

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: January 27, 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.,
and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: Councilor Linda M. Pereira

IN ATTENDANCE: Al Oliveira, Director of City Operations

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 7:03 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.

PRIORITY MATTERS

1. Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 2 Budget Report
On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Ponte, it was unanimously voted to refer the matter to the Committee on Finance, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS

2. City Council President's letter to Corporation Counsel and the Director of Human Resources re: entering the executive summary of a recent internal personnel investigation into the public record and related reply from Corporation Counsel
On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.
3. City Council President's letter to Mayor in support of proposed renovations to the City Clerk and City Council offices and City Council Chamber lobby
President Ponte explained that there are various renovations and repairs that are needed for the City Clerk's office, including creating a new doorway that is more accessible for those in wheelchairs. President Ponte also stated that there are portions of the City Council office and Chamber lobby that need updates.

Councilor Raposo requested that the City Clerk contact the Director of City Operations to determine if all other Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) updates in Government Center have been completed.

On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

4. Director of Engineering and Planning re: current reconstruction projects under contract
President Ponte stated that he had received several phone calls from residents throughout the City requesting street repairs, and contacted the Director of Engineering and Planning for more details. President Ponte also explained that quarterly updates on these street repair projects will be provided to the City Councilors going forward. On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

5. Director of City Operations re: inspection of Central Fire Station
A motion was made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Canuel to accept and place the communication on file.

Councilor Camara asked why there were no comments within the inspection report regarding asbestos or water in the basement of the Central Fire Station, as there were statements made recently about these issues. Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding the photographs of pipes within the fire station as there was no clarification as to whether they had been tested for asbestos. Councilor Peckham stated that the Quequechan River is visible from the basement of the station, as there is a large cut out on the floor of the foundation and that faucets and sinks in the station have been affected by the river's occasional back flow. President Ponte suggested that this communication be referred to the Committee on Real Estate for further discussion. A further motion was made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo to refer the item to the Committee on Real Estate.

On yet a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow Al Oliveira, Director of City Operations, to answer questions, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

Mr. Oliveira provided information regarding a recent inspection of the Central Fire Station, past asbestos testing that has occurred within the structure, and plans for future remediation. The Director of City Operations explained that there were two reports that were prepared regarding asbestos. The first report was conducted because renovations were expected in the building and because the building is older than 1972, it required testing of a variety of products that could have asbestos. This report was completed and shared with the House Captain of the Central Fire Station. The item that was identified on that report as having asbestos was pipe insulation. Councilor Camara inquired as to whether there was asbestos along the floor in the basement that was airborne and Mr. Oliveira stated that during the second report, a white dust that looked like a calcification byproduct inside a cut cast pipe was observed but that dust was not airborne. The Director of City Operations also clarified that, while the river is visible in the basement, there is a sump pump system installed to lower the risk of flooding, which hasn't occurred since 2004 and that the grease trap that was backing up referenced by Councilor Peckham was repaired. Councilor Camara emphasized that the structure may need to be demolished and rebuilt elsewhere.

Councilor Cadime requested clarification regarding asbestos testing in the basement. Mr. Oliveira stated that there was a suspicious powder substance near the holding tank pipes and that he is working to employ a contracted company to remediate that area. The Director of City Operations explained that the long-term plan is to have the area vacuumed and washed by a

licensed asbestos cleaning contractor. Councilor Cadime asked if the area has been tested for asbestos and Mr. Oliveira stated that he has not submitted a sample for testing, but that the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards allows licensed contractors to perform mitigation without testing results. Councilor Cadime emphasized the need for adequate testing and the Director of City Operations stated that he will return to the station within the next day and obtain a test sample for this open pipe area in the basement.

Councilor Canuel asked if the area has any airborne asbestos particles. Mr. Oliveira stated that he will perform an airborne test but emphasized that he was trying to apply remediation protocol steps proactively without testing to lower any public safety risk.

Councilor Peckham and the Director of City Operations discussed various areas of the Central Fire Station where asbestos remediation has been performed. Mr. Oliveira clarified that there were pipes on the first floor of the station that were wrapped last year by a licensed asbestos remediation contractor.

Councilor Cadime requested clarification as to whether vacuuming has occurred in the basement of the Central Fire Station prior to any asbestos testing being performed. Mr. Oliveira clarified that there has not been any action taken in the basement, and that he accompanied a certified contractor on a walk-through of the facility to determine the plan and cost of proper remediation. The Director of City Operations stated that only licensed contractors are allowed to perform asbestos remediation by law.

Councilor Dionne asked if the window caulking had been tested for asbestos material. Mr. Oliveira clarified that the external sections of the building, including the window caulking, have not yet been tested. The Director of City Operations explained that a report has been produced for the interior area of the building, including wall plaster, ceiling plaster, ceiling tiles and concrete baseboards, and that these have been tested for asbestos. Mr. Oliveira stated that almost all surfaces tested negative for asbestos, except for one area of piping. President Ponte requested that the Director of City Operations reassess the basement of the Central Fire Station as soon as possible for proper testing of suspicious areas.

On the motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the communication to the Committee on Real Estate, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

6. Traffic Commission recommending amendments to the traffic ordinances
On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to refer the recommendations to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Real Estate recommending:

Adoption

7. Order – Sale of the former Davol School located at 112 Flint Street to Contractor's Landing, LLC, for \$150,000

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 8 yeas to adopt the order, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

Approved, January 29, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

ORDINANCES – None

RESOLUTIONS

8. Administration prepare a full cost analysis of providing residential solid waste and recycling collection in-house and presents this analysis to the Committee on Finance. Councilor Canuel stated that the resolution would allow the City Council to determine if third party contracts for trash and recycling disposal services are still the best financial option, or if in-house services would be more beneficial. Councilor Canuel emphasized that private companies operate for a profit and stated that the City is still paying for old trash trucks that are no longer being utilized.

President Ponte requested clarification regarding the debt owed on old trash trucks, and Councilor Canuel stated that the Mayor confirmed that the City still carries debt on these vehicles, which have since been sold. Councilor Dionne confirmed that the trucks were still being paid for, as the amount received when they were auctioned was not enough to pay off the existing debt for the vehicles.

Councilor Cadime stated that he appreciates the intent behind the resolution but emphasized that the City Council cannot direct the Administration to consider new trash and recycling programs. Councilor Cadime explained that the workers' compensation insurance costs for this type of service are very high and by contracting this service to a private party, these expenditures have decreased significantly. Councilor Cadime stated that the City Council can request information regarding decisions being made by the Administration, but that the legislative branch of government cannot dictate how the executive branch of government should handle day-to-day operations. Councilor Cadime also explained that the ninety-day deadline on the resolution is not reasonable, as the Director of Financial Services is currently developing many different financial documents that are required to be presented within certain deadlines, such as the Capital Improvement Plan.

A motion was made by Councilor Canuel to waive the rules to allow the Director of Financial Services to answer questions, but there was no second. Councilor Canuel stated that the decision to privatize these services was intended on generating a total of \$8,000,000, in savings, but that this has not occurred. Councilor Canuel also explained that the resolution would allow the City Council to compare potential internal costs and savings versus the current third-party contract agreements. Councilor Canuel emphasized that this action may generate jobs in the City, as well as additional savings.

Councilor Cadime reiterated that the third-party contract was determined to be the best option for the City due to the workers' compensation insurance claims, as the job is physically demanding. Councilor Cadime also made remarks regarding the current cost of disposal by tonnage and that contracts with third-party companies help to lower that expenditure. Councilor Cadime reiterated that the resolution is assigning a full-scale cost analysis to the Administration, which is not a legislative power. Councilor Cadime also clarified that some of the former trash disposal employees were reassigned to new duties within the Department of Community Maintenance when the services were transferred to third-party companies.

Councilor Camara stated that there were additional increased costs when this service was performed by City employees, as the trucks would frequently break down and the cost of repairs was very high. Councilor Camara emphasized that the bids received from the third-party vendors will reflect the current market rates for these services. Councilor Raposo suggested that Councilor Canuel review the data regarding trash collection costs over the past ten years.

Councilor Canuel reiterated that the intention of the resolution was to obtain valuable data in relation to trash and recycling disposal costs and that this information would provide more up-to-date financial insight into these expenditures.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 1 year, 7 days, to adopt the resolution, with Councilor Canuel voting in the affirmative and Councilor Pereira absent and not voting, and the motion failed to carry.

9. City Council send letter to Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, requesting guidance in obtaining additional funding to assist with sustainment of the Fall River Addiction Support and Treatment (FAST) Team following recent federal grant funding cuts

Councilor Canuel made remarks regarding the services provided by the Fall River Addiction Support and Treatment (FAST) Team to the community, and that this resolution will assist with potentially obtaining additional state funding to replace the federal funding that is no longer available. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to adopt the resolution, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting. A copy of the letter sent to Senator Rodrigues is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

CITATIONS

10. 911 Emergency Dispatchers, AFSCME Council 93, Local 3177 – Service to the City of Fall River on the night of July 13, 2025, during the Gabriel House Assisted Living Residence fire

On a motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the citation, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

ORDERS – HEARINGS

Pole Location

11. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid – One (1) new pole location on Miller Street

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

Approved, January 28, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

Underground Conduit

12. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid – Install underground facilities on Pleasant Street

On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

Approved, January 28, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS

13. **Auto Repair Shop License Renewal**

Richard R. Torres d/b/a Empire Hyundai, Inc., 428 Pleasant Street

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

Approved, January 28, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

14. Police Chief's Report on Licenses

Taxicab Drivers

Domingos Almeida, Jr.
Jennifer Hyllested
Chad Quigley

Austin Lee Braga
Ashraf Kamal Antar

Michael E. Diniz
Judy B. Palani

Private Livery Vehicles

Larince Seide – One (1) vehicle

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

15. Fall River Taxi Service, Inc. – New Taxicab Vehicle Applications for License Nos. 6, 11, 16

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

Approved, January 29, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS

16. Claims

On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

17. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes – December 18, 2025

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, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to take items 18 through 23 together, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

City Council Minutes

18. Public Hearings – December 23, 2025

19. Committee on Finance – December 23, 2025

20. Committee on Finance – January 13, 2026

21. Regular Meeting of the City Council – December 23, 2025

22. Meeting of the City Council and Organization of City Government – January 5, 2026

23. Regular Meeting of the City Council – January 13, 2026

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

BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES – None

ITEMS FILED AFTER THE AGENDA DEADLINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JANUARY 27, 2026

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:

First Reading:

- 7a. Proposed Ordinance – Amendments to the titles of the Committee on Real Estate and the Committee Human Services, Housing, Youth, Elder and Veterans' Affairs
On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to pass the proposed ordinance through first reading, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

Committee on Finance recommending:

Action:

- 7b. Resolution – Convene with the Administration and the Director of City Operations to present a definitive action plan for the repair of the Pearl Street and Third Street parking garages

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to refer the resolution to the Committee on Real Estate, with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:59 p.m., with Councilor Pereira absent and not voting.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

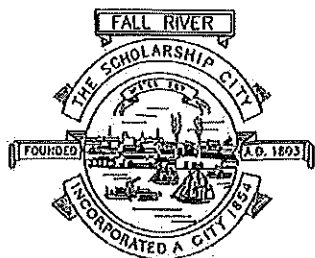
A true copy. Attest:



City Clerk

In City Council, February 10, 2026

Approved.



City of Fall River Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk

RECEIVED

2026 JAN 23 P 12:42

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE

CITY CLERK

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

CHELSEA PACHECO

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JANUARY 27, 2026
AGENDA

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

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

Pole Location

1. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for one new pole location as follows:

Miller Street

One (1) new pole

This petition is proposing to install one new, solely owned, Pole 3-20 between existing Pole 3, located on Whitman Street, and existing Pole 3-30, located on Miller Street. Proposed Pole 3-20 will be located approximately 70 feet southeast of Pole 3 and will be set against curbing in the sidewalk. In accordance with Plan No. 31222619.

Underground Conduit

2. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for an underground conduit location as follows:

Pleasant Street

National Grid is proposing to install underground facilities on Pleasant Street. National Grid will be installing a new switchgear manhole and PME 9 switchgear in parking lot 277 on Pleasant Street. National Grid will also be installing 4-5 inches of concrete encased conduits from Manhole (MH) 5-1 to Manhole (MH) 6-1 to new switchgear. In accordance with Plan No. 31134152.

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. *Resolution – Convene with Director of Engineering and Planning and Administration to develop a comprehensive funding strategy to match or supplement the City's annual Chapter 90 allocation to increase investment in roadway improvements (tabled 8-12-2025)
3. *Resolution – Convene with the Administration and the Director of City Operations to present a definitive action plan for the repair of the Pearl Street and Third Street parking garages (adopted 7-15-2025)

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

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722

TEL 508-324-2220 • FAX 508-324-2211 • EMAIL city_clerk@fallriverma.gov

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. *Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 2 Budget Report

PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS

2. *City Council President's letter to Corporation Counsel and the Director of Human Resources re: entering the executive summary of a recent internal personnel investigation into the public record and related reply from Corporation Counsel
3. *City Council President's letter to Mayor in support of proposed renovations to the City Clerk and City Council offices and City Council Chamber lobby
4. *Director of Engineering and Planning re: current reconstruction projects under contract
5. *Director of City Operations re: inspection of Central Fire Station
6. *Traffic Commission recommending amendments to the traffic ordinances

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Real Estate recommending:

Adoption

7. *Order – Sale of the former Davol School located at 112 Flint Street to Contractor's Landing, LLC, for \$150,000

ORDINANCES – None

RESOLUTIONS

8. *Administration prepare a full cost analysis of providing residential solid waste and recycling collection in-house and presents this analysis to the Committee on Finance
9. *City Council send letter to Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, requesting guidance in obtaining additional funding to assist with sustainment of the Fall River Addiction Support and Treatment (FAST) Team following recent federal grant funding cuts

CITATIONS

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ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS

13. Auto Repair Shop License Renewal
Richard R. Torres d/b/a Empire Hyundai, Inc., 428 Pleasant Street

14. Police Chief's Report on Licenses

Taxicab Drivers

Domingos Almeida, Jr.
Jennifer Hyllested
Chad Quigley

Austin Lee Braga
Ashraf Kamal Antar

Michael E. Diniz
Judy B. Palani

Private Livery Vehicles

Larince Seide – One (1) vehicle

15. Fall River Taxi Service, Inc. – New Taxicab Vehicle Applications for License Nos. 6, 11, 16

COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS

16. *Claims

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City Council Minutes

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20. *Committee on Finance – January 13, 2026

21. *Regular Meeting of the City Council – December 23, 2025

22. *Meeting of the City Council and Organization of City Government – January 5, 2026

23. *Regular Meeting of the City Council – January 13, 2026

BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES – None

Amis da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:

First Reading:

- Proposed Ordinance – Amendments to the titles of the Committee on Real Estate and the Committee Human Services, Housing, Youth, Elder and Veterans' Affairs

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CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA



FY 2026 QUARTER 2 BUDGET REPORT



City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Council

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2026 JAN 15 A 8 00

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

CLIFF A. PONTE
President
City Council

January 14, 2026

Alan J. Rumsey, Esq.
Corporation Counsel
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Nicholas A. Macolini
Director of Human Resources
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Attorney Rumsey and Mr. Macolini:

I am writing in my capacity as City Council President to formally advise the Corporation Counsel and the Human Resources Department, and to notify my fellow Councilors, regarding a matter that occurred last evening in City Council Chamber.

At approximately 8:45 p.m., the Veterans Services Officer (VSO) personally handed me a folder while we were in the Council Chamber. Upon receipt, I immediately transferred the folder to the City Clerk. At that time, I advised the VSO that the materials were now considered a public document, which the VSO acknowledged.

For the record, I want to clearly state that prior to this point, Councilor Linda M. Pereira acted appropriately, equitably, and within the scope of her role with respect to any allegations raised. Any suggestion or implication that Councilor Pereira acted improperly was addressed directly and publicly by her during last evening's City Council meeting, and the record should reflect that.

Given that the contents involve a personnel matter, and in the interest of proper procedure, I am transmitting this matter to Corporation Counsel and the Human Resources Department for their review and any action they deem appropriate. I am also notifying my City Council colleagues to ensure transparency and proper recordkeeping.

Now that the document has been presented to the City Clerk, it is part of the public record. Accordingly, and consistent with principles of openness and transparency, I intend to include this item as a communication on the agenda for the next City Council meeting.

If the Administration determines that further discussion or review is necessary, particularly where the matter remains primarily personal in nature, I respectfully request that such review be handled as an executive branch function. I also ask that the City Council, and Councilor Pereira in particular, be kept informed of any future claims or developments related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cliff A. Ponte
City Council President

Enc.

Cc: ☒ The Honorable Paul E. Coogan, Mayor
☒ Members of the City Council

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722
TEL 508-324-2233 • FAX 508-324-2234 • EMAIL city_council@fallriverma.gov



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION BY
HR SOLUTIONS AT WORK FOR CITY OF FALL RIVER**

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Background and Scope of Engagement

In or around October 2025, Compliance Plus, LLC, d/b/a HR Solutions at Work ("HRS AW" or "Investigator") was retained by the City of Fall River ("Fall River" or the "City") to investigate certain employment issues raised by the City's Veterans Services Officer ("VSO"), Talos Farris ("Farris"). The investigation centered around issues involving City Councilor Linda Pereira ("Pereira").¹ A verbal report of preliminary findings was made to Fall River in December 2025 and the City later requested an executive summary of the factual conclusions reached in the investigation.

During the course of the investigation, HRS AW conducted seven investigative interviews, totaling over ten hours of interview time, and reviewed employment policies contained in the City of Fall River's Employee Handbook.

Factual Findings

- There was insufficient evidence to conclude that Pereira's treatment of Farris was motivated in whole or in part by Farris' protected class status (race). Accordingly, HRS AW did not find a violation of the City's Equal Employment Opportunity policy or Policy against Discrimination, Workplace Harassment and Sexual Harassment.
- With respect to non-race-related allegations, credible information gathered during the investigation regarding statements allegedly made by Pereira about Farris was limited and conflicting. Accordingly, Investigator had insufficient information to conclude whether such statements were made.

¹ Although Farris raised issues with respect to individuals other than Pereira, the investigation was limited in scope to matters involving Pereira since she is the only individual identified by Farris in his complaints who has an employment relationship with the City.

HR Solutions

At Work

- Information gathered during the investigation showed that Pereira did not take any action to advance the proposed ordinance amendment for the VSO position in the ordinance committee. However, although Pereira chaired the committee, she was not the only person who could advance the aforementioned amendment. The facts showed that City Councilor Andrew Raposo moved to lift the amendment from the table at the ordinance subcommittee meeting held on August 26, 2025.² Following that action and a series of subsequent events, Farris ultimately received an increase in compensation. Accordingly, HRSAW did not find that Pereira violated an employment policy in not acting to advance the aforementioned amendment.

Conclusion

While some of the facts alleged were substantiated, they do not support a finding that Pereira violated Farris's rights or a workplace policy.

² In addition, although the initial amendment sought to change the VSO position to contract-based compensation (rather than an ordinance-based salary cap), then-interim City Administrator Michael Dion requested that the VSO position continue to have an ordinance-based salary cap ("leave it in ordinance and to be 'not to exceed'") at the August 26, 2025 ordinance meeting.



**OFFICE OF THE
CORPORATION COUNSEL**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

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2026 JAN 15 P 3:35

January 15, 2026

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

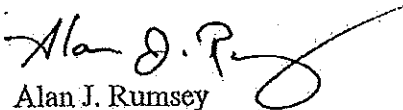
Cliff Ponte, President
Fall River City Council
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Re: HR Solutions at Work

President Ponte:

Thank you for notifying this office of the VSO's actions at the City Council meeting. In answer to your question, neither the Law Department nor Human Resources plan to take any action in response to the VSO's decision to produce his personnel record (the Executive Summary prepared by HR Solutions at Work) and no further discussion or review is required by the administration.

Very truly yours,


Alan J. Rumsey
Corporation Counsel



**City of Fall River
Massachusetts
City Council**

RECEIVED

2026 JAN 22 P 12:50

CLIFF A. PONTE
*President
City Council*

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

January 22, 2026

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

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am writing in support of renovations in the City Clerk's office, City Council office and City Council Chamber lobby.

As you know, these areas of Government Center are visited regularly by the public and I have noticed during my tenure as City Councilor that these spaces need updates and repairs.

The City Clerk's office is one of the hubs of Government Center. It is visited by hundreds of patrons yearly who come to Government Center for a variety of daily life needs, from opening or expanding a business, starting a family, getting married, or navigating City business in general. In some cases, the City Clerk's office is someone's first introduction to our municipal government and is their first impression of our city. I feel the office should visually reflect the pride we have in the work that is performed there. A few years ago, the counter was upgraded to comply with ADA requirements.

The City Clerk's office is also the keeper of permanent records, such as Vital Records and City Council records. As the collection continues to grow, storage needs are increasing and space in the vault can be optimized with re-organization of the City Clerk and City Council office space.

The City Council office and City Council Chamber are also visited by elected officials and residents frequently for information on a project they are working on, or to get the status of legislation that impacts their life. Local schools also visit the Council Chamber periodically to learn about their local government.

As a result, I am in full support of the following, which have been requested:

- City Clerk and City Council Offices
 - Carpeting and office furniture: Carpeting has stains, rips and is very worn. Desks have broken or removed laminate, storage cabinetry and desks do not close properly or are not as functional for today's technologies.
 - Storage and break room: Re-configuring City Clerk's front office and City Council copy room will allow for optimization of space, leaving more room for storage of permanent records.

- City Clerk's Conference Room
 - Add door from hallway: Parties of 10+ people walk through private offices to access the room where marriage ceremonies are performed. Accessing this space can be challenging for wheelchairs and strollers as there is a threshold in the Assistant City Clerk's Office. Adding a door from the hallway would provide better access.
- City Council Chamber Lobby
 - Carpeting and office furniture: Carpeting has stains, rips and is very worn. A variety of groups with interest in items before the Council gather in the lobby and the space could benefit from being more inviting.

As you are aware, I met recently with the City Clerk and the Director of City Operations, and it is my understanding that many of these requests can be absorbed by the current budget of the Facilities Department as it already accounts for this type of maintenance work and in-house staff is available and can be utilized to do many of these tasks. I would also be in full support of incorporating these needs within the Capital Improvement Plan, if it is deemed the best funding mechanism.

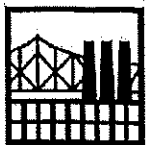
I wholeheartedly support this work being done and look forward to working with you and your administration to get this accomplished. I respectfully request that a timeline be provided to the City Clerk within the next few weeks when the work can begin.

Sincerely,



Cliff A. Ponte
City Council President

Cc: Members of the City Council ✓



**DEPARTMENT OF
ENGINEERING - PLANNING**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

PAUL E. COOGAN

Mayor

DANIEL AGUIAR

Director of Engineering & Planning

RECEIVED

2026 JAN 21 A 11:37

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

January 14, 2026

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

Council President Ponte and Members of the City Council,

Happy New Year!! I wanted to take the time to update you on some of our ongoing construction projects and to offer a glimpse into what we have planned for the year ahead. We have a small but extremely talented staff dedicated to providing exemplary service to our citizens and making great improvements to our City. As always, I am available to discuss anything related to "what we do" here in the Engineering & Planning Department.

The following is a list of current roadway reconstruction projects under contract. These projects are funded through various sources including Chapter 90, Bond Authorization, "Local Bottleneck" MassDOT Grant and Liberty Utilities contributions.

Location	Street		Street
Bedford	Twelfth	to	North Main
Barnes	Eastern	to	County
Columbia	South Main	to	Broadway
Charlotte	New Boston	to	President
Charles	Kilburn	to	South Main
Globe	Four Corners Intersection		
Hyacinth	Locust	to	Bullock
Pond View	Amity	to	Terminus
Pond	Anawan	to	Rail line
Wall	Bedford	to	Beattie
Wilson	No. Main	to	Highland

Eastern Avenue from Martine to Bedford is currently in design utilizing Chapter 90 funds with the anticipation of construction being funded as a MassDOT "TIP" project. This project would include updated signalization at all intersections.

The Intersection of Bedford Street and Quarry is currently in design as a "Safe Routes to School" grant project funded by MassDOT.

The Jefferson Street bridge over Sucker Brook is currently in design as a "Small Bridge Replacement" grant project funded by MassDOT.

Additionally, we have some exciting projects upcoming including the Columbia Street Parklet reconstruction and the Father Kelly Park parking facility.

As we do every year, we are currently working with Liberty Utilities and our own Department of Community Utilities regarding new proposed street projects anticipated for the next few years.

Please note that streets being reconstructed as part of water or sewer utility upgrades are not listed. (ie. Jefferson Street from Brayton to Warren)

Once funding for the year has been finalized including Chapter 90 and Municipal support, locations can be decided on, bid and awarded accordingly.

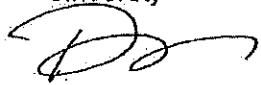
Some of the streets on our radar are as follows:

Aberdeen	Brayton	to	Glasgow
Alden	Quequechan	to	East Warren
America	Stafford	to	Clay
Baylies	No. Main	to	Durfee
Bedford	Eastern	to	Stonehaven
Brayton Ave	Stafford	to	Jefferson
Blossom	Westport Line	to	Indian Town
Blossom	Indian Town	to	Ranger Station
Central	No. Main	to	Milliken
Claflin	Pleasant	to	Alden
Copicut	Dart. Line	to	Indian Town
County	Eastern	to	McGowan
County	Eastern Ave	to	Pleasant
Elm	Green	to	Durfee
Glendale	No. Main	to	Dead End
Guy	Hyacinth	to	Freelove
Herman	North Main	to	Highland
Homestead	Mt. Pleasant	to	Herman
Kellogg	Osborn	to	Hamlet
Lamphor	Anthony	to	Tucker
Last	So. Main	to	Clarkson
Lawrence	Rodman	to	Nashua
Middlesex	County	to	Barlow
Montaup	Globe	to	Hamlet
Mt. Pleasant	Highland	to	Herman
No. Marion	Locust	to	Bedford
Pine	North Main	to	Purchase
Pleasant	Plymouth	to	Eastern

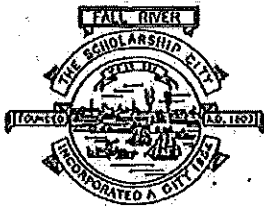
Pleasant	Troy	to	Plymouth
Quequechan	Alden	to	Pleasant
Renaud	Kennedy	to	Stockton
Robeson	Locust	to	Prospect
Saxon	Oak Grove	to	Dead End
Small	Elsbree	to	Dead End
So. Main	Middle	to	Columbia
Spring	Pearl	to	So. Main
Third	Bedford	to	Pleasant
Wayland	No Main	to	Dead End

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to discussing these matters at your convenience.

Sincerely



Daniel Aguilar
Director of Engineering & Planning



CITY OF FALL RIVER MASSACHUSETTS

Department of City Operations
Community Maintenance • Facilities • Parks • Cemeteries • Trees
Capital Projects • Print/Mail

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

Al Oliveira
Director

January 15, 2026

Good afternoon Councilor(s),

I had a pre-scheduled day off yesterday. I was hoping to tour the fire station yesterday morning but I was not able to due to personal issues. I did perform a tour this morning of the basement prior to an 8:30 meeting with the Mayor. My conversation with the Chief was that we currently have sufficient showers, so I focused on any potential environmental concerns.

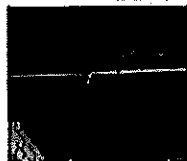
As part of the interior construction project, we have an asbestos report being developed by a state licensed inspector/monitor. I asked the hygienist to include any potential issues in this building as part of any repairs. All repairs will be performed by state licensed hygienists and workers.



As I entered the basement, I found a suspicious white product inside of a pipe and scattered on the floor. This looks like a calcification byproduct inside of a cut cast pipe.



This small expansion tank was removed several years ago. You can visually see that it was candy striped to reduce any ACM damage. I suspect that this is thermal magnesium ACM insulation and I am working to have this removed asap. A contractor will bag this and remove it off site. The entire floor will be cleaned.



This is a fiberglass insulated line and not asbestos.

The basement is extremely cluttered with fire department surplus equipment and miscellaneous items. Attached, please find a phasing plan to correct the clutter in the basement. This plan will require Facilities and Fire Department staff to correct this issue.

1. Facilities: Schedule inspection of any potential hazards (currently on-going).
2. Facilities: Remediate any hazards and air per clean air standards and make safe.
3. Facilities: Remove any metal and trash from the building.
4. Fire Dept: Inventory and Remove any surplus items from the building.

Sincerely,

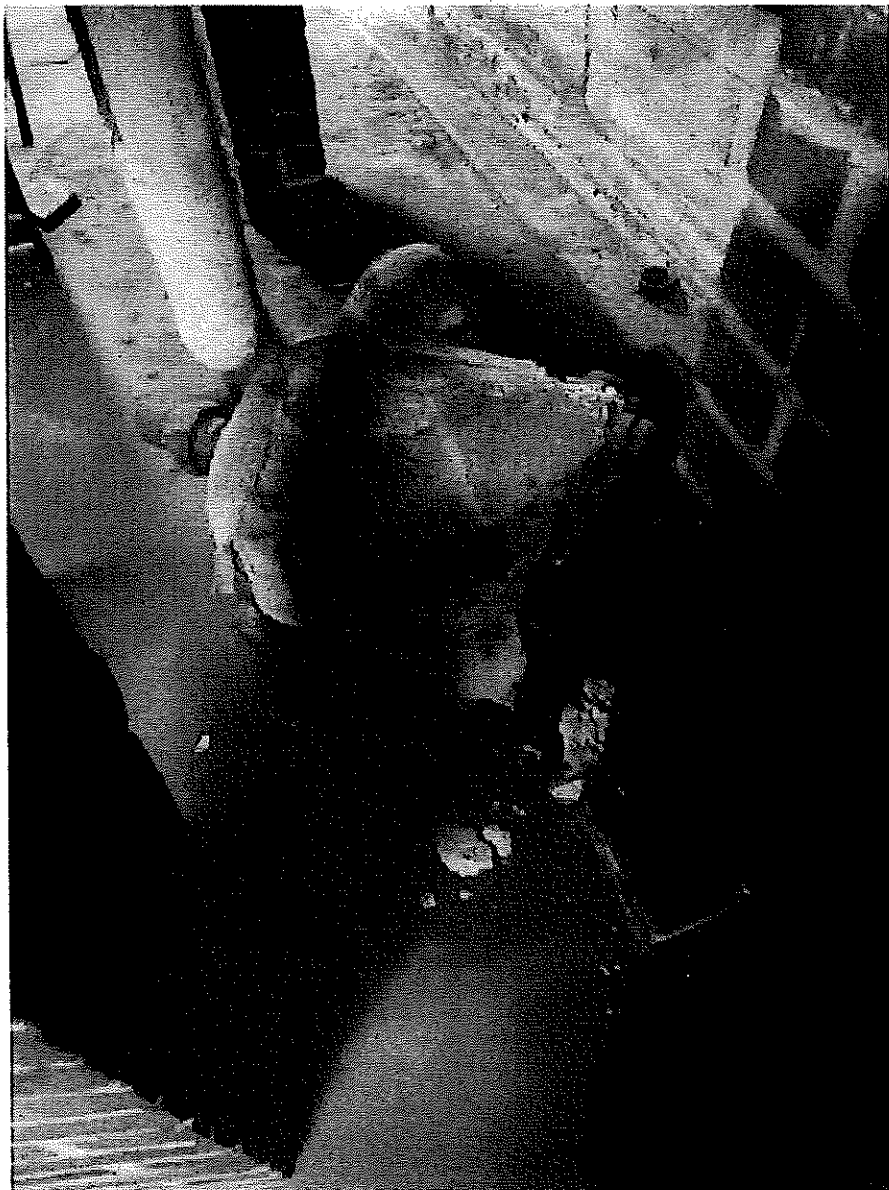

Al Oliveira
Director of City Operations

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

2026 JAN 22 P 12:54

RECEIVED







6

**CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS**

Traffic & Parking Division



RECEIVED

2026 JAN 22 P 12:06

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

January 22, 2026,

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

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

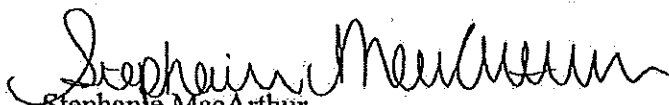
That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following:

Name of Street	Side	Location
George Street	South	Starting at a point 146 feet West of Oregon Street. For a distance of 20 feet West.

Very truly yours,


Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

6

**CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS**



Traffic & Parking Division **RECEIVED**

2026 JAN 22 P 12: 06

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

January 22, 2026

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

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Grove Street	West	Starting at a point 126 feet South of Walnut Street. For a distance of 20 feet South.

Very truly yours,


Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

6

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS

Traffic & Parking Division



RECEIVED

2026 JAN 22 P 12:06

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

January 22, 2026

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

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

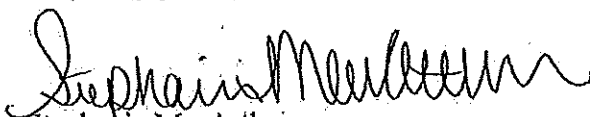
That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Oliver Street	North	Starting at a point 151 feet East of Broadway Street. For a distance of 20 feet East.

Very truly yours,


Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

6

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS

Traffic & Parking Division



RECEIVED

2025 JAN 22 P 12: 06

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

January 22, 2026

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

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Pitman Street	East	Starting at a point 110 feet South of Webster Street. For a distance of 20 feet Southerly.

Very truly yours,


Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

One Government Center Fall River, MA 02722
TEL: (508) 324-2123 FAX (508) 324-2578 EMAIL Smacarthur@fallriverma.gov

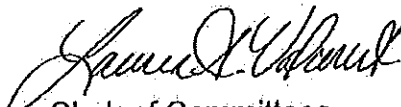
JW

CITY OF FALL RIVER

To the City Council

Councillors:

The Committee on Real Estate, at a meeting held on January 20, 2026, voted unanimously to recommend that the accompanying order be adopted, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.


Clerk of Committees

City of Fall River, *In City Council*

7

ORDERED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Purchase & Sales Agreement, in a form acceptable to the Corporation Counsel, for the sale of the site of former Davol School, 112 Flint Street, Fall River, MA, shown as Fall River Assessors' Parcel #K-14-11, to Contractors Landing, LLC for the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand and 00/100 (\$150,000.00) Dollars, and further, upon satisfaction of any contingencies set forth in said Purchase & Sales Agreement, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Quitclaim Deed of said parcel to Contractors Landing, LLC, and all closing documentation necessary to effectuate said conveyance.



PURCHASING
CITY OF FALL RIVER

RFP #26-03 Sale of the Former Davol School
PRICE PROPOSAL

Sale of the site of the Former Davol School
114 Flint Street, Fall River, Massachusetts

Property Suggested Minimum Bid Price \$ 355,000.00

Proposed Purchase Price \$ 150,000.00

Written Proposed Purchase Price in words:

One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and 00/100 cents.

If the Proposed Purchase Price is less than the Suggested Minimum Bid Price of \$ 355,000.00 then this Price Proposal must be accompanied by a written detailed explanation by the bidder as to how the current condition of the Property adversely affects the minimum suggested bid and why the amount proposed by the bidder is reasonable considering said conditions. Unless accompanied by such written explanation, a Price Proposal containing a Proposed Purchase Price of less than \$ 355,000.00 will be deemed non-responsive.

Name: Contractors Landing, LLC

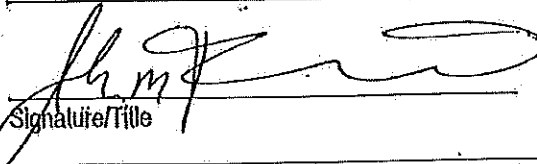
Address: 21 Coral Street

Fall River, Massachusetts 02721

Email: jfgeneral@aol.com

Tel #: 508-493-3311

By:


Signature/Title

A bid deposit in the amount of Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty dollars (\$17,750.00) via certified funds must be submitted as part of the proposal package. Deposits shall be returned to unsuccessful proposers within seven (7) business days after the City executes an Agreement with the successful proposer. If the successful proposer fails to execute a lease agreement with the City after the award, the deposit shall be retained by the City.

RFP #26-03**Sale of Former Davol School
Price Proposal Explanation
of Contractors Landing, LLC**

Contractors Landing, LLC (hereinafter referred to as "Contractors Landing") is cognizant that its Price Proposal of \$150,000.00 is below the Suggested Minimum Bid Price of \$355,000.00. However, Contractors Landing submits that there are significant known and unknown factors that support its proposed price of \$150,000.00.

First and foremost, the property was previously utilized as a school. The conversion of the existing structure to a multifamily, residential dwelling consisting of sixteen (16) or more units will require a complete overhaul to the building interior. This not only includes the construction of the units, but also the installation of all new plumbing, electric, and HVAC service. There may also be a need to reinforce the structure itself, and this comes at a significant expense. The redevelopment will also require the replacement of all windows, doors, and roof. Again, this all comes at a substantial cost.

The "unknown" must also be factored into the cost. At this point, there has not been a thorough inspection of the building and property. When dealing with an older property, it is commonplace to find certain environmental hazards in the structure. The cost of removal of these hazards is often costly. There are also known environmental issues on the exterior, and the cost to address these issues is not yet known. Nevertheless, and based upon Contractors Landing's past experience, the "clean up" is often very costly.

Contractors Landing proposes to convert the structure into a multifamily, residential dwelling consisting of approximately sixteen (16) units (but hopefully more). In order to do so, Contractors Landing will need certain relief from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Contractors Landing is proposing to purchase the property without the guarantee that it will be able to develop the property in accordance with its proposal, which poses a financial risk.

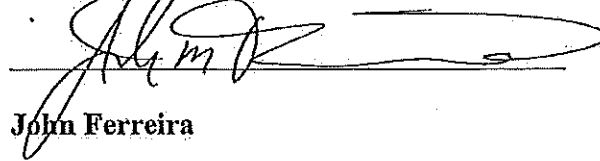
Lastly, the overall cost of construction has significantly increased over the past several years and there have been no signs that the increased prices will abate. The present economic climate is such that there is great volatility in the cost of construction materials and thus, it is difficult to predict construction cost.

Given all of these factors (both known and unknown), Contractors Landing respectfully suggests that its Price Proposal of \$150,000.00 is fair and reasonable.

Proposed Bidder:

Contractors Landing, LLC

Signature:



Printed Name:

John Ferreira

Title:

Manager of Contractors Landing, LLC

Date:

September 17, 2025

City of Fall River, *In City Council*

8

(Councilor Michael G. Canuel)

WHEREAS, the City of Fall River currently contracts with E-Z Disposal for residential solid waste and recycling collection, and that contract is set to expire in the upcoming fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the City of Fall River historically provided residential solid waste and recycling collection in-house through municipal operations prior to the 2016 decision to privatize these services, and

WHEREAS, the City is expected to seek external bids for a new solid waste collection contract with a multi-year term, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that all major expenditures are evaluated in a transparent, data-driven manner to secure the best possible value for taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, the only option currently under discussion is the solicitation of external bids, and the City has not publicly presented a recent, comprehensive analysis of the cost to provide residential solid waste and recycling collection in-house, and

WHEREAS, the cost of external bids is not known until proposals are received, and market conditions — including labor, fuel, equipment, and disposal costs — have materially changed since the original privatization decision, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby requests that the Administration, in coordination with the Director of Financial Services, the Director of City Operations, and any relevant parties, prepare a full cost analysis of providing residential solid waste and recycling collection in-house, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this analysis shall:

- Cover the same contract length(s) being contemplated in the upcoming solicitation for external bids
- Include all associated costs, including but not limited to staffing, equipment acquisition or leasing, vehicle replacement schedules, maintenance, fuel, benefits, insurance, administrative overhead, and long-term capital obligations
- Clearly identify all assumptions used in the analysis
- Be structured in a manner that allows for a direct comparison to external bid proposals when received, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this cost analysis shall be formally presented to the Committee on Finance within ninety (90) days of adoption of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the completed analysis shall be presented as a viable option for consideration by the City Council prior to any vote authorizing a new solid waste and recycling collection contract.

(filed 1-14-2026)

City of Fall River, In City Council

(Councilor Michael G. Canuel)

WHEREAS, the City of Fall River, through its Community Development Agency (CDA), has worked diligently to secure and administer grant funding to support public safety, mental health, and addiction outreach services for vulnerable residents, and

WHEREAS, the Fall River Addiction Support and Treatment (FAST) Team currently operates under a federal Connect and Protect grant and plays a critical role in connecting individuals experiencing mental health crises, substance use disorders, and homelessness with appropriate services and supports, and

WHEREAS, the City has been advised that several federal addiction and mental health grant programs have been reduced or eliminated, placing increased strain on local agencies attempting to maintain continuity of care and outreach services, and

WHEREAS, the CDA has made good faith efforts to identify and secure alternative grant funding to sustain the FAST Team but reports that maintaining this funding has become increasingly difficult, and

WHEREAS, the potential loss or reduction of FAST Team services would have a direct and negative impact on public safety, emergency response, and the well-being of residents most in need of assistance, and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing mental health, substance use, and homelessness through state-level funding, partnerships, and legislative initiatives, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council formally requests assistance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to help identify potential funding sources to sustain the FAST Team and related mental health and addiction outreach services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council send a letter to Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, requesting guidance and consideration of state funding options or bridge funding to support these essential services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Mayor, the Director of Financial Services, the Executive Director of the CDA, and the Fall River State Legislature Delegation for their awareness and support.



RECEIVED

City of Fall River
Notice of Claim

2026 JAN 12 A 10:58

1. Claimant's name: Marc Gregoire ^{CITY CLERK #26-2} DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
2. Claimant's complete address: 178 Shawmut St, Fall River 02720 MA
3. Telephone number: Home: 631-552-9155 Work: Same
4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage):
Auto Damage
5. Date and time of accident: 09-25-25 9:15 AM Amount of damages claimed: \$ 5900.00
6. Exact location of the incident: (include as much detail as possible):
left turn from Quarry St into Pleasant St
7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary):

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
Geico

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: 01-12-26

Claimant's signature: [Signature]

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

Date: 1/12/26



City of Fall River
Notice of Claim

RECEIVED

2026 JAN 13 P 3:33

1. Claimant's name: Tetrault Real Estate, LLC
2. Claimant's complete address: 888 Maple St CITY CLERK 26-3
FALL RIVER, MA
3. Telephone number: Home: 508-525-0369 Work: 401-954-3066
4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage):
Water/sewage back up from the street into the basement.
5. Date and time of accident: 4:00 PM 9/25/25 Amount of damages claimed: \$ 6,028.68
6. Exact location of the incident: (include as much detail as possible):
108 Grant St (on same lot as 498-506 William St)
7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary):
city water pipe broke in street and flooded basement.
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: 12/27/25

Claimant's signature: [Signature]

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 ☒ DPW	Date: <u>1/13/26</u>



1100 Crown Colony Drive
P.O. Box 699195
Quincy, MA 02269-9952
617.328.2800
arbella.com

16

January 12, 2026

FALL RIVER CITY CLERK
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER
ROOM 227
FALL RIVER, MA 02722

Claim Number: 034557586
Company Name: Arbella Protection Insurance Company
Date of Loss: 08/27/2025
Our Insured: J H LANDSCAPING AND CONSTRUCTION INC
Your Insured: CITY OF FALL RIVER PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

Dear CITY CLERK:

Please accept this letter as legal notice under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 258. On behalf of our insured, Arbella is demanding compensation in the amount of \$2,172.14 resulting from this loss.

Arbella Insured: J H LANDSCAPING AND CONSTRUCTION INC
1102 SHARPS LOT RD
SWANSEA, MA 02777

Place of accident: 08/27/2025

Description of Loss: PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. VEHICLE HIT PARKED ARBELLA VEHICLE

Driver/Name of Your Employee: JULIAN A. KORLI

Company Vehicle: 2013 FORD - REG # M90342

RECEIVED
2026 JAN 16 P 1:13
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA
260-4

Law City Council City Clerk Dept: SCM Date: 1/16/26

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

MEETING: December 23, 2025 at 5:55 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Joseph D. Camara, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart,
Bradford L. Kilby, Linda M. Pereira, Cliff Ponte, Andrew J. Raposo
and Ricky T. Tith

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: None

The President called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Ponte, it was unanimously voted to open the hearings.

Underground Conduit

1. Verizon New England Inc. for an underground conduit location as follows:

Lyon Street and Third Street

The petitioner requests to place twenty-six (26) feet of conduit, beginning at existing manhole #465 located at the intersection of Lyon Street and Third Street, and running in a northerly direction to existing manhole #495 located on Third Street. The installation is requested to provide service to residents in the surrounding area, as well as to provide for the distribution of intelligence and telecommunications and the transmission of high and low voltage electric current. In accordance with Plan No. 1708991 – 1A7X5ML.

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.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Ponte, it was unanimously voted to close the hearings at 6:03 p.m.

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

A true copy. Attest:

Elmés da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEETING: December 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Joseph D. Camara, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart,
Bradford L. Kilby, Linda M. Pereira, Cliff Ponte, Andrew J. Raposo
and Ricky T. Tith

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: None

President Camara called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 Councilor Ponte, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:04 p.m.

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


Assistant Clerk of Committees

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEETING: January 13, 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: Al Oliveira, Director of City Operations
Chief Jeffrey Bacon, Fall River Fire Department
Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
Alan J. Rumsey, Esq., Corporation Counsel
Michael O'Reagan, President,
International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1314

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 Time – None
2. Resolution – Convene with Director of City Operations and a member of the Administration to discuss plans to repair the Central Fire Station
Al Oliveira, Director of City Operations, provided a detailed overview of the planned renovations for the Central Fire Station, including the construction of women's restrooms and bunkrooms, ceiling repairs, and the reconstruction of the exterior, historical façades of the structure. Mr. Oliveira stated that the architectural plans should be available at the end of February, which will allow the City to begin the Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The Director of City Operations also explained that the façade renovations, which include window and roof repair as well as brick repointing, are to be funded by an appropriation from the Community Preservation Committee in the amount of \$644,000. Chief Jeffrey Bacon, Fall River Fire Department, clarified that none of these renovations have begun.

Councilor Cadime and Mr. Oliveira held a detailed discussion regarding the process of replacing the windows instead of repairing the existing windows, the cost associated with the façade repair project and the use of multiple contractors for various portions of the stations' renovations and repairs. The Director of City Operations explained that they are currently analyzing the cost of repairing versus replacing the windows, and that it will be decided upon within the next few weeks. Mr. Oliveira also provided information regarding the roof and repointing repair projects, which will assist with moisture issues within the station.

Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, provided information regarding the Community Preservation Act funding that has been approved for the Central Fire Station repairs, and explained that, ideally, the entirety of the roof would be repaired at once. Ms. Arpke stated that the Administration is planning to submit a request to the City Council for a financial transfer that would allow the roof renovations to be completed as one large project, instead of the historic and non-historic sections being repaired separately.

Councilor Cadime emphasized the need to consolidate the project with one contractor to allow for maximum efficiency with the necessary repairs. The Director of Financial Services explained that the exterior repairs for the structure are more costly than the necessary internal repairs, and Mr. Oliveira explained that the City is working to choose the most cost-effective contracting method. Councilor Cadime reiterated the need for the project to be completed by one contractor and stated that change orders for additional projects and renovations could be submitted if they were not included in the initial design process to expedite various repairs. The Director of City Operations explained that the current companies working on this project specialize in historic preservation work. Councilor Cadime expressed concern that the firefighters will have to accommodate multiple stages of repair, which may interfere with their ability to properly respond to emergencies.

Councilor Raposo and Chief Bacon discussed the recent relocation of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department apparatus and staff to a new location and the effect that may have on the previously planned renovations for the Central Fire Station. Mr. Oliveira explained that there are some changes that may be made and Chief Bacon stated that the overall goal is to update the station for female firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Chief Bacon also stated that the EMS Department may return to the Central Fire Station in the future.

Councilor Pereira, the Director of City Operations and the Fire Chief discussed the ongoing maintenance within the City's fire stations. Mr. Oliveira stated that the City has been working on preventative maintenance and painting, but many repairs in Central Fire Station are delayed due to the planned renovations. Chief Bacon stated that maintenance has been ongoing in other stations, but that no updates or renovations have been carried out within the Central Fire Station and any work that is conducted in that structure is in response to a reported issue. Councilor Pereira and the Director of Financial Services discussed the financial bonding process for this project that has been committed to by the EMS Enterprise Fund, which totals roughly \$2,300,000. Ms. Arpke clarified that this bonding from the EMS Enterprise Fund, plus the allocation of \$644,000, from the Community Preservation Act, will fund most renovations. Ms. Arpke also explained that, while the bond has been authorized, the funds have not been withdrawn. Councilor Pereira stated that she agrees with Councilor Cadime that the project should be completed by one contracting company. Councilor Pereira also emphasized that clearer communication regarding this process is vital as it is a large project without an adequate timeline for completion.

Councillor Canuel stated that he had toured the Central Fire Station in August 2025, and he saw that many significant repairs were needed. Councillor Canuel also agreed that the exterior repairs should be done as one project for both the historic and non-historic sections of the structure. Councillor Canuel also asked for a general timeline for the project's progress and Mr. Oliveira stated that the exterior design plans should be completed in February while the internal project plans will be available in March. Councillor Canuel emphasized that the roof repairs should be the first portion of these renovations to avoid water damage inside of the station.

Councillor Peckham asked if there were any concerns regarding asbestos mitigation inside of the Central Fire Station. The Director of City Operations stated that there are ongoing tests within the building and that it is likely that the caulking and floor tiles will test positive for asbestos. Mr. Oliveira explained that capital for a remediation program for this asbestos is included in the funding for the planned project.

Vice President Dionne, Mr. Oliveira and Ms. Arpke held a detailed discussion regarding the window replacement costs, the authorized bond funding and the current financial plan for this project, which includes the EMS Enterprise Fund. Mr. Oliveira stated that he will share the feasibility studies and assessments in relation to the window renovations and that it may be lower in cost to repair the existing windows instead of replacing them. Vice President Dionne stated that, in the future, the windows will eventually need to be fully replaced and that it may be more cost efficient to perform that renovation now. Ms. Arpke reiterated that the bond capital has been authorized for this project, but that the capital will not be pulled by the City until the project design and plan is completed. The Director of Financial Services also explained that the amount of funding utilized from the bond does not need to be the full amount of funding that was authorized, that the City will work to use as little bond capital as possible to offset the debt, and that different forms of short-term debt have been used to pay for the ongoing design costs. Vice President Dionne expressed concern regarding the bond being authorized for the EMS Enterprise Fund, as the staff and apparatus of that department have been moved to a different location. Ms. Arpke stated that, in the unlikely event that the EMS Enterprise Fund discontinues the plan to fund the project, the City debt would be taken over by the General Fund. The Director of Financial Services also clarified that, while the EMS Enterprise Fund staff are no longer using the living quarters within Central Fire Station, they are still utilizing the garages and storage space. Chief Bacon agreed that the EMS Enterprise Fund will continue to utilize the stations throughout the City for vehicles and storage, and that the current use of stations would only change if the Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program in Fall River was discontinued.

Councillor Camara, the Director of City Operations and the Fire Chief discussed the construction phases of the project, as the firefighters will be using the station during the renovations. Chief Bacon stated that locker rooms and sleeping quarters will need to be relocated while construction occurs in various areas, and that the Central Fire Station has needed these renovations for over twenty years.

Councillor Raposo expressed concern regarding the damaged windows and asked if there were any historical restrictions with the planned renovations. Mr. Oliveira stated that he will share the cost and benefit analysis regarding the windows as soon as that information is received and clarified that the renovation must meet certain historic requirements for the Troy Street and Bedford Street sides of the structure's façade. Chief Bacon explained that the other two sides of the building do not need to follow the same historic guidelines, and that the exterior repairs will be the most expensive part of the renovations.

Michael O'Reagan, President, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Local 1314, provided information regarding recorded asbestos issues within the station, including very high levels in the basement of the building, which is also used for storage for old surplus items like computers and batteries.

Vice President Dionne and the Director of City Operations discussed the concerns regarding asbestos mitigation, including cordoning off areas with proper ventilation and relocating employees from certain sections. Mr. Oliveira stated that the abatement process was included in the planned funding for the project. Chief Bacon stated that the design team had notified the City that this mitigation process would increase the cost of the project.

Councilor Cadime, Mr. Oliveira, Chief Bacon and Mr. O'Reagan discussed the ongoing asbestos issues in the Central Fire Station. Chief Bacon stated that there are a few pipes close to ground level that were being hit by mops and brooms, generating dust in the air and that the IAFF, Local 1314, paid for a study to measure the amount of asbestos exposure that was occurring, which resulted in an immediate remediation of the pipes. Mr. O'Reagan stated that the matter was not addressed until the issue became public through a local news channel. The President of IAFF, Local 1314, also stated that the dust in the basement often spreads in various areas due to negative air pressure when certain doors are opened. Chief Bacon clarified that the Director of Inspectional Services has assessed the matter and that most of the exposed asbestos has been contained. Mr. O'Reagan explained that the Central Fire Station was built at the same time as the former police station, which is no longer in use due to safety concerns, and suggested that the fire station may be facing the same situation.

Councilor Cadime asked if a complete assessment has been done related to the overall safety of the building and asbestos exposure levels. Mr. Oliveira explained that there are various types of testing for asbestos, and some are more accurate than others, but that the dust can be subdued when sprayed down with water prior to remediation. Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding the potential asbestos exposure and stated that testing needs to be done to confirm the safety of the staff who work inside of the structure. Councilor Cadime and Mr. Oliveira also discussed the plan to replace or repair the existing windows of the structure, the RFP process and the use of a single contracting company to perform the work. Ms. Arpke stated that they are working to expedite the process as much as possible and Councilor Cadime explained that a small delay is acceptable if the project is coordinated with one company. Councilor Cadime suggested that this matter be referred to the Committee on Real Estate for further discussion.

Councilor Peckham expressed concern regarding the description of the station's basement and the reported asbestos and asked if the project funding included enough capital to remedy this matter. The Director of City Operations explained that, while asbestos may be present, it is only toxic if inhaled as dust and that he would inspect the basement as soon as possible. The Director of Financial Services explained that the City would provide any necessary funding to ensure the completion of all necessary asbestos abatement. Councilor Peckham and Mr. Oliveira discussed the overall safety of the building and the Director of City Operations emphasized that he would visit the Central Fire Station this week to inspect the basement, but when he was there one month ago the lower floor did not show signs of asbestos dust being present.

Councilor Canuel, Mr. Oliveira and Chief Bacon discussed the pipe asbestos restoration that occurred in August of 2025, and Mr. O'Reagan stated that the pipes in question were very close to the firefighters' living quarters. Councilor Canuel expressed concern regarding the asbestos remediation occurring while employees are inside of the building and requested that the Administration discuss alternative options for the Fire Department staff during this process. Councilor Canuel also asked for updates regarding new station garage doors that will be installed, as there are versions of these doors that open very quickly to assist with first responder response time, Mr. Oliveira stated that the doors will need to match the historical requirements due to the Community Preservation Act funding, and Chief Bacon explained that regular fire station garage doors will be sufficient for response time and that he's currently researching the best brand that could be installed.

Councilor Pereira asked if the Historical Commission has been included in the development of the design process, and Mr. Oliveira explained that while they have not discussed the matter with the Historical Commission, the architects specialize in historic design. Councilor Pereira also requested that the City Councilors be provided with the most recent asbestos assessments that were paid for by IAFF, Local 1314. Mr. O'Reagan stated that the results showed highly aerosolized asbestos particles. Chief Bacon clarified that their test was for a specific area, not the entire station, and that the Director of Inspectional Services remedied the matter immediately.

Councilor Hart and Mr. O'Reagan discussed various areas of the station that need asbestos abatement, general repairs that are necessary in the station and areas that are prone to water damage. Mr. O'Reagan explained that there are many pipes near the living quarters and bathrooms that have exposed asbestos and need to be abated, and that there are many broken windows in the station. Councilor Hart stated that he saw cardboard placed on some windows during his last visit and Chief Bacon clarified that the cardboard was used to block sunlight to allow firefighters to sleep between calls, and that blackout curtains have since been installed. Mr. O'Reagan explained that the Quequechan River runs underneath the station and that when there is heavy rain, the river can flood the basement. Councilor Hart expressed concern regarding the numerous issues and necessary repairs for this building, as well as the living conditions for the staff.

Councilor Camara and Mr. O'Reagan discussed the flooding issue in the station basement, which is due to a hatch door in the basement floor. Mr. O'Reagan also explained that when negative pressure is applied from opening other doors, the asbestos dust in the basement becomes airborne. Chief Bacon stated that they were never notified of asbestos dust in the basement and Mr. Oliveira said no related work orders were ever submitted to his office.

Councilor Raposo requested that all Fire Station Captains provide an updated list of ongoing renovations and current needs for each station in the City and provide that information to the City Councilors. Chief Bacon stated that he would work on obtaining the lists.

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Camara, it was unanimously voted to recommend that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Real Estate.

3. Resolution – Convene with Corporation Counsel and a member of the Administration to discuss the existing City ordinances related to the Civil Service List and potential hybrid list

Alan J. Rumsey, Esq., Corporation Counsel, stated that he reviewed §50-242 of the City code, which relates to Effect on Civil Service Law, as well as Massachusetts General Law statutes that apply to the use of the Civil Service List. Attorney Rumsey stated that the Massachusetts General Law, c. 31, which relates to Civil Service, was amended in 2024 and allows for the use of a hybrid list to hire new police officers and firefighters. Attorney Rumsey explained that the existing City ordinance only states "Nothing in this article shall be construed to conflict with MGL c. 31," and, following the new state-wide amendment, the use of the hybrid list for hiring is a legal action.

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to recommend that the resolution be granted leave to withdraw.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

Information packet re Repair plans for Central Fire Station, provided by
Al Oliveira, Director of City Operations


Clerk of Committees

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: December 23, 2025 at 6:15 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Joseph D. Camara, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart,
Bradford L. Kilby, Linda M. Pereira, Cliff Ponte, Andrew J. Raposo
and Ricky T. Tith

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: State Representatives Carole A. Fiola and Justin Thurber

President Camara called the meeting to order at 6:17 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.

PRESENTATION OF CITATIONS

- Citizens for Citizens – 60th Anniversary of Service (1965 – 2025)
President Camara commended the work done by Citizens for Citizens, Inc., and presented the citation to Elizabeth Berube, Executive Director of Citizens for Citizens, Inc. Ms. Berube provided information regarding the services offered by Citizens for Citizens, Inc., including heating and grocery assistance, and thanked the City Council for their support.
- Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School Bengals Varsity Football Team –
2025 Massachusetts Vocational Large School Super Bowl Champions

Players

Kyran Aguiar	Cayden Amaral Aguiar	Quincy Badger
Julian Baillie	Henry Bettencourt	Ryan Botelho
Rowan Campion	Tyson Campion	Giovanni Carvalho
Micah Clayton	Brayden Correia	Jay Debrito
Brian DeJesus	Brailyn De Los Santos	Raulson Depina
Owen Dorego	Lucas Eldridge	Channing Evecharria
Jayden Fernandez	Chris Figueroa	Luke Fitzgerald
Gaige Furtado	Tayvon Gardner	Wyatt Gillett
Alexi Gonzalez	Nathan Gonzalez	J.P. Gums
Matt Hart	Chris Haskell	Will Katseff
Davian Kelly	Nathan Lambert	Elijah Leconte
Anthony Leroux	Adrian Mak	Brady Mak
Ryan Marshall	Kalvin Massey	Peytonn Massey
Zach McKenna	James McKenzie	Logan McKenzie
Jonathan McMakin	Steven Medeiros	Peter Narcisse
Ben Nientimp	Sam Nientimp	Noah Orellano

Cleber Paiva
Raymond Rego
Ajani Sousa
Nash Tessier
George Vanasse

Owen Picard
Justin Roderique
Logan St. Pierre
Chris Thompson
Lucas Vieira

Xavyn Rean
Kevin Solomon
Mekhi Stewart
Logan Uon.
Brayden Viveiros

Coaching Staff

Luke Bahry, Head Coach

Adam Bell
Nolan Marchand
Keith Omosefunmi
Nick Salmon, IV

David Carpenter
Jayden Massey
Josh Ramos
Wilson Valente

Evan Cook
Omi Montanez
Nick Salmon, III

Massachusetts State Representatives Carole A. Fiola and Justin Thurber gave brief remarks commending the football team and their championship achievement. President Camara presented a mayoral citation on behalf of Mayor Paul E. Coogan, who was unable to attend the meeting. Luke Bahry, Head Coach, Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School Bengals Football Team, expressed pride regarding the hard work and dedication of the players and their families. Councilor Hart extended his congratulations to the team and complimented Coach Bahry on the excellent skill-building and education he provides to the players.

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to lift item 1 from the table.

PRIORITY MATTERS

1. Mayor and request for confirmation of the appointment of Paula Costa Cullen to the Library Board of Trustees

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to confirm the appointment.

2. Mayor and request for confirmation of the reappointment of Ann Rocket Sperling to the Library Board of Trustees

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to confirm the reappointment.

3. Mayor and request for confirmation of the reappointment of Ronald Caplain to the Library Board of Trustees

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to confirm the reappointment.

4. Mayor and request for confirmation of the reappointment of Sharon L. Quinn to the Library Board of Trustees

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to confirm the reappointment.

5. Mayor and request for confirmation of the reappointment of Fran Rachlin to the Library Board of Trustees

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to confirm the reappointment.

6. Mayor and resubmitted Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Fall River and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 93, Local 3177

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file and that the order be adopted.

Approved, December 29, 2025

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

7. Mayor and gift order for a donation to the Fall River Fire Department from Firehouse Dogs in the amount of \$10,000.00 to support the department's K-9 program

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file and that the order be adopted.

Approved, December 29, 2025

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

ORDINANCES – None

RESOLUTIONS

8. Committee on Finance convene with Corporation Counsel and a representative from the Administration to discuss hybrid lists for the hiring of firefighters

Councilor Dionne stated that, while the Fall River Police Department utilizes a hybrid list, it is only used after the civil service list has been exhausted. Councilor Dionne explained that a legal opinion is necessary for the City Council to determine if the Fall River Fire Department is able to use the hybrid list prior to reviewing all candidates within the civil service list, and the resolution will assist with that process. On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the resolution.

CITATIONS

9. Laura Bermol-Diaz – Leadership and steadfast commitment to the Flint Village community

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the citation.

ORDERS – HEARINGS

Underground Conduit

10. Verizon New England Inc. – Twenty-six (26) feet of conduit at intersection of Lyon Street and Third Street

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

Approved, December 29, 2025

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS**11. Auto Body Shop License Renewals**

Brian Vieira d/b/a Aime's Auto – 5 Laurel Street

Dylan Jarabek d/b/a Top Tier Auto Body – 232 Lapham Street

The City Clerk stated that the Police Chief had recommended disapproval of the renewal application submitted by Dylan Jarabek d/b/a Top Tier Auto Body. On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to separate the two applicants into separate orders, and to adopt the order with the renewal application for Brian Vieira d/b/a Aime's Auto. On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Kilby, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order with the renewal application for Dylan Jarabek d/b/a Top Tier Auto Body.

Approved, December 29, 2025

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

12. Auto Repair Shop License Renewals

Ronald Picard d/b/a Theo's Service Center – 35 Oak Grove Avenue

Dylan Jarabek d/b/a Top Tier Auto Body – 232 Lapham Street

The City Clerk stated that the Police Chief had recommended disapproval of the renewal application submitted by Dylan Jarabek d/b/a Top Tier Auto Body. On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

Approved, December 29, 2025

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

13. Police Chief's Report on Licenses**2026 Taxicab Drivers**

John Baker

Darrell Carlsen

Sherry Mann

Mikael Raposa

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

14. Fall River Taxi Service, Inc. – New Taxicab Vehicle Applications for License Nos. 19 and 20

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

Approved, December 29, 2025

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS**15. Claims**

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the item to Corporation Counsel.

16. Drainlayer Licenses

Touisset Construction Company

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to approve the drainlayer license.

Approved, December 29, 2025

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

17. Planning Board Minutes

November 17, 2025 November 24, 2025

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

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to take items 18 through 20 together.

City Council Minutes

18. Public Hearings – December 9, 2025

19. Committee on Finance – December 9, 2025

20. Regular Meeting of the City Council – December 9, 2025

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES

21. Notice of Casualty and Loss at 540 Cherry Street, Apartment 7

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

ITEMS FILED AFTER THE AGENDA DEADLINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 23, 2025

PRIORITY MATTERS

7a. Mayor and Library Director to rename the Children's Room at the Fall River Public

Library the David Mello Children's Room at the request of Councilor Ricky T. Tith

Vice President Pereira commended the work David Mello does for the Fall River Public Library and thanked Councilor Tith for working with the Administration and the Library Administrator to rename a section of the library after him. On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to accept and place on file the communication and adopt the order.

Approved, December 29, 2025

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:

Grant leave to withdraw:

7b. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous

One-way streets

• Pine Street, East, from Seabury Street to Robeson Street

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to grant the item leave to withdraw.

All readings with emergency preamble:

- 7c. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Handicapped Parking
- Barlow Street, East, 29 feet north of Horton Street
 - Dwelly Street, North, 181 west of Kilburn Street
 - Eastern Avenue, West, 51 feet north of Maynard Street
 - Franklin Street, North, 39 feet west of North Seventh Street
 - Garfield Street, East, 258 feet south of Globe Street
 - June Street, East, 137 feet south of Lincoln Avenue
 - Rodman Street, East, 186 feet south of Oman Street

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was voted 9 yeas that the proposed ordinance be accompanied by an emergency preamble. On a further motion made by Councilor Ponte and Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading, second reading, passed to be enrolled and passed to be ordained.

*Approved, December 29, 2025
Paul E. Coogan, Mayor*

First reading:

- 7d. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous (referred 12-18-2025)
Handicapped parking removals
- Eastern Avenue, East, 70 feet north of County Street
 - Maple Street, South, 275 feet east of Linden Street
 - Montaup Street, West, 119 feet south of Globe Street
 - President Avenue, South, 126 feet east of Charlotte Street
 - South Oxford Street, West, 395 feet south of Brayton Avenue

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to pass the proposed ordinance through first reading.

7e. Action:

Proposed Ordinance: Strike out §2-131 and §2-132 from City Code re: loan order authorizations

On a motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted to amend the proposed ordinance by inserting the following amendments: inserting, immediately following "be amended as follows," the following text: "Section 1, By striking out in Section 2-130, which section relates to Publication of proposed loan orders, "shall be published as provided in Section 23 of the Charter" and inserting in place thereof "may be published on the city website."; by inserting "Section 2," immediately before "By striking out, in its entirety, Sections 2-131 and 2-131;" and by striking out "Sections 2-131 and 2-132," and replacing it with "Section 2-131, 2-132 and 2-134." On a further motion made by Councilor Ponte and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading, as amended.

On a motion made by Councilor Dionne and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to lift item 6a(i) from the table.

TABLED MATTERS

6a. Mayor and the following transfers and appropriations:

i. \$189,682.62 from Reserve Fund to the following Various Departments, Salaries:

• City Clerk	\$2,797.57
• Elections	\$4,551.68
• Veterans Benefits	\$296.80
• Community Maintenance	\$88,292.26
• Community Services	\$33,216.84
• Police	\$56,703.20
• Fire	\$3,824.27

On a motion made by Councilor Dionne and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Ponte, it was unanimously voted to lift item 6a(ii) from the table.

ii. \$39,468.42 from Facilities, Salaries to Police, Salaries

On a motion made by Councilor Dionne and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

Prior to adjournment, Councilor Ponte commended Councilors Kilby and Tith for their service to the City of Fall River and wished them well in their future endeavors. Councilor Ponte also complimented President Camara and Vice President Pereira for their service during the 2024-2025 term of the Fall River City Council. Councilor Hart also made congratulatory remarks regarding the Councilors' work over the past two years.

Councilor Kilby thanked the City Councilors for their support and congratulated the Councilors-Elect for their electoral victories. Councilor Tith stated that he will continue to work hard to help those who live in the City of Fall River.

President Camara commended Councilor Tith for his work during this term and stated that he should continue to run for office as he is dedicated to the City. President Camara also complimented Councilor Kilby for his long-term service to the City of Fall River.

On a motion made by Councilor Kilby and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

A true copy. Attest:

Onés da Silva Paulino Leite

City Clerk

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
AND ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT

MEETING: January 5, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.
B.M.C. Durfee High School, Robert J. Nagle Auditorium
460 Elsbree Street

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

ABSENT: Councilor Paul B. Hart

City Clerk Inês da Silva Paulino Leite called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. There was a presentation of the colors by the Fall River Police Department and Fall River Fire Department Honor Guards.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect a President and Vice-President of the City Council for the year 2026.

ORDERED, that we now proceed, by a vive-voce vote, to elect a President of the City Council for the year 2026.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Ponte, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting. Councilor Cliff A. Ponte received 8 votes and was declared President of the City Council for the year 2026, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting. Councilor Ponte was then sworn into his duties by the City Clerk.

Council President Ponte delivered remarks, then permitted the City Clerk to proceed with the order of business.

ORDERED, that we now proceed, by a vive-voce vote, to elect a Vice-President of the City Council for the year 2026.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Ponte, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting. Councilor Michelle M. Dionne received 8 votes and was declared Vice President of the City Council for the year 2026, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting. Councilor Dionne was then sworn to her duties by the City Clerk and delivered remarks.

On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m., with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

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

A true copy. Attest:

Christa Silva Paulino Leite

City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: January 13, 2025, 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. Perelra and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Kenneth C. Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 7:31 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.

PRIORITY MATTERS – None

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to take items 1a through 1c together.

PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS

1. Planning Board recommendation to approve the acceptance of the following streets:

- a. Fieldstone Lane extending from Hayfield Lane to Courtney Street
- b. Brookfield Terrace extending from Hayfield Lane to Courtney Street
- c. Stonybrook Circle extending from Hayfield Lane to Courtney Street

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted that the Planning Board recommendation be accepted and placed on file and that the orders be adopted.

2. Board of Park Commissioners requesting the City Council assist with the creation of a fee schedule related to the placement of broadband infrastructure within the parks
The City Clerk explained that a fee schedule already exists for this type of infrastructure and that the matter was discussed with the Chair of the Board of Park Commissioners after this communication was received. Councilor Perelra stated that this matter should be referred to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation for further discussion, as the existing rates could be increased and these services will increase internet access within the parks.

Councilor Raposo stated that public internet access is provided in various areas and that providing that service would be at the will of the company installing the infrastructure. Councilor Peckham agreed with Councilor Pereira and suggested that the communication be discussed further by the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.

On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file and to refer the communication to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.

3. Director of Human Resources notifying the City Council of the completion of the external investigation related to the employment concerns raised by the Director of Veterans Services during the Committee on Finance meeting on September 9, 2025

Councilor Pereira made remarks regarding this communication, and the related investigation, and expressed concern that additional information regarding this matter was not shared with the public. Councilor Pereira's remarks are attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

ORDINANCES

Second reading and enrollment:

4. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous
Handicapped parking removals

- Eastern Avenue, East, 70 feet north of County Street
- Maple Street, South, 275 feet east of Linden Street
- Montaup Street, West, 119 feet south of Globe Street
- President Avenue, South, 126 feet east of Charlotte Street
- South Oxford Street, West, 395 feet south of Brayton Avenue

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 passed to be enrolled. On a further motion made by Councilor Hart and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be ordained.

Approved, January 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

5. Second reading and enrollment, as amended:

Proposed Ordinance – Amendments to City Code Sections 2-130, 2-131, 2-132 and 2-134 re: loan order authorizations

A motion was made by Councilor Hart and seconded by Councilor Pereira to pass the ordinance through second reading and enrollment, as amended. Councilor Cadime stated that he supports this ordinance and will also file a resolution that will address the creation of a percentage rate restriction for bond authorizations in comparison to the City's applicable statutory debt limit, and that any loan order that is at, or above, that percentage rate will require voter approval. Councilor Cadime stated that other Councilors had expressed concern regarding the lack of a safety net to prevent excessive spending by the City and this process would allow oversight while also providing necessary adjustments based on inflation without amendments being required.

Councilor Canuel stated that he researched the existing ordinances for loan order authorizations and learned that §2-131 of the Code of the City of Fall River was ordained following a ballot question in 1977, which received over 20,000 votes in favor of the financial limitation for loan orders being created. Councilor Canuel compared the amounts listed in the original 1977 ordinance, which included a limit of \$1,000,000, and the amendment in 1998 that adjusted this amount to \$5,000,000, and the amendment made in 2013 that allowed for a \$20,000,000 aggregate per year. Councilor Canuel suggested that the proposed ordinance be amended to increase the financial limit to reflect inflation, but not to strike out the section in its entirety as it was approved by the voters.

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow Kenneth C. Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools, to answer questions.

Councilor Camara asked Mr. Pacheco if the amended amounts in Councilor Canuel's proposed amendment would assist the School Department with bond authorizations that are currently needed. Mr. Pacheco stated that the proposed ordinance, in its original form, along with Councilor Cadime's planned resolution, would provide more financial flexibility with upcoming projects related to the School Department.

President Ponte stated that Councilor Canuel's suggested amendment would result in a substantial change to the ordinance and recommended that the proposed ordinance be referred to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation for additional discussion first, prior to it being passed through second reading and enrollment, as amended.

Councilor Cadime stated that Councilor Canuel's proposed amendment would hinder financial jurisdiction from the City Council. Councilor Cadime stated that the City Council approved a municipal budget of over \$451,000,000, for Fiscal Year 2026, and that this budget included debt service line items that were well over the existing \$5,000,000, limit within §2-131 of the Code. Councilor Cadime also explained that requiring voters to determine if that spending is appropriate would delay all City projects for the remainder of the year until the next scheduled election. Councilor Cadime emphasized that the impact to the taxpayer does not change with this spending, whether it is regulated by a total financial limit or a percentage rate, as the City cannot increase property taxes more than the tax levy limitation listed within Proposition 2 ½, which can only be overridden with voter approval on a ballot. Councilor Cadime emphasized that the City Council is trusted by the voters to oversee all funding of the City's government and that keeping a financial restriction in place will delay necessary project funding that should be within the City Council's purview.

Vice President Dionne stated that, based on the history of the existing ordinance, the proposed amendment wouldn't be effective in the next ten to fifteen years, and would need to be amended again to reflect inflation. Vice President Dionne explained that the proposed resolution that Councilor Cadime had suggested would be more effective than the existing ordinance, as the percentage limit would not need to be amended for inflation and loan order authorization over this percentage limit would still require voter approval.

Councilor Canuel stated that the proposed amendment would allow for additional and necessary funding, without removing the power of the voters in the decision-making process. Councilor Canuel emphasized that loan orders that require ballot questions are uncommon, and most recently occurred with the new B.M.C. Durfee High School construction. Councilor Cadime clarified that the proposed funding for the new high school was not a loan order authorization, it was a debt exclusion that affected property tax rates, and it was required to be voted upon as a ballot question. Councilor Canuel reiterated that the decision to create the ordinance was voted upon by the residents of Fall River in 1977 and that he does not support striking out this portion of the Code in its entirety.

On a motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Camara, it was voted 1 yea, 8 nays, to refer the proposed ordinance with the following amendments to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation as follows: By striking out Section 2, in its entirety, and inserting in place thereof the following: "Section 2, By striking out in Section 2-131, which relates to Election required for authorization of certain loan orders, the following: "\$5,000,000," and inserting in its place "\$10,000,000," and by striking out "\$20,000,000," and inserting in place thereof, "\$30,000,000," with Councilor Canuel voting in the affirmative and the motion failed to carry.

On a further motion made by Councilor Hart and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay, that the proposed ordinance be passed through second reading and passed to be enrolled, as amended, with Councilor Canuel voting in the negative. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted that the proposed ordinance be passed to be ordained, as amended, with Councilor Canuel opposed.

Approved, January 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

RESOLUTIONS

6. Committee on Public Safety convene with the Fire Chief, the Director of Financial Services and the President of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1314, to discuss the need for a fire station in, or near, the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor Project neighborhood, as well as the related cost that would be incurred by the City, including expenses related to apparatus, staffing and maintenance

Councilor Peckham explained that he wanted to discuss this matter with the Administration, the Fire Chief and the President of the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1314, prior to housing being developed in the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor Project area. Councilor Raposo stated that a discussion was held last year with the Fire Chief regarding a first responder response time analysis study that was taking place, and Councilor Peckham explained that the study had been completed. Councilor Raposo requested that the City Clerk obtain the results of the report to share with the City Councilors. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the resolution.

7. Committee on Real Estate meet to discuss all City-owned real estate
President Ponte stated that he filed this resolution to allow for more open, transparent discussions regarding City-owned properties. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the resolution.

8. Committee on Real Estate convene to discuss City-owned property, located at 755 Pine Street, and the potential future use of this building to provide services to veterans

Councilor Raposo explained that the property should continue to be used for veterans' services and Councilor Pereira agreed, stating that there had been discussions about renovating the kitchen and veterans' quarters within the structure. Councilor Pereira also explained that the Mayor is in favor of this building being repurposed for veterans in the city, as it is more accessible for many veterans in comparison to Government Center. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the resolution.

Councilor Hart exited the Council Chamber at 8:23 p.m.

9. Committee on Health and Environmental Affairs convene with the Director of Inspectional Services and members of the Administration to review and discuss current code enforcement practices

Councilor Canuel stated that this resolution will provide additional clarification regarding the monitoring of habitually problematic properties in the city and determine if there should be adjustments to the current inspection methods. Councilor Raposo agreed and stated that he supported the resolution. Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding the intention of the resolution, as the Department of Inspectional Services is under the jurisdiction of the Mayor, the inspection regulations are regulated by Massachusetts General Law requirements and any concerns related to these inspections are typically addressed by court actions. Councilor Cadime emphasized that the City Council cannot amend existing state laws related to inspections.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 5 years, 3 days, to adopt the resolution, with Vice President Dionne and Councilors Cadime and Pereira voting in the negative and Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

10. Committee on Health and Environmental Affairs convene with the Administration and relevant service providers to review and report on the data related to Shelter Demand and Capacity, Estimated Unserved Population and Reporting

Councilor Canuel explained that this resolution would allow for discussion and information to be shared with the Committee in relation to how City and private services are assisting with homelessness in Fall River. Councilor Pereira stated that this matter has been discussed in depth, but that the resolution would allow Councilor Canuel and the Committee to receive up-to-date information. Councilor Pereira emphasized that there are many programs in the city to help those in need but emphasized that the City Council is limited when it comes to acting on the matter. On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 8 years to adopt the resolution, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

11. Committee on Public Safety convene with the Chief of Police, or a representative of the Fall River Police Department at the Chief's discretion, to review current traffic enforcement practices and discuss strategies to increase police visibility and neighborhood-based enforcement efforts aimed at slowing traffic and improving roadway safety

A motion was made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Camara to adopt the resolution. Councilor Canuel stated that many residents have expressed concern regarding traffic safety and that this resolution would assist with potentially increasing police traffic patrols.

Councilor Cadime stated that the day-to-day operations of the Fall River Police Department are under the control of the Mayor. Councilor Cadime also stated that there are legal cases in relation to legislative bodies attempting to control police operations, as the enforcement of laws is under the jurisdiction of the executive branch of government. Vice President Dionne agreed and stated that she understands Councilor Canuel's intention to increase public safety, but that this resolution represents directive action by the City Council with executive functions of government. Councilor Camara agreed and stated that the Fall River Police Department addresses many issues throughout the municipality, and the City Council cannot assign tasks to the department. Councilor Camara also suggested that Councilor Canuel schedule a meeting with the Chief of Police to discuss his concerns. Councilor Pereira stated that she understands why Councilor Canuel submitted the resolution but expressed that the resolution be granted leave to withdraw. On a further motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the resolution be granted leave to withdraw, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

CITATIONS

12. Roger Williams University professor Elaine B. Stiles, Ph.D. and students assisting with Historic Preservation research and documentation of the Fall River Waterfront Cultural District:

Sarah Baker
Hailey Hill

Sophia Bazzanella
Samuel Powers

Zulange Gonzalez
Jimmy Vigar

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the citations, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

13. Michael Labossiere – Retirement after over 40 years of service to the Fall River community (1985 – 2026)

On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the citation, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

14. Family of the late Kathleen (Beaulieu) Castro – Honoring her commitment to improving the Greater Fall River area

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to adopt the citation, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

ORDERS – HEARINGS – None

ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS

15. Auto Body Shop License Renewal

David Del Rosario d/b/a David Auto Repair, 751 Eastern Avenue

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

Approved, January 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

16. Auto Repair Shop License Renewals

Antonio F. Pinto d/b/a Pinto's Auto Repair & Sales, Inc.,
2447 South Main Street

David Rosenberg, RAH Fall River-VW, LLC d/b/a Audi Fall River/Volkswagen Fall River,
80 William S. Canning Boulevard

Paulo Pereira d/b/a Pereira Enterprise Auto & Diesel Repair, LLC,
65 Tower Street

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

Approved, January 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

17. Police Chief's Report on Licenses

Taxicab Drivers

Justin L. Hollis Michael Migliori Jose Vasconcelos

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

18. City Council Meeting Schedule -- 2026

A motion was made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Peckham to adopt the order. A further motion was made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Cadime to strike out the dates of April 14, 2026, and April 28, 2026, and to insert, in their place, April 8, 2026, and April 22, 2026. A brief discussion was held between President Ponte and Councilors Camara, Canuel and Pereira regarding the proposed dates and potential scheduling conflicts and Councilor Pereira withdrew the motion to amend the order. On the motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

COMMUNICATIONS -- INVITATIONS -- PETITIONS

19. Claims

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

20. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes -- November 20, 2025

On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the minutes be accepted and placed on file, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

BULLETINS -- NEWSLETTERS -- NOTICES -- None

ITEMS FILED AFTER THE AGENDA DEADLINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JANUARY 13, 2026

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Finance recommending:

Referral to the Committee on Real Estate

3a. Resolution -- Convene with Director of City Operations and a member of the Administration to discuss plans to repair the Central Fire Station

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to refer the resolution to the Committee on Real Estate, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

Grant leave to withdraw

- 3b. Resolution – Convene with Corporation Counsel and a member of the Administration to discuss the existing City ordinances related to the Civil Service List and potential hybrid list

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted that the resolution be granted leave to withdraw, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

RESOLUTIONS

- 11a. Committee on Ordinances and Legislation convene to establish a proposed ordinance limiting the total authorized borrowing of the City as "not to exceed seventy percent (70%) of the City's applicable statutory debt limit without additional voter approval" and providing specific requirements of information included on any required ballot question
- Councilor Canuel stated that since the loan authorization ordinance that was passed to be ordained as amended removed the monetary limits for loan authorizations, he will support this resolution. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adopt the resolution, with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.*

COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS

- 20a. Communication from the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety and Licensing regarding M.G.L. Ch. 147, §47A re: the issuance of a license to Boxing Promoter Nick DiSalvo/Boston Boxing Promotions at The CYO, 403 Anawan Street, on February 13, 2026.

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, with Councilor Raposo abstaining and Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

A recess was held from 8:43 p.m. to 8:47 p.m. for the signing of ordinances.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:49 p.m., with Councilor Hart absent and not voting.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

A true copy. Attest:

Chris da Silva Paulino Leite

City Clerk

Statement made by Councilor Linda M. Pereira during the
January 13, 2026, Regular Meeting of the City Council

"Mr. Ponte, I want to address this.

On Tuesday, September 9th, Veterans Service Officer Talos Farris appeared before the City Council during Citizen Input. He made some serious allegations of interference, workplace harassment and suggested that a hostile work environment was being created for him by an unnamed member, or members, of this body. By choosing to make those allegations publicly, without naming a person, naming anyone, Mr. Farris, in my opinion, irresponsibly cast suspicion over the integrity of the entire City Council and left the public to speculate who amongst us was being accused. This City Council had the right to demand transparency and an investigation. And in the same spirit of transparency, I'll now provide what the City failed to provide – the truth.

Despite initial, vague, public accusations, Mr. Farris later stated in an interview with the Fall River Reporter, on October 31st, three days before the municipal election, in that interview the allegations were directed at me. He named me explicitly. The timing of that interview, in my opinion, was not coincidental. It was calculated, and in my opinion, it was intended to impact my vote total. And while it may have had an impact on my vote total, the voters nevertheless returned me to this Chamber where I serve at their will. Following the events, we received minimal and wholly insufficient notice from Human Resources Director Nick Macolini stating only that an external investigator had been retained and that the investigation was complete. No findings were disclosed; no conclusions were shared. As the target of this investigation, I'll now put these conclusions on the public record.

The investigation is closed. The allegations were not substantiated, and I was fully vindicated. In plain language, they were false. It is unacceptable that this information was not disclosed publicly, especially after reputations were damaged in a public forum. I will not allow silence to substitute for facts. So let me be absolutely clear – this is my twenty-fifth year of serving the people of Fall River. I have been a relentless advocate for our veterans, and I will not stand by while my name is dragged through the mud, my commitment to veterans is questioned or my integrity is attacked. Whether it be for political or personal gain. So let the record reflect unequivocally, the investigations concluded and no wrongdoing was found on my part. The allegations were unsubstantiated, conflicting and without merit. And I thank you all. Mr. President, please move on with the agenda. With that, I yield."