



CITY COUNCIL MEETING
212 MAIN STREET
Northampton, Massachusetts
January 15, 2026

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Rachel Maiore at 6:30 p.m. Upon a roll call, the following City Councilors were present:

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| At-Large Councilor Meg Robbins | At-Large Councilor Garrick Perry |
| Ward 1 Councilor Gwen Nabad | Ward 2 Councilor Deborah Klemer |
| Ward 3 Councilor Laurie Loisel | Ward 4 Councilor Jeremy Dubs |
| Ward 5 Councilor Aline Davis | Ward 6 Councilor Christopher Stratton |
| Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore | |

Announcement that Meeting Audio/Video Recorded

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

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

Public Hearings

Councilor Maiore made the following announcements:

Announcement of Public Hearing on 25.355 National Grid Pole 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.

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)

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.

Public Comment

Public Comment

Councilor Maiore explained the procedure she would use in conducting public comment and opened the floor to comments.

Al Simon, Ward 2, said he didn't realize he would be starting the next two-year term for public comment but was happy to kick it off. At the start of councilors' new two-year term, he offered a couple of thoughts for them to keep in mind. Last month, the Mayor proposed and the council approved a \$13 million dollar capital project for geothermal energy at the high school. This \$13 million was not in the approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and, by itself, is more than 10% of the entire five-year \$103 million plan previously adopted. The point here is to show the kind of flexibility and discretion the mayor's office has when it comes to spending money. This brand new, unscheduled project adds about \$500,000 per year in recurring expenses to pay off the 20-year loan. Somehow, the mayor's office did find \$500,000 in recurring revenue to pay for a project that had not been scheduled. Regardless of the project's merits, the example of finding recurring money is instructive. The mayor's office can find money when it wants. Of course, as a choice, the recurring money could also be used for ongoing operations, such as the school budget. It's still a matter of priorities. His second point is that the November election was a referendum on the current administration and its policies and direction. A majority of the voters who came to the polls chose not to vote for the Mayor. This is a vote of no confidence in her policies and direction. All city officials should recognize this and collaborate to change policy decisions to address resident concerns, focused on providing essential services with greater engagement and transparency.

Nancy Smith, Chapel Street, said she loved the streamlining of council rules. She's opposed to forcing members to be in chambers for meetings. It limits participation for those with children or without transportation. Same for public commenters and camera requirements. Bring people into the process, not

limit them. Also loved the idea of inviting committees, boards and experts into council for updates: transparency, inclusion, streamlining – Yes!

Dr. Weil's report on geothermal underperformance at Smith was shocking to Smith and to him. He was honest about there being no rush to sign contracts as geothermal funding is not ending. Still, the old council rushed to sign contracts for NPS. Why would people rush to fund a huge project that is underperforming? Smith will not be fossil fuel-free, being heavily dependent on its old system.

Regarding the close election, she actually read deals were made to give the mayor four more years. If that is true, she's guessing maybe the extended after school hours starting next Fall was one. Great shiny object, likely funded by the state and possibly some foundations. 2026 is an election year. Are large contracts or big party donors behind the rush to sign geothermal contracts?

Do not believe the enemies are the school or vice versa. "Our administration creates conflict like the now-debunked schools vs. senior sham. Our schools have been intentionally underfunded for years." If geothermal is not performing here, if PMS is not happening for years, she believes all these groups, under non-combative and unvengeful leadership can come together and right the wrongs done to their children and schools. Critics of the mayor's policies are being called Trumpian now by her allies. Trump wants to kill Head Start, the Department of Education. Heroes who oppose that are called resisters. Here, the mayor vilifies and attacks resisters to her underfunding of schools to buy dilapidated churches and things that aren't working. Please stop tossing our children's futures and attacking our heroes. Civility begins with you. Fully fund our schools via the budget. It's streamlining and morality at its best.

Luke Rotello, Ward 5, co-chair of the western Massachusetts Club of the Communist Party USA, noted that, as he's sure they're all aware, they enter this new term facing harrowing circumstances. Sections of their country are under paramilitary occupation, facing siege by ICE agents bearing chemical weapons and quotas for the abduction of people. Their government has itself abducted the leader of Venezuela in violation of any law and precedent and now looks to the rest of Latin America in pursuit of ever-expanding war. As asserted during his campaign last year, these are political crises that demand political solutions at the level of City Council, as well as all levels of society. He noted the transfer of more than \$2 million in stabilization funds on tonight's agenda, associating it with "policies of austerity within our local and state contexts." These crises emerge from the erosion of democratic rights and the collapse of civil society, which has created inroads for MAGA politics here in Massachusetts, and they fester from the operation of L3Harris, a genocidal war profiteer supportive of the Trump administration within city limits. It is in this light that they will seek, in the coming weeks and months, the establishment of two new commissions in defense of the rights of workers and queer and transgender residents. They will likewise continue to advance with urgency the struggles for peace and democracy within their city and region. "It is a pivotal moment and our city must act like it," he asserted.

Jennifer Scarlott, she/her, Ward 4, noted that complacent Northampton calls itself a peace city while offering prime real estate to L3Harris. Complacent voters choose war-mongering, ICE-expanding Hillary Clinton, Barrack Obama, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. All refuse to acknowledge the direct connection between the fascist terror that their tax dollars fund in Palestine and the fascist terror conducted by Trump's domestic army. Have we asked ourselves what role the Northampton Police Department (NPD) would play should ICE, DHS, CBP, the National Guard, the Marines come to town for a racist and anti-first amendment rampage? As can be seen by last weekend's large anti-ICE rally on Main Street, people are deeply concerned and opposed to ICE but they are vulnerable not only to federal but local law enforcement as well. In the best of times, an armed police force must be accountable to the people; at a time when a domestic army is killing, maiming, kidnapping and human trafficking with impunity, they need far more than casual chats with the Chief like the one with at Thornes tomorrow. The City Council must require that the NPD hold mandatory monthly public meetings at which city government is present. The NYPD in NYC is required to hold formal monthly meetings in every precinct; NPD must do the same. Is Northampton a city of laws and constitutional protections or is it a city of inevitable collaboration between federal brown shirts and city cops? She urged the council to create structures, transparency and accountability to demand answers to these questions and ensure the protections the public requires. Fascism must be fought, not acquiesced to.

Laura Belushi, Ward 4, said she is here to pick back up on where she left off the last time on the anti-nuclear proclamation that was signed. As a reminder, returning councilors already received a copy. She is proud to be anti-L3Harris. She expressed her intention to read the proclamation and give it to the Mayor, and proceeded to read aloud a proclamation indicting Mayor Sciarra "for her failure to honor the covenant of Mayor's for Peace" signed into law by Northampton Mayor Clare Higgins in 2005.

Mayor Sciarra signed the longer document in 2023 which says she is still interested in upholding the nuclear-free ban, Ms. Belushi suggested. She presented a framed copy of the proclamation to the Mayor.

Deborah Yaffe, South Deerfield, urged city councilors to support a weapons ban ordinance in Northampton and shut down L3Harris. Israel's genocide of Palestinians has been armed by L3Harris and funded by their tax dollars. ICE's military take-over of their streets, including the murder and kidnapping of residents, has been bought and paid for by 'We the People' without their consent. L3Harris is committing war crimes in Palestine while ICE is violating the constitution and murdering people in their own country. Weapons manufacturers are in every state and even on the board of directors of Mass General. It's never been more clear that no matter who is in office, weapons manufacturers are profiting. "We have never been closer to mass destruction and nuclear war. 'We the People' must act now," she stressed. L3Harris technology, known as the trusted disrupter, brags about connecting space, air and land, all in the interest of national security. While L3Harris arms nuclear weapons and ICE's surveillance equipment, CEO Chris Kubasik is making millions of dollars and is worth about \$150 million today. If they really care about preserving the public good, they'll work to end nuclear proliferation and war profiteering in their own backyard. To remain silent while L3Harris continues to profit and commit war crimes makes them complicit, so this isn't the time to remain silent.

Mel Flaxer, Easthampton, urged councilors to join them to pass a weapons-free ordinance and shut down L3Harris. L3Harris arms genocide in Palestine, ICE kidnappings and nuclear war, and to her it is self-evident why need to shut down this death factory and get it out of town. Over the past election season, she heard many of them say they agree but it is not within the city's purview to do this. If this is the very first time they have felt small and powerless in the face of empire, welcome to the struggle! She enjoined. All social movements begin here, feeling small and powerless and that is by design; it is how L3Harris wants them to feel so that they feel defeated and give up and end their fight. She wants them to honor that feeling and set it aside so they can join together and begin the true work of social change and resistance. "Let's protect our comrades overseas, our neighbors in ICE detention and each other." She is emotional because it's a really scary time right now, thinking about what's happening in Minneapolis. The way weapons manufacturers ship component parts of weapons to each other and profit off it is very convoluted by design. In the same way L3Harris is directly murdering Palestinians, L3Harris or another one of them is arming ICE in Minneapolis right now. The connections are real and present. "Let's join together and use the power we have. . . Let's shut down L3Harris and pass a weapons ban ordinance," she urged.

Dan Breindel, Phillips Place, said he sees many of his friends both on the council and in the audience. He spoke to the form-based code, a giant omnibus bill passed in the early days of 2022, kind of the biggest legislative accomplishment of this council and this Mayor. In terms of zoning, there is something called 'sufficient to identify.' When making zoning changes, city officials have to alert the public to the specific lots being rezoned, the extent to which they are being rezoned and the nature of the rezoning. "That was not done here," which is why many people don't know about the form-based code. He doesn't think many of the councilors even know about everything it did. "We are now seeing it come to fruition." It hasn't created any affordable housing, but it is creating consternation and safety issues. Because there were not sufficient notifications, it sidestepped historical oversight, security oversight, safety oversight and natural environment oversight. "Every single neighborhood is being shocked that these changes were made."

In the past election, which was a referendum on the mayor, he thinks voters refuted the Mayor's agenda, and this is central to it. That doesn't mean they should throw it out with the bathwater, but it means they should reconsider it. They are not unanimous, certainly this city is divided. He would ask the council to re-look at this. Online only and during the pandemic it was passed; it deserves much more oversight. He looks forward to their talking about it, considering it and reviewing it.

Katherine Yeagel, Ward 6, said she is also here to talk about L3Harris. Northampton likes to tout itself as a really progressive city yet it has the country's 6th largest weapons manufacturer right down the road. They are creating components of weapons going to ICE, to Palestine and being used by the U.S. military all over the world, and, "it's right here in our city and we can do something about it." It's really frustrating to keep hearing the excuses for why not. Imagine if Northampton really did get rid of L3Harris, how incredible and nationally-inspiring it would be. Imagine being a city saying, 'we are opposed to fascism and making tangible changes and refusing to support the manufacturing of weapons.' She urged them to consider it and make it a priority this term.

Amy Bookbinder, asked the council to please keep all funding proposals to first reading only or refer them to committees for further study to ensure adequate input from the public, School Committee and other stakeholders. Regarding possible approval of Attorney Seewald for another term, she thinks it is important for the council to have its own attorney as it would help reassert the separation of powers in their government that sharing an attorney with the mayor contradicts. Third, it is now known that L3Harris is collaborating with ICE. "Mayor, you can and must do better, and you should tell L3Harris, get the f*** out." If she is concerned about ICE, she should take action now to remove L3Harris. Given the predicted

and pending ICE surge to the Boston area and Northampton's reputation as a progressive city and possible target, she hereby calls on the Mayor, this council, the School Committee and other relevant groups to devise a plan to protect them, especially their brown people, school children and others most vulnerable. This includes better defining whether or not they are a sanctuary city and what the NPD has been instructed to do if ICE comes to their city. "This can't wait; the time is now."

Shelly Berkowitz, Ward 1, noted that, at inauguration, Mayor Sciarra advised the public and members of city government to be joyful if they disagree with her. This mantra makes her as a woman especially angry. Her words remind her of how she felt when she was younger when creepy guys would pass her in the street and command her to smile. By no means is she saying that only women were pissed at the Mayor, but that is certainly what she felt. Horrible things are happening in their city and beyond, yet the recommended solution is to smile and be joyful; to avoid honest discourse. This fits the narrative of the Handmaid's Tale. Was she expected to be joyful seeing the flag flying at half-mast to honor white supremacist Charlie Kirk? Was she expected to be joyful hearing the mayor say during the election that nothing could be done about L3Harris, despite their \$4.4 million contract with ICE to provide tracking surveillance of immigrants' phones? Is joy the rational, knowing response to knowing the midyear appropriation was hijacked off the final School Committee agenda last term and replaced with a potential censure of the two most effective School Committee members, Mike Stein and Anat? She would feel joy if the mayor empowers the city council and School Committee to work transparently for all of Northampton, their schoolchildren and their most vulnerable and disenfranchised residents, not for the elite, developers and consultants..

Clarifying that she was speaking on her own behalf, **Ward 3 School Committee member Renika Montgomery-Tamakloe** asked councilors to delay voting on the Free Cash appropriation. Member Weisenfreund and she sent an email earlier this week asking for this delay because they have put an item on the February 12th School Committee agenda for a midyear appropriation for the schools. They know at the very least they are going to need money for additional hall monitors to address ongoing bathroom issues at the high school and money for staffing to address missed services and issues at other schools. She asked them to delay action on the appropriation until after the February 12th meeting.

Phil Wilson, Ward 1, brought up two important precedents just established critical to how Northampton is governed. One is an assertion by the Philadelphia police chief that if ICE agents violate any laws, the Philadelphia police department will arrest and detain them. ICE is violating constitutional law. They are criminals, they are murders, they are thugs. If ICE comes to town, it is absolutely an obligation of Mayor Sciarra, the City Council and the police chief to understand it is the duty of the police department to interrupt ICE in its criminal behavior. To not do this would be a violation of the Constitution. Also, recently four defendants were acquitted of charges for committing civil disobedience at L3Harris. They were acquitted because they used the necessity defense that a person can intervene in a harmful act if not intervening would cause more harm. Therefore, there is precedence that when there is civil disobedience at L3Harris, their police department should not intervene and stop people from engaging in civil disobedience. If they're committing acts of violence, that's another matter, he allowed.

Joella (Jada) Tarbutton, Ward 3, expressed her wholehearted and positive support for Councilor Maiore as City Council president following her election at the January 2nd meeting. She has known Councilor Maiore for over 30 years and long before public office, title or politics. They were undergraduates together at UMass Amherst and lived together briefly at the People's House on Graves Avenue. Even then, Rachel was remarkable. At the time, she arrived from the south with a thick southern accent and deep drawl and very heavy protective shell shaped by growing up in the South amid deep racial and economic divisions. Many struggled to understand her, literally and figuratively. Rachel never did. She met her with patience, curiosity, kindness and a genuine yearning for connection and sisterhood. She understood where she came from and helped bridge that divide, not with judgment or the Great White Hope mindset but with empathy, humility and steadiness. What she knows with certainty is that the person Rachel was then is the same person she is now. "Rachel is the real deal." Northampton is well-served by her leadership.

She briefly shared an observation from the December 18th City Council meeting. When she first joined, she saw symbols with 'Q' and was a little freaked out at first. Later it became clear that the "Q" was intended for support of a particular person and not a reference to an extremist ideology. It highlighted for her how charged and ambiguous symbolism could be, especially in civic places meant to feel safe, democratic and inclusive. "I share this reflection in the spirit of civil care," she noted.

Jennifer James said she is here tonight because she received the CPAC feedback on the high school schedule change and has requested that CPAC leadership forward it to all of them. Her comments are addressing CPAC feedback about this change and also the speed of the change happening. "You guys handle the purse strings. Your ability to support the high school is incredible." As they may or may not know, every single student with an IEP at the high school is affected by the four-block schedule, which is

the current schedule. Students with IEP's have their civil rights violated daily because they do not have access to arts, music or drama. They lose a whole years' worth of classes just because they receive services. She asked CPAC leadership to forward their feedback and read her own comment on it. She supports the CPAC feedback because this change is generally going to be negative since it is not going to restore civil rights but rather give another subpar option. Students taking these classes will not receive credits that will give them the ability to graduate. Creating full inclusion based on the typical models in other districts should happen in Northampton this year. Northampton is an outlier. She said she would send this to all of them and asked them to read it. "This change is happening too fast," she asserted.

Melissa Maciborski, Northampton, thanked Jen James and welcomed the new council. She has one request. "Please keep people at the center of your work. Please fund our schools, please fund our services." When things feel really complicated, sometimes they're actually very simple. The answer here is simple. "We can actually do this." How wonderful would it feel if the injustice in Northampton ended and they could all get along? She asked. She would love to see people in their community actually really getting what they need. It's a reality that's really possible. "Let's do this guys. Come on, please."

Kala Goldstein, Ward 4, added her voice to others calling for Northampton to reject L3Harris, create a weapons ban ordinance and invest in jobs and industry that support life instead of selling death machines and surveillance technology. They have all been watching horrified as U.S.-sanctioned murders and kidnappings throughout the United States and around the globe are carried out. Some of them might have been among the hundreds gathered in the center of town this weekend in public outcry against ICE and U.S. attacks and imperial intervention in Venezuela.

There is a company empowering these unconscionable acts right here. The last city council affirmed the city's values to end complicity with war profiteering by passing a resolution to divest from companies complicit in Israel's war crimes. Northampton is supposedly a nuclear-free city. L3Harris is one of 12 primary contractors responsible for overseeing the entire nuclear weapons industry in the United States. They are calling on them to find innovative ways to make sure what Northampton stands for is not contradicted by its exports. Blocking merchants of death and destruction is necessary; it is their obligation. Please work with them to find any way possible to use their power as city councilors and as citizens. Passing a weapons ban ordinance is not just about L3Harris. The U.S. war machine is constantly trying to expand as they see with imperialism in Venezuela and ICE's authoritarian activity on their streets. Northeast U.S. is a huge hub of weapons production, and there are already other weapons companies in Northampton, elsewhere in western Mass and a ton near Hartford. Right now, nothing is stopping other weapons companies from setting up shop in Northampton. A weapons ban could do that. The U.S. war machine only functions because they make it function. Their tax dollars, labor and municipal governments allow these companies to exist in communities just like theirs throughout the country. "We can and must resist our role in the war industry," she asserted.

Lena Rubin, Ward 5, added her voice to those urging them to pass a weapons ban ordinance and find other pathways to getting L3Harris out of their community. The Northampton Human Rights Commission in 2014 proclaimed Northampton a sanctuary city and claimed to protect this community's residents from anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiments. How can this be when the city allows and gives tax breaks to L3Harris which equips the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and ICE with surveillance technologies that support their brutal mission of tracking, detaining and deporting migrants? ICE agents are a violent arm of state repression. If they allow L3Harris to continue unchecked in Northampton, they are directly complicit in funding this violence.

Heather Hutchinson, Leverett, said she is a procurement specialist who not too long ago worked for a company invested in sourcing pieces and parts to build airplanes, commercial and military. When the Ukraine attacks began, it became clear who she was working for. The CEO shared his glee with the press about how the value of their stocks and shares were climbing. It was well-paid work with great benefits and great people who were smart and committed but she and they were materially invested in a system of exploitation and violence. Their health insurance, rent payments, vacations and children's futures all were invested in war. It was hard to leave a job and took her eight months to find new work. Noho has the opportunity and responsibility to invest in and develop ways for its residents and the larger community to become materially invested in the community; not war, genocide or apartheid. She supports any initiative to move a genocidal military company out of the Pioneer Valley. L3Harris must go if they are to create fiscally- and socially-responsible and environmentally sustainable businesses for residents to invest in and be invested in.

A weapons ban ordinance is in order. Let's put the smart engineers, procurement specialists, chemists and professionals that come to Northampton every day to work doing things that are right.

Gillian Cannon, accompanied on Zoom by her children **Shilo** and **Aster, of Easthampton**, said they are here to echo a lot of what has been said about supporting a weapons ban ordinance in Northampton. She echoed the concept that they have a responsibility as people who live in a place where violent things. . . [After unsuccessful efforts to restrain her enthusiastic three-year old, she yielded her time.]

A female speaker who didn't identify herself said this is an important issue she has spoken to before that was never addressed. This afternoon, she was crossing at the corner of King and North Street, a blind corner across from Cumberland Farms. Two police officers were doing something 'over there,' and one of them nearly got hit by a car from Vermont turning on the red light. The city needs a 'No turn on Red' or at least some type of investigation. She is wondering if someone needs to be killed on that corner before this happens. "This was one of our police officers and [he] nearly got hit. That's pretty bad."

She also requested that the city council look into a weapons ban as she knows L3Harris is most likely a target because of the type of weapons they make.

Ethan, Amherst, repeated the call for Northampton to pass a weapons ban ordinance and commit to finding a way to shut down L3Harris. L3 and weapons manufacturers exist for one purpose: to make incredible tons of money by making tools used to surveil and kill people. They offer no redeeming value; mass surveillance and mass killing are their only contributions to society. They are the military industrial complex, the war profiteers. They are literally merchants of death and repression. They cannot meaningfully claim to oppose the military industry, ICE terrorism, or the U.S. empire's bloody crimes, whether in Palestine, Venezuela, Lebanon, Los Angeles or Minneapolis, without making every effort to keep them from setting up shop in their own backyard and making business untenable for the ones already here. This will be difficult and take a long time. "We will celebrate small victories and keep working." Please pass a weapons ban ordinance to set an example for other communities who wish to keep these bleak institutions out of their towns and commit to finding creative ways to make life difficult for L3Harris.

Deb Henson welcomed new and returning members and shared a letter she submitted to city councilors and the Mayor, asking that its attachments be put into the public file cabinet so as to be accessible to others. She read aloud a request for increased transparency and public involvement in the budgeting process this year. She is optimistic the Mayor will be more willing to collaborate this year given her near loss in the November election. Toward that end, she has been researching other cities with strong mayor charters such as Somerville. (She referred to specific information on Somerville attached to the letter.) Although the size is larger, the political tension demonstrated there is a mirror of the situation here. She is hopeful they can learn from other communities who have also struggled with school funding dilemmas and dealt with power tensions between the mayor and city council. She is asking the City Council as a whole and Finance Committee in particular to host one or more public meetings early in this budget season so taxpayers can weigh in on capital projects early rather than in June. If the Mayor truly wants to become more transparent, she is hoping she will agree to present the following information: capital improvements by department heads in order of priority, plans for increasing operating services, schools, roads and sidewalks, financial disclosures and construction updates regarding Picture Main Street and the resilience hub.

Kristen Elde, Ward 7, welcomed councilors, saying she was there to comment on two things: 1) the latest bolus of Free Cash, which she urges councilors to delay moving into any stabilization funds until the School Committee has met to discuss unmet NPS needs and review all operating and capital needs, and 2) their city's charter which she urges the council to review this year instead of the next scheduled review date of 2029, which she understands is an option. She along with many other members of the public think it is an important step toward changing the distribution of power among city officials. Their mayor should not have the concentration of power that she currently has. City Councilors should have more than they presently do, as should School Committee members. The current power imbalance is inconsistent with Northampton's expressed commitment to equity and taking up a comprehensive review of their charter offers an opportunity to change this. 'Yes' on a weapons ban ordinance, she added.

Ella Carlson, Ward 3, said she was really thrilled last session when the council passed a divestment resolution. She hopes this council will encourage Mayor Sciarra to implement it with executive policy. She is also here to urge them to take the next step to continue to align their city's values with its operations. In her view, that would be to pass a weapons ban. L3Harris is on the divestment list and the presence of this dangerous company in their city brings her here. It's not just about getting rid of an established company, but there's nothing to stop new weapons companies from coming and setting up shop here. They need to change that. She really hopes this Council will step up, as all the other folks in the room have said, to do their part to resist the U.S. government war machine.

Eve Glazier, Ward 3, said she was really pleased to help work on getting the resolution passed last term to divest from companies investing in civil rights violations in Palestine. L3Harris is on that list of

companies they agreed to divest from with resounding public support. Of course, they don't actually have investments in L3Harris, but the city just agreed that L3Harris and all the atrocities they're committing are squarely against their values. She's really excited to continue thinking creatively in this next term about how they can stop L3Harris. She often hears the protest that 'they just make periscopes.' But these periscopes go on naval submarines that carry nuclear weapons. 70% of the nuclear arsenal is carried through naval submarines, so this is really a very serious matter of life and death. The products L3Harris is making right here in Northampton are fueling their nuclear capacity. She is really, really concerned by this and hopes they are too,

Ace Tayloe, Ward 3, joked that they are attempting to contain their jealousy at being on this side of the podium instead of that side. They echoed their support for a weapons manufacturer ban and for what Luke Rotello said about what they want to do going forward and for the future. They added to their plates a request to ban qualified immunity, which is basically a legal precedent that says that if someone did something in the past they were found not guilty of, a case cannot even be brought against them, which prevents and stifles a lot of legal ways of stopping people from massive abuses of power. Senators Ed Markey and Ayana Pressley are pressing for this at the federal level. It is unlikely to go far there but they think it is worthwhile for Northampton to push for banning qualified immunity here and statewide.

Ryan Minett, Ward 3, said he is here to support a weapons ban, getting L3Harris out of here and also preparing for ICE and for fascism rolling through Northampton. What happens when ICE shows up? He queried. What happens when ICE starts using L3Harris as a staging place? What happens when President Trump cuts off all the federal funding to the blue states? What happens? What's the plan. He has some suggestions. He thinks they should increase everyone's knowledge of all their rights, civil and criminal and promote community strengthening. "Have a bunch of block parties," he suggested. From Benito Mussolini, fascism should actually be called corporatism because it is the merger between corporate and state power. "Don't be the state side of that," he enjoined.

There being no further comments, Councilor Maiore brought comment to a close at 7:35 p.m

<p><u>Recess</u></p>	<p><u>Recess</u> The City Council recessed briefly at 7:35 p.m. The council reconvened at 7:47 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Announcements</u></p>	<p><u>Announcements</u> Councilor Klemer announced that the Finance Committee is holding its organizational meeting this Wednesday, January 21st at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers and on Zoom.</p> <p>Community Resources will have its organizational meeting Monday, January 26th at 4 p.m. via Zoom, Councilor Perry advised. He also gave plugs for a Bombyx event to celebrate Martin Luther King Day on Monday, the 19th and the Ice Arts Festival beginning Saturday, January 31st.</p> <p>Councilor Robbins announced the holding of another event in the effort toward transparency and sharing they heard about tonight. She will be holding a 'What's on your mind' session at Bombyx February 4th starting at 5:45 for pizza with thought-sharing beginning at 6:30 p.m. It should be a good start to creating community. Additionally, she made an appeal. A lot of them went to the rally and heard Representative Sabados asking them to please send letters of support for safe cities. She needs a pile of letters and people on her phone saying to support their state's most vulnerable immigrants.</p> <p>City's Services organizational meeting is Monday, February 2nd at 4 p.m., Councilor Dubs mentioned. He shared that he was happy to be reappointed to that committee and also to the Disability Commission, marking his 7th year on that body, which meetings the 2nd Tuesdays of the month. He is also happy to be appointed to the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC).</p> <p>Mayor Sciarra reminded folks that the Silver Chord Bowl will be held Sunday, February 8th at John M. Greene Hall at 2 p.m. This is now in its 40th year, and this year's showcase features a special opening by the Northamptoners as always. The event, hosted by Steve Sanderson of WRSI The River, herself and Smith College President Sarah Willie-LeBreton, offers the finest a capella.</p> <p>And, Kids Best Fest, a week-long celebration of cinema for kids, happens during February break from February 16th to February 20th at the Academy of Music, she related. Every movie is free. Lilo and Stitch is the first movie.</p>
<p><u>Presentations</u></p>	<p><u>Presentations</u></p>

	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Consent Agenda</u></p>	<p><u>Consent Agenda</u> Councilor Maiore reviewed the items on the consent agenda. Councilor Stratton asked for removal of both items.</p> <p><u>Minutes of Special City Council Meeting December 9, 2025 and December 18, 2025 regular meeting</u> In the December 18, 2025 minutes under the heading Northampton High School (NHS) Road Safety Project Update, Councilor Stratton said he thought some really key technical information from Director LaScaleia could be better represented. He is happy to approve the December 9, 2025 minutes but asked to postpone acceptance of the December 18, 2025 minutes.</p> <p>He so moved. Councilor Perry seconded.</p> <p>Councilor Davis asked if he would be able to clarify what details from Director LaScaleia he would like to include.</p> <p>Councilor Stratton indicated he could review the recording to provide a more specific proposal.</p> <p>Councilor Robbins wondered if, when complex detailed presentations are made, it would be possible for presenters to provide a chart summarizing the project costs and funding sources.</p> <p>Councilor Stratton said his colleague Councilor Robbins is speaking to things that are very important to him in terms of how information is presented at public meetings. He would like presentations to be more routinely available to the public and very much hopes that could be a topic for discussion in the future.</p> <p>His concern with this specific set of minutes is that he'd like to make sure a few key verbal comments he remembers are part of the public record.</p> <p>The motion to postpone carried unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.</p> <p><u>26.008 Appointment of Attorney Alan Seewald as City Solicitor, for referral to City Services</u> Councilor Stratton expressed his understanding that the appointment itself is basically a straightforward procedure but said it hints of a larger discussion. For the record, he is very interested in discussing the idea that council should have its own attorney. To some degree the city solicitor is the Mayor's attorney. He also thinks there is a very large role for legal voices from the community. Sometimes proposals are brought to them that the only legal voice they have heard says they can't do. He sees a role for three different kinds of legal input to the city – a city solicitor, a council attorney and voices from the community.</p> <p>He thinks the larger topic is something they do need to talk about in the future.</p> <p>Councilor Nabad moved to refer the appointment to City Services. Councilor Stratton seconded. The motion carried unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.</p>
<p><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading)</u> <u>26.003 An Order to Appropriate \$2.1 Million Free Cash to Various Reserve Accounts - 1st reading</u> <u>26.004 An Order to Appropriate Enterprise Retained Earnings to Various Project - 1st reading</u> <u>26.005 An Order to Appropriate \$251,025 Free Cash to NPS Special Education</u></p>	<p><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading)</u> <u>26.003 An Order to Appropriate \$2.1 Million Free Cash to Various Reserve Accounts - 1st reading</u> <u>26.004 An Order to Appropriate Enterprise Retained Earnings to Various Projects - 1st reading</u></p> <p>Councilor Robbins moved to refer 26.003 and 26.004 to Finance Committee. Councilor Dubs seconded.</p> <p>Mayor Sciarra gave a Free Cash presentation, noting the slides would be available on the city website tomorrow. Free Cash financial orders are brought to City Council every year after Free Cash is certified, she reminded.</p> <p>Mayor Sciarra reviewed why Free Cash is necessary, noting that cautious budgeting minimizes the risk of deficits, which would force abrupt cuts or deplete reserves, and ensures the ability to continue to absorb cost increases in future years. Revenues received over projections help fund reserves and support capital infrastructure improvements. Around 2012, the city was down to almost zero in reserves. At that time, city officials couldn't do long-range planning and school funding was unstable. Generally, reserves should not be used for recurring expenses such as the yearly operational budget, except for the Fiscal Stability Stabilization Fund (FSSF), which was expressly created for this purpose. When they use FSSF transfers</p>

Stabilization Fund - 1st reading
26.006 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for McKinney Vento Transportation Reimbursement - 1st reading
26.007 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for Foster Care Transportation Reimbursement - 1st reading

to support the operating budget, as they have done in the past three years to the tune of \$5 million dollars, those higher levels of spending can only be sustained if residents are willing to pass periodic overrides.

The tradeoff to pushing revenue projections is generating less Free Cash, and the risk of going too far is the possibility of creating a budget deficit. Pushing revenues while simultaneously using reserves for operational needs will lead to a deficit, she advised.

The city follows best practices by using revenues for ongoing operations and reserves for one-time emergency expenses, she continued. Northampton’s financial policies follow the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The Division of Local Services (DLS) states that, as a nonrecurring revenue source, Free Cash should be restricted to paying one-time expenditures, funding capital projects or replenishing reserves. As a byproduct of many fluctuating revenues, DLS defines Free Cash itself as nonrecurring revenue.

She encouraged councilors to spend some time on the DLS website as the state provides a lot of educational resources.

Free Cash is generated from three sources, 1) unspent funds from the prior year’s certified Free Cash, 2) revenue in excess of projections and 3) unspent amounts in departmental budgets.

FY2025 revenues over projections generated \$5.8 million, or 92.5% of total certified Free Cash. Of that, \$3.186 million came from revenues excluding interest on investments. (54.4% of excess revenue). In FY2026, they are using an additional \$1 million of this to support the operating budget. \$2.67 million of revenue over projections came from high interest on investments (45.6% of excess revenue and 42.2% of total certified Free Cash). In FY2026, financial officers are using an additional \$1.9 of that source this year to support the operating budget.

A big increase in interest income happened in 2023. In mid FY2023, the Treasurer/Collector identified a higher-yield banking account called a SOFR account. The average interest rate in FY2024 was 4.85% and in FY2025 4.23%. This fiscal year the interest rate is at 3.79%.

The Federal Reserve has cut interest rates six times since September of 2024, she noted, and it is now down to 3.73%. In a year and a half, it has dropped over 1%.

She showed a graph reflecting a 20-year history of investment income, with a blue bar representing interest on ARPA funds. Those funds are now fully allocated and have to be expended by December 2026.

Next, Mayor Sciarra showed a chart showing the composition of full Free Cash over 22 years broken down by New Funds, Carryover and ARPA and a chart showing the trend of Free Cash levels without ARPA funds.

She also showed the amounts of Free Cash certified in Northampton as compared to its comparison communities. Using these baseline comparisons, Northampton can be seen to be ranked on the low end.

In the next slide, showing certified Free Cash as a percentage of General Fund (GF) budget, Northampton can be seen to be the lowest of the seven communities listed, she shared. Communities not listed (Agawam, Chicopee, Easthampton, Greenfield and Holyoke) have still not certified Free Cash. DLS’s recommendation is for a municipality to generate 5 to 7% of its budget as Free Cash. Northampton is below that. Their policy has been to generate 3 to 5% and it has not been updated to reflect DLS policy. As can be seen, FY2026 Free Cash is just below 5% of the city’s GF budget.

With her presentation concluded, the Mayor entertained questions from Councilors.

Councilor Stratton expressed his understanding that, when talking about Free Cash, they are basically talking about revenue. These are not yet reserves, he asserted. \$5.857 million of it at least is ‘fresh revenue’ that they basically are deciding what to do with, he suggested. Was any of that surprising? He questioned. There was some variation. The state says that, by law, they cannot ever estimate future revenue above last year’s revenue but “we always estimate well less than” last year’s actual revenue. There were some arguments during the election season that they should estimate much closer. The other argument is to go with cautious estimates.

The idea that the money they’re left with comes from unpredictability and is therefore special and only able to be used a certain way as opposed to very predictable money like property taxes, troubles him, he

volunteered. It troubles him because it indicates that their ratio of capital spending vs. recurring spending "is determined by this invisible hand of unpredictability."

It also bothers him that they don't budget more for capital. Some cities bond more for capital so it becomes a debt service line item which easily shows up in a budget. Northampton doesn't have an overt process of saying, "this is what we want to spend on capital in cash; we don't have a cash capital budget."

He thinks that puts them in a challenging position because they do not have a community conversation where they weigh the value of the two different types of investments. Instead, the level of investment is determined for them by the categories of the money. He thinks they need to be willing to weigh them on their merits.

Mayor Sciarra pointed out that they used to budget for cash capital but pulled that funding out to divert more money toward the schools.

Councilor Stratton pointed out that was only ever a small part of capital spending.

She asked if he's saying he doesn't agree with what DOR says should be considered recurring and nonrecurring funds.

That is a very general guideline and certainly not a law, Councilor Stratton responded. He could argue these are all recurring revenue (hotel/motel, meals, etc.) since they come in every year.

However, he is not saying they need to push their revenue, he clarified. He is saying that they know what they got last year. "There's no uncertainty about last year's money. Now we're in a position where we can decide how we best use last year's money."

As he's sure they're all aware, they just got a bunch of outreach from School Committee members who want to propose a midyear appropriation.

Councilor Loisel raised the point of order that this was not the time to hear a long lecture about this.

Councilor Stratton observed that they had just had a long lecture, from the mayor.

Councilor Maiore said she would say they need to focus their discussion on where to refer this.

He would be okay with forwarding 26.003 to finance, Councilor Stratton said. He thinks 26.004 needs further elaboration.

Councilor Loisel said she went to an MMA meeting where the head of DLS gave an hour-long presentation and said DLS recommends generating 5 to 7%, as the Mayor said. She disagreed with Councilor Stratton's point that it is all recurring revenue.

Councilor Klemer commented that Councilor Stratton said they weren't pushing revenue but they have pushed it significantly, in many cases over 90%.

Councilor Stratton objected that is not what he had said.

Councilor Robbins moved to call the question. Councilor Klemer seconded. The motion passed 7:2 with Councilor Perry and Councilor Stratton opposed by roll call vote.

Councilor Maiore gave the general point of information that Finance Committee has 60 days to review and make a recommendation on anything referred to it.

Mayor Sciarra noted that Director LaScaleia came tonight to make a presentation.

Councilor Stratton moved to reconsider calling the question. Councilor Perry seconded. The motion carried unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

After reconsideration, councilors recognized Director LaScaleia to make a presentation.

Director LaScaleia explained that each Enterprise Fund is a closed system, so all revenues generated stay within the enterprise. If more revenue is generated than expected or fewer expenses are incurred, that money remains in the fund.

She gave an overview of each project listed in the order, noting that city officials strive to retain 10% of the value of the enterprise within retained earnings. From Water enterprise, \$1.4 million is proposed to be appropriated toward reconstruction of transmission mains. The city is served by two transmission mains coming from the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Williamsburg, one 36-inch and one 20-inch, she noted. The 20-inch main was constructed around the turn of the century. The DPW has been working on a project to relocate this line, increase its size to 24 inches and bring it out onto the road. A TIP project is scheduled for Mountain Street this year, so they are looking to piggyback this project onto reconstruction of the road.

From sewer enterprise, the proposal is to appropriate \$569,233 for sewer main replacement and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and pump station improvements, she continued. The city engaged a consulting firm to draft a comprehensive wastewater management plan, which was completed in 2016. The city is now in the midst of a \$20 million dollar plus upgrade at the WWTP and also needs to make improvements to remote pump stations throughout the city. The city has over a hundred miles of sewer mains, many of which were installed around the turn of the century, and the DPW is continuing to do what it can where it can to reinforce them. Since many are buried up to 15 feet under the street, workers line the pipes instead of digging them up. Under the code of MA regulations, cities are required to address inflow and infiltration (I & I) into their stormwater systems to prevent unnecessarily treating rainwater at the WWTP that seeps into the pipes when it rains.

The DPW is currently focused on lining old pipes in Ward 2 (Crescent Street, Franklin Street and Prospect Street), she advised.

The stormwater enterprise is valued at \$2 million, so the request for appropriation from its retained earnings is \$60,740 for the replacement of drains.

Councilor Robbins asked if these are referenced in the CIP for FY2026, and Director LaScaleia said yes.

She said it would be helpful for Finance if Director LaScaleia could point out where it can be found in the CIP.

Director Nardi said the project will be reflected in the CIP as coming out of the director's GF budget. These are annual allocations to ongoing projects in the CIP every year, she noted.

Projects in the CIP are very expensive, Director LaScaleia elaborated. The enterprises are so small relative to overall financial needs that \$30 million can't be funded in its entirety from retained earnings so they have to make payments in installments towards those projects. "We are funding ongoing projects that have been discussed in prior CIPs and will be discussed in the coming CIP to the extent that we can with the funding that is available to us," she explained.

The projects are line items in the CIP and in the operating budgets of all the enterprises, she noted.

Regarding replacing the transmission line down Mountain Street, Councilor Stratton asked if there has been any conversation with IT about running fiber along the line.

Regarding I & I, he also asked if the city still has problems with illegal cross connections such as when someone misroutes a sump pump.

They do, Director LaScaleia said. As part of the city's regulatory requirements, they are required to search for these and to report and correct them when found. When those arise, she will be reaching out to the ward councilor to ask for their assistance.

He said he thinks it would be very helpful if she could give councilors a list of where the stormwater and sewer projects are.

He heard mention of using the stormwater fund for the project on Old Wilson Road and Nashawannuck Brook, he continued. He asked if any of that is included in this.

Director LaScaleia said any money earmarked for Old Wilson Road was previously appropriated.

Councilor Maiore thanked Director LaScaleia.

The motion to refer 26.003 and 26.004 to Finance was called to a vote, and it passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

26.003 AND 26.004
REFERRED TO
FINANCE

This will go to a future agenda of finance, Councilor Maiore confirmed.

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

Councilor Stratton said this is an interesting order because special education is really a recurring expense. Now suddenly, after just talking about how they couldn't use reserves for routine, predictable expenses, that is now exactly what they are proposing to do, he asserted. There is a balance in this account, which was seeded with \$800,000, and the order creating it established a yearly spending limit of \$350,000. If they actually had an unexpected expense that this fund exists to address, they would not have the money to fund it. He would ask that the Mayor consider rewriting this order and appropriating this money to the operating budget instead of the stabilization fund. Funding intended for recurring expenses should go into the operating budget as the funding source, he maintained.

Director Nardi said the money really does go into the operating budget. An unexpected expense above and beyond the fund limit would be addressed with a supplemental order, she indicated.

Councilor Nabad commented that, having reviewed the establishment of this stabilization fund and thought it was a great solution, she would support moving the order to the consent agenda. She thinks the stabilization account ensures a balanced approach to addressing the needs of their most vulnerable students and is a sustainable solution. She feels like time is pressing as they watch the federal government hack away at Medicaid and Medicare, so she would move referral of this to the consent agenda.

She so moved. Councilor Davis seconded.

Councilor Stratton said it is his understanding that after this money goes into the stabilization fund, the School Committee still cannot spend it.

Both bodies have to agree to spend it, Mayor Sciarra confirmed.

Councilor Nabad expressed her understanding that this has nothing to do with mid-year appropriations. That also informed her decision to refer it to the consent agenda, she shared.

The motion passed 8:1 by voice vote with Councilor Stratton opposed.

See minutes of February 5, 2026 for final reading.

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

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

Councilor Klemer moved to refer 26.006 and 26.007 to the consent agenda. Councilor Stratton seconded.

Councilor Stratton confirmed these are major cost centers but said they are extremely important commitments to their children. When a child's world dissolves/fractures and they end up in foster care, being able to stay in their school with their teachers and friends may be the rock in their lives. This is expensive but extremely important, he observed.

The motion to refer the orders as a group passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

See minutes of February 5, 2026 for final reading.

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

Orders
26.009 An Order to Amend the 2026-2027 City Council Meeting Schedule - single reading only
[The order proposed amending the City Council's meeting schedule to cancel the February 19, 2026 regular meeting and change the July 2026 meeting from Thursday, July 9th to Wednesday, July 15th.]
Councilor Nabad moved to approve. Councilor Perry seconded.

Councilor Stratton said he is troubled that this body would elect to meet on February 5th and then not again until March 5th. Voters elected them to do a job, and he thinks they need to be present and doing their jobs. He is troubled that they are removing a meeting instead of rescheduling it and worries it may lead to less than ideal practices such as running two readings through in one night or needing a special meeting. He would encourage his colleagues to consider rescheduling the meeting in February rather than cancelling it.

Councilor Maiore said she respectfully disagrees. She is happy to have a special meeting if there is a time-sensitive item. She is not concerned that they are not attending enough meetings or working hard enough for the city.

Councilor Klemer said she and Councilor Maiore discussed this and do not cancel meetings lightly. They felt it was prudent to not have a meeting in the middle of the month during School Vacation week when a lot of people are away.

Councilor Maiore added that a lot of the general public is also not able to attend that meeting.

The motion passed 8:1 by voice vote with Councilor Stratton opposed.

The following order passed single reading:

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)~~

Passed single reading and enrolled.

<u>Ordinances</u>	<u>Ordinances</u> None.
<u>Zoning Ordinances (Not yet Referred)</u>	<u>Zoning Ordinances (Not yet Referred)</u> None.
<u>Zoning Ordinances</u>	<u>Zoning Ordinances</u> None.
<u>Resolutions</u>	<u>Resolutions</u> None.
<u>Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)</u>	<u>Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)</u> None.
<u>New Business</u>	<u>New Business</u>
<u>Adjourn</u>	<u>Adjourn</u>

Councilor Perry moved to adjourn. Councilor Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Attest: _____, Administrative Assistant

EXHIBIT A

List of Documents Reviewed at January 15, 2026 Northampton City Council Organizational Meeting:

1. January 15, 2026 City Council Agenda
2. Minutes of Special City Council Meeting December 9, 2025 and Regular Meeting December 18, 2025
3. Email from Jennifer Scarlott dated January 15, 2026 to Councilors Dubs and Maiore and the Administrative Assistant re: Sharing my comment to Northampton City Council at tonight's meeting, 1/15/2026—please share with the entire Council, thank you
4. Email from Deborah Yaffe dated January 15, 2026 to City Council re: Public Comment at City Council 1/15/2026
5. Email from Ryan Minett dated January 15, 2026 to City Council re: Follow up from Public Comment Hypos on Northampton's Preparedness for Federal Incursion
6. Email from Deb Henson dated January 13, 2026 re: Proposal for Gov't Transparency in Budget Process & Increased Public Input with three (3) attachments referred to in public comment by Deb Henson:
 - Letter to City Council, cc Mayor, for increased gov't transparency & public input.011326
 - Research – Comparison Betw Mayor-CC Collaboration on Budget, School Funding
 - City of Somerville – early input for budget process
7. Free Cash Powerpoint Presentation
8. 26.008 Appointment of Attorney Alan Seewald as City Solicitor
9. 26.003 An Order to Appropriate \$2.1 Million Free Cash to Various Reserve Accounts
10. 26.004 An Order to Appropriate Enterprise Retained Earnings to Various Projects
11. 26.005 An Order to Appropriate \$251,025 Free Cash to NPS Special Education Stabilization Fund
12. 26.006 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for McKinney Vento Transportation Reimbursement
13. 26.007 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for Foster Care Transportation Reimbursement
14. 26.009 An Order to Amend the 2026-2027 City Council Meeting Schedule

Record of City Council Votes for January 15, 2026		Davis	Dubs	Klemer	Loisel	Maiore	Nabad	Perry	Robbins	Stratton	Total
Roll Call by Laura Krutzler, Administrative Assistant to the City Council @ 6:30 p.m.		Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	9 Members Present
Approval of Consent Agenda											
Minutes of December 9, 2025 Special City Council Meeting and December 18, 2025 Regular meeting Removed from consent agenda											
26.008 Appointment of Attorney Alan Seewald as City Solicitor, for referral to City Services Removed from consent agenda											
Minutes of December 9, 2025 Special City Council Meeting and December 18, 2025 Regular meeting								Second	Approve 12/9; postpone 12/18		Motion passed unanimously 9:0; voice vote
26.008 Appointment of Attorney Alan Seewald as City Solicitor, for referral to City Services	Refer to City Services						Motion to refer			Second	Motion passed unanimously 9:0; voice vote
26.003 An Order to Appropriate \$2.1 Million Free Cash to Various Reserve Accounts - 1st reading	Referred as group to Finance		Second						Motion to refer		Motion passed unanimously 9:0; roll call
26.004 An Order to Appropriate Enterprise Retained Earnings to Various Project - 1st reading											
26.005 An Order to Appropriate \$251,025 Free Cash to NPS Special Education Stabilization Fund - 1st reading	Referred to consent	Second					Motion to refer			No	Motion carried 8:1; Stratton opposed; voice vote
26.006 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for McKinney Vento Transportation Reimbursement - 1st reading	Referred as group to consent			Motion to refer						Second	Motion passed unanimously 9:0; voice vote
26.007 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to NPS for Foster Care Transportation Reimbursement - 1st reading											
26.009 An Order to Amend the 2026-2027 City Council Meeting Schedule - single reading only	single reading only						Motion to approve	Second		No	Motion carried 8:0; Stratton opposed; voice vote
Motion to Adjourn	to Adjourn	Second						Motion to adjourn			Motion passed unanimously 9:0; voice vote

At 9:22 p.m., Councilor Perry moved to adjourn. Councilor Davis seconded. The motion carried 9:0 by voice vote.