



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

59 COURT STREET
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
JANUARY 15, 2026, AT 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chamber, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 7:00 PM by President Beltrandi.

The Clerk called the roll. Councilor Figy was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Beltrandi.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: That the reading of the record of the meeting of December 18, 2025, and Special Inaugural Meeting of January 5, 2026, be ACCEPTED. Councilor Knapik abstained.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: That the rules of the City Council be SUSPENDED to take Public Participation out of order. All in favor.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Under "Public Participation" the Council was addressed by Peter Martin, 110 Western Circle. He informed the Council that the Historical Commission would be partaking in a free, family friendly commemoration of Henry Knox's noble train of the artillery on Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 12:00-3:00 PM at the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. He read aloud an abbreviated version of the Declaration of Independence, using the words our founders wrote in the declaration that they signed 250 years ago. He voiced his concerns with the current administration. He asked everyone in the room to raise their hands if his values were theirs and if they recognized his stated truths as self-evident. Many people in the audience raised their hands.

Under "Public Participation" the Council was addressed by Ron Roux, 79 Woodsong Road. He echoed Mr. Martin that it was nice to hear the kind words of all Council members who recognized former Mayor and Councilor Rick Sullivan at the December meeting. He commended Planning Board's oversight and thorough questioning regarding a moratorium on battery storage in Westfield leading to the protection of city interests and natural landscape from state control. He highlighted the business throughout the City. He questioned how the City could direct more industry into vacant buildings and discontinue destruction of natural habitats. He encouraged residents to shop locally, noting that many had online ordering. He stated that tax rates and land usage were valid and competing concerns. He urged the residents to speak with public officials and at public participation opportunities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of President Beltrandi, it was VOTED: To go into Executive session pursuant to MGL c.30A, section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation in Shaker Farms Country Club, Inc. v. City of Westfield as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body if the chair so declares. It is intended the Council return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Karen Fanion	Yes
Ralph Figy	Absent
Cindy Harris	Yes
Daniel Knapik	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
James Adams	Yes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Upon motion of Councilor Knapik, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the sum of \$1,275,000.00 be appropriated from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Law Judgements Account (11510000-576000) relative to matters which are the subject of litigation.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	No
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Karen Fanion	Yes
Ralph Figy	Absent
Cindy Harris	Yes
Daniel Knapik	No
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
James Adams	No

2. Upon motion of Councilor Knapik, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration that a Resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT TO SUPPORT THE DOWNTOWN WESTFIELD CULTURAL DISTRICT" be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Karen Fanion	Yes
Ralph Figy	Absent
Cindy Harris	Yes
Daniel Knapik	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
James Adams	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Knapik informed the Council that the Resolution would accept a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council FY26 Cultural District Initiative Program to the Westfield Downtown Cultural District to be used as operational funds to further the District's goals. He stated that there was no match. Councilor Morganelli stated that the Free Cash requests on the agenda totaled \$4,236,947.12. Councilor Knapik confirmed and stated that if all the requests before Council went through, the Free Cash balance would be \$8,940,022.88.

Upon motion of Councilor Knapik, it was

VOTED: That items 3., 4., 5., 6., 7., 8., 9., 10. 11., 12., 13., 14., 15. and 16. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

3. Appropriation in the amount of \$27,321.25 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Animal Control Purchase of Services Account (12920000-520000-9900) for the replacement of the heating and cooling systems at the Animal Shelter.
4. Appropriation in the amount of \$9,500.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the City Council Purchase of Service Account (11110000-520000) to reframe historic portraits of City Council in the Council Chambers at City Hall.
5. Appropriation in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Field Improvement Athletic Field Capital Construction Account (45138730-589200-3215) for costs associated with the construction of the Athletic Fields.

6. Appropriation in the amount of \$11,900.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Health Department Purchase of Service Account (15100000-520000) for costs associated with repairs to the landfill groundwater monitoring well.
7. Appropriation in the amount of \$44,500.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Health Department Purchase of Service Account (15100000-520000) for engineering costs associated with landfill cap repairs.
8. Appropriation in the amount of \$170,720.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Health Department Purchase of Service Account (15100000-520000) for construction costs associated with landfill cap repairs.
9. Appropriation in the amount of \$7,158.96 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Department of Public Works Land and Natural Resources Division Capital Equipment Account (14990000-585000) for the construction of a greenhouse that will be used to grow flowers for City use.
10. Appropriation in the amount of \$24,314.43 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Department of Public Works Land and Natural Resources Division FY26 Capital Equipment Account (14990000-585000) for the purchase of a zero-turn lawn mower.
11. Appropriation in the amount of \$66,505.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Department of Public Works Waste Collection Division FY 26 Purchase of Services Account (14330000-520000) for costs associated with curbside leaf collection.
12. Appropriation in the amount of \$270,000.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Department of Public Works Highway Purchase of Service Account (14210000-520000) for the milling and overlaying of Park River Drive and Park River Circle.
13. Appropriation in the amount of \$51,321.48 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Technology Center Purchase of Service Account (11550000-520000) to upgrade radio infrastructure throughout the municipality.
14. Appropriation in the amount of \$60,000.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Technology Center Replacement Equipment Account (11550000-587000) for the purchase and installation of replacement switches to support the network infrastructure at the Technology Center.
15. Appropriation in the amount of \$88,706.00 from the Free Cash account (1000-359000) to the Technology Center Purchase of Service Account (11550000-520000) for the purchase and configuration of an upgraded Permit and Code Software System for the City.
16. Appropriation in the amount of \$130,000.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Technology Center Capital Project Account (11550000-580000) to replace the In Row Cooling Rack system located at the Technology Center, which has reached the end of its serviceable life.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That items 17. and 18. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read

by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE LEGISLATIVE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

17. Submitting a Resolution to accept a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Ecological Restoration to the Department of Public Works Water Division for FY26 Dam Removal Preliminary Design Services.
18. Requesting approval of an Ordinance amending the City of Westfield Code of Ordinances Chapter 6, Building and Building Regulations.

Upon motion of Councilor Morganelli, it was

VOTED: That items 19., 20., 21., 22., 23., 24., 25., 26., 27., 28., 29., 30., 31., 32., 33., 34. and 38. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE. Councilor Bean abstained.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

19. Submitting the appointment of Edward Watson, 9 Chestnut Street, as a member of the Airport Commission, replacing Kate Phelon, for a term to expire in February, 2029.
20. Submitting the appointment of Jason Bean, 16 Linda Drive, as a member of the Municipal Light Board, replacing Adam E. Roman, for a term to expire in February, 2028.
21. Submitting the appointment of Jeffrey Gelinis, 17 Ingersoll Drive, as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, replacing Michael Tirrell, for a term to expire in February, 2027.
22. Submitting the appointment of Richard K. Sullivan Jr., 29 Wildflower Circle, as a member of the Board of Registrars, replacing Maureen Peterson, for a term to expire in February, 2029.
23. Submitting the appointment of Jennifer Gilbert, 65 Prospect Street, as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, replacing Richard K. Sullivan III, for a term to expire in February, 2027.
24. Submitting the appointment of John Moran, 140 Eastwood Drive, as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals as the first alternate, replacing Jennifer Gilbert for a term to expire February, 2027.
25. Submitting the appointment of Melissa Fitzgerald Ogulewicz, business owner at 7 Day Avenue, as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals as the second alternate, for a term to expire in February, 2028.
26. Submitting the reappointment of Timothy Reynolds, 324 Woodland Road, as a member of the Board of Assessors for a term to expire in February, 2029.
27. Submitting the reappointment of Robert Florek, 171 City View Road, as a member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire in February, 2029.
28. Submitting the reappointment of Jeffrey Trant, 10 Waterford Drive, as a member of the Fire Commission for a term to expire in February, 2029.

29. Submitting the reappointment of Stanley Strzempko, 31 Ridge Trail Road, as a member of the Board of Health for a term to expire in February, 2029.
30. Submitting the reappointment of Kathleen Palmer, 608 Pochassic Road, as a member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire in February, 2029.
31. Submitting the reappointment of Samuel MacMunn, 288 North Road, as a member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire in February, 2029.
32. Submitting the reappointment of Jennifer Thielen, 18 Vine Street, as a member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire in February, 2029.
33. Submitting the reappointment of Scott LaBombard, 626 Western Avenue, as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire in February, 2029.
34. Submitting the reappointment of Bernard Puza, 257 Falley Drive, as a member of the Planning Board for a term to expire in February, 2031.
35. Submitting the reappointment of Peter Velis, 18 Spruce Circle, to the Police Commission for a term to expire in February, 2029.
36. Submitting the reappointment of Alexander Fagnand, 45 Breighly Way, to the Board of Public Works, for a term to expire in February, 2029.
37. Submitting the reappointment of Linda Saltus, 17 Hillside Road, as a member of the Board of Registrars for a term to expire in February, 2029.
38. Submitting the reappointment of Richard Clark, 16 Clinton Avenue, as a member of the Traffic Commission for a term to expire in February, 2029.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That items 39. and 40. under "Reports of City Officers" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE LEGISLATIVE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE. Councilors Burns and Matthews-Kane recused themselves from item 39. due to the possibility of being financially impacted by the outcome.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

39. Director of Veterans Services Julie Barnes submitting a request for acceptance of MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses 22I and 22J.
40. First Assistant City Solicitor Shanna Reed submitting the following Ordinance amendments to Chapter 17 as requested by Lt. John Parrish, Chair of the Traffic Commission: Section 17-73 - Stop Sign Intersection Designation by adding Pine Street at Prospect Street and Old Cabot Road at Russellville Road; Section 17-70 - Certain Left and Right Turns Prohibited by adding No Left Turn on Red at Pochassic Street onto North Elm Street, No Left Turn exiting Westfield Middle School during the hours of 7am-9am and 1pm-3pm Monday through Friday, No Left Turn exiting Highland Elementary School during the hours of 830am-930am and 2:30pm-3:30pm Monday through Friday; Adding Section 17-186A - Authority to remove vehicles violating temporary No Parking; Deleting and replacing Section 17-187 - Owner

Liabale for storage charges; contractor liable; Deleting and replacing Notification of Owners within 24 hours.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, AND OTHER PAPERS

Upon motion of Councilor Allie, it was

VOTED: That item 41. under "Petitions, Remonstrances and Other Papers" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE LICENSING COMMITTEE and that a Public Hearing be scheduled for the earliest practicable date.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

41. R. Levesque Associates submitting an application on behalf of John Kayrouz for a License for Underground Storage Tanks at 0, 21, 29-45 and 33-39 Southampton Road (Map 50R, Parcels 21,16,17 &18) for 28,000 gallons of Regular Unleaded Gasoline, 6,000 gallons of Premium Unleaded Gasoline, 26,000 gallons of Diesel and 2,500 gallons of Diesel Exhaust Fluid.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Zoning, Planning and Development Committee

42. Upon motion of Councilor Fanion, it was

VOTED: That a Zoning Petition to amend the zoning ordinance relative to battery energy storage facilities RE: establishing a Moratorium be REFERRED TO THE PLANNING BOARD and LAW DEPARTMENT and that a Public Hearing be scheduled for the earliest practicable date.

MOTIONS, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS

43. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: To modify Chapter 16 of the Ordinances, Section 16-107: Temporary Repairs on Private Ways and REFER TO LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

At 8:30PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:



Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

Approved by the Mayor

For approval February 6, 2026

2.6 2026


Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce, City Clerk


Michael A. McCabe, Mayor