



Feb 02 2024 2:37 pm

**City of Fitchburg
Massachusetts 01420**

CITY COUNCIL

Councillors at Large

**Sally H. Cragin
Marcus L. DiNatale
Amy L. Green
Elizabeth R. Walsh
Anthony M. Zarrella**

President

Anthony M. Zarrella

Vice President

Andrew J. Van Hazinga

Ward Councillors

**Ward 1 – Bernard J. Schultz III
Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin
Ward 3 – Andrew J. Couture
Ward 4 – Andrew J. Van Hazinga
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming
Ward 6 – Derrick J. Cruz**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fitchburg was held at the Legislative Building at 700 Main Street and over the Zoom meeting platform and live streamed at FATV Studios, Fitchburg, on January 4, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Van Hazinga at 7:22 P.M. The meeting opened with a salute to the Flag led by Councilor Van Hazinga. The City Clerk called the roll 10 Councillors were present. Councilor Fleming and Councilor Schultz via Zoom, President Zarrella was absent. Board consists of 11 members.

I. PUBLIC FORUM

- Jacquelyn Wehtje, Fitchburg resident, spoke in opposition of Order 003-24 and 004-24.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Cragin: Our Are Pet Shelters are in CRISIS right now with too many young animals being born who are not finding homes. Please be a responsible pet owner and FIX your pets.

For Cat owners:

The CATMOBILE is coming to Fitchburg on Thursday, January 18, 2024 starting at 8:30 am. The Catmobile will be parked at Fitchburg Fire Department, 33 North Street, Fitchburg.

Pre-registration and payment MUST be completed online. Visit: MRFRS.org

The cost will be:

Female Cats: \$175.00

Male Cats: \$125.00

However, Leominster Fitchburg ACO has vouchers. Visit “Leominster/FitchburgACO” on Facebook or call: Fitchburg 978-956-4082 Leominster 978-514-2381.

III. REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Appointments Committee
Oral Report
Meeting of January 4, 2024

New Appointment:

Council on Aging

(Term to expire December 5, 2026)

Nancy Donohue

New Appointment:

Fitchburg Disability Commission

(Term to expire January 1, 2027)

Ellen Corduan

Re-Appointment:

Conservation Commission

(Term to expire January 1, 2027)

Michael Donnelly

Re-Appointment:

Conservation Commission

(Term to expire January 1, 2027)

Mark F. Christian

Re-Appointment:

Board of Assessors

(Term to expire January 1, 2027)

Jerri Maillet

Re-Appointment:

Board of Assessors

(Term to expire January 1, 2026)

Ryan Beauvais

Re-Appointment:

Human Rights Commission

(Term to expire January 1, 2027)

Barbara Nealon

Re-Appointment:

Zoning Board of Appeals

(Term to expire October 1, 2025)

James Reynolds

Re-Appointment:

Board of Trustees Public Library

(Term to expire January 2, 2027)

Matt Bruun

Mary Rice Hurley

James Walsh

Re-Appointment:

Board of Trustees Public Library

(Term to expire January 2, 2026)

Cynthia Jones

Joanne Huse

Re-Appointment:

Board of Trustees Public Library

(Term to expire July 1, 2026)

Muna Kangsen

Dennis Pierce

Re-Appointment:

Board of Park Commissioners

(Term to expire April 1, 2026)

Mary Whitney

Councilor Walsh recused herself at 7:28 PM

Report accepted. Appointments confirmed by unanimous consent 9/0. 9 members present. Board consists of 11 members.

Councilor Walsh joined the meeting at 7:29PM

IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

The Committee on records reported the minutes of December 19, 2023 City Council meeting and the minutes of the January 2, 2024 Organizational meeting were correctly recorded. Report accepted and minutes adopted by unanimous consent 10/0. 10 members present. Board consists of 11 members.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

His Honor the Mayor

1. New Appointment letter:

Ian B. Wilder, to the position of Firefighter to replace retiring Deputy Fire Chief Roberto Alicea.

Appointment referred to the Appointments Committee by unanimous consent 10/0. 10 members present. Board consists of 11 members.

VI. ORDERS – OTHER

The following Orders were referred to a Public Hearing February 6, 2024:

003-24. ORDER OF NOTICE: Setting the date of a public hearing for the Laying out of a portion of Ethier St. as a public street or way.
(Public Hearing February 6, 2024)

004-24. ORDER THAT: Laying out a portion of Ethier St. as Public Street or way as outlined in the enclosed Order.
(Public Hearing February 6, 2024)

Motion and second to refer Orders 003-24 & 004-24 to a Public Hearing on February 6, 2024 by unanimous consent 10/0. 10 members present. Board consists of 11 members.

The following Order was referred to the City Property Committee:

005-24. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg shall, through its Mayor Samantha M. Squailia, approve and authorize the execution of a Conservation Easement Agreement in form substantially similar to that attached hereto and authorize all other acts which will be necessary, helpful or convenient thereto, in order to effectuate the Zoning Board decision of September 27, 2023 as recorded in the Worcester North Registry of Deeds at Book 10655, Page 369. 1341 Rindge Road
(Refer to City Property)

VII. PETITIONS

The following petition was referred to a Public Hearing February 6, 2024:

006-24. Unitil, to petition for a new pole #1-51, approximately 650' South of Drepanos Dr., and approximately 1020' North of View St., as outlined in the enclosed Petition.
(Public Hearing February 6, 2024)

The following petition was referred to the Planning Board and Legislative Affairs:

007-24. James C. Pappas and three signatory voters, to amend Order 234-03 in order to correct errors in the title record as detailed in the enclosed petition.
(Refer to Planning Board and Legislative Affairs)

Next Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 7:00 PM

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Joanna Bilotta-Simeone

Joanna Bilotta-Simeone, City Clerk