City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Clerk

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MEETING: April 14, 2025 at 5:00 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: 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
Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff
Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

The following School Committee Members were present at the meeting:

PRESENT: Mayor Paul E. Coogan, Kevin Aguiar, Collin Dias, Thomas Khoury, Emanuel Moniz, Ana Riley, Shanell Stuwart

ABSENT: None

1. Citizen's Input Time

On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow a non-Fall River resident to speak.

Keith Michon, Jr., 77 Tryon Avenue, East Providence, RI – Fall River Public Schools Budget

Councilor Camara and Mr. Michon held a brief discussion regarding ideal budgeting totals for the Fall River Public Schools.

Tracy Silva Barboza, FRACC, 200 Pocasset Street – Arts and Culture Budget

2. Review of the fiscal and financial condition of the city, revenue and expense forecasts, and other relevant information in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar expressed concern that the Municipal Budget Presentation had not been forwarded to the School Committee Members prior to the beginning of the meeting. President Ponte agreed and stated that the City Councilors had also not received this presentation in a timely manner.

Elizabeth Legault, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools, made brief remarks regarding her recent appointment to the position of Interim Deputy Superintendent and her goal to work collaboratively with the School Committee and City Council. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Public Schools, provided information regarding student enrollment increases, funding obtained with the Student Opportunity Act, which will be ending in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), the increase of 8.6% within Chapter 70 funding for FY27, Indirect Cost Agreements and expenses that are, and are not, eligible for Net School Spending (NSS) reimbursements.

Councilor Raposo, Mr. Almeida and Kenneth Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools, held a detailed discussion regarding the costs of bussing students, as well as new bus stop boundary changes. Mr. Pacheco explained that funding for bus services has decreased by $300,000 per year, which creates additional challenges, but that the City would begin using electric bus vehicles within the next month which will assist with lowering costs. Councilor Raposo and the Chief Financial Officer of Fall River Public Schools also discussed the staffing of paraprofessionals, and the multiple related vacancies within the FY27 School Department Budget. Mr. Almeida explained that these vacancies were a result of a combination of retirements, program changes and a shift toward hiring more specialized educators. Mr. Almeida also clarified that most position vacancies for the schools are for special education classrooms, as those positions are challenging to fill.

A lengthy discussion was held by President Ponte, Mayor Coogan and School Committee Members Collin Dias and Kevin Aguiar regarding the City's consideration of purchasing the former Bishop Connolly High School. School Committee Members Collin Dias and Kevin Aguiar expressed concern that the Administration had advised the School Department to delay the presentation of this matter, but the Interim Deputy Superintendent Legault clarified that the School Department was prepared to provide a presentation. President Ponte suggested that the FY27 School Department Budget be reviewed first followed by the presentation related to the potential purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School.

Councilor Peckham and Mr. Almeida discussed student enrollment data and the Commonwealth Special Education Reimbursement Program, known as the "Circuit Breaker Program," which provides additional funding for services to assist students with special needs.

A lengthy discussion was held by Councilor Cadime, Mr. Almeida and Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, in relation to indirect cost agreements, which have increased significantly due to health insurance expenditures, prescription medication reimbursements and the stop-loss insurance structure utilized by the City. Councilor Cadime expressed concern that these indirect cost agreements may negatively affect NSS reimbursements. Ms. Arpke provided information regarding the mixed use of rate-based and enrollment-based costs for the City's health insurance funding. Councilor Cadime requested that the City Council and School Committee hold another Joint Meeting in the future to specifically discuss health insurance costs and policies. Councilor Cadime and Mr. Almeida discussed new positions within the School Department's FY27 budget and how these line-item costs may increase after Collective Bargaining Agreements are finalized.

Vice President Dionne and the Chief Financial Officer of Fall River Public Schools discussed the current programs of pre-kindergarten at the former Bishop Connolly High School and the number of paraprofessional employees who work in all City schools. Mr. Almeida stated that there are over 600 paraprofessionals and stated that the City faces financial challenges for reimbursement in relation to pre-kindergarten programs, as this grade of education only generates a 50% reimbursement rate from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Almeida also clarified that the City plans to open eighteen more classrooms within the former Bishop Connolly High School if a purchase of the property occurs.

A detailed discussion was held between Councilor Cadime, Councilor Camara and School Committee Member Collin Dias in relation to indirect cost agreements, expenditures related to the School Department and the approval process for the School Department's FY27 Budget. Councilor Cadime clarified that the City Council must approve all requested appropriations of funds for the School Department and Councilor Camara explained that the City Council may only approve, reduce or reject the appropriation lines items that are presented.

Councilor Pereira and Mr. Pacheco discussed school bus service costs and Councilor Pereira suggested that the City consider purchasing buses instead of using a third-party company. The Chief Operation Officer of Fall River Public Schools explained that this would be a very costly endeavor, requiring additional training and insurance and that the City is unable to fund that type of project. A lengthy discussion was held between Councilor Pereira and the Director of Financial Services regarding utilizing insurance claims for funding allocations versus insurance rates. Ms. Arpke clarified that the City of Fall River currently sets the insurance rates to a level that will cover the anticipated claims entirely. Councilor Pereira and Interim Deputy Superintendent Legault held a brief discussion regarding the Resiliency Preparatory Academy (RPA) and the progress of providing additional opportunities for the students at the school. Interim Deputy Superintendent Legault also stated that a recent meeting of the School Committee included students from RPA who provided positive statements regarding the programs.

Councilor Canuel and Mr. Almeida held a lengthy discussion regarding vacancies within the schools for over 100 positions. The Chief Financial Officer of Fall River Public Schools explained that many school districts are facing similar challenges with the hiring of teachers and staff as fewer individuals are pursuing careers in education. Mr. Almeida also explained that most of the vacancies were related positions for students requiring special education. Councilor Canuel suggested offering sign-on bonus compensation to candidates. Mr. Almeida stated that the priority is to hire additional paraprofessionals and teachers for the special education programs.

A detailed discussion was held between School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar, the Interim Deputy Superintendent, and the Chief Financial Officer of Fall River Public Schools regarding the current funding for employee health insurance and the current stop-loss insurance total of $2,000,0000 to reduce the risk of very large medical claims. School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar expressed concern regarding how this insurance affects the NSS of the School Department. Mayor Coogan explained that a meeting had been held regarding the use of reimbursements for this matter in relation to the City's NSS, and it was determined to be legally sound. School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar stated that a member of the School Committee should have participated in this discussion.

Councilor Cadime and Mr. Almeida discussed the ongoing challenges related to the indirect cost agreement increases and Mr. Almeida clarified that this matter was identified during Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). Councilor Camara asked if the meeting regarding the NSS was recorded with video or audio and President Ponte clarified that this was a meeting in the Mayor's office with various individuals, not a meeting of a public body. School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar and Mr. Almeida discussed the total amount of funding that currently exceeds the NSS limit, which is roughly $8,000,000.

A detailed discussion was held between School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar and Ms. Arpke regarding the excessive costs for snow removal during FY26. The Director of Financial Services explained that the volume of snow during the Blizzard of 2026 was not anticipated and that the City is still working to pay remaining invoices for various services. Ms. Arpke stated that she will notify the School Committee if these expenditures affect NSS reimbursements. School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar also made remarks regarding the universal pre-kindergarten program offered by the City, the limited 50% reimbursement rate for this program and the resulting NSS reimbursement loss. School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar and the Director of Financial Services discussed the methods used by the City of New Bedford, MA, in relation to stop-loss reimbursement programs. Ms. Arpke stated that she would obtain more information regarding New Bedford, MA, and their stop-loss policy to share with the City Council and School Committee.

Councilor Raposo and the Chief Financial Officer of Fall River Public Schools discussed paraprofessionals, certification requirements and the level of fatigue and burn-out observed by the School Department in relation to these staff members. Mr. Almeida clarified that no additional certification is necessary for paraprofessionals, but that student, teacher and classroom relocation can increase stress for those who work in these positions. Councilor Raposo asked that the School Department provide additional data on the NSS totals from 2018 to present as well as a list of priorities for all public schools within the next few years. The Interim Deputy Superintendent stated that she would share that information promptly following the meeting.

School Committee Member Collin Dias and Mr. Almeida also discussed the School Department's NSS totals as well as the current transportation contract utilized for students. School Committee Member Collin Dias stated that he had submitted a suggestion to the City Council regarding necessary changes to this transportation contract in 2025, and it was referred to Corporation Counsel for further review. Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke also discussed the NSS reports for the School Department and Councilor Cadime requested that this data be included in upcoming quarterly budget reports presented to the City Council.

Vice President Dionne requested clarification regarding the NSS loss for pre-kindergarten students. School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar and Mr. Almeida provided additional information regarding the 50% reimbursement rate for pre-kindergarten students, which results in a higher cost per student than all other grades. Councilor Camara requested additional information regarding the final NSS totals and how that data is presented to the School Committee. Mr. Almeida stated that those totals are not typically presented to the School Committee after the budget is approved. Ms. Arpke also stated that a portion of these totals are affected by the health insurance reimbursement costs. Councilor Cadime expressed support for the School Department receiving rebates in relation to prescriptions for school employees.

Councilor Raposo stated that he would recuse himself from the discussion regarding the former Bishop Connolly High School as he is employed by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River. Councilor Raposo exited the Chamber at 6:52 p.m.

The Interim Deputy Superintended provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the potential purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School building, located at 373 Elsbree Street, which included information regarding site information, district costs, funding sources and land conservation of portions of the property.

The Chief Operating Officer of Fall River Public Schools stated that the City has been reviewing the potential purchase of this property since the summer of 2025 and has been discussing this matter with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River. Mr. Pacheco stated that the structure is ready to be used immediately, and that the City could construct additional classrooms very quickly. Mr. Pacheco also provided information regarding the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and the anticipated reimbursements the City would receive for portions of these renovations. The Chief Operating Officer of Fall River Public Schools also confirmed that the Catholic Youth Organization would still be permitted to use the recreational areas of the school.

Councilor Camara and Mr. Pacheco discussed upgrades that may occur if the City purchases the school, including roof and window repairs, as well as the re-use of current residential structures. Mr. Pacheco stated that these buildings could be repurposed for international teachers as temporary housing. Councilor Camara asked about the multiple lots surrounding the school that could be sold for residential development. Mr. Pacheco stated that the lots located on Langley Street could be sold and provided information regarding existing utility structures in that area.

Councilor Cadime expressed support for this endeavor and emphasized that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River is looking to sell this property as soon as possible. Councilor Cadime asked if there were any other structures the City could sell to obtain additional funding to purchase the former Bishop Connolly High School. Mr. Pacheco explained that the City is currently planning to sell the former William J. Wiley Elementary School and the former Stone Day School to obtain additional funding for this purchase. The Chief Operating Officer of Fall River Public Schools also stated that the goal is to continue community development by including walking trails and recreational spaces on the property. Councilor Cadime and Mr. Pacheco discussed the inspections that are ongoing and the need to purchase the structure soon as the City currently utilizes some sections of it for pre-kindergarten classrooms, which would be lost if sold to another developer. Mr. Pacheco stated that the City is working to develop an offer for the school and it will be presented within the next month. The Interim Deputy Superintendent clarified that the process of obtaining MSBA reimbursement is lengthy, but submitting an offer will allow them the City to enter the queue for consideration. Mr. Pacheco also clarified that, currently, the City pays rent to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River for use of the pre-kindergarten classrooms.

Councilor Hart and Mr. Pacheco discussed the buildable lots on Langley Street and areas surrounding the school that would be challenging to develop, such as the large hill near the gymnasium. Councilor Hart and Mr. Pacheco also discussed the residential structures on the property and the Chief Operating Officer of Fall River Public Schools explained that those structures would provide 21 apartments that could be used for international or out-of-district teachers.

Councilor Pereira expressed support for this endeavor and suggested that the property is large enough to also host events, such as festivals and carnivals. Councilor Pereira requested that this matter be submitted to the City Council as soon as possible.

Councilor Raposo returned to the Chamber at 7:32 p.m.

Ms. Arpke provided a brief PowerPoint presentation for the FY27 Municipal Budget, which included a timeline for the creation of the budget, information regarding revenue and expense forecasts, and different funds that receive capital from the General Fund.

Ms. Arpke explained that health insurance and dental insurance costs will be increasing by 8% and 4.1% respectively for FY27. The Director of Financial Services also provided information regarding the Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School Debt Assessment, which was issued with a slight modification in September of 2025, totaling roughly $115,000,000 and explained that the Stabilization Fund should reach $224,000,000 by the end of FY26. Ms. Arpke also explained various types of funding that are fixed versus those that may change over time depending on costs, salaries and hiring, as well as pension funds and solid waste expenses, which have been increasing yearly. The Director of Financial Services clarified that the debt services listed on the chart have already been spent and must be paid in full.

School Committee Member Collin Dias and Ms. Arpke discussed the School Department Budget, whether the public schools pay property taxes to the City and how the B.M.C. Durfee High School Debt Exclusion is included in property taxes. Ms. Arpke clarified that public schools do not pay property taxes to the City and explained that property tax bills are not itemized to show all allocations of the payment. School Committee Member Collin Dias stated that Corporation Counsel has attended School Committee meetings and asked if the School Department was being billed for his services. Ms. Arpke stated that no invoice is issued for Corporation Counsel to attend these meetings. School Committee Member Collin Dias suggested that the City Council should utilize third-party legal services. Councilor Periera and School Committee Member Collin Dias held a brief discussion regarding Corporation Counsel attending School Committee meetings. School Committee Member Collin Dias stated that Corporation Counsel has attended various executive session meetings over the past six months and that the School Committee does not invite him to the meetings.

Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke held a lengthy discussion regarding the calculation method to determining how much each property owner must pay toward debt exclusion with their tax payments, the two different tax rates that are applied depending on the property being classified as residential or commercial and how all debt tax data must be submitted to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for validation and oversight. Ms. Arpke also clarified that the total charge does not reflect what the City owes for the debt, but how it must be billed to match the required tax levy. Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke also discussed the Community Preservation Act (CPA) fees that are included in these tax bills, and the Director of Financial Services explained that the CPA charge was due to state legislation and was different from the tax levy charges. A brief discussion was held between Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke regarding debt payments that are due to end, pension liability and the cardboard recycling program. Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke discussed health insurance coverage of various types of medications, including Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) pharmaceuticals. The Director of Financial Services explained that, going forward, this medication will be covered for one year, so no offset is anticipated during FY27. Vice President Dionne inquired as to how long the upcoming trash collection contract will be in effect and Ms. Arpke stated that it will be a three-year contract with an option to be extended to five years.

Councilor Canuel and Ms. Arpke discussed the calculation of B.M.C. Durfee High School debt that is added to property tax bills, which totals roughly $115 per property per year, the debt exclusion timeline which the City is working to decrease through 2035, and the length of time that was proposed to voters, which was roughly eight years. Councilor Canuel expressed concern that the debt service would exceed the anticipated timeline by roughly three years and Ms. Arpke clarified that she was not employed by the City when this timeline was presented.

School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar and Ms. Arpke discussed the creation of the School Department budget and how that document is included in the total Municipal Budget for each fiscal year. School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar asked for additional information regarding debt services for solid waste, the bidding process for the new contract and budgeting information regarding the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School. Ms. Arpke explained that this information was presented to the City Council during the Capital Improvement Plan public hearing, and that she can share that information following the meeting. School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar made remarks regarding the changes in the debt timeline related to the B.M.C. Durfee High School Debt Exclusion and stated that a debt fee calculator should be available online to the public. Ms. Arpke reiterated that she would provide additional information to the School Committee regarding these matters.

Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding the lack of information in the presentation of the FY27 Municipal Budget and stated that almost 80% of other municipalities in Massachusetts have their budget ready for presentation. Councilor Cadime stated that he understands the budget deadlines provided by the City Charter, but more information should be collected earlier in the calendar year.

Councilor Pereira agreed and expressed concern regarding the solid waste bids that will be reviewed very soon, as this should have been shared with the City Council. Councilor Pereira also agreed that the meetings with Department Heads regarding necessary budgeting should occur much earlier in the calendar year. Ms. Arpke explained that, for quite a few months, she was working without a City Auditor, which created challenges in the creation of the proposed budget.

School Committee Member Collin Dias and Ms. Arpke discussed the data related to the funding for the Southcoast Regional Transit Authority, which is utilized for some middle and high school students. Ms. Arpke clarified that these financial totals are provided by the Cherry Sheet Assessments sent by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A brief discussion was held between Councilor Peckham, Mayor Coogan and School Committee Members Collin Dias and Kevin Aguiar regarding safety on the buses and around the bus stops. Mayor Coogan stated that not all students using the buses are going to public schools, some utilize the buses for private or regional school drop offs and explained that the City is working with the Fall River Police Department to increase safety patrols at bus stops. School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar clarified that the Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School students have their own buses that are funded by the regional school.

A brief discussion was held between Vice President Dionne and School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar regarding a former contract agreement for solid waste disposal that was completed incorrectly in the past. Vice President Dionne clarified that the funding was not spend, but the contract was negotiated prior to being presented to the City Council for approval. Councilor Camara clarified that the City Council does not negotiate these contracts, they only provide approval or rejection.

On a motion made by School Committee Member Collin Dias and seconded by School Committee Member Kevin Aguiar, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 8:25 p.m.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the City Council meeting at 8:25 p.m.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:
Agenda packet (attached)
PowerPoint Presentation re: the FY26 School Department Budget, presented by Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Public Schools
PowerPoint Presentation re: the former Bishop Connelly High School, presented by Interim Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Legault and Kenneth Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools
PowerPoint Presentation re: the FY26 Municipal Budget, presented by Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services

A true copy. Attest:
Chelsea Pacheco
Assistant City Clerk

In City Council, April 28, 2026
Approved.

City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Clerk

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

RECEIVED
2026 APR 13 A 8:34
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

ORIGINAL POSTING: APRIL 10, 2026, AT 1:07 P.M.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER
APRIL 14, 2026
REVISED AGENDA

5:00 P.M. JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

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:

   Arizona Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned midspan pole (P1-50), between Pole 1 and Pole 2, and approximately 130 feet southeast of the centerline of the intersection of Eastern Avenue and County Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31285348

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

   Bedford Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned, 55-foot Class H1 midspan pole (P64-50) approximately 143 feet westerly of the centerline of the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Bedford Street between existing poles P64 and P65. In accordance with Plan No. 31284377

   Restriction:
   Must not impede existing driveway.

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

   East Main Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned midspan pole (Pole 12-50) on East Main Street approximately 61 feet northerly of existing Pole 12. In accordance with Plan No. 31260059

   Restriction:
   Must not impede existing driveway.

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

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

   Locust Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned pole (P67-50) approximately 120 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Locust Street and Sherman Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31260029

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

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

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned midspan pole (P25-50), at the intersection of David Street and Hiram Street, located approximately 103 feet southwest of Pole 26. In accordance with Plan No. 31260011

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

   Peckham Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned midspan pole (P19-50) approximately 55 feet west of Pole 20. In accordance with Plan No. 31260049

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

1. Citizen Input
2. *Mayor and Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Enterprise Fund budgets for Water and Sewer Divisions (referred 3-24-2026)
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.)

PRESENTATION OF CITATIONS – None

PRIORITY MATTERS

1. *Mayor and order to accept M.G.L. Ch. 90, Sec. 17C, which relates to Establishment of 25-miles-per-hour speed limit in thickly settled or business district in city or town; violation
2. *Mayor and gift order to accept a donation for services of a professionally trained comfort and search-and-rescue dog for use by the Emergency Medical Services Division
3. *Mayor and Community Development Agency Year Two Annual Action Plan
4. *Mayor and order appropriating $4,459,575.32 from Community Preservation Act funds for Fiscal Year 2027 community projects

5. *Mayor and the following appropriations:
   a. $225,000 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Facilities, Capital
   b. $250,000 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Police, Capital
   c. $397,500 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Fire and Emergency Services
   d. $245,000 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Community Maintenance, Capital
   e. $1,600,000.00 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Demolition Revolving Fund
   f. $3,000,000.00 from FY 25 Surplus Revenue to Employer Health Trust Fund
6. *Mayor and communication to City Council regarding a resolution adopted at the Regular Meeting of the City Council held on March 24, 2026

PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS

7. *Traffic Commission recommending amendments to the traffic ordinances
8. *Chair of the Board of Elections update regarding polling locations

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Economic Development and Tourism recommending:

9. Approve
   *Communication – Letter to Administration requesting the creation of a Tourism Advisory Committee

Committee on Regulations recommending:
Adoption, as amended:

10. *Order – J & M Development Group Corp, 263 Gifford Road, Westport, MA, 02790 – Removal of 12 feet (on County Street) of curbing for a total opening of 32 feet at 215-219 Earle Street

11. *Order – Tucker Dachshund, LLC, 88 Earle Street – Removal of 39 feet of curbing (on Laurel Street) for a total opening of 82 feet at 25 Rhode Island Avenue

Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:
All readings with emergency preamble:

12. *Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Handicapped parking
   • Osborn Street, North, 20 feet east of Brown Street
   • Stewart Street, South, 29 feet east of North Underwood Street

First reading:

13. *Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous
   Section 1
   Parking prohibited during certain hours (inserts)
   • Progress Street, North, Starting at Stafford Road for a distance of 282 feet westerly, Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
   • Progress Street, South, Starting at Stafford Road for a distance of 275 feet westerly, Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

   Section 2
   Two-hour parking (insert)
   • Pleasant Street, South, east of Cash Street

Section 3
Handicapped parking removals
- Barnes Street, South, 322 feet west of County Street
- Hunter Street, South, 184 feet south of William Street
- Seabury Street, West, 104 feet north of Bank Street
- Sprague Street, North, 257 feet east of Bay Street
- Tuttle Street, East, 64 feet south of Dwelly Street

14. Committee on Public Safety recommending:
Grant Leave to Withdraw
*Resolution – The Committee on Public Safety convene with the Police Chief to discuss strategies to combat vehicular vandalism in the President Avenue and Madison Street neighborhood

ORDINANCES – None

RESOLUTIONS

15. *Committee on Real Estate, Facilities and Housing convene with a representative from the Administration, the Veterans' Services Officer, and the Director of City Operations to discuss plans for 755 Pine Street (the former Veterans Association of Bristol County location)
16. *Committee on Regulations convene with the Director of Engineering and Planning to discuss the creation of a fine for applications that are submitted after the curb removal work has been completed prior to being approved by the Traffic Commission and City Council
17. *Committee on Ordinances and Legislation convene with the City Administrator, Corporation Counsel and a representative of Fall River Government Television to discuss the creation of a proposed ordinance requiring all public meetings to be recorded with either video or audio
18. *City Council approves of the issuance of City Council Official Citations and authorizes the City Council President to implement the changes necessary to make this process more expedient for presentations in the community or in the City Council Chamber

CITATIONS

19. Maria N. Sardinha – Recipient of Fall River Icon Award and for 65 years of dedicated service and generosity to the City of Fall River

ORDERS – HEARINGS

Jointly Owned Poles

20. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Arizona Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
21. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Bedford Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
22. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., East Main Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
23. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Locust Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
24. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Northeastern Avenue – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
25. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Peckham Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location

ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS

26. Police Chief's report on licenses
Taxicab Drivers
William Louis

27. Auto Body Shop License Transfer
Auto Body Shop License No. 93, located at 151 Cove Street, from Albert Piva d/b/a Piva's Auto Repair and Body Shop to Alexander Medeiros d/b/a Al Piva's Auto Repair and Body Shop

28. Auto Repair Shop License Renewal
Naomi Soares d/b/a RS Performance and Repair, 1030 Dwelly Street

29. Auto Repair Shop License Transfer
Auto Repair Shop License No. 167, located at 151 Cove Street, from Albert Piva d/b/a Piva's Auto Repair and Body Shop to Alexander Medeiros d/b/a Al Piva's Auto Repair and Body Shop

COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS

30. *Claims

31. *City Engineer – Street opening less than 5 years on Lee Street
32. *City Engineer – Street opening less than 5 years on Harvard Street
33. *City Engineer – Street opening less than 5 years on Hartwell Street

34. Drainlayer Licenses

A. DiFazio Construction, Inc.
Alexandre's Excavating, Inc.
Biszko Contracting Corp.
Bristol Pacific Homes, Inc.
Century Paving & Construction Corp.
Coastal Water Sewer & Excavation, Inc.
DB & Son Excavating, Inc.
Dixon Inc.
East Coast Landscaping & Construction Co., Inc.
Feeney Brothers Excavation LLC
Foley Excavation LLC
Green Acres Landscape & Construction Co., Inc.
HM Lopes, LLC
Hydra Tech Inc.
JLC Construction Co., Inc.
J.R.D., Inc.
J&R Resendes Corp.
K.R. Rezendes, Inc.
LAL Construction Co., Inc.
MRC Contracting, Inc.
R. Wordell Enterprises, LLC
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BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES

42. *Department of Public Utilities – Notice of inquiry and request for comments re investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own motion into gas and electric delivery charges and bill redesign, with a comment deadline of April 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Chelsea Pacheco

Assistant City Clerk

POTENTIAL MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (if received):

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Finance recommending:

Action:

Orders – Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Enterprise Fund budgets for Water and Sewer Divisions

City of Fall River Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

RECEIVED
2026 APR 10 P 1:07
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER
APRIL 14, 2026
AGENDA

5:00 P.M. JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

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:

   Arizona Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned midspan pole (P1-50), between Pole 1 and Pole 2, and approximately 130 feet southeast of the centerline of the intersection of Eastern Avenue and County Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31285348

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

   Bedford Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned, 55-foot Class H1 midspan pole (P64-50) approximately 143 feet westerly of the centerline of the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Bedford Street between existing poles P64 and P65. In accordance with Plan No. 31284377

   Restriction:
   Must not impede existing driveway.

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

   East Main Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned midspan pole (Pole 12-50) on East Main Street approximately 61 feet northerly of existing Pole 12. In accordance with Plan No. 31260059

   Restriction:
   Must not impede existing driveway.

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

   Locust Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned pole (P67-50) approximately 120 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Locust Street and Sherman Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31260029

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

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

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned midspan pole (P25-50), at the intersection of David Street and Hiram Street, located approximately 103 feet southwest of Pole 26. In accordance with Plan No. 31260011

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

   Peckham Street — One (1) new jointly owned pole location

   This petition is proposing to install one new, jointly owned midspan pole (P19-50) approximately 55 feet west of Pole 20. In accordance with Plan No. 31260049

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

1. Citizen Input
2. *Mayor and Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Enterprise Fund budgets for Water and Sewer Divisions (referred 3-24-2026)
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.)

PRESENTATION OF CITATIONS – None

PRIORITY MATTERS

1. *Mayor and order to accept M.G.L. Ch. 90, Sec. 17C, which relates to Establishment of 25-miles-per-hour speed limit in thickly settled or business district in city or town; violation
2. *Mayor and gift order to accept a donation for services of a professionally trained comfort and search-and-rescue dog for use by the Emergency Medical Services Division
3. *Mayor and Community Development Agency Five Year Consolidated Plan and Year Two Annual Action Plan
4. *Mayor and order appropriating $4,459,575.32 from Community Preservation Act funds for Fiscal Year 2026 community projects
5. *Mayor and the following appropriations:
   a. $225,000 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Facilities, Capital
   b. $250,000 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Police, Capital
   c. $397,500 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Fire and Emergency Services

d. $245,000 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Community Maintenance, Capital
e. $1,600,000.00 from FY25 Surplus Revenue to Demolition Revolving Fund
f. $3,000,000.00 from FY 25 Surplus Revenue to Employer Health Trust Fund

6. *Mayor and communication to City Council regarding a resolution adopted at the Regular Meeting of the City Council held on March 24, 2026

PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS

7. *Traffic Commission recommending amendments to the traffic ordinances
8. *Chair of the Board of Elections update regarding polling locations

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Economic Development and Tourism recommending:

9. Approve
*Communication – Letter to Administration requesting the creation of a Tourism Advisory Committee

Committee on Regulations recommending:
Adoption, as amended:

10. *Order – J & M Development Group Corp, 263 Gifford Road, Westport, MA, 02790 – Removal of 12 feet (on County Street) of curbing for a total opening of 32 feet at 215-219 Earle Street

11. *Order – Tucker Dachshund, LLC, 88 Earle Street – Removal of 39 feet of curbing (on Laurel Street) for a total opening of 82 feet at 25 Rhode Island Avenue

Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:
All readings with emergency preamble:

12. *Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Handicapped parking
- Osborn Street, North, 20 feet east of Brown Street
- Stewart Street, South, 29 feet east of North Underwood Street

First reading:

13. *Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous
Section 1
Parking prohibited during certain hours (inserts)
- Progress Street, North, Starting at Stafford Road for a distance of 282 feet westerly, Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
- Progress Street, South, Starting at Stafford Road for a distance of 275 feet westerly, Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Section 2
Two-hour parking (insert)
- Pleasant Street, South, east of Cash Street

Section 3
Handicapped parking removals
- Barnes Street, South, 322 feet west of County Street
- Hunter Street, South, 184 feet south of William Street
- Seabury Street, West, 104 feet north of Bank Street
- Sprague Street, North, 257 feet east of Bay Street
- Tuttle Street, East, 64 feet south of Dwelly Street

14. Committee on Public Safety recommending:
Grant Leave to Withdraw
*Resolution – The Committee on Public Safety convene with the Police Chief to discuss strategies to combat vehicular vandalism in the President Avenue and Madison Street neighborhood

ORDINANCES – None

RESOLUTIONS

15. *Committee on Real Estate, Facilities and Housing convene with a representative from the Administration, the Veterans' Services Officer, and the Director of City Operations to discuss plans for 755 Pine Street (the former Veterans Association of Bristol County location)
16. *Committee on Regulations convene with the Director of Engineering and Planning to discuss the creation of a fine for applications that are submitted after the curb removal work has been completed prior to being approved by the Traffic Commission and City Council
17. *Committee on Ordinances and Legislation convene with the City Administrator, Corporation Counsel and a representative of Fall River Government Television to discuss the creation of a proposed ordinance requiring all public meetings to be recorded with either video or audio
18. *City Council approves of the issuance of City Council Official Citations and authorizes the City Council President to implement the changes necessary to make this process more expedient for presentations in the community or in the City Council Chamber

CITATIONS

19. Maria N. Sardinha – Recipient of Fall River Icon Award and for 65 years of dedicated service and generosity to the City of Fall River

ORDERS – HEARINGS

Jointly Owned Poles

20. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Arizona Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
21. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Bedford Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
22. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., East Main Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
23. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Locust Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
24. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Northeastern Avenue – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
25. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Peckham Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location

ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS

26. Police Chief's report on licenses
Taxicab Drivers
William Louis

27. Auto Body Shop License Transfer
Auto Body Shop License No. 93, located at 151 Cove Street, from Albert Piva d/b/a Piva's Auto Repair and Body Shop to Alexander Medeiros d/b/a Al Piva's Auto Repair and Body Shop

28. Auto Repair Shop License Renewal
Naomi Soares d/b/a RS Performance and Repair, 1030 Dwelly Street

29. Auto Repair Shop License Transfer
Auto Repair Shop License No. 167, located at 151 Cove Street, from Albert Piva d/b/a Piva's Auto Repair and Body Shop to Alexander Medeiros d/b/a Al Piva's Auto Repair and Body Shop

COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS

30. *Claims

31. *City Engineer – Street opening less than 5 years on Lee Street
32. *City Engineer – Street opening less than 5 years on Harvard Street
33. *City Engineer – Street opening less than 5 years on Hartwell Street

34. Drainlayer Licenses

A. DiFazio Construction, Inc.
Alexandre's Excavating, Inc.
Biszko Contracting Corp.
Bristol Pacific Homes, Inc.
Century Paving & Construction Corp.
Coastal Water Sewer & Excavation, Inc.
DB & Son Excavating, Inc.
Dixon Inc.
East Coast Landscaping & Construction Co., Inc.
Feeney Brothers Excavation LLC
Foley Excavation LLC
Green Acres Landscape & Construction Co., Inc.
HM Lopes, LLC
Hydra Tech Inc.
JLC Construction Co., Inc.
J.R.D., Inc.
J&R Resendes Corp.
K.R. Rezendes, Inc.
LAL Construction Co., Inc.
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Committee on Finance recommending:

Action:

14a. Orders – Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Enterprise Fund budgets for Water and Sewer Divisions