



CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS

City Councilors:

Meg Robbins, At-Large
Garrick Perry, At-Large
Gwen Nabad, Ward 1
Deborah L. Klemer, Ward 2 - Vice President
Laurie Loisel, Ward 3
Jeremy Dubs, Ward 4
Aline Davis, Ward 5
Christopher C. Stratton, Ward 6
Rachel Maiore, Ward 7 - Council President

Meeting Agenda
City Council Chambers
212 Main Street, Northampton
Thursday, January 15, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

The City of Northampton does not discriminate based on disability and is committed to hosting accessible meetings. To request a reasonable accommodation to attend any City meeting, please contact the ADA Coordinator at: adacoordinator@northamptonma.gov or call 413-587-1288..

Speakers needing time accommodations should notify the chair prior to the meeting at rmaiore@northamptonma.gov.

The January 15, 2026 City Council meeting will be conducted in hybrid format with the option for both councilors and the public to attend in person or participate remotely. The public may follow the council's deliberations by attending in person, watching the meeting live on Comcast channel 15, live-streaming it on YouTube [here](#) or joining the virtual meeting by phone or computer. Live public comment begins at 6:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CALLING IN OR JOINING THE MEETING

Join the meeting: [PUBLIC MEETING LINK](#)

For telephone call-in, call:

+929 436-2866 US

MEETING ID: 846 4414 6122

PARTICIPANT#: #

PASSCODE: 783792

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Announcement that meeting is being Audio/Video Recorded**
This meeting is being audio/video recorded.
- 3. Public Hearings**

A. Announcement of Public Hearing on 25.355 National Grid Petition for Park Hill Road (Petition#: 31193070)

Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** in Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA on National Grid's petition to relocate one SO pole and install new midspan pole on Park Hill Road to accommodate a service upgrade request. (Petition #31193070). Instructions for accessing the hearing may be found on the February 5, 2026 City Council agenda to be posted on www.northamptonma.gov no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Documents:

[25.355 DPW Recommendation.pdf](#)

[25.355 National Grid Pole Petition for Park Hill Road, Petition No. 31193070.pdf](#)

B. Announcement of Public Hearing on 25.357 National Grid/Verizon Petition to install JO and Midspan Poles and Relocate Existing Pole #15 on Hawley Street (Petition# 31165186)

Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 6:35 p.m.** in Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA on National Grid/Verizon Petition to install JO and Midspan Poles and Relocate Existing Pole #15 on Hawley Street (Petition# 31165186). Instructions for accessing the hearing may be found on the February 5, 2026 City Council agenda to be posted on www.northamptonma.gov no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Documents:

[25.357 DPW Recommendation.pdf](#)

[25.357 National Grid-Verizon Petition to install JO and Midspan Poles and Relocate Existing Pole on Hawley Street, Petition No. 31165186.pdf](#)

4. Public Comment

5. Announcements from Councilors and the Mayor

6. Presentations

7. Consent Agenda

Rule 4.4.4 There shall be no debate or discussion by any City Council member regarding any item on the Consent Agenda, beyond asking questions for simple clarification.

Rule 4.4.5 Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda upon the request of any City Council member prior to the taking of a vote on the motion to approve it. All such items will be considered individually, in the order in which they were removed, immediately following consideration of the Consent Agenda.

A. Minutes of Special City Council Meeting December 9, 2025 and Regular Meeting December 18, 2025

Documents:

[12-09-2025_City Council Meeting.pdf](#)

B. 26.008 Appointment of Attorney Alan Seewald as City Solicitor, for referral to City Services

Documents:

[26.008 Appointment of Attorney Alan Seewald as City Solicitor.pdf](#)

8. Financial Orders (on 1st reading)

Rule 2.6.1.1.1 Process. Financial orders will be introduced and discussed at a full City Council meeting and referred to either the consent agenda of a future meeting or the Finance Committee for more public input, discussion and recommendation.

A. 26.003 An Order to Appropriate \$2.1 Million Free Cash to Various Reserve Accounts - 1st reading

Documents:

[26.003 An Order to Appropriate 2.1 Million Free Cash to Various Reserve Accounts.pdf](#)

B. 26.004 An Order to Appropriate Enterprise Retained Earnings to Various Project - 1st reading

Documents:

[26.004 An Order to Appropriate Enterprise Retained Earnings to Various Projects.pdf](#)

C. 26.005 An Order to Appropriate \$251,025 Free Cash to NPS Special Education Stabilization Fund - 1st reading

Documents:

[26.005 An Order to Appropriate 251,025 Free Cash to NPS Special Education Stabilization Fund.pdf](#)

D. 26.006 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for McKinney Vento Transportation Reimbursement - 1st reading

Documents:

[26.006 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for McKinney Vento Transportation Reimbursement.pdf](#)

E. 26.007 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for Foster Care Transportation Reimbursement - 1st reading

Documents:

[26.007 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for Foster Care Transportation Reimbursement.pdf](#)

9. Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)

10. Orders

A. 26.009 An Order to Amend the 2026-2027 City Council Meeting Schedule - single reading only

Documents:

[26.009 An Order to Amend the 2026-2027 City Council Meeting Schedule.pdf](#)

11. Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)

Rule 5.2.3 provides that no ordinance shall be voted on by the City Council until it has been considered by the Committee on Legislative Matters.

12. Zoning Ordinances (Not yet Referred)

Process note: Per M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the city council shall submit proposed zoning ordinances to the planning board for review within fourteen days of receipt. No zoning ordinance or amendment thereto shall be adopted until after the planning board in a city or town, and the city council or a committee designated or appointed for the purpose by said council has each held a public hearing thereon, together or separately.

Rule 5.2.3 provides that no ordinance shall be voted on by the City Council until it has been considered by the Committee on Legislative Matters.

13. Ordinances

14. Zoning Ordinances

15. Resolutions

16. Information Requests (Charter Provision 2-7) and Committee Study Requests

17. New Business

Rule 4.9 NEW BUSINESS. Any Councilor may introduce any written proposed order, ordinance, or resolution to be considered by the Council at the next meeting, but not to be debated during new business.

18. Adjourn

Contact: Council President Rachel Maiore

Email: rmaiore@northamptonma.gov

Phone: (413) 923-4318



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
125 Locust Street
Northampton, MA 01060**

**413-587-1570
Fax 413-587-1576**

**Donna LaScaleia
Director**

Memorandum

To: Donna LaScaleia, DPW Director *Approved 12-22-25*
From: Kris Baker, P.E.
Date: December 18, 2025
Re: National Grid Pole Petition #31193070 – Park Hill Road – Pole #46-50

National Grid is proposing to install 1 SO Pole on Park Hill Road beginning at a point approximately 190 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Oliver Street. The installation is for a new midspan pole #46-50 approximately 60 feet east of Pole #47 and 120 feet west of Pole #46.

A review of City records indicates the following:

1. **SEWER, WATER, & DRAIN:** There are no City utilities located in the vicinity of the proposed pole on Park Hill Road.
2. **PUBLIC SHADE TREES:** Public shade trees are not located within the work area.

A Northampton DPW Trench Permit is required prior to any construction.



November 13, 2025

City of Northampton

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a petition of NATIONAL GRID, covering NATIONAL GRID pole location(s)

If you have any questions regarding this permit please contact:

Please notify National Grid's Vincent LoGuidice of the hearing date / time at **978-255-5558**
or Vincent.LoGuidice@NationalGrid.com

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy to:

National Grid Contact: Vincent LoGuidice; 1101 Turnpike Street; North Andover, MA 01845

Very truly yours,

Jim Kehrer
Name: Distribution Design Supervisor
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

Questions contact – Ken Creigle 413-207-5733

PETITION FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS

North Andover, Massachusetts

To the City Council
Of Northampton, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Park Hill Rd - Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to Relocate 1 SO Pole on Park Hill Rd beginning at a point approximately 190ft east of the centerline of the intersection of Oliver St. Installing new Midspan Pole # 46-50 approximately 60' east of Pole # 47 and 120' west of Pole # 46 to support customer service upgrade request.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Park Hill Rd - Northampton - Massachusetts.

Plan # 31193070 November 13, 2025

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a

NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer*

BY _____

Engineering Department

ORDER FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS

In the City of Northampton, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

that Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and be and it is hereby granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Company may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Company dated the 13th day of November, 2025.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonable straight, and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked – Park Hill Rd - Northampton - Massachusetts.

No. 31193070 Dated: November 13, 2025. Filed with this order

There may be attached to said poles such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

Park Hill Rd - Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to Relocate 1 SO Pole on Park Hill Rd beginning at a point approximately 190ft east of the centerline of the intersection of Oliver St. Installing new Midspan Pole # 46-50 approximately 60’ east of Pole # 47 and 120’ west of Pole # 46 to support customer service upgrade request.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the City Council of the City/Town of _____, Massachusetts held on the _____ day of _____ 20__.

Massachusetts City/Town Clerk.
20__.

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of _____
Book _____ Page _____

Attest:
City/Town Clerk

I hereby certify that on
at

20 , at o'clock, M
a public hearing was held on the petition of

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid

for permission to erect the poles, wires, and fixtures described in the order herewith recorded, and that we mailed at least seven days before said hearing a written notice of the time and place of said hearing to each of the owners of real estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation) along the ways or parts of ways upon which the Company is permitted to erect poles, wires, and fixtures under said order. And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

City/Town Clerk.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Board or Council of Town or City, Massachusetts

CERTIFICATE

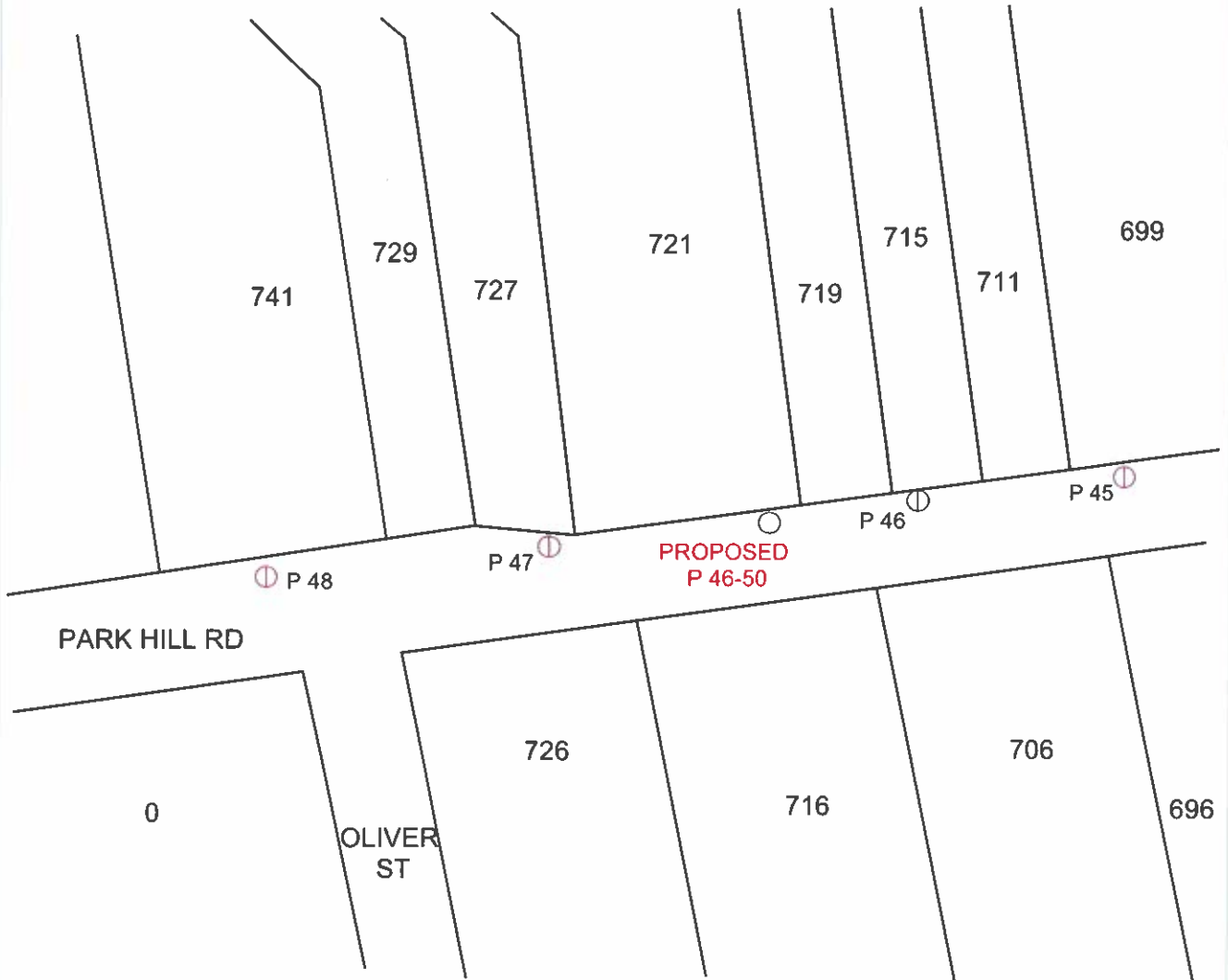
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the location order and certificate of hearing with notice adopted by the of the City of Massachusetts, on the day of 20 , and recorded with the records of location orders of the said City, Book , Page . This certified copy is made under the provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto or amendments thereof.

Attest:

City/Town Clerk

Exhibit A – Not to Scale

The exact location of said Facilities to be established by and upon the installation and erection of the Facilities thereof.



SOLEY OWNED PETITION SKETCH



PROPOSED SO POLE



EXISTING JO POLE

Date: 11/13/2025

Plan Number: 31193070

To Accompany Petition Dated:

To The: CITY Of NORTHAMPTON

For Proposed:INSTALL Pole: 46-50 Location: PARK HILL RD

Date Of Original Grant:

NGRID CONTACT: KEN CREIGLE 413-207-5733

DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
125 Locust Street
Northampton, MA 01060

413-587-1570
Fax 413-587-1576

Donna LaScaleia
Director

Memorandum

To: Donna LaScaleia, DPW Director *Approved PL 12-22-25*
From: Kris Baker, P.E.
Date: December 18, 2025
Re: National Grid Pole Petition #31165186 – Hawley Street Pole #15 & Pole #15-50

National Grid is proposing to install 1 JO Pole on Hawley Street and relocate 1 JO on Hawley Street beginning at a point approximately 56 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Isabella Street and continuing approximately 25 feet in a northern direction, to relocate existing Pole #15 approximately 12 feet south and to install a new midspan pole #15-50 approximately 37 feet south of existing pole #15.

A review of City records indicates the following:

1. **WATER & SEWER:** The water and sewer mains in Hawley Street are located on the east side of the roadway. No conflicts are anticipated with the proposed pole locations. There are sewer stubs and a water service that has been disconnected in the vicinity of Pole #15 that should be avoided.
2. **DRAIN:** The drainage system is located within the paved roadway and no conflict is anticipated.
3. **PUBLIC SHADE TREES:** Public shade trees are not located within the work area.

A Northampton DPW Trench Permit is required prior to any construction.



November 13, 2025

City of Northampton

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a petition of NATIONAL GRID, covering NATIONAL GRID pole location(s)

If you have any questions regarding this permit please contact:

Please notify National Grid's Vincent LoGuidice of the hearing date / time at **978-255-5558**
or Vincent.LoGuidice@NationalGrid.com

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy to:

National Grid Contact: Vincent LoGuidice; 1101 Turnpike Street; North Andover, MA 01845

Very truly yours,

Jim Kehrer
Name: Distribution Design Supervisor
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

Questions contact – Ken Creigle 413-207-5733

PETITION FOR JOINT OR IDENTICAL POLE LOCATIONS

North Andover, Massachusetts

To the City Council
Of Northampton, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Hawley St - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Hawley St and Relocate 1 JO Pole on Hawley St beginning at a point approximately 56 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Isabella St and continuing approximately 25 feet in a northern direction. Relocating existing Pole # 15 approximately 12' feet south to allow for proper guying to be installed around new buildings at 111 Hawley St. Also Installing new midspan Pole # 15-50, approximately 37' south of existing Pole # 15. New distance between Pole # 15 and 15-50 will be 25' feet.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Hawley St – Northampton – Massachusetts.

No.# 31165186 October 29, 2025

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a

NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer*

BY _____

Engineering Department

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.

BY *Albert E. Bessette Jr.* _____

Manager / Right of Way

ORDER FOR JOINT OR IDENTICAL POLE LOCATIONS

To the City Council - Northampton, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

that Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC. (formerly known as NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY) be and they are hereby granted joint or identical locations for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Companies may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Companies dated the 28th day of October, 2025.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonable straight, and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked – Hawley St – Northampton – Massachusetts.

October 29, 2025. Filed with this order. WR # 31165186.

There may be attached to said poles by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England Inc. such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

Hawley St - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Hawley St and Relocate 1 JO Pole on Hawley St beginning at a point approximately 56 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Isabella St and continuing approximately 25 feet in a northern direction. Relocating existing Pole # 15 approximately 12' feet south to allow for proper guying to be installed around new buildings at 111 Hawley St. Also Installing new midspan Pole # 15-50, approximately 37' south of existing Pole # 15. New distance between Pole # 15 and 15-50 will be 25' feet.

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the
of the City/Town of _____, Massachusetts held on the _____ day of _____ 20__.

City/Town Clerk.

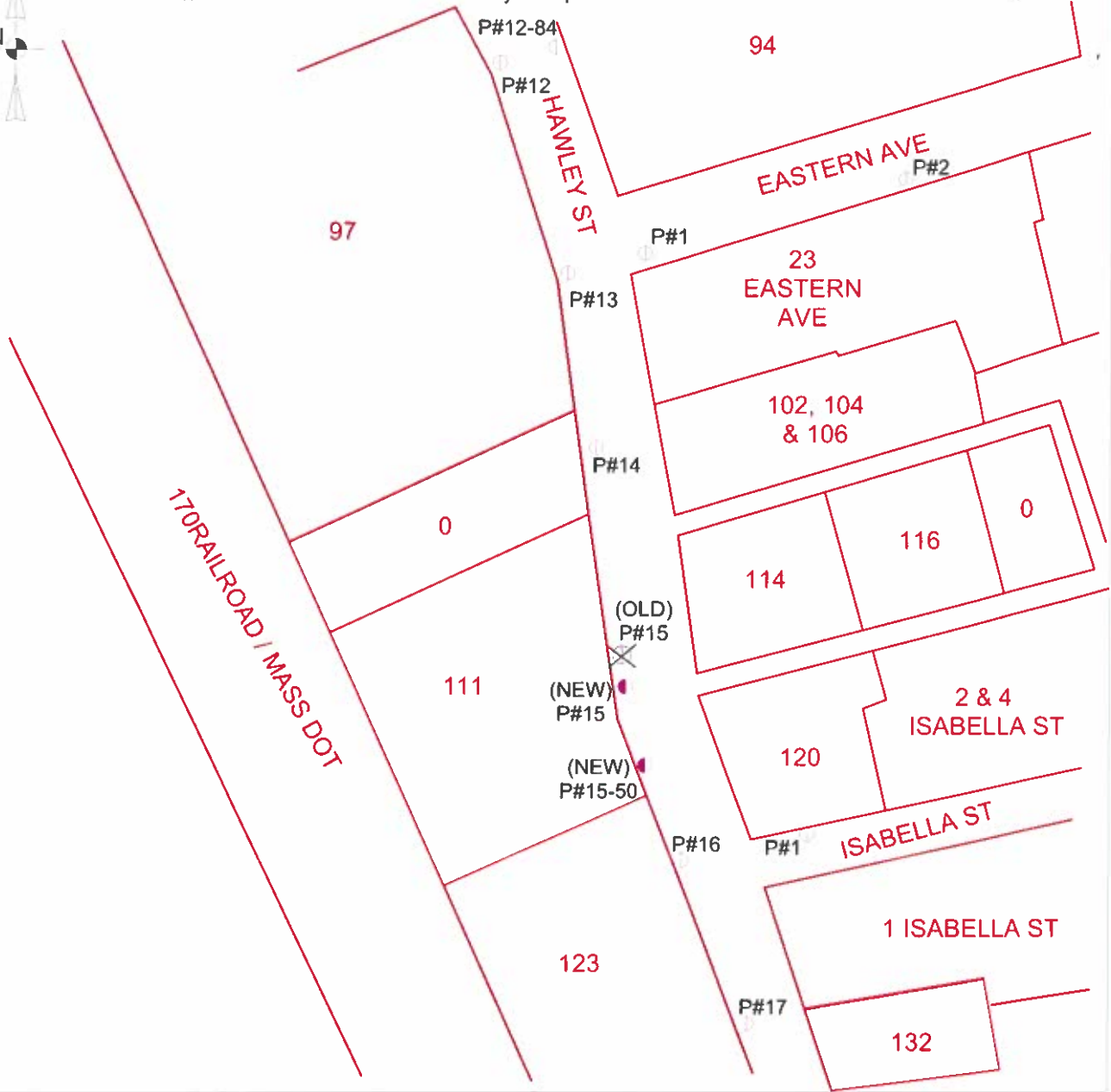
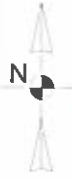
is made under the provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto or amendments thereof.

Attest:

City/Town Clerk

Exhibit A – Not to Scale

The exact location of said Facilities to be established by and upon the installation and erection of the Facilities thereof.



JOINTLY OWNED PETITION SKETCH

-  PROPOSED JO POLE
-  EXISTING JO POLE
-  EXISTING JO POLE (TO BE REMOVED)

NGRID CONTACT: KEN CREIGLE 413-207-5733

DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE

nationalgrid
AND VERIZON

Date: 10/27/2025

Plan Number: 31165186

To Accompany Petition Dated:

To The: CITY Of NORTHAMPTON

For Proposed: INSTALL Pole: 15 & 15-50 Location: HAWLEY ST

Date Of Original Grant:



CITY COUNCIL MEETING
212 MAIN STREET
Northampton, Massachusetts
December 9, 2025

Roll Call

A special meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Alex Jarrett at 3:02 p.m. Upon a roll call, the following City Councilors were present:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| At-Large Councilor Marissa Elkins, 6:31 pm | At-Large Councilor Garrick Perry |
| Ward 1 Councilor Stanley Moulton, III | Ward 2 Councilor Deborah Klemer |
| Ward 3 Councilor Quaverly Rothenberg | Ward 4 Councilor Jeremy Dubs |
| Ward 5 Councilor Alexander Jarrett | Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge |
| Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore | |

Announcement that Meeting Audio/Video Recorded

Councilor Alex Jarrett announced that the meeting is being audio/video recorded.

School Energy Project Financial Orders Subject to Charter Objections December 4, 2025: 25.338 An Order to Appropriate Money from Climate Stabilization for Solar PV Array at Ryan Road School

School Energy Project Financial Orders Subject to Charter Objections December 4, 2025: 25.338 An Order to Appropriate Money from Climate Stabilization for Solar PV Array at Ryan Road School

Councilors are here to discuss the school energy orders subject to charter objection at the regular meeting December 4, 2025, Councilor Jarrett reminded. Their consideration was postponed to the next special meeting today.

He asked if the Mayor or Director Weil would like to speak to the items.

Climate Action and Project Administration (CAPA) Director Ben Weil said he could reiterate his presentation and/or respond to some discussion he has heard since. The main point is that this is a transfer from an investment by the climate stabilization fund towards the operating budget of the schools in an average annual amount of \$63,000 and change. If they were to simply transfer the acquisition cost of \$319,484 after incentives, \$63,318 per year would last only five years. This will continually deposit that amount into the school's operating budget for 25 years or more, which feels like a fairly strong argument that it is helpful to the schools.

Regarding the result of delay, annual income would be reduced by up to \$26,173 because they would miss the SMART 3.0 incentive deadline. In addition, they would be required to use more expensive solar panels in order to get the investment tax credit but would still be eligible for the credit. The project would likely cost \$60,000 more. If they were to delay past July 4th, the total cost would be borne by the city because they would miss the deadline for the investment tax credit, which is about 30%.

Councilor Rothenberg expressed her understanding that the council still does not have a contract for this that they can see.

They have a contract form/template but they cannot legally enter into a contract until they have an appropriation to allow them to execute it, Director Weil explained.

Councilor Rothenberg expressed her understanding that the council has not seen the form.

Director Weil said that's true, but it would be in the amounts they've talked about. They have gotten a lot of free work to get them to this level of detail and specificity.

Councilor Rothenberg asked how this is different from Jackson Street in terms of the terms of its contract.

This would be a purchase because the roof is in better shape, Director Weil responded. The city would own the panels and get 100% of the value of their production and of SMART incentives. It is a much better deal for the city.

The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Jackson Street School would be a 25-year agreement. The difference is that they are not paying any money up front.

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order. Councilor Klemer seconded.

Councilor Rothenberg asked why councilors did not hear about this sooner and approve it as part of the previous CIP.

Director Weil said they have been developing it as fast as they could. He's been on the job now a little over a year. He had to first figure out where they could have solar and then engage the services of a solar company to develop a proposal. The company had to do quite a bit of work on each of the sites identified. They are not hearing about a bunch of sites that turned out to not be the best choices. It took this long to get people physically out on the roofs to make sure they were in good enough shape and to see if transformers are in the right location and of the right size, etc. The first version of the Ryan Road project was larger, so it would have cost more to serve that larger PV array. They could dawdle on this all they want but the end of investment tax credits is looming. It was brought ahead of the CIP because of the consequences of not moving forward this year.

Councilor Rothenberg said that all makes sense.

Councilor LaBarge thanked Dr. Weil.

The motion to approve passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed final reading:

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

25.338 An Order to Appropriate Money from Climate Stabilization for Solar PV Array at Ryan Road School

Order appropriating funds from the Climate Stabilization Fund to purchase and install a solar photovoltaic system at Ryan Road Elementary School

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council endorsed a goal for Northampton to be a net carbon neutral city by 2050 with net carbon neutral municipal operations by 2030; and

WHEREAS, installing solar photovoltaic arrays on school facilities will reduce greenhouse gas and carbon emissions resulting from school operations; and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid unnecessary cost, it is best practice that a roof that is slated to hold a solar photovoltaic array have sufficient life remaining so that re-roofing is unlikely to be needed during the lifetime of the solar array; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Road Elementary School has recently undergone roof replacement and thus re-roofing is unlikely to be needed during the lifetime of solar photovoltaic arrays installed on said roof; and

WHEREAS, the roof and electrical infrastructure at Ryan Road Elementary School is capable of supporting 180.2 kW of photovoltaics, which will typically produce 186.6 MWh of electricity per year, providing the Northampton Public Schools with estimated average net operating income of \$63,318 per year with an approximate \$1,582,941 savings and revenue over the 25-year nominal life of the array; and

WHEREAS, the investment of \$455,763 in photovoltaics at Ryan Road Elementary School will secure a Federal investment tax credit of \$136,279 if contracted and some materials are ordered before the last day of calendar year 2025, and

WHEREAS, the after tax credit investment cost would be \$319,484 and would have an internal rate of return greater than 17% and a simple payback period of just over 5 years; and

APPROVED - 25.338
An Order to
Appropriate Money
from Climate
Stabilization for
Solar PV Array at
Ryan Road School

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2025, the Northampton School Committee voted to approve the solar array on the Ryan Road Elementary School and directed the Superintendent of Schools to permit the City of Northampton and its vendors reasonable access Ryan Road Elementary School for the purpose of designing, installing, inspecting, operating, maintaining, and repairing the solar array project.

Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that

The City Council appropriate \$455,763 from the Climate Mitigation Stabilization fund for the purposes of installing a solar photovoltaic system at Ryan Road Elementary School, with the tax credits being credited back to the Climate Mitigation stabilization fund when received.

Passed final reading and enrolled.

25.339 An Order
Authorizing
Leasehold Interest
and 25-year Power
Purchase
Agreement for
Canopy Solar
Installation at
Jackson Street
School

25.339 An Order Authorizing Leasehold Interest and 25-year Power Purchase Agreement for Canopy Solar Installation at Jackson Street School

Director Weil again framed the project as a transfer of resources to the operating budget of Northampton Public Schools (NPS), representing almost \$43,703 in average annual savings over 25 years. They can think of it as a transfer of the labor of CAPA and other entities, including Central Services, to make the savings possible. The result of delay beyond December 31st is more expensive photovoltaic (PV) panels, meaning the developer would have to charge them a higher rate, resulting in less savings. Missing the December 31st deadline also results in a lower SMART 3.0 incentive, although they don't know exactly how much lower. With the lower incentive, the PPA would likely come in at about \$.18 per kwh, which is about what they pay now. They could still decide to proceed since the cost of electricity is likely to rise while this rate would be fixed for 25 years.

In response to a question from Councilor LaBarge, Director Weil clarified that this is a PPA, not a bond. The city agrees to buy any energy produced at a fixed rate. Based on current conditions, it would be about \$.15 per kwh, better than the \$.18 they pay now.

The reason solar panels would be more expensive has to do with the change to tax incentives under the Trump administration. If they have a contract by the end of this year, they will have safe-harbored their project, meaning they will be able to purchase solar panels produced in China, which are cheaper. After the first of the year, the solar producer would have to use U.S.-made panels, which are more expensive.

Councilor Rothenberg expressed her understanding that, in this case also, they have not yet seen a contract.

They have shared a model contract with Director Nardi but without prices, Director Weil clarified.

Councilor Rothenberg asked what happens if the solar company goes out of business.

Director Weil said he actually didn't know.

Councilor Rothenberg asked about any kind of escalation clause.

There is *no* escalation. It is a fixed rate, Director Weil stressed.

What does it say for any kind of exit clause? She asked.

Director Weil said he would have to look. Specific terms would all be negotiated by the city solicitor, he pointed out.

Councilor Rothenberg asked if her math is correct that \$40,000 is only about a tenth of one percent (1%) of the overall school budget.

Director Weil agreed it's not a lot but said it's better than zero.

He stressed that the request is for an enabling authorization. It is not a commitment to sign the contract. If the school's lawyer determines it is not in the city's best interest, it would not go forward.

She would be comfortable with this if the motion were approved such that it would come back to council prior to signing, Councilor Rothenberg said.

Mayor Sciarra clarified that while the council appropriates funds, it does not authorize contracts unless they are over three years.

The administration typically does not bring contracts to City Council for authorization, that is a function of the executive branch, Director Nardi elaborated. The City Council's role is to appropriate funding.

Regarding the project's size and scope, Councilor Perry asked how long construction would take and what sort of impacts it would have on the school and parking lot.

Construction can only happen when school is closed, so the work would be done in the summer, Director Weil said. The facilities manager is hoping to repave the parking lot as part of the process. Staff shifted the design of the canopy so as not to impact major trees, he added.

Councilor Moulton expressed his understanding that the way the 25-year agreement would be negotiated and approved by the executive branch is no different from any other contract. "This is following standard protocol," he observed. Director Nardi confirmed that is correct.

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve. Councilor Moulton seconded.

Councilor Rothenberg expressed surprise that it would be considered 'standard operating protocol,' saying she can think of no more naïve action than to enter into a 25-year agreement with an energy company. "It seems awfully reckless," she opined.

She hasn't been able to find anyone who thinks the lack of an escalation clause can be real. "Everyone says that's too good to be true," she reported.

"We don't know what the exit clause is. . . [or] what happens if they go out of business," she continued. That they are rushing into a 25-year agreement for a savings of one-tenth of 1% of the school budget is something for the next council to grapple with in terms of its understanding of the City Council's role and its standard operating procedure, she suggested. She thinks the council needs to get its own attorney if it wants to have somebody reviewing contracts.

This will be a 'no' vote for her, she asserted.

The motion passed 8:1 by roll call vote with Councilor Rothenberg opposed.

The following order passed final reading:

APPROVED - 25.339
Order Authorizing
Leasehold Interest
and 25-year Power
Purchase Agree-
ment for Canopy
Solar Installation at
Jackson Street
School

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

25.339 An Order Authorizing Leasehold Interest and 25-year Power Purchase Agreement for Canopy Solar Installation at Jackson Street School.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council endorsed a goal for Northampton to be a net carbon neutral city by 2050 with net carbon neutral municipal operations by 2030; and

WHEREAS, installing solar photovoltaic arrays on school facilities will reduce greenhouse gas and carbon emissions resulting from school operations; and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid unnecessary cost, it is best practice that a roof that is slated to hold a solar photovoltaic array have sufficient life remaining so that re-roofing is unlikely to be needed during the lifetime of the solar array; and

WHEREAS, Jackson Street School is currently in need of re-roofing and thus not appropriate for the installation of photovoltaic arrays, and

WHEREAS, installation of photovoltaic arrays over parking lots and other developed land is environmentally and socially preferable to clearing forested land or removing farmland from production; and

WHEREAS, solar parking canopies provide shade and reduce snow removal requirements from covered parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, a Power Purchase Agreement will enable the construction of solar canopies over the parking lot at Jackson Street Elementary school with no up-front cost to the City or to the Northampton Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the current cost of electricity is 18.4¢, and current cost of virtual net metered electricity production is 17.4¢, both changing with markets and likely to increase;

WHEREAS, the cost of electricity produced by the solar canopies will be fixed for 25 years at 15.8¢ per kWh at Jackson Street School, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Power Purchase Agreement will provide an average annual savings of \$43,703 and a cumulative savings of \$1,092,570 over 25 years

WHEREAS, a 25-year lease is a condition precedent the establishment of a Power Purchase Agreement contract; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2025, the Northampton School Committee voted to approve the solar array canopy project at Jackson Street Elementary School parking lot and to permit the City of Northampton to enter into a Solar Power Purchase Agreement and Lease Agreement with Solect Energy Development, LLC that will give Solect Energy reasonable access to the Jackson Street Elementary School parking lot for the purpose of designing, installing, inspecting, operating, maintaining repairing and removing the solar array canopy project, and, further to grant the Superintendent of Schools the authority to secure approvals on behalf of the school Department from DESE or other agencies that may be necessary for the City and Solect Energy to complete the project; and

WHEREAS, M.G.L. c. 40, § 15B requires a vote of the City Council to surplus any interest in public property prior to its disposal.

Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that

The City Council declares surplus a leasehold interest in the parking lot of the Jackson Street Elementary School located at 120 Jackson Street and authorizes the Mayor to execute a 25 year lease and Power Purchase Agreement with Solect Energy on such terms and conditions as the Mayor deems reasonable.

The Superintendent of Schools shall have the authority to secure approvals on behalf of the Northampton Public Schools from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or other agencies that may be necessary for the City and Solect Energy to complete the project

Passed final reading and approved.

25.340 An Order to Authorize Appropriation and Borrowing for Geothermal System at Northampton High School

25.340 An Order to Authorize Appropriation and Borrowing for Geothermal System at Northampton High School

Director Weil restated the project’s financial terms and the consequences of delay. Primarily financed by loans and the climate stabilization fund, in terms of savings, it represents an annual transfer of about \$40,000 to the NPS operating budget from investment on the part of climate stabilization and the city’s borrowing capacity, he presented. It will actually improve comfort and thermal performance at the school, which is known to have direct and measurable effects on test scores and social and emotional well-being. A consequence of delay is that the city will have to replace the chillers soon anyways. If left to chance, it will be a ‘like for like’ replacement on an emergency basis with no incentives and will foreclose the decarbonization potential of the school for the next 25 years. If run at the current rate, boilers will likely have to be replaced in the next eight years. Total replacement cost for the boiler and chiller is likely to be equal to or somewhat less than the total incentivized geothermal cost once rigging complexities are factored in.

He reminded them that, even though the city acquired two free boilers for the Leeds Elementary School, getting them into the building and installing them cost \$300,000. He asked them to imagine the challenge of getting four much larger boilers out of the high school and bringing four new ones in. This avoids that by replacing the chillers with essentially a ‘heat pump boiler room in a box’ configured in a factory and installed outside the building on the site of the chillers. “No need to break down walls,” he pointed out.

Tax incentives are available now and not guaranteed forever, he added. Negotiated incentives discussed with National Grid may not carry over to 2028. Failure to register the project with the Massachusetts Alternative Portfolio Standard Market will causes them to miss nearly \$100,000 in annual payments. While it doesn’t have the same kind of deadline imposed by the federal government as solar projects, there are reasons to move forward as quickly as possible, he suggested.

Councilor Moulton moved to approve the order. Councilor Maiore seconded.

Councilor Jarrett asked if there are any concerns about not being able to pay off short-term bonds with the tax credits for geothermal.

The Trump administration actually improved tax credits for commercial geothermal systems, Director Weil shared. A possible interpretation is that they see it as drilling so those credits are likely to be dependable. However, the sooner they move, the more likely they will be able to grandfather in or safe harbor the project since if rules change there is always a glide path to allow existing projects to continue.

Councilor Jarrett thanked the director for providing these savings, expressing his understanding that the long-term savings of this are greater than any other replacement option. In the current budget scenario, carbon goals and savings have to go hand in hand, he noted.

Do the energy savings pay for the debt service right away or does that come after a time? He asked.

Energy cost savings are only about \$48,000, Director Weil said. He doesn't have the cost of debt service in his head but his guess is that it does not directly pay for it.

Director Nardi clarified that the savings will go to the school while the city pays the debt service. Payments are estimated to be about \$467,000 annually at 3.75% over 20 years, she said.

Councilor Jarrett referred to two types of bonds: those that provide an immediate savings and those that don't. The city is going to have to replace the fossil-fuel chillers and boilers no matter what, which also would require substantial bonding. He expressed his understanding that Director Weil is saying that the geothermal provides a net savings over the other options.

Or, that they're very close to equivalent after incentives, Director Weil clarified.

How does this affect their debt schedule and ability to bond for other projects? Councilor Jarrett asked.

Director Nardi reiterated that debt service is dropping by \$1.1 million from FY2026 to FY2027, so the \$467,000 payment will replace some of the lost debt. The city's debt service has dropped slightly as they used more reserves during the pandemic because of federal funds received. They want to start building up their borrowing just a little; right now, it is at 3.4% of operating revenue. They want to increase it to 4% and move towards 5%. It will not affect any enterprise fund borrowing. All enterprise operational debt and project costs come out of enterprise funds, she confirmed.

Councilor Jarrett expressed his understanding that they are not looking to increase debt service simply to increase debt service; they are looking to accomplish goals with capital projects. If not, some of that could be spent on operating budgets. They will need to bond to replace the boiler if they don't do this project.

Best practice is to maintain a level debt service so they are always able to maintain infrastructure regardless of whether reserves are on hand or not, Director Nardi explained. They want to have borrowing power for important projects such as this.

Councilor Maiore asked about the impact on the operating budget. How long would it take for the city to receive the tax credits?

Director Nardi said she understands it takes about two years. They will do short-term bonds, meaning they would pay just the interest, estimated conservatively at \$210,000 a year. They will be getting back \$5.8 million to pay off that loan.

Councilor Maiore expressed her understanding that the supplementary boiler will only be supplementary until it inevitably dies. She asked if they plan to have a continuing supplementary heating and cooling source.

Director Weil said it is always a good idea to have a back-up; in fact, schools require N+1 in case of a power outage, for example. In extreme cold weather situations, it is possible heat pumps may not be able to extract enough heat out of the ground fast enough so it might be necessary to bump up the temperature using the boiler. If boilers are cycling only a few times a year, it extends their life significantly. There is an understanding in the renewable energy/building science world that new technology is coming along that can provide higher temperatures at higher efficiencies. All sorts of things could happen in the future to let the technology catch up so when they do have to replace their back-up source they have options they might not even know about yet.

Councilor Maiore said her first thought was that a supplementary heat source was not as important since schools would likely be canceled in the event of a large storm. However, during the pandemic, schools were used as emergency shelters and the city wants to maintain that capacity as climate change implications play out.

Finally, what challenges does he anticipate in the implementation of the geothermal project? She asked.

Director Weil said he has thought about this a lot because he does not want to encounter those challenges. The first thing is to make sure the project is designed properly for the technology the driller is using, which is one reason he hopes to procure it as a turnkey project. The other is having a single point of control and some degree of a performance guarantee.

The biggest reason for failure for geothermal systems has been unbalanced thermal loads, he presented. If it's too hot and too much cooling is needed, the geothermal field ends up warming up over the years. Vice versa, if too much heat is needed, the field doesn't warm up enough. One thing he is confident about is that the high school has a very balanced thermal load.

Smith College offers a lot of lessons. School officials hadn't expected to run their back-up system but recently experienced the need to run the fossil fuel-based generating station to make up the difference when not enough heat could be extracted from the ground. In Smith's case, it takes a lot of time to load enough heat into the ground.

Another lesson is simplicity. At the high school, they are talking about a single bore field on the parking lot with short loops going to a pre-fabricated shipping house so they don't have to worry about workmanship defects and multiple trades to coordinate. A lot has to do with coordination of the project from the top.

In response to a question from Councilor Klemer, Director Nardi clarified that while the total project cost is \$13 million, the cost to the city is only \$7.3 million because of tax incentive credits.

People have suggested putting this off, Councilor Klemer shared. Besides the loss of rebates and credits, she asked Director Weil what it would look like if the chiller just died and they had to replace it emergently.

Director Weil stressed that it is not the case, nor is he claiming, that investment tax credits for geothermal from the federal government are going away. There is no expectation that they are going away until 2032. However, generally speaking, getting a project going ensures they are able to retain credits. The urgency really has to do with the chiller, which is already causing problems both in operation and maintenance. If it fails, they need to replace it under emergency conditions. Estimates for its replacement are \$3 million. Once replaced, they will have secured the chiller portion of the heating and cooling system so that is occupied. Removal costs for the chillers escalate total project costs to \$4 million.

When and if the boilers fail, they have a challenge because essentially the building was built around them, he continued. To get them out and get new boilers in, they would probably have to temporarily demolish and reinforce the boiler room wall and use expensive rigging, adding a million to consultants' estimate of \$2.5 to \$3 million dollars.

Councilor Klemer said it sounds like it will be as expensive as the geothermal.

Director Weil noted that geothermal could be up to \$2 million dollars less if they find out after digging the test well that water can be handled in a lower-cost way.

He recited the life cycle cost of the various options as set forth in the Life Cycle Cost (25-year) and First Cost Comparisons slide of the "Three School Energy Projects" Powerpoint presentation.

Some members of the public had hands raised. Councilor Elkins said it's her understanding that they are not taking public comment, and Councilor Jarrett asked members to please stop raising virtual hands.

Councilor Rothenberg said she wanted to make some comments about choices. Councilor Klemer said "when the schools are in the situation they're in, every little bit counts." The reason the schools are in the situation they're in is choices they as a City Council and the Mayor have made about funding. The primary comment received from the public is, why the rush? Why is this not being considered in conjunction with the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the budget? Because, of course, it affects both.

Director Nardi said the city should maintain its debt service so they are always able to maintain their infrastructure, as if borrowing is somehow an indication of maintenance, which, of course, it's not, she continued. "Again, we're making choices there," she pointed out. The sidewalks are already broken; they haven't maintained those. This half a million a year could have been a loan for sidewalks, which would make a very significant and meaningful difference. That is not to say that this is not a meaningful choice.

How do we make those choices? She asked rhetorically. The way it's being presented today is in a vacuum. The obligations, the priorities, the balancing, the options; "these things need to be considered as a whole." That is why the public and two-thirds of the budget and property subcommittee is asking them to please consider this alongside everything else. Because, inevitably there are competing good choices.

"If we are not looking at all of those together and balancing them, we are not really functioning properly as a City Council," she suggested. There is a reason they have a CIP and a budget process. She is not hearing anything from Director Weil's presentation to indicate it makes sense for the project to be rushed before the impending CIP and budget conversations with the new council that are coming very shortly.

Councilor LaBarge says she feels Director Weil is very well-versed in energy projects. She asked if he had been working with outside experts on these projects.

Director Weil said absolutely. This project is based on two separate feasibility studies by geothermal experts. He is reporting to them mainly what was provided to them by Brightcorp Engineering.

Councilor Perry asked what would happen if they do discover dewatering takes more effort and money. He also asked if it is correct that they currently try not to run the chiller in summertime to preserve it.

Director Weil said not necessarily to preserve it, but, primarily, because it only has one speed. It turns on and sends a huge demand to the grid, spiking peak demand for the month so that the demand charge is set by the chiller. They try to run it as infrequently as possible, but, once it is running, to run it for a while. They are trying to balance discomfort to the school vs. discomfort to the energy budget.

The benefit of geothermal is that the cooling part uses very little energy.

They are budgeting for the worst-case scenario as far as dewatering, he added.

Councilor Moulton asked his estimate of how long until it's up and running if approved today.

The city has to go through the Ch. 25A procurement process and work with DCAMM and DOER, which will take a little while, Director Weil said. He anticipates not being able to get it fully contracted until March/April at which point the company would do a test well. Consultants then take information from the test well to create a design which would take a few months potentially meaning starting to drill in June. It could take about six months. To be fully operational might take a little longer – early spring/late winter of 2027.

Councilor Dubs said he doesn't think it is fair to say it is either sidewalks or these projects. Since he's been councilor, there's been an increase in sidewalk funding. He thinks they need to give some credit to the Mayor for what's been done.

Councilor Rothenberg said it is fair; it's actually exactly how the CIP works. "You don't know yet if it's either/or" because the CIP is not in front of them.

Councilor Moulton referred to a gamble as to whether the chillers will continue to work; they are gambling already with their sidewalks, Councilor Rothenberg countered. "Actually, we're not even gambling because we know they don't work," she noted. She referred to a similar gamble with school staffing. There are many things in the city that are broken, she pointed out.

They were shown 'ridiculous slides' about how they were going to 'bankrupt the city' if they made a mid-year appropriation to the schools, Councilor Rothenberg continued. This is being presented to them as though it's a choice that doesn't affect everything else. . . "That is just nonsensical."

You cannot know that because it's being presented separately. There is no reason being presented today to take this separately and not as part of the CIP.

Councilor Rothenberg said she had to get back to work. She asked the Council President to consider her a 'no' vote.

Director Nardi disagreed. They are still going to be able to afford the other priorities being brought forward on the CIP. "I don't think it will change the impact on the operational budget or our ability to have other projects go forward," she said.

Councilor Jarrett said he appreciates the risks but the needs are compelling, and the comparison of other costs and the unanimous approval of the School Committee persuades him to be in support.

APPROVED - 25.340
An Order to
Authorize
Appropriation and
Borrowing for
Geothermal System
at Northampton High
School

There being no further comments or questions, **the motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Rothenberg absent.**

The following order passed final reading:

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

25.340 An Order to Authorize Appropriation and Borrowing for Geothermal System at Northampton High School

Order authorizing the use of Climate Stabilization funds and municipal long and short term bonds to finance the design, installation and construction of a geothermal heating and cooling system at Northampton High School

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council endorsed a goal for Northampton to be a net carbon neutral city by 2050 with net carbon neutral municipal operations by 2030; and

WHEREAS, heating with high efficiency ground source heat pumps instead of methane combusting boilers will reduce greenhouse gas and carbon emissions resulting from school operations; and

WHEREAS, providing cooling with high efficiency ground source heat pumps instead of lower efficiency air-cooled chillers will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity consumption; and

WHEREAS, the chillers at Northampton High School are well past their expected useful life and will need to be replaced within 5 years at the latest; and

WHEREAS, the boilers at Northampton High School are nearing the end of their expected useful life if continually operated; and

WHEREAS, ground source heat pumps are protected from the elements and have an equipment lifetime of 25 to 30 years and extract and reject heat to a ground loop heat exchangers which have lifetime of more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, heating and cooling with ground source heat pumps is projected to reduce energy cost by 17%, maintenance cost by 50% and carbon emissions by 43%, and total energy use by 68%; and

WHEREAS, Federal tax credits are currently available to reduce the installed cost of a geothermal system by up to 40%; and

WHEREAS, because geothermal technology is supported by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Mass Save rebates for the project will significantly reduce its cost; and

WHEREAS, the proposed geothermal system at Northampton High School is estimated to earn \$105,000 per year in Alternative Energy Credits in the Massachusetts Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard market; and

WHEREAS, compared to the alternative heating and cooling solutions, a geothermal system has the lowest lifecycle cost over 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton School Committee voted to approve the geothermal project at Northampton High School and to direct the Superintendent of Schools to permit the City of Northampton and its vendors reasonable access to Northampton High School property for the purpose of designing, installing, inspecting, operating, maintaining, and repairing, the geothermal project

Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that

That the sum of \$2,000,000 be and hereby is appropriated from the Climate Mitigation Stabilization Fund to pay the costs of design and construction of geothermal improvements to the Northampton High School.

That \$11,166,625 is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of design and construction of geothermal improvements to the Northampton High School, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor;

Further Ordered: That all or a portion of the bonds or notes authorized by this Order may be issued in the form of tax credit bonds under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or in any other manner as the City Treasurer and the Mayor shall determine to be in the best interests of the City, and are hereby designated as tax credit bonds within the meaning of Chapter 44, Section 21B of the General Laws.

Further Ordered: That the City is authorized to accept and expend any grants, gifts, rebates, credits or any other contributions from any source whatsoever (including Section 6417 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended) that may be available to finance costs of the project described in this Order, the amount authorized to be borrowed by this Order shall be reduced to

the extent of any such grants or gifts received by the City on account of the project authorized by this Order.

Further Ordered: That the Mayor is authorized to take any action and to execute such documents as are necessary or convenient to carry out this project .

Rules suspended, passed final reading and enrolled.

Adjourn

Adjourn
Councilor Moulton moved to adjourn. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Rothenberg absent. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Attest: _____, Administrative Assistant



MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council
FROM: Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra
CC: City Solicitor Alan Seewald
DATE: January 13, 2026
RE: Appointment of City Solicitor

I am appointing Attorney Alan Seewald of 60 Revell Avenue, Northampton, MA as City Solicitor for the City of Northampton effective Thursday, January 15, 2022. Attorney Seewald's term as City Solicitor expired with the end of my last term as Mayor, and he has been appointed on a temporary basis in the interim.

Alan Seewald has served as City Solicitor for the City of Northampton since 2012. He brings an unparalleled wealth of experience, expertise, and wise counsel that has helped guide the city to the stability Northampton currently enjoys.

I respectfully submit his appointment to the City Council for confirmation in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Northampton City Charter and Northampton Administrative Code Chapter A, Part II, § 2-02. I have attached a copy of Attorney Seewald's professional resume for your review.

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

26.003 An Order to Appropriate \$2.1 Million Free Cash to Various Reserve Accounts

Ordered, that

\$2,112,722 be appropriated from the FY26 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to the following accounts:

\$528,180.50	Capital Stabilization Fund
\$528,180.50	Climate Mitigation Stabilization Fund
\$528,180.50	Fiscal Stability Stabilization Fund
\$528,180.50	Stabilization Fund

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

January 15, 2026

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra and DPW Director LaScaleia

26.004 An Order to Appropriate Enterprise Retained Earnings to Various Projects

Ordered, that

\$ 1,412,999 be appropriated from the FY26 Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to the Transmission Main account (3200610 583004) for the reconstruction of transmission mains.

\$ 569,233 be appropriated from the FY26 Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings to the Sewer Line Replacement account (3200600 589168) for ongoing sewer projects.

\$ 569,233 be appropriated from the FY26 Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) account (3200600 583003) for WWTP and Pump Station Improvements.

\$ 60,740 be appropriated from the FY26 Stormwater Enterprise Retained Earnings to the Drain Replacement account (3200620-589022) for replacement of drain pipes throughout the city.

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

26.005 An Order to Appropriate \$251,025 Free Cash to NPS Special Education Stabilization Fund

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2024, the City Council accepted Chapter 40, §13E of the Mass. General Laws, and pursuant to that statute, authorized the creation of a special purpose stabilization fund called the Northampton Public Schools (NPS) Special Education Stabilization Fund; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2024, \$800,000 was appropriated to initially fund the special purpose stabilization fund; and

WHEREAS, in order to support the stabilization account an annual appropriation would be made into the NPS Special Education Stabilization Fund by the amount of the prior year's Medicaid reimbursement and the amount of any turnback to the city from the prior year's NPS budget following the certification of free cash; and

WHEREAS, the method of this appropriation would be by an Order to the Northampton City Council filed by the mayor.

Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that

The City Council appropriate \$235,310.62 which is the amount of Medicaid reimbursement the city received in FY2025 and \$15,713.92 which is the amount of unspent funds from the FY2024 NPS budget returned to the city, for a total of \$251,024.54 from the FY2026 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to the Special Education Stabilization Fund.

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

**26.006 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for McKinney Vento Transportation
Reimbursement**

Ordered, that

\$ 55,323 be appropriated from the FY2026 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to Northampton Public Schools (W0330000-533000) to provide the schools with the reimbursement from the Commonwealth which was received by the city in FY2025 for the transportation of homeless students in FY2024, such reimbursement being known as the McKinney Vento Transportation Reimbursement.

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

26.007 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for Foster Care Transportation Reimbursement

Ordered, that

\$17,743 be appropriated from the FY2026 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to Northampton Public Schools (W0330000-533002) to provide the schools with the reimbursement from the Commonwealth which was received by the city in FY2025 for the transportation of foster students in FY2024.

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council January 15, 2026

Upon recommendation of Council President Rachel Maiore

O-26.009

An Order

To Amend the City Council Meeting Schedule 2026-2027

Ordered, that, the following amendment be made to the [2026-2027 City Council Meeting Schedule](#) as adopted by [26.002 An Order to Set Date and Time of 2026 - 2027 City Council Meetings](#) on January 5, 2026.

~~February 19, 2026~~

~~July 9, 2026~~ July 15, 2026 (Wednesday)