each firefighter one day off annually, without the risk of being ordered to come in, and the department must maintain a budget for this time off. Vice President Dionne also asked for details regarding the administrative positions within the Fire Department. Chief Bacon and Captain Castro explained that there is an Executive Assistant and one Administrative Clerk, who assist with administrative support and processing injury-on-duty claims.*

*President Ponte confirmed that the Committee members had no questions regarding the Fall River Emergency Management Agency.*

- Emergency Medical Services Enterprise Fund

*Councilor Raposo and Chief Beth Faunce, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), discussed the staffing of the EMS Department, which has increased to 110 full time employees during FY26. Councilor Raposo requested additional information regarding the changes in the salary projection column for FY27. Chief Faunce explained that, while the salary projections have decreased for FY27, the overtime expenditures have risen due to requirements within the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the department's 24-hour-on, 48-hour-off schedule. Ms. Arpke explained that multiple budgetary line items account for funds utilized for overtime compensation and that the Administration worked to clarify the differences between scheduled and non-scheduled overtime payments. Councilor Raposo, Chief Faunce and Ms. Arpke discussed the "Additional Pay" subsection of the EMS Enterprise Fund budget, which included funding for holiday pay, uniform allowances and on-call stipends. Chief Faunce provided additional information regarding the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program reimbursement line item, which reflects a recently finalized $450,000 reimbursement agreement. Chief Faunce explained that this program will provide home visits and process the atypical insurance reimbursement mechanisms for this type of care. Chief Faunce also clarified that this program operates at a zero net cost for the City of Fall River.*

*Councilor Canuel requested clarification regarding the program revenue related to the EMT School and EMS Vaccination Program, as there was a decrease in these totals from Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) to FY26. Chief Faunce stated that these programs were affected by the decreased demand for COVID-19 vaccinations but explained that the City continues to receive reimbursement funds for the vaccine services and there is one more anticipated reimbursement payment that has yet to be received. Chief Faunce also explained that the EMT School operates on a cost-recovery basis and will not show any revenue generation until all expenses are paid. The Chief of EMS also stated that she is working to develop an advanced EMT program in addition to the existing program utilized for training Fall River Firefighters. Councilor Canuel requested information regarding the laboratory processing expenses and data processing costs. Chief Faunce stated that the laboratory processing costs are related to the MIH program. Chief*

*Faunce also provided information on the increase in expenditures by the EMS Enterprise Fund during the beginning of new programs, such as MIH, and emphasized that the department will become more financially efficient now that new operational protocols have been created, which will be reflected in future budgets.*

*Councilor Peckham and Chief Faunce discussed the revenue generated by the MIH program. Chief Faunce stated that the current reimbursement program began in January 2026, and that only a portion of the annual revenue has been received, with more payments expected prior to July 1, 2026. The Chief of EMS explained that this program will guarantee $450,000 in revenue for the City each year and the agreement may be renegotiated for a larger amount in January 2027. Chief Faunce also explained that the PCG Reimbursement line item is related to the MassHealth grant program, which assists with generating revenue from ambulance services provided to those on state-funded health insurance. Ms. Arpke stated that this program provides one annual payment to reimburse the City of Fall River and that this payment will arrive prior to July 1, 2026. Chief Faunce emphasized that these reimbursements assist with costs associated with emergency responses and large amounts of 911 calls.*

*Vice President Dionne requested additional information regarding the increases in the Indirect Charges subsection related to Health Insurance and Retirement Contributions. The Director of Financial Services explained that the increase of EMS employees has affected these totals, as more than 35 employees have been hired over the past two fiscal years, and the benefit rates had not been significantly adjusted since Fiscal Year 2024. Chief Faunce agreed and stated that employment growth occurred slowly, but that adjustments for these line items were necessary and will remain more stable in the fiscal years to come.*

*Councilor Pereira commended the MIH program and stated that she has received a large amount of positive feedback from residents and members of the Fall River Legislative Delegation.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to table the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.*

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:
Agenda packet (attached)

Clerk of Committees

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

MEETING: June 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff
Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
Nicholas A. Macolini, Director of Human Resources

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

In accordance with a resolution adopted, as amended May 8, 2012, persons are allowed to address the Council for a period of three minutes prior to the beginning or at the conclusion of business in the Committee on Finance.

1. Citizen Input – None

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to lift the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget from the table.*

2. Continue discussion of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget as follows:

- Departments carried over from the June 2, 2026, Committee on Finance agenda, if needed

  - Insurance and Other Governmental Expenditures

*Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, provided information regarding the Fiscal Year 2027 Health Insurance Budget Calculation Details packet that she had provided to the Committee members. Ms. Arpke went over the total costs for health insurance during Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) and Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) and provided detailed information regarding recommendations made by Gallagher Insurance, Risk Management and Consulting for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27). The Director of Financial Services also provided clarification regarding various formulas that are used to determine these anticipated costs.*

*Vice President Dionne requested clarification regarding dental and life insurance benefit costs, as the packet included multiple line items, as well as different recipients of these benefits, such as the Fall River Redevelopment Authority (RDA), the Bristol County Training Consortium and the Community Development Agency (CDA). Ms. Arpke stated that the employer cost for dental insurance in FY27 is projected at $799,250, and the life insurance projection is $289,237. Ms. Arpke also clarified that, while the life insurance total is not provided by Gallagher Insurance, Risk Management and Consulting, it is included in the projections for FY27.*

*Vice President Dionne, Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke held a detailed discussion regarding how the health insurance costs are divided between the City and the employees, as well as retirees, and the calculations utilized to obtain these final cost totals. Nicholas A. Macolini, Director of Human Resources, and the Director of Financial Services explained that the employee pays 25% of the health insurance costs, while various governmental and enterprise funds cover the remaining 75% of these bills. Councilor Cadime provided information regarding the different sections on each page of the packet and the categories of insurance cost data that were included. Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke discussed how portions of these costs are also reimbursed by other employment groups, such as the CDA and the RDA.*

*Vice President Dionne stated that she reviewed the Fiscal Year Indirect Calculation packet, provided by the Director of Financial Services, and expressed concern regarding the health care cost total of $82,853 within the City Council office line item and inquired if this large sum was being supplied with funds from the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Enterprise Fund. Ms. Arpke stated that, while Enterprise Funds contribute to these costs, that number appeared to be unusually high and merited further review as it may be an error.*

*A brief discussion was held by the Committee members regarding this packet, as it had not been supplied to all Councilors. Councilor Camara requested that a recess be held to allow copies of these documents to be shared with the Committee members.*

*A recess was held from 6:20 p.m. to 6:26 p.m.*

*Vice President Dionne and the Director of Financial Services discussed the proposed total of $52,402,162 for the Insurance line item within the FY27 budget in comparison to the total of $49,685,710 recommended by Gallagher Insurance, Risk Management and Consulting, once the reimbursement from other organizations is received. Ms. Arpke explained that this higher total is typically utilized to avoid the need to use funds from the Employer Health Trust Fund. Ms. Arpke also stated that this practice will help the trust fund balance to grow.*

*Vice President Dionne and Mr. Macolini discussed the history of how these projections were used in calculating insurance appropriation totals for previous fiscal years, as there are often surpluses within this section of the budget. The Director of Human Resources explained that, while the recommendations are based on very accurate projections, the final funding decision is determined by the Administration. Mr. Macolini stated that the Administration is electing to use the consultants' higher recommended projection to avoid the need to draw capital from the trust fund reserves. Mr. Macolini and Ms. Arpke also provided information regarding the agreements between the City and the Public Employee Committee (PEC) regarding changes to prescription medication benefits to assist in avoiding rate increases for all insured employees and their families. Ms. Arpke reiterated that the higher budget total will allow additional growth for the fund balance. Vice President Dionne stated that the adequate reserve in the trust fund should be a priority for the Administration going forward and stated that the balance should be based on the average cost of insurance claims.*

*A brief discussion was held between Vice President Dionne and the Director of Financial Services regarding the methods of accounting for health insurance surpluses and Ms. Arpke clarified that it is never included in the Free Cash totals provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

*Vice President Dionne and the Director of Financial Services held a detailed discussion regarding the methods of calculating indirect costs between the EMS, Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds when determining the total costs for health insurance expenses. Vice President Dionne stated that the City Council's allocation of $82,853 does not match the estimated insurance cost per employee. Ms. Arpke stated that this may be a calculation error, but that the indirect cost totals do not reflect the total amount of funds used by each department and are based on a calculated average using the total number of employees, whether they receive health insurance benefits or not. Ms. Arpke also provided information regarding how the Water and Sewer Enterprise reimbursements are calculated in relation to usage within the department's shared services. The Director of Financial Services explained that certain positions, such as Environmental Police Officers, are within the Police Department, but provide services to the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund when inspecting areas near the reservoirs.*

*Councilor Cadime requested clarification regarding how the allocation percentages are calculated and Ms. Arpke explained that the total is determined by shared services, but not debt service, and are entered into a data sheet that is utilized by many nearby municipalities. Vice President Dionne stated that this calculation practice should be modified for clarity and Ms. Arpke explained that she could provide Committee members with the full spreadsheet used to calculate these percentages.*

*Ms. Arpke provided information regarding how the total is calculated for health insurance costs across departments, and how these totals are applied to the EMS, Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds, and noted that the calculations use average insurance costs not individual employee costs. Ms. Arpke also explained that this allocation is based on enrollment and historical averages of insurance costs and will never be exact to the needs of each fiscal year. Vice President Dionne asked how each Enterprise Fund's reimbursement totals were determined. The Director of Financial Services stated that the indirect costs were based on prior interdepartmental agreements used in past budgets.*

*Vice President Dionne also requested clarification regarding the discrepancies between the pension contributions for the General Fund and School Department between the documents provided and sections of the budget booklet. The Director of Financial Services stated that there may be errors in certain formulas within the packet provided. Ms. Arpke also emphasized that the Administration is working to improve communication with the School Department for future indirect-cost budgetary decisions. Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding the clarity of the Fiscal Year 2027 Indirect Calculation documents and Ms. Arpke acknowledged that this handout was shared for informational purposes, not as a formal presentation.*

*Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke discussed the indirect cost calculation method to determine the rates applied for Dispatchers and Facilities-related work for the Enterprise Funds. Ms. Arpke explained that the data is calculated based on the use of shared services among departments, such as Police, Fire and EMS, which all use emergency dispatchers, and then distributed to the appropriate departments. Councilor Cadime stated that the percentages listed in the document do not align with the charges shown within each department line item and Ms. Arpke clarified that the percentage totals are shared by multiple departments and that the grand total is accurate. Councilor Cadime stated that the EMS Enterprise Fund may be absorbing a* disproportionate share of indirect expenses. Ms. Arpke explained that this document was created prior to her tenure with the City of Fall River but stated that she can review the historic calculation protocol for future versions of these documents. Councilor Cadime stated that additional supporting documents should be provided, as the percentage calculation method is unusual and provided a brief overview of the typical methods used by other municipalities to determine these cost ratios. Councilor Cadime also requested additional information regarding the inclusion of administrative offices within the document and how the indirect cost totals for the Water, Sewer and EMS Enterprise Funds are determined for those departments. Ms. Arpke stated that the allocation model includes a range of governmental departments and that some are included or excluded from these allocations based on their financial functions provided to the Enterprise Funds, such as the Collector's Office, which processes water and sewer bill payments. The Director of Financial Services also stated that snow and ice costs are included in the indirect cost agreements and that a formal revision could occur to change the current funding protocol. Councilor Cadime reiterated the need for a more transparent method to determine these payments.

Councilor Canuel expressed concern regarding the significant increase in the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) assessment for FY27, noting that it has increased by $624,000. Councilor Canuel requested the reason for this increase and asked if the statewide fund distribution had changed. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that these assessment totals are decided at the state level and then shared with municipalities. Ms. O'Neil-Souza also stated that there may have been a change with grant funding support for the no-charge fare program and emphasized that amending this assessment is not within the power of the City.

Councilor Camara and Ms. Arpke discussed the total of $82,853 listed within the City Council health insurance indirect cost line item, the salary-driven calculations that are used to distribute total health care costs instead of enrollment numbers, and the inclusion of active and retired employees within various plan sections. Councilor Cadime stated that the calculations should be made using the number of employees that actively use the health insurance services as including the salaries of those who are not enrolled affects the total indirect costs significantly. Ms. Arpke reiterated that this is an established calculation that has been utilized for a very long time to estimate future costs and that the actual totals can be reconciled at the end of each fiscal year. Councilor Cadime emphasized that this type of calculation can result in increased Enterprise Fund costs, which are then passed on to the taxpayers through water and sewer rates. Councilor Cadime also stated that the EMS Enterprise Fund is paying large totals for Facilities services, but they are centralized in one location in the City. Ms. Arpke clarified that EMS does also have paramedics and technicians within various fire departments throughout Fall River, resulting in higher use of other facilities. Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke also discussed the shared dispatch payments between all emergency departments and agreed that these indirect costs were reasonable as the Fire Department, Police Department and EMS Department do share this service.

Vice President Dionne agreed that the salary-based allocation for health insurance indirect cost calculations should be changed to only include the salaries of employees who use the health insurance policies. Vice President Dionne also stated that this method of determining the total for these costs may result in inflated totals, as some employees are not eligible for this benefit, such as the City Councilors. Ms. Arpke explained that this calculation method has been used historically, and that while some employees are not enrolled in the City's health insurance plans, most of the departments listed within this calculation document have enrolled staff members.

Councilor Peckham requested additional information regarding the B.M.C. Durfee High School debt exclusion figures, as there is a discrepancy between the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) actuals of $5,517,614, within the Debt Service section of the budget, and the General Fund, Tax Levy total of $2,583,005. Ms. Arpke explained that the structure of the debt exclusion calculation and the actual receipts are different than the eligible totals, resulting in the different totals listed. Ms. Arpke also stated that the higher figure represents the total debt exclusion, while the lower figure represents the actual amounts that are being applied. Councilor Raposo stated that there was an amendment to this overlay in a previous fiscal year to prevent taxpayers from having a very large increase at once for these payments.

Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke discussed the balanced budget of the EMS Enterprise Fund. Vice President Dionne expressed concern that this budget may limit the EMS Enterprise Fund's flexibility in relation to future contractual increases, if no additional funding sources are available. Ms. Arpke provided information regarding a new scheduling and overtime policy within the EMS Department, which resulted in an overall increase of 4.5% in compensation totals. Ms. Arpke stated that this adjustment has been incorporated into the new budget and that the revenue from the EMS Enterprise Fund is increasing steadily to offset any additional costs.

Councilor Pereira, the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Financial Services discussed various collective bargaining agreements that have not yet been completed, including American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Council 93, Local 1202; Fall River Police Superior Officers' Association, MCOP Local 1844; Fall River Police Association, MassCop Local 1854; and the Fall River Fire Fighters, Local 1314. Ms. Arpke stated that a total of $400,000 has been allocated within the FY27 budget in anticipation of the new costs that will be incurred once these agreements are finalized. Councilor Pereira also inquired about the AFSCME, Council 93, Local 3177, collective bargaining agreement that was finalized in late 2025 and how that impacted the City's funds for FY27. Ms. Arpke stated that the 2.5% salary adjustments resulted in an increased cost of $144,000 for the City of Fall River. Mr. Macolini clarified that the pending agreements for the Fire Department and Police Department will be significantly larger and could range between $200,000 and $250,000, depending on the final negotiated terms, and that $400,000 has been placed in the budget to compensate for this potential increase.

Councilor Pereira and the Director of Financial Services also discussed the current debt totals for FY27, including the new Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School costs and those applied to the B.M.C. Durfee High School debt exclusion. Councilor Pereira expressed concern that many matters are funded with the plan to request additional funds later in the fiscal year, such as the planned renovations of the Third Street Garage. Ms. Arpke stated that this project will most likely be funded by debt and clarified that a bid for this renovation has been awarded, but no contract will be finalized until the capital is secured.

On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget to full Council for action.

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.*

<u>List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:</u>
Agenda packet (attached)
Fiscal Year 2027 Health Insurance Budget Calculation Details packet, provided by Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
Fiscal Year 2027 Indirect Calculation packet, provided by Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services

Lauren A. Ydlmaick
Clerk of Committees

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEETING: June 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff
Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
Christopher Murphy, City Auditor
Ian M. Schachne, Treasurer-Collector
Terenzio Volpicelli, Certified Public Accountant, Roselli, Clark & Associates
Elizabeth Legault, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools
Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Public Schools
Kenneth C. Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools
Kristen Farias, Director of Early Childhood, Fall River Public Schools
Dr. Sedgwick L. Harris, Ed. D., President, Bristol Community College, 777 Elsbree Street
Kristen Pavao, Founding Director, Argosy Collegiate Charter School Early College Program, 263 Hamlet Street
Kendra Soares, Evolve Academy, 460 Elsbree Street
Dr. Janet Schwizer, Evolve Academy, 460 Elsbree Street

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

In accordance with a resolution adopted, as amended May 8, 2012, persons are allowed to address the Council for a period of three minutes prior to the beginning or at the conclusion of business in the Committee on Finance.

**Presentation of Citations**

- Argosy Collegiate Charter School Early College Program Participants – Receipt of Associate Degree from Bristol Community College

*Councilor Pereira made remarks commending the hard work of the recent graduates of Argosy Collegiate Charter School who had earned an associate's degree from Bristol Community College. Dr. Sedgewick L. Harris, Ed. D., President, Bristol Community College, commended the achievements of those who participated in the Early College Program and emphasized that the beginning of their future success began with their first college degree they earned while in high school. Kristen Pavao, Founding Director, Argosy Collegiate Charter School Early College Program, also congratulated her former students and provided a detailed description of the program's purpose to assist all in obtaining higher education.*

*President Ponte relinquished the podium to Vice President Dionne at 6:25 p.m.*

- Evolve Academy – Services provided to veterans during 2026 Memorial Day ceremonies

*President Ponte presented the citation to Kendra Soares and Dr. Janet Schwizer of the Evolve Academy in recognition of their volunteer services on Memorial Day. Ms. Soares stated that this program provides further education regarding history, community outreach and memorial services to students. Dr. Schwizer stated that this outreach program will be expanding into its own school on Rock Street within the coming year and they look forward to offering additional services to students within the community.*

*President Ponte returned to the podium at 6:29 p.m.*

1. Citizen Input Time

Joshua Silva, 325 Pine Street - Walsh Pharmacy

*On a motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow Mr. Silva to speak for an additional three minutes, with Councilor Peckham absent and not voting.*

2. Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit prepared by Roselli, Clark & Associates

*Terenzio Volpicelli, Certified Public Accountant, Roselli, Clark & Associates, provided a detailed overview of the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) financial audit of the City of Fall River. Mr. Volpicelli clarified that this was not a forensic audit and reviewed the statements, receipts and financial management of the City's funds. Mr. Volpicelli provided information regarding the General Fund, which had not experienced any deficit or growth during FY25, statutory assessments, health insurance costs, public safety expenditures, and water and sewer operation totals. Mr. Volpicelli also stated that FY25 did not have large costs for Capital Projects. Mr. Volpicelli provided insight regarding City debt, the use of American Rescue Plan Act funding, state and federal grants that were received by the City of Fall River, as well as the status of revolving funds. Mr. Volpicelli also stated that the City's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability is approaching $689,000,000 and represents approximately 70% of the City's long-term liabilities. Mr. Volpicelli explained that the City's Moody Rating is A3, which is investment-grade, and that the City's net pension liability was funded by approximately 55%. Mr. Volpicelli also provided basic information regarding the status of the City's FY25 reserve accounts, including the Stabilization Fund and Free Cash.*

*Councilor Cadime requested clarification regarding the $218,000 reconciliation issue that was identified in the audit review letter, and if the matter had been resolved. Councilor Cadime also requested information regarding how long the discrepancy existed within the City's funds and what corrective action had been taken to avoid this issue in the future. Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, explained that this reconciliation had not yet been completed and that research was ongoing to determine the error within the City's accounting system. Ms. Arpke stated that this matter should be resolved by the end of this fiscal year. Ms. Arpke also provided information regarding the daily changes to various accounts and explained these changes can affect real time information obtained through financial software. Mr. Volpicelli clarified that his accounting team could not identify the exact cause of the financial variance and noted that other municipalities often encounter timing-related discrepancies. Mr. Volpicelli stated that $218,000 was not material enough to significantly affect the City's financial statements, but that this total was required to be reported. The Director of Financial Services explained that there are various types of financial actions that may have changed this total, including payroll-related entries to the City's software, but that the exact source has not yet been found. Councilor Cadime asked how often these financial totals are reviewed for accuracy and Ms. Arpke stated that the City performs monthly reconciliations.*

*Councilor Cadime, Ms. Arpke and Mr. Volpicelli also discussed the School Lunch Fund, which is limited to a three-month financial supply based on federal statutes and currently exceeds this limit. Mr. Volpicelli clarified that many cities and towns have the same issue and that there is no known financial penalty from the federal government for violating this financial limitation. Ms. Arpke also stated that she is working with the School Department to remedy this matter as it was an addressed topic while creating the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget. The Director of Financial Services explained that the excess funds could be used to address capital needs within the school lunch program and Mr. Volpicelli agreed that this would be an appropriate use of the capital.*

*Councilor Peckham entered the Chamber at 6:55 p.m.*

*Councilor Cadime requested clarification regarding the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (MCWT) and the concerns listed in the report letter regarding a lack of adequate communication with the City Auditor. Mr. Volpicelli stated that the liabilities had been accurately entered, but that various receivables had not been properly recorded. Mr. Volpicelli explained that this is a common problem in other cities and towns. Mr. Volpicelli commended the City of Fall River, as the tracking and processing program used for these payments is more efficient than those used by other municipalities.*

*Councilor Pereira expressed concern regarding the unresolved reconciliation of $218,000 and stated that, as Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) is almost over, this financial matter from FY25 should have already been remedied. Ms. Arpke stated that there are various suspected causes for this discrepancy, but that the exact item had not yet been identified. The Director of Financial Services also explained that there have been multiple staffing changes within the Auditor's Office over the past year, which has delayed the reconciliation efforts. Councilor Pereira emphasized the need for a clear explanation regarding this matter, as many constituents have reached out to the Councilors concerning this accounting error. Ms. Arpke clarified that the funding is not missing and that the concern is the lack of an appropriate assignment within the software system.*

*Vice President Dionne, Ms. Arpke and Mr. Volpicelli discussed the financial variance of $218,000, as well as the timeline to investigate where this funding should be listed within the City's accounts. Mr. Volpicelli provided information regarding other cities and towns that have experienced similar financial discrepancies but stated that this is a large amount of unassigned funding. Ms. Arpke clarified that the issue at hand is an error within the accounting software and that the funds are not missing. Mr. Volpicelli stated that the City's financial documents must be closed and submitted to the state no later than June 30th of each fiscal year. President Ponte requested clarification regarding the lack of reconciliation for a FY25 discrepancy, as it has been almost a year since the end of this fiscal year. The Director of Financial Services stated that this matter must be resolved by the end of FY26.*

*Councilor Canuel asked if there were any additional concerns from the accounting firm that were not listed in the submitted report. Mr. Volpicelli emphasized that his biggest concern for all municipalities is cybersecurity threats to financial software, as phishing scams and network security risks could significantly affect all aspects of the City's funds. Mr. Volpicelli also provided information regarding the future pension funding obligations, which currently have a target deadline of Fiscal Year 2040, and stated that many cities and towns are facing challenges with this matter and may benefit from state legislation to extend the deadline. Ms. Arpke explained that the City of Fall River's funding schedule extends through 2035 and that there is financial flexibility to extend this deadline to 2040, if necessary.*

*Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke held a detailed discussion regarding the FY25 discrepancy of $218,000 and why this matter has not yet been resolved, as it may affect the City's Free Cash certification. Ms. Arpke clarified that only $80,000 of the $218,000 may be withheld pending the resolution of this discrepancy. Councilor Cadime expressed concern that this could affect future funding for the City and requested information regarding internal controls and compliance with the City's accounts. Mr. Volpicelli stated that there were no concerns regarding these matters during the audit.*

*Councilor Cadime expressed concern that he had requested information regarding the City's Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) Access and Cable Related Fund twice over the past week and had received no response or information. Councilor Cadime also stated that this PEG fund has had capital appropriated into a special revenue account without City Council approval. The Director of Financial Services stated that she would provide these documents by the end of the week.*

*President Ponte emphasized the need for more prompt responses to the City Council's requests. President Ponte also stated that an amended FY27 budget appropriation order has not yet been submitted and that this matter should be the highest priority for the Director of Financial Services. Ann O'Neil-Souza, City Administrator, stated that the decision to delay the submission of the budgetary appropriation order, which has been drafted, was made by the Mayor.*

*Vice President Dionne commended the work done by Roselli, Clark and Associates on the FY25 Financial Audit. President Ponte suggested that this matter be tabled until the $218,000 discrepancy can be resolved.*

*On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to table the FY25 Financial Audit.*

*Prior to the discussion of item 3, Councilor Raposo stated that, as an employee of Espirito Santo Parochial School, which is operated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River, he would be recusing himself to avoid any risk of a conflict-of-interest. Councilor Raposo exited the Chamber at 7:18 p.m.*

3. Loan order of $29,800,000 for the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School property located at 373 Elsbree Street

*Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, provided a brief overview of the Debt Schedule Impact Analysis for the Former Bishop Connelly Site Purchase, which was distributed by Ian M. Schachne, Treasurer-Collector. Ms. Arpke clarified that these documents had been prepared by a third-party consultant and showed both the current debt schedule and the amended debt schedule to provide the costs of purchasing the former Bishop Connolly High School.*

*Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke discussed the debt service projections related to the retirement obligations, as well as the beginning of debt payments for this property purchase. The Director of Financial Services explained that the payments for this loan order, with an initial total of $490,000, would begin during Fiscal Year 2028. Ms. Arpke provided additional information regarding the debt schedule and annual payments listed for both existing and proposed debt obligations.*

*Councilor Canuel asked if these payments could be made monthly instead of the current semiannual schedule. The Director of Financial Services clarified that the semiannual payments are standard practice for all municipalities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

*Vice President Dionne asked if this increased debt total would affect future Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for the City and School Department. Ms. Arpke explained that those projects were not reflected in the schedule provided but remained part of the City's CIP submission.*

*President Ponte relinquished the podium to Vice President Dionne at 7:29 p.m.*

*Councilor Peckham inquired as to whether the City's debt for the new Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School was included in this debt schedule. The Director of Financial Services clarified that that debt was not included as it is not City debt, but that all related costs for the newly built school are included in the budget booklet and the Capital Improvement Plan packet. Councilor Peckham and Ms. Arpke discussed the annual Diman debt costs, the estimated interest rates over the next few decades and the total repayment costs that would be associated with the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School. Councilor Peckham expressed concern regarding the plan to increase the debt of the City of Fall River further, and stated that there are other infrastructure needs, such as roads and fire station renovations, that should be prioritized.*

*Councilor Pereira made remarks regarding the need for additional, long-term classroom space, and asked where else the School Department could place pre-kindergarten students if the former Bishop Connolly High School was not purchased by the City. Kenneth C. Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools, stated that other City-owned buildings, such as the former Wiley School, 2585 North Main Street, and the former Stone School, 1207 Globe Street, could potentially be utilized, but that they would require significant renovations and would not adequately meet the School Department's long-term needs for young students. Mr. Pacheco stated that the City's lease arrangement for the former Bishop Connolly High School will expire in 2027 and that a permanent solution to serve the students of Fall River is very important.*

*Councilor Peckham inquired as to how long the School Department has been aware of the need for additional space for pre-kindergarten students. Mr. Pacheco explained that, while growth was anticipated, the enrollment of students has increased very quickly, and additional classrooms are needed as soon as possible. Mr. Pacheco also stated that there are no comparable facilities in Fall River that will meet these needs other than the former Bishop Connolly High School.*

*Councilor Pereira and Mr. Pacheco discussed the land surrounding the school property, which could be used for recreation and conservation, as well as potential housing development. Mr. Pacheco noted that the facility would increase opportunities for the community while also maintaining security measures necessary for all schools. Kristen Farias, Director of Early Childhood, Fall River Public Schools, provided information regarding preschool enrollment, which is expected to exceed 600 students next year, and the need for additional classrooms. Councilor Pereira and Ms. Farias discussed the drop-off and pick-up locations being utilized now for students and parents and how this facility has remedied previous traffic challenges that occurred at other locations. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Public Schools, explained that there is no comparable building that is currently available within the City of Fall River and that this acquisition would benefit preschool and special education programs. Elizabeth Legault, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools, stated that consolidating the preschool programs into one location would provide significant benefits for students and that the purchase of this school would help to reduce the City's rental expenses. Councilor Peckham and the Deputy Superintendent discussed the factors contributing to enrollment growth, including the number of multilingual learners and students requiring special education services.*

*Councilor Cadime expressed support for the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School. Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke discussed shortening the debt term to reduce long-term interest costs. Ms. Arpke stated that this could be an option, but that it was best to plan for the worst-case scenario to ensure the City would be able to compensate for all variables in obtaining the property. Mr. Schachne stated that the projected interest rate of 4.5% within the anticipated debt schedule was intentionally conservative.*

*Councilor Cadime and Mr. Pacheco discussed the alternative facilities that could be used if this loan order was not adopted, including the former Wiley and Stone Schools, and the accessibility limitations in these structures for small students. Mr. Pacheco explained that, to meet the needs of the growing pre-kindergarten student population, the City would need at least 20,000 square feet of usable space and that leasing or constructing a replacement school would be very costly. Mr. Pacheco confirmed that the School Committee supports the proposed acquisition of the former Bishop Connolly High School and that he is awaiting the final appraisals for the adjacent lot parcels on the property, which could be used for recreational or housing use in the future.*

*President Ponte requested clarification regarding the Cardinal Medeiros Residences, which are located on school property and are included within a draft of a Purchase and Sales Agreement (PSA) presented by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River. Mr. Pacheco stated that the PSA has not been updated recently and would likely require many revisions if the City purchases the property. President Ponte emphasized that any future lease or license agreement would require City Council approval and requested that revised PSAs be shared with the City Councilors as soon as they are drafted. President Ponte also requested information regarding indirect cost agreements between the School Department and the City for this purchase. Deputy Superintendent Legault stated that the School Department is working diligently to remedy the indirect cost issues and will be working with the City's financial team going forward. The Deputy*

*Superintendent also explained that the School Department and School Committee are currently determining who will serve as legal counsel for the schools, and once that matter is resolved the indirect cost discussions will proceed. President Ponte and Ms. Arpke held a detailed discussion regarding the current debt service obligations, totaling about $13,000,000, and ensuring that this debt did not negatively affect any CIPs for the City or School Department. President Ponte also made remarks regarding the late submission of the Debt Schedule Impact Analysis for the Former Bishop Connelly Site Purchase documents, and the need to share this information with the Committee members in a timelier manner.*

*President Ponte returned to the podium at 8:12 p.m.*

*Councilor Camara stated that, if the former Bishop Connolly High School is purchased, the City should ensure that the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) still has access to the recreational facilities on campus, in perpetuity, ideally, as they contribute greatly to the community. Councilor Camara also made remarks regarding the traffic patterns on Elsbree Street and suggested that the City install fencing around the campus to ensure the safety of the students, as many nearby portions of the property contain bodies of water or wetlands. Ms. Farias explained that the students only access one section of the building and one parking lot, which may not merit the cost of the installation of fencing on the entire property.*

*Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke discussed the debt service projections and the annual debt levels that may be assumed by the General Fund. The Director of Financial Services explained that the goal would be to maintain approximately $13,500,000 to $14,000,000 annually to cover all debt obligations if necessary.*

*Councilor Canuel and Mr. Pacheco discussed alternative facility options, rental costs and long-term needs for pre-kindergarten educational space. Mr. Pacheco stated that the current lease agreement with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River was very advantageous as the cost was quite low, and that it would not be possible to find a rental space elsewhere in the City that was comparable. Councilor Canuel also inquired about the City's plan to relocate the current tenants of the rental properties within the Cardinal Medeiros Residences, located on school property. Deputy Superintendent Legault stated that the School Department will be reviewing this matter closely, as, ideally, no residents should be living on school property. Councilor Canuel suggested that the School Department relocate their administrative offices to the former Bishop Connolly High School if the property is purchased. Councilor Canuel stated that the sale of the current location at 417 Rock Street would generate additional revenue for the City. Mr. Pacheco explained that the current property on Rock Street was gifted to the City and there may be a reversion clause in the property deed for that structure to be returned to the original owner's family, resulting in a lack of income for the City. Councilor Canuel asked if the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River would still use portions of the old high school and Mr. Pacheco explained that this would be determined once a PSA is finalized. Mr. Pacheco stated that the School Department hopes to complete the acquisition by January 1, 2027, to ensure necessary upgrades can begin on time in relation to the following school year.*

*Vice President Dionne, Deputy Superintendent Legault and Mr. Pacheco discussed security systems that would be installed if the former Bishop Connolly High School was purchased. Deputy Superintendent Legault and Mr. Pacheco confirmed that card-access systems, surveillance cameras and alarm systems would be implemented for student safety. Vice President Dionne and Mr. Pacheco also discussed the large areas of wetlands surrounding the property and other areas that could be used for recreational purposes. Vice President Dionne stated that recreational organizations could rent athletic fields or facilities, which would generate* *revenue and that a special revenue account could be created. Mr. Pacheco stated that, while this should be considered, there are restrictions for when the public may use the school property, as they do not want to risk student safety. Mr. Almeida agreed that a special revenue account would be beneficial and should be considered.*

*Councilor Camara reiterated the need for fencing installation and the importance of renting facilities to local organizations. Councilor Camara stated that rental fee structures, security requirements, custodial services and community access should all be considered when purchasing this property.*

*Councilor Hart commended the School Department and the prioritization of early childhood education. Councilor Hart and Mr. Pacheco discussed the necessary maintenance of athletic fields, traffic impacts with the re-use of the former Bishop Connolly High School and how different types of student transportation would be utilized for young students. Ms. Farias stated that school start times will be based on third-party bus scheduling, as they will share the buses with other public schools in Fall River. Ms. Farias also explained that the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School will be beneficial to young students and will help to address the heightened need for special educational services in the City of Fall River.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to recommend the item be referred to full Council for action, with Councilor Raposo absent and not voting.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:46 p.m., with Councilor Raposo absent and not voting.*

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:
Agenda packet (attached)
Debt Schedule Impact Analysis for the Former Bishop Connelly Site Purchase, provided by Ian M. Schachne, Treasurer-Collector
PowerPoint Presentation materials re: the former Bishop Connelly High School, presented by Interim Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Legault and Kenneth C. Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools

Clerk of Committees

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: May 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann O'Neil-Souza, Chief of Staff/Interim City Administrator
Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
James Souza, Vice President, Board of Directors, Fall River Preservation Society, 263 Pine Street
Steven Long, Fall River Preservation Society, 263 Pine Street

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 10:59 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to take item 8a out of order.*

**ITEMS FILED AFTER THE AGENDA DEADLINE**
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: MAY 26, 2026**

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

8a. Mayor and order appropriating $501,300 from Community Preservation Act, FY27 Funding, Community Housing funds to the Fall River Preservation Society

*A motion was made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo to hold a recess to allow for the review of documentation provided by the Fall River Preservation Society for the proposed project. On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow James Souza, Vice President, Board of Directors, Fall River Preservation Society, and Steven Long, Member, Fall River Preservation Society, to answer questions.*

*Mr. Long explained that the Chair of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) was unable to attend this meeting but provided detailed documentation to the City Councilors regarding the proposed project. The representatives of the Fall River Preservation Society provided a summary of their project to purchase and renovate 604 Rock Street, information regarding the*

*Preservation Society's successful history in preserving older structures in the City and the inclusion of affordable housing units within the development.*

*A discussion was held between Councilor Raposo and the representatives of the Fall River Preservation Society regarding the conventional mortgage that would be used to assist with the purchase of 604 Rock Street. Mr. Long provided additional information regarding expenditure that has also been secured by the Preservation Society in addition to this proposed CPA funding, including insurance and developer fees. Councilor Raposo also asked if this structure would have a deed restriction imposed upon it due to the CPA capital if the project is approved. Both Mr. Long and Mr. Souza confirmed that a 25-year restriction will be placed on the property deed.*

*Councilor Canuel reviewed the documents provided and stated a document containing a different address on Rock Street had been signed by the Chair of the CPC. Mr. Long clarified that a typographical error had occurred and requested that the City Council continue to address the matter as a revised order would place a significant setback on the timing of the property acquisition. President Ponte explained that the proposed financial order presented to the City Council did not include the specific address for the proposed project and that this error would not affect the City Council's ability to vote upon the matter.*

*Vice President Dionne requested additional information regarding the planned affordable housing units and requested clarification that those who currently reside in the building will not be evicted once the purchase is finalized. Mr. Long explained that new lease agreements will be presented to the residents that will include limitations on smoking and pets, but that no eviction processes will take place and if residents choose to leave due to the lease amendments that will be entirely their decision. Mr. Long also provided information regarding the planned renovations to the façade of 604 Rock Street.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 8 yeas to adopt the order, with President Ponte abstaining.*
*Approved, May 28, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

1. Mayor and request for confirmation of the reappointment of the following to the Council on Aging:
   a. Barbara Jean

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to confirm the reappointment.*

   b. Susana Ribeiro

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted to confirm the reappointment.*

   c. Lorraine Sherry

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to confirm the reappointment.*

2. Mayor and request for confirmation of the appointment of Ken Schadegg to the Historical Commission

*On a motion made by Councilor Hart and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to confirm the appointment.*

3. Mayor and request for confirmation of the appointment of Orlando Rodrigues to the Planning Board

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to confirm the appointment.*

4. Mayor and communication to City Council re: POST Commission's Division of Police Standards review of facts and circumstances outlined in documents provided on March 31, 2026 to their Division

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.*

5. Mayor and loan order of $29,800,000 for the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School property located at 373 Elsbree Street

*On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 7 yeas, 1 nay, that the loan order be authorized to be published and referred to the Committee on Finance, with Councilor Peckham voting in the negative and Councilor Raposo abstaining.*

6. Mayor and veto of the proposed ordinance authorizing the City Council to hire outside legal counsel

*The City Clerk stated that the item must be tabled in adherence to the City Charter §3-7, which relates to Approval of Mayor, veto. Councilor Cadime asked when the City Council could address this veto and the City Clerk explained that it will be placed on the agenda of the next Regular Meeting of the City Council on June 9, 2026. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to lay the veto on the table in accordance with the City Charter.*

7. Mayor and the following appropriations:

a. $2,000,000 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Employer Health Care Trust Fund

*On a motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, to answer questions.*

*Councilor Canuel and Ms. Arpke discussed the necessity of the requested appropriation order and the timing of the transfer of funds to the Employer Health Trust Fund. The Director of Financial Services explained that this additional transfer had been requested by the City Councilors at a previous meeting and clarified that the appropriation could take place at the end of Fiscal Year 2026.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to adopt the order, with Vice President Dionne and Councilor Peckham voting in the negative.*

b. $1,700,000 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Diman Stabilization Fund

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, to answer questions.*

*Councilor Peckham and the Director of Financial Services discussed the Diman Stabilization Fund assessment, the initial financial impact of the debt payments, and the City's plans to maintain long-term fiscal stability while making necessary payments. Ms. Arpke clarified that the total annual payment for the new Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School debt is* *about $9,000,000 and approximately $5,200,000 of that total is classified as debt service for the construction, with the remaining balance assisting with enrollment and transportation-related costs for the school. Ms. Arpke also explained that the payment obligation can be maintained by the City of Fall River with existing revenues and funding from the Stabilization Fund following the anticipated adjustment to the tax levy.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay, to adopt the order, with Councilor Peckham voting in the negative.*

c. $2,336,175.90 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to General Fund Stabilization
*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.*

8. Mayor and Treasurer/Collector communication regarding the acquisition of property under tax possession located at 308 South Main Street, Parcel ID #I09-0009
*Councilor Raposo requested clarification as the fair market appraisal of this property is listed as $500,000, but other sources show a higher value of $665,000. Councilor Raposo requested that the City Clerk contact the Treasurer-Collector to provide clarification on the value. Councilor Pereira stated that the structure is also in disrepair, which could affect the market value of the property.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.*

**PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS**
9. Traffic Commission recommending amendment to the traffic ordinances
*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to refer the recommendation to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

**ORDINANCES**
Second Reading and Enrollment
10. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous
Section 1
One-hour parking
- Pleasant Street, North, 75 feet west of Ninth Street
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Section 2
Handicapped parking removals
- Chavenson Street, West, 25 feet north of Bedford Street
- Forest Street, East, 198 feet south of Park Street
- Plymouth Avenue, West, 20 feet south of Fifth Street
- Walnut Street, North, 124 feet east of Hanover Street

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through second reading and enrollment. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed to be ordained.*
*Approved, May 28, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

**RESOLUTIONS**

11. Committee on Public Safety convene to discuss safety concerns at Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) terminal

*Councilor Peckham stated that there have been ongoing safety concerns at a Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) terminal. Councilor Canuel and Councilor Peckham discussed the ongoing negotiation for a contract that would allow SRTA to hire an outside security firm. Councilor Canuel stated that this contract may remedy the safety concerns in this area of the City. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to adopt the resolution.*

12. City Council requests forensic audit of Community Maintenance operations related to bulky item sticker revenues and disposal fees from Fiscal Year 2022 to the present

*Councilor Peckham made remarks regarding his concerns regarding the and the incomplete recordkeeping. Councilor Peckham stated that funds ranging from $200,000 to $2,000,0000 are possibly unaccounted for, and that the City Council needs to pursue a forensic audit to restore public confidence.*

*Councilors Canuel, Peckham and Raposo discussed amending the resolution to reflect the need to pursue the forensic audit during Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), instead of Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) and how funding would be obtained to perform this investigation. President Ponte and the City Clerk confirmed that a total of $12,500 remained in the City Council's FY26 Outside Auditor account.*

*Councilor Pereira stated that, while she agrees that actions taken in the Department of Community Maintenance in years past were not acceptable, there is not enough evidence to pursue a legal case. Councilor Pereira also emphasized that the City's priority should be to avoid incomplete financial records in the future.*

*Vice President Dionne agreed that the necessary paper trail for this alleged misconduct is not available, and that it would be more prudent for the City Council to request that the State Auditor perform an outside audit of the Department of Community Maintenance, as that service is offered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at no charge. Vice President Dionne also stated that a resolution was adopted in 2025 requesting that the Administration audit individual departments, but that this matter was never acted upon. Councilor Cadime clarified that this procedure requires cooperation from the Administration and may not be a fruitful endeavor.*

*Councilor Peckham reiterated his intention to perform an outside, independent audit of the Department of Community Maintenance and also expressed concern regarding the integrity of the original investigation performed by the Fall River Police Department and the Bristol County District Attorney's Office.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff, to answer questions.*

*Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that the Administration worked to revise policies and procedures within the Department of Community Maintenance following the financial discrepancies that were discovered during Fiscal Year 2022. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff also clarified that she has no knowledge of the investigation by the Fall River Police Department or the Bristol County District Attorney's Office. Vice President Dionne and Councilor Canuel made remarks regarding the information they have obtained through media sources regarding this matter and various types of reforms of departmental policy that are now in place.*

*On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 2 yeas, 7 nays, to amend the resolution by striking out the existing three sections that begin with "Be it further resolved," and inserting it their place the following, "Be it further resolved that the City Council send a letter to the Massachusetts State Auditor requesting a forensic financial audit of the Department of Community Maintenance," with Vice President Dionne and Councilor Canuel voting in the affirmative, and the motion failed to carry.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 5 yeas, 4 nays, to amend the resolution by striking out, in the second-to-last paragraph, the following: "FY 2026 Operating Budget," and inserting in its place the following, "FY 2027 Operating Budget," with Vice President Dionne and Councilors Camara, Canuel, and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 4 yeas, 5 nays, to adopt the resolution, as amended, with President Ponte and Councilors Cadime, Peckham and Raposo voting in the affirmative, and the motion failed to carry.*

13. Committee on Ordinances and Legislation convene to amend ordinance for the naming of City buildings, parks, recreational facilities and other public properties

*Councilor Peckham stated that he had concerns with the process by which public places are named and discussed this matter with the City Clerk who advised that amendments could be made to City code §66-186, which relates to Naming or renaming of streets, parks, buildings or other property.*

*Councilor Canuel asked if the existing ordinance restricted an elected official from submitting a request for a name change of streets or parks. The City Clerk clarified that the current ordinance only provides information for how private citizens may submit a request and that including revised language to also include elected officials could resolve the concerns.*

*Councilor Raposo requested that a revised ordinance be prepared by Councilor Peckham prior to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation addressing this matter and Councilor Peckham was amenable to this request. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 9 yeas to adopt the resolution.*

**CITATIONS**

14. Police Chief Kelly Furtado – 2026 Spirit of Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement Lifetime Achievement Award

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted that the citation to be accepted and placed on file.*

15. First Responders – Emergency Medical Services Week

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the citation to be accepted and placed on file.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to take items 16 through 18 together.*

**ORDERS – HEARINGS**

Jointly Owned Pole Locations

16. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., King Philip Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
17. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Meridian Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
18. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., New Boston Road – One (1) new jointly owned pole location

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the orders.*

*Approved, May 28, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to take items 19 through 22 together.*

**ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS**

19. Police Chief's Report on Licenses
    Taxicab Drivers
    Ricardo Raposa    Michael H. Souza

20. Auto Body Shop License Renewal
    Daniel Aguiar d/b/a Advanced Collision Center and Sales, 39 Eleventh Street

21. Auto Repair Shop License Renewals
    Geoffrey Brisbon d/b/a Brisbon Diesel Service, Inc., 2524 North Main Street
    Jonathan Manchester d/b/a Manchester Automotive, 67 Kay Street

22. Auto Repair Shop License Transfer
    License no. 359 located at 59 North Quarry Street from James Andrews d/b/a 508 Auto Sales & Repair to Pablo Dayvid Rodrigues Silva d/b/a Brothers Auto Sales & Services, Inc.

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to adopt the orders.*

*Items 20 through 22:*
*Approved, May 28, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

**COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS**

23. Claims

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel.*

24. Assistant Attorney General response to Open Meeting Law complaints filed by Patrick Higgins and Rene Brown re: April 8, 2025 City Council meeting

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.*

25. Drainlayer Licenses
Daniels Asphalt Services, Inc.
Geologic Earth Exploration, Inc.
Perfected Construction LLC
S. Oliveira Construction Corp.
Thermo-Mechanical Systems Inc.

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to approve the drainlayer applications.*

26. Planning Board Minutes – April 8, 2026
*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the minutes be accepted and placed on file.*

City Council Minutes
27. Committee on Finance – April 28, 2026
*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes.*

28. Regular Meeting of the City Council – April 28, 2026
*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes.*

**BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES** – None

## TABLED MATTERS

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to lift item 9a from the table.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**
Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:
Adoption:
9a. Resolution – City Council pursues legal action to get a legal determination from a judge on the City Council's authority to confirm reappointments, the City Council's jurisdiction to investigate City departments and the City Council's authority to hire outside agencies to assist with investigations

*A discussion was held between President Ponte, Vice President Dionne, Councilor Cadime and Councilor Canuel regarding this matter and the lack of response from Corporation Counsel in relation to potentially referring the matter to a third-party attorney. President Ponte confirmed that no response had been received since the Special Meeting of the City Council held on May 19, 2026. Vice President Dionne stated that legal opinions have been submitted in an untimely manner limiting the City Council's opportunity to review the document. Councilor Cadime expressed disapproval of the legal interpretations provided by Corporation Counsel regarding matters in relation to the jurisdiction of the City Council. Councilor Canuel stated that the matter should be tabled until this information is received and stated that he would not support his resolution due to the lack of a full financial plan to fund outside legal representation.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 4 yeas, 5 nays, to table the resolution, with Councilors Camara, Canuel, Hart and Pereira voting in the affirmative, and the motion failed to carry.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 5 yeas, 4 nays, to adopt the resolution, with Councilors Camara, Canuel, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative.*

**OTHER POTENTIAL MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (if received):**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:

First reading, as amended

9b. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Violations and penalties

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading, as amended.*

*A brief recess was held from 12:07 a.m. to 12:08 a.m. for the signing of the Traffic ordinance.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 12:09 a.m.*

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

Documentation provided by the Fall River Preservation Society regarding the purchase of 604 Rock Street

A true copy Attest:

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite

City Clerk

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: June 3, 2026, at 6:05 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: None

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

1. Citizen Input Time – None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**
Committee on Finance recommending action:
2. Order – Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget
*President Ponte explained that he and the Mayor have discussed the possibility of including $40,000 in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget to be used for outside counsel services for the City Council. President Ponte stated that the Mayor offered to appropriate these funds, but that they must be allocated to an account within the Law Department.*

*Vice President Dionne made remarks regarding her discussion with the Administration regarding this matter and emphasized that the funding needs to be placed in a City Council expense account to avoid conflict of interest with Corporation Counsel. Vice President Dionne also stated that, when these funds were provided to the City Council in the past, there was a specific policy for utilizing the account. President Ponte agreed and reiterated that the Mayor is willing to compromise on providing these funds with the stipulation that the Law Department will have jurisdiction on the use of the account.*

*Councilor Camara expressed concern, as no policy has been voted upon by the current City Councilors in relation to this matter. President Ponte and Councilor Camara discussed the historical document, which had never been rescinded. Councilor Pereira agreed that the previous policy required the permission of the Council President and Vice President to utilize the funds and stated that this is not a sound policy, as all City Councilors should have the right to use outside legal services. President Ponte clarified that he would be amendable to a new policy being presented to the current City Council for a formal vote regarding the use of these* *funds. Councilor Pereira also suggested that each Councilor should be allocated roughly $4,000 of the $40,000 total, to ensure equal access to a third-party attorney, and stated that the Council would have access to the fund whether it is placed in the Law Department budget or City Council budget.*

*Vice President Dionne stated that she agrees that a new policy would be merited and suggested that the original policy be presented to the Council to address any necessary amendments, including additions or strikeouts of various portions. Councilor Camara clarified that there is no cost to the City Council to obtain legal opinions or advice from Corporation Counsel.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Dionne and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted to vote on the appropriation order by line item.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays to reject line item A1 for Mayor, Salaries, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to take line items A2 through A10, Mayor, Expenses; City Council, Salaries; City Council, Expenses; City Clerk, Salaries; City Clerk, Expenses; Elections, Salaries; Elections, Expenses; Veterans' Benefits, Salaries; and Veterans' Benefits, Expenses, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays to reject line items A2 through A10, Mayor, Expenses; City Council, Salaries; City Council, Expenses; City Clerk, Salaries; City Clerk, Expenses; Elections, Salaries; Elections, Expenses; Veterans' Benefits, Salaries; and Veterans' Benefits, Expenses, respectively, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to take line items B1 through B3, Administrative Services, Salaries; Administrative Services, Expenses; Judgements and Claims, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay, to reject line items B1 through B3, Administrative Services, Salaries; Administrative Services, Expenses; and Judgements and Claims, respectively, with Councilor Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 9 yeas to reject line item C1 for Financial Services, Salaries.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 9 yeas to reject line item C2 For Financial Services, Expenses.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to take line items D1 through D3, Facilities, Salaries; Facilities, Expenses; and Facilities, Capital, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to reject line items D1 through D3, Facilities, Salaries; Facilities, Expenses; and Facilities, Capital, respectively.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to take line items E1 through E3, Community Maintenance, Salaries; Community Maintenance, Expenses; and Community Maintenance, Capital, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to reject line items E1 through E3, Community Maintenance, Salaries; Community Maintenance, Expenses; and Community Maintenance, Capital, respectively.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to take line items F1 through F3, Community Services, Salaries; Community Services, Expenses; and Community Services, Transfers, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to reject line items F1 through F3, Community Services, Salaries; Community Services, Expenses; and Community Services, Transfers, respectively.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to approve line item G1 for School Appropriation.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to reject line item G2 for School Transportation.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to approve line item G3 for Education Assessments.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to take items H1 through H8, Police, Salaries; Police, Expenses; Police, Capital; Harbor Master, Salaries; Harbor Master, Expenses; Fire & Emergency Services, Salaries; Fire & Emergency Services, Expenses; and Fire & Emergency Services, Capital, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 3 yeas, 6 nays, to approve items H1 through H8, Police, Salaries; Police, Expenses; Police, Capital; Harbor Master, Salaries; Harbor Master, Expenses; Fire & Emergency Services, Salaries; Fire & Emergency Services, Expenses; and Fire & Emergency Services, Capital, respectively, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the affirmative and the motion failed to carry.*

*On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays to reject items H1 through H8, Police, Salaries; Police, Expenses; Police, Capital; Harbor Master, Salaries; Harbor Master, Expenses; Fire & Emergency Services, Salaries; Fire & Emergency Services, Expenses; and Fire & Emergency Services, Capital, respectively, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to reject I1, Debt – Service.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to reject I2, Insurance.*

On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to reject I3, Pension Contributions.

On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to reject I4, Reserve Fund.

Councilor Camara requested clarification regarding the vote related to the funds for the Police Department and Fire & Emergency Services. The City Clerk stated that line items H1-H8, Police, Salaries; Police, Expenses; Police, Capital; Harbor Master, Salaries; Harbor Master, Expenses; Fire & Emergency Services, Salaries; Fire & Emergency Services, Expenses; and Fire & Emergency Services, Capital, respectively, were rejected with a vote of 6 yeas, 3 nays.

Councilor Cadime stated that the City Council should formally recommend that the Administration amend the FY27 budget by eliminating the vacant paralegal position, as well as one of the Assistant Corporation Counsel positions, as a large amount of funding for various legal services is being utilized for outside legal services.

Councilor Raposo asked if the City Council needed to provide the Administration with formal recommendations for amendments within the rejected FY27 Municipal Budget. President Ponte stated that this would be beneficial to ensure clear communication between the City Council and the Mayor regarding concerns that were identified within the rejected budget.

Councilor Cadime stated that there is currently one vacant paralegal position in the Law Department that should be eliminated and stated that one part-time Assistant Corporation Counsel position should be removed, as a majority of legal work is now being done by outside counsel.

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 7 yeas, 1 nay, to recommend that the Administration reduce line item B1, Administrative, Services, Salaries, by $100,000, with Councilor Hart voting in the negative and Councilor Camara voting present.

Councilor Cadime stated that an additional $200,000 should be removed from the Law Department's expenses to reduce the use of outside legal counsel. Councilor Camara expressed concern that reducing these funds would result in negative outcomes for the City in ongoing court proceedings. Vice President Dionne explained that, while she would not support reducing the entire fund to zero, $200,000 is a reasonable decrease for this account as the remaining $500,000 would be sufficient for current expenses. Vice President Dionne also stated that, if additional funding was necessary, an appropriation could be presented to the City Council. Councilor Camara reiterated that he would not support this recommendation. Councilor Canuel agreed with Vice President Dionne and stated that the recommendation to reduce this account by $200,000 is very reasonable compared to suggestions made in the past to eliminate all funds within this account.

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to recommend that the Administration reduce line item B2, Administrative, Expenses, by $200,000, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.

*Councilor Raposo stated that the Financial Services, Salary, budget should be reduced by $70,000 to account for the vacant Finance Analysis and Compliance Manager position, which may not be filled.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 9 yeas to recommend that the Administration reduce line item C1, Financial Services, Salaries, by $70,000.*

*Councilor Raposo also stated that there is a vacant Administrative Clerk position within the Planning Department, with a total salary amount of $36,306.71, that should be eliminated, as the Director of Engineering and Planning stated that filling this vacancy was not pertinent to the department's operations.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 9 yeas to recommend that the Administration reduce line item F1, Community Services, Salaries, by $36,306.71.*

*President Ponte and Councilor Camara discussed the City Council's power to reduce these sections of the budget without the Administration needing to amend and submit a new budget. President Ponte stated that the City Council is taking a firm stance in relation to the $40,000 allocation for outside counsel services and that only the Mayor has the power to increase funds within the budget. Councilor Camara stated that these suggested reductions within the rejected line items will not reduce taxpayer expenses and do not appear to be legitimate concerns, as no motion was made to reduce these line items prior to the motions to reject.*

*Councilor Raposo clarified that he created a list of reductions that he would suggest during the ongoing budget discussions and that his intention is to provide clear feedback to the Administration. Councilor Camara reiterated that the City Council is delaying the approval of a large portion of the budget until funding is provided for City Council access to outside legal services. President Ponte, Councilor Camara and Councilor Hart discussed the intention of the City Council's rejection of a majority of the FY27 budget instead of reducing various line items. Councilor Cadime stated that he supports providing the Administration with recommended amendments.*

*President Ponte stated that rejecting the budget with no recommendations would not be beneficial to the City. Vice President Dionne explained that the recommended amendments are not related to the request for funds for outside counsel, and that the reductions being discussed were requested during the budgetary discussions, but no changes were made prior to the formal vote. Councilor Camara stated that the City Council has the power to reduce any line item within the budget and that this action could take place during the meeting.*

*Councilor Peckham exited the Chamber at 8:02 p.m.*

*Councilor Raposo stated that, following the budgetary discussions with the Director of Building Inspections, he would support the funding for abandoned campers being decreased by $15,000.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was voted 5 yeas, 3 nays, to recommend that the Administration reduce line item F2, Community Services, Expenses (identified during the meeting as E2, Community Maintenance, Expenses), by $15,000, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative and Councilor Peckham absent and not voting.*

*Councilor Peckham returned to the Chamber at 8:04 p.m.*

*Councilor Raposo explained that, currently, the Director of Minimum Housing was receiving $1,675 over the "not to exceed" limit within the City code for this position, and the total should be decreased to match the existing ordinance.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to recommend that the Administration reduce line item F1, Community Services, Salaries, by $1,675, with Councilors Hart and Pereira voting in the negative.*

*Councilor Raposo also suggested that the City Council recommend the elimination of salaries for the vacant plumber and electrician positions, which are currently listed with salaries of $50,452.64 and $54,356.70, respectfully. Councilor Raposo stated that, as they have not been filled for over six years and this funding could be utilized elsewhere, a total of $104,809.34, which includes their uniform allowances, should be removed from the Facilities, Salaries, line item.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to recommend that the Administration reduce line item D1, Facilities, Salaries, by $104,809.34.*

*Councilor Peckham stated that the current salary for the Director of City Operations should be reduced by 70%, as a reorganization of this department is currently being discussed in the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation. Councilor Peckham explained that this proposed ordinance would eliminate the position of Director of City Operations, and the current individual serving in this role would become the Director of Facilities, and the process should take no longer than a few months. Councilor Peckham emphasized that this salary should be reduced to reflect the months that compensation for this position will be necessary and stated that 70% of the current total of $144,200 would equal $100,940.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was voted 5 yeas, 4 nays, to recommend that the Administration reduce line item D1, Facilities, Salaries, by $100,940, with Councilors Camara, Hart, Pereira and Raposo voting in the negative.*

*Councilor Peckham also stated that the City Council should suggest the administration reduce the Solid Waste expenses by $742,133.*

*Councilor Canuel requested that members of the Administration be allowed to answer questions. A motion was made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Canuel, to waive the rules to allow representatives from the Administration to answer questions.*

*Councilor Canuel expressed concern, as the City Council voted to authorize a new contract for solid waste and recycling collection services, and that this reduction would affect this matter. Councilor Camara stated that this type of recommended reduction would affect the City's negotiating power with the anticipated contract.*

*Councilor Canuel rescinded his request to ask questions.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by President Ponte, it was voted 2 yeas, 6 nays, to recommend that the Administration reduce line item D2, Facilities, Expenses, by $742,133, with President Ponte and Councilor Peckham voting in the affirmative, and Councilor Canuel voting present, and the motion failed to carry.*

*Councilor Pereira exited the Chamber at 8:16 p.m.*

*Councilor Cadime reiterated that these motions are providing open communication with the Administration regarding how the City Council will vote upon these matters in the future and President Ponte clarified that a letter with these motions will be sent to the Mayor as soon as possible.*

*Councilor Peckham stated that the City Council should recommend a reduction within the Community Maintenance, Expenses, line item of $257,867, in relation to Solid Waste Disposal costs.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was voted 2 yeas, 6 nays, to recommend that the Administration reduce line item E2, Community Maintenance, Expenses, by $257,867, with President Ponte and Councilor Peckham voting in the affirmative, and Councilor Pereira absent and not voting, and the motion failed to carry.*

*Councilor Pereira returned to the Chamber at 8:17 p.m.*

*Councilor Peckham also stated that the City Council should recommend that the Administration eliminate the current "service out of rank" additional pay within the Facilities budget, which totals $13,000.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, to recommend that the Administration reduce D1, Facilities, Salaries, by $13,000, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative.*

*Councilor Pereira made remarks regarding the discussions about obtaining $40,000 within the City Council expenses account to cover the costs of hiring outside counsel and stated that her votes in relation to the budget were not related to this stipulation. Councilor Pereira also stated that the City Council should not be reducing employee salaries based on inconsistency with the City code, as the employees are not responsible for amending those salary limits and will be negatively affected by a decrease in their compensation.*

*Councilor Raposo clarified that he has been discussing this matter with the Administration for a long period of time, and no amendments have been presented to reflect updates regarding salary limitations. Councilor Raposo emphasized the need to follow current City ordinances or properly amend them to reflect necessary salary changes.*

*A brief discussion was held between Councilors Camara and Pereira regarding the rejection of all matters related to the Police and Fire Departments within the FY27 budget.*

*Councilor Cadime requested that, along with these recommended amendments, the need for further review and information about the school transportation costs, as well as the indirect cost totals, be included in the letter to the Administration. President Ponte requested that the City Clerk include these matters in the formal correspondence regarding all suggested budgetary amendments.*

*Councilor Raposo recommended that the City Council suggest the elimination of the vacant Council on Aging Aide position, which totals $14,877, as the funding for this role could be supplied through grant or Community Development Agency programs. Councilor Pereira stated that this position became vacant very recently and that additional assistance is needed in the City's senior centers. Councilor Cadime and Camara stated that additional information should* *be obtained from the Director of Health and Human Services prior to this position being eliminated, as the services provided by these aides are very important and a different form of funding should be secured prior to eliminating the position.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was voted 4 yeas, 5 nays, to recommend that the Administration reduce F1, Community Services, Salaries, by $14,877, with President Ponte and Councilors Cadime, Peckham and Raposo voting in the affirmative, and the motion failed to carry.*

*A brief recess was held at 8:28 p.m. to obtain additional information regarding the Council's need to vote on the Cherry Sheet Assessments line item within the appropriation order. The City Clerk and the Council President then stated that a vote is not required for this line item.*

*A brief discussion was held by the City Councilors regarding the anticipated timeline for a new, revised FY27 budget to be presented. President Ponte explained that the City Clerk will send the letter to the Mayor's office, as well as the Director of Financial Services, as soon as possible, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes, but that he cannot provide a definite time of the Administration presenting an amended budget.*

3. Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 EMS Enterprise Fund Appropriation Order

*Councilor Canuel stated that adjustments to the indirect costs of the EMS Enterprise Fund may change various line item totals within the appropriation order, and that the entirety of the order should be rejected to allow an amended Fiscal Year 2027 budget to be presented to the City Council.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, to reject line item A1, EMS, Salaries, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to take line items A2 through A5, EMS, Expenses; EMS, Capital; EMS, Transfers (Indirect Costs); and EMS, Debt, respectively, together.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to reject line items A2 through A5, EMS, Expenses; EMS, Capital; EMS, Transfers (Indirect Costs); and EMS, Debt, respectively, with Councilors Camara and Hart voting in the negative.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.*

<u>List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:</u>
Agenda packet (attached)

A true copy. Attest:
Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

33

# City of Fall River Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

June 4, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Mr. Mayor:

At a Special Meeting of the City Council held on June 4, 2026, a discussion was held relative to the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget and the Fiscal Year 2027 Emergency Services Management Enterprise Fund Budget.

Following that discussion, and under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 32 and Section 6-4 (b) of the City Charter, on a motion made and seconded, it was voted to reject the attached appropriation order for the proposed FY 2027 Annual Budget, except for G1. SCHOOL APPROPRIATION in the amount of $212,582,416 and G3. EDUCATION ASSESSMENT in the amount of $10,225,442, which were approved on a voice vote. The attached appropriation order for the FY 2027 Emergency Medical Services Enterprise Fund Budget was also rejected.

Regarding the School Transportation line-item, Councilor Shawn E. Cadime requested that the Administration clarify the appropriation that is needed. During deliberations with the School Department, the figures provided did not coincide with the line-item amount listed in the municipal budget appropriation order. He also requested that if adjustments need to be made to the School Department's indirect costs, that those be provided as well with the revised budget.

On further motions made and seconded, the City Council also voted to make the following suggested reductions from the General Fund:

B1. For ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Salaries, $100,000
Paralegal/Public Records Officer vacancy and an Assistant Corporation Counsel Part-Time position, Law Division, 7 yeas, 1 nay, with Councilor Joseph D. Camara, voting present.

B2. For ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Expenses, $200,000
Other Professional Services, Outside Legal Counsel, Law Department, 7 yeas, 2 nays.

C1. For FINANCIAL SERVICES, Salaries, $70,000
Finance Analyst & Compliance Manager vacancy, City Auditor's Division, 9 yeas.

D1. For FACILITIES MAINTENANCE, Salaries:
- $100,940 – Director of City Operations position, Department of City Operations, 5 yeas, 4 nays.
- $13,000 – Administrative Assistant's Additional Pay, Facilities Division, 6 yeas, 3 nays.
- $104,809.34 – Electrician and Plumber I vacancies, Facilities Division, on a unanimous voice vote.

E2. For COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Expenses, $15,000
Other Purchased Services, 5 yeas, 3 nays, with Councilor Peckham absent and not voting.

F1. For COMMUNITY SERVICES, Salaries:
- $36,306.71 – Administrative Clerk vacancy, Planning Division, 9 yeas.
- $1,675 – Director of Minimum Housing, Health and Human Services Division, 7 yeas, 2 nays.

A motion made and seconded to suggest a reduction to the Community Services, Salaries line-item by $14,877 for the Council on Aging Part-Time Senior Aide failed to carry, 4 yeas, 5 nays, and Councilors requested that further information be provided on the need for this position when the revised budget is submitted as well.

Sincerely,

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite

Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

Enc.

Cc: Cliff Ponte, City Council President
Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff
Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*



BE IT ORDERED, that the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2027 from various funds, is $484,455,787 of which the amount of $471,316,384 be raised from ordinary revenue and municipal receipts for appropriation as

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A. for the purpose of GENERAL GOVERNMENT** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for MAYOR, Salaries | $ | 314,803 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for MAYOR, Expenses | $ | 20,250 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for CITY COUNCIL, Salaries | $ | 258,664 | |
| 4. from the General Fund, for CITY COUNCIL, Expenses | $ | 170,700 | |
| 5. from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Salaries | $ | 381,990 | |
| 6. from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Expenses | $ | 35,875 | |
| 7. from the General Fund, for ELECTIONS, Salaries | $ | 367,638 | |
| 8. from the General Fund, for ELECTIONS, Expenses | $ | 104,300 | |
| 9. from the General Fund, for VETERANS' BENEFITS, Salaries | $ | 301,077 | |
| 10. from the General Fund, for VETERANS' BENEFITS, Expenses | $ | 1,756,055 | |
| | | | $3,711,352 |
| **B. for the purpose of ADMINISTRATION** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Salaries | $ | 1,544,380 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Expenses | $ | 3,792,805 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for JUDGEMENTS AND CLAIMS | $ | 350,000 | |
| | | | $5,687,185 |
| **C. for the purpose of FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for FINANCIAL SERVICES, Salaries | $ | 1,893,476 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for FINANCIAL SERVICES, Expense | $ | 344,990 | |
| | | | $2,238,466 |
| **D. for the purpose of FACILITIES MAINTENANCE** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Salaries | $ | 1,115,023 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Expense | $ | 2,181,465 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Capital | $ | - | |
| | | | $3,296,488 |
| **E. for the purpose of COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Salaries | $ | 5,655,974 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Expense | $ | 17,891,532 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Capital | $ | - | |
| | | | $23,547,506 |
| **F. for the purpose of COMMUNITY SERVICE** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Salaries | $ | 2,918,265 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Expense | $ | 680,631 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Transfers | $ | 30,000 | |
| | | | $3,628,896 |
| **G. for the purpose of EDUCATION** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for SCHOOL APPROPRIATION | $ | 212,582,416 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION | $ | 12,350,048 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for EDUCATION ASSESSMENTS | $ | 10,225,442 | |
| | | | $235,157,906 |
| **H. for the purpose of COMMUNITY PROTECTION** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Salaries | $ | 24,700,499 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Expenses | $ | 2,130,062 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Capital | $ | - | |
| 4. from the General Fund, for HARBOR MASTER, Salaries | $ | - | |
| 5. from the General Fund, for HARBOR MASTER, Expenses | $ | 35,500 | |
| 6. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Salaries | $ | 20,021,736 | |
| 7. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Expenses | $ | 1,187,798 | |
| 8. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Capital | $ | - | |
| | | | $48,156,595 |
| **I. for the purpose of OTHER GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSES** | | | |
| 1. from the General Fund, for DEBT - SERVICE | $ | 13,719,946 | |
| 2. from the General Fund, for INSURANCE | $ | 52,402,162 | |
| 3. from the General Fund, for PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS | $ | 45,191,673 | |
| 4. from the General Fund, for RESERVE FUND | $ | 400,173 | |
| | | | $111,713,954 |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET | $ | 437,137,340 | |
| CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENTS | $ | 47,318,439 | |
| GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET | $ | 484,455,787 | |

FUNDING SOURCES:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| from Stabilization Fund | $ | 4,000,000 |
| from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) | $ | 350,000 |
| from the EMS Rate Revenues for INSURANCE | $ | 1,844,989 |
| from the EMS Rate Revenues for PENSION | $ | 2,202,321 |
| from the EMS Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT | $ | 1,165,884 |
| from the Water Rate Revenues for INSURANCE | $ | 618,839 |
| from the Water Rate Revenues for PENSION | $ | 1,195,932 |
| from the Water Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT | $ | 813,438 |
| from the Sewer Rate Revenues for INSURANCE | $ | 154,616 |
| from the Sewer Rate Revenues for PENSION | $ | 292,624 |
| from the Sewer Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT | $ | 600,761 |
| from Ordinary Revenue and Municipal Receipts | $ | 471,316,384 |
| GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET | $ | 484,455,787 |

CITY OF FALL RIVER
IN CITY COUNCIL
June 3, 2026

A motion made and seconded to vote on the appropriation order line-item by line-item carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Further motions made and seconded to:

Reject A1 carried 6 yeas, 3 nays.
Take A2-A10 together carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Reject A2-A10 carried 7 yeas, 2 nays.
Take B1-B3 together carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Reject B1-B3 carried 8 yeas, 1 nay.
Reject C1 carried 9 yeas.
Reject C2 carried 9 yeas.
Take D1-D3 together carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Reject D1-D3 carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Take E1-E3 together carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Reject E1-E3 carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Take F1-F3 together carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Reject F1-F3 carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Approve G1 carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Reject G2 carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Approve G3 carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Take H1-H8 together carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Approve H1-H8 failed to carry 3 yeas, 6 nays.
Reject H1-H8 carried 6 yeas, 3 nays.
Reject I1 carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Reject I2 carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Reject I3 carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Reject I4 carried unanimously on a voice vote.

# City of Fall River, *In City Council*

**BE IT ORDERED, that the following Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations be provided through the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) rates under Chapter 53F 1/2 in the aggregate, amounting to $18,038,739 be appropriated as follows:**

**A. Voted: That the following sums be appropriated for the EMS Enterprise:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| from EMS Rate Revenues, for EMS, Salaries | $ | 9,925,027 |
| from EMS Rate Revenues, for EMS, Expenses | $ | 2,599,485 |
| from EMS Rate Revenues, for EMS, Capital | $ | 241,200 |
| from EMS Rate Revenues, for EMS, Transfers (Indirect Costs) | $ | 5,213,194 |
| from EMS Rate Revenues, for EMS, Debt | $ | 59,833 |
| **TOTAL:** | $ | 18,038,739 |

**and that $18,038,739 be raised as follows:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Departmental Receipts | $ | 18,038,739 |
| EMS Stabilization Fund | $ | - |
| | $ | 18,038,739 |

**Recommend that the following sums be appropriated to operate the EMS Enterprise:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Direct** | | |
| Salaries | $ | 9,925,027 |
| Expenses | $ | 2,599,485 |
| Capital | $ | 241,200 |
| Debt | $ | 59,833 |
| Subtotal | $ | 12,825,545 |
| **Indirect** | | |
| Health Insurance | $ | 1,844,989 |
| Pensions | $ | 2,202,321 |
| Other | $ | 1,165,884 |
| Subtotal | $ | 5,213,194 |
| **TOTAL:** | $ | 18,038,739 |

CITY OF FALL RIVER
IN CITY COUNCIL
June 3, 2026

A motion made and seconded to reject EMS Salaries carried 5 yeas, 4 nays.
Further motions made and seconded to:
Take the remaining line-items together carried unanimously on a voice vote.
Reject EMS Expenses, Capital, Transfers (Indirect Cots), Debt carried 7 yeas, 2 nays.

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: June 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: None

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 8:47 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Camara, it was unanimously voted to lift item 1 from the table.*

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

1. Mayor and veto of the proposed ordinance authorizing the City Council to hire outside legal counsel

*On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, that the proposed ordinance be passed to be ordained, as amended, notwithstanding the veto of the Mayor, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative.*

2. Mayor and request for confirmation of the appointment of Nathaniel Roberts to the Cultural Council

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted to confirm the appointment.*

3. Mayor and grant order to accept $10,000 from Southcoast Health to procure a state-of-the-art advanced training manikin for the Emergency Medical Services Dept.

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.*
*Approved, June 11, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

4. Mayor and Memorandum of Agreement for Labor Advantage for Workers, Local 124
*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.*
*Approved, June 11, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

5. Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §2-401, Chief of Police – Appointment; powers and duties; term
*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to refer the proposed ordinance to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.*

6. Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §50-303, Salary schedule for political appointments and boards/committees
*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the proposed ordinance to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.*

7. Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §50-301, Salary schedule for executive officers, department heads, and non-union personnel
*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the proposed ordinance to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.*

8. Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §62-2(C), Solid waste – collection and disposal generally
*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the proposed ordinance to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.*

<u>**PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS**</u>

9. Traffic Commission recommending amendments to the traffic ordinances
*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to refer the recommendations to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.*

10. Fall River Redevelopment Authority regarding Davol Street Corridor Maintenance
*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.*

11. Commission on Disability regarding recommended changes to polling places
*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.*

<u>**COMMITTEE REPORTS**</u> – None

<u>**ORDINANCES**</u>

<u>Second reading and enrollment, as amended</u>

12. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Violations and penalties
*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through second reading and enrollment, as amended. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed to be ordained, as amended.*
*Approved, June 11, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

<u>**RESOLUTIONS**</u> – None

**CITATIONS**

13. Evolve Academy – Services provided to veterans during Memorial Day Ceremonies
*On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the citation be accepted and placed on file.*

14. Argosy Collegiate Charter School Early College Program Participants – Receipt of Associate Degree from Bristol Community College

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ian Ahaesy | Ethan Booth | Gabriel Booth | Mariana Brown |
| Amy Chhem | Leonardo Demorais | Breana Frias | Kimora Gallimore |
| Vanessa Garcia | Phaneika Gardinere | Caleb Hanley | Isabell Keefe |
| Nicholas Kelley | Anaiyah Longchamp | Katrina Magalhaes | Samantha Pierre |
| Evan Raposo | Cloey Rodrigues | Jimmy Xu | |

*On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Camara, it was unanimously voted that the citations be accepted and placed on file.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to take items 15 through 23 together.*

**ORDERS – HEARINGS**

Auto Repair Shop License

15. Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC., 200 4th Avenue S, Suite 100, Nashville, TN 37201 d/b/a Firestone Complete Auto Care for a license to operate an auto repair shop at 748 Pleasant Street, on Lot M-10-82 Assessors Plan

Curb Removal

16. 28 McDonald Street Realty LLC, 317 Lindsey Street – Removal of 20 feet of curbing for an opening total of 20 feet at 28 McDonald Street
17. Steven T. Gomes Living Trust, 721 Oak Grove Avenue – Removal of 32 feet of curbing for an opening total of 32 feet at 23-25 Salisbury Street
18. 87 Aetna Street, LLC, 87 Aetna Street – Removal of 16 feet of curbing for an opening total of 32 feet at 87 Aetna Street (corner lot)
19. BISWAS, LLC, 80 Jenson Farm Road, Braintree, MA 02184 – Removal of 20 feet of curbing for an opening total of 34 feet at 386 High Street (corner lot)

Jointly Owned Pole Locations

20. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Bay Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
21. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., County Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
22. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Eclipse Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location and anchor
23. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Jefferson Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location

*On a further motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to adopt the orders.*
*Approved, June 11, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

**ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS**

24. Police Chief's Report on Licenses
Taxicab Driver
Jaime Andrade Rego

Private Livery Vehicle
Rego Rides Inc. – One (1) vehicle

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.*

**COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS**

25. Claims

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel.*

26. Interim Superintendent of Fall River Public Schools re: Fiscal Year 2027 deliberations

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.*

27. Communication from the Fall River Preservation Society of Fall River, Inc., Board of Directors re: City Council vote to award Community Preservation Act funding

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.*

28. Applications for structures on or over a public way for St. Anthony of the Desert Maronite Catholic Church Inc. to hang banners (30' x 3') from June 30, 2026 to August 12, 2026 at the following locations:
   a. Bedford Street at intersection of Troy Street
   b. Pleasant Street near the Fall River Police Department Building
   c. South Main Street near the Cultural Center

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel it was unanimously voted to approve the applications, with Councilor Camara abstaining.*

29. Drainlayer Licenses
Communications Construction Group, LLC
R.W. Bryant Contracting, Inc.

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve the drainlayer applications.*
*Approved, June 11, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

30. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes – April 16, 2026

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the minutes be accepted and placed on file.*

*On a further motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to take items 31 through 34 together.*

City Council Minutes

31. Public Hearings – May 12, 2026
32. Committee on Finance – May 12, 2026
33. Regular Meeting of the City Council – May 12, 2026
34. Special Meeting of the City Council – May 19, 2026

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes.*

**BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES** – None

**ITEMS FILED AFTER THE AGENDA DEADLINE**
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JUNE 9, 2026**

**BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES**

35. Fall River Contributory Retirement Board re: vote of 3% cost of living increase

*On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted that the notice be accepted and placed on file.*

**OTHER POTENTIAL MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (if received):**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee on Finance recommending:

Action

11a. Loan order of $29,800,000 for the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School property located at 373 Elsbree Street

*On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 7 yeas, 1 nay to adopt the loan order, with Councilor Peckham voting in the negative and Councilor Raposo abstaining.*
*Approved, June 11, 2026*
*Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

*A brief recess was held from 8:59 p.m. to 9:01 p.m. for the signing of the Traffic ordinance.*

*Councilor Camara asked if there were any scheduled budgetary meetings prior to the next Regular Meeting of the City Council, scheduled for June 23, 2026. President Ponte stated that there are currently no additional budget meetings on the calendar, and that this scheduling will be dependent on when the City Council receives a revised Fiscal Year 2027 budget.*

*On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:01 p.m.*

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:
Agenda packet (attached)

A true copy Attest:
Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

**Progressive by Homesite**
Underwritten By:
Homesite Indemnity Company
Tel: 1-866-960-8609
Fax: 1-866-935-2858

PROGRESSIVE | BY Homesite

6000 American Parkway
Madison, WI 53783-0001

35

| | |
|---|---|
| Claim Number: | 01-009-899078 |
| Date Of Loss: | 06/03/2026 |
| Policy Number: | 41181694 |
| lder: | Olusegun Olubanwo And Deborah Olubanwo |

001740FC6500M01000006106 001
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1 GOVERNMENT CTR RM 636
FALL RIVER MA 02722-7700

C000 0001001 001740.0000

June 4, 2026

ATTENTION: Building Commissioner or Inspector of Buildings Fire Department or Arson Squad, Board of Health or Board of Selectmen C/O City or Town Hall

**NOTICE PURSUANT TO MASS. GEN. LAWS, CHAPTER 139, SECTION 3B**

| | |
|---|---|
| Our Insured: | OLUSEGUN OLUBANWO |
| Property Address: | 183 Winthrop St Fall River, MA, 02721-7528 |
| Policy Number: | 41181694 |
| Claim Number: | 01-009-899078 |
| Date of Loss | 06/03/2026 |

This correspondence shall serve as notice that, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 139, Section 3B, a claim has been made involving loss, damage or destruction to a building or other structure which may either exceed $1,000 or cause Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 143, Section 6 to be applicable.

If any notice pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 139, Section 3B is appropriate, please direct such notice to my attention and kindly, pursuant to the information provided above, include the insured's name, address, policy number, claim number and date of loss. If you contact us via email, please use claimdocuments@afics.com and be sure to reference the claim number in the subject line of your email.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Ard

Lindsey Ard
Senior Desk Adjuster
AFICS on behalf of Homesite Indemnity Company
Lindsey.Ard@afics.com
Phone: 1-608-621-9825 | Fax: 1-866-935-2858
Mail: 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783-0001





Emailed 6/12/26 - Fire Chief, Dir. of [illegible]