



**City of Fitchburg
Massachusetts 01420**

CITY COUNCIL

Councillors at Large

**Sally H. Cragin
Marcus L. DiNatale
Amy Green
Samantha M. Squailia
Anthony M. Zarrella**

President

Anthony M. Zarrella

Vice President

Andrew J. Van Hazinga

Ward Councillors

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

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fitchburg was held at the Legislative Building at 700 Main Street and over the Zoom meeting platform and live streamed at FATV Studios, Fitchburg, on March 1, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by President Anthony Zarrella at 7:01 P.M. The meeting opened with a salute to the Flag led by Councilor DiNatale. The Clerk called the roll and 11 Councilors were present. Board consists of 11 members.

President Zarrella called for a moment of silence to honor the Citizens of Ukraine.

I. PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke at the public forum.

II. REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

There is no report of the Appointments Committee at this time.

II. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

The Committee on records reported the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 15, 2022 were correctly recorded. Report accepted and minutes adopted.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

His Honor the Mayor

Appointment Letters held from Meeting of February 15, 2022

Re-Appointment:

Fitchburg Historical Commission

(Term to expire February 1, 2025)

Ellen DiGeronimo

(Term to expire February 1, 2025)

Donald Ostrowski

New Appointment:
Fitchburg Disability Commission
(Term to expire March 1, 2025)
Ms. Marshal D. Haneisen

Appointments read and referred to the Appointments Committee.

New Appointments:

Full Time Police Officers for the City of Fitchburg:
Esteban Bonilla-Perez
Shannon Burke

Appointments read. Council approval not needed.

Community Development Block Grant Year 48

[CDBG Year 48](#)

Communication referred to the Finance Committee.

V. COMMUNICATION

Pension Reserves Investment Management Board

Communication placed on file in the City Clerk's Office.

The following Public Hearing was taken out of Order under Suspension of the Rules by unanimous Roll Call vote of 11 in favor and 0 opposed:

029-22. Unitil, for a new pole #42-51, approx.. 1185' west of Oak Hill Rd., and 1120' east of Franklin Rd., as shown in the enclosed Petition.

<https://ma-fitchburg.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/9559/29-2022-unitil-pole>

President Zarrella declared the Hearing open at 7:08 PM. Mr. John Kimball was in attendance to represent Unitil. He outlined the work to be done and answered questions from the Councilors.

No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to the Petition.

President Zarrella declared the Hearing closed at 7:09 PM.

Motion to grant the petition passed by unanimous consent 11/0.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee
Meeting of February 22, 2022

[Minutes of February 22, 2022](#)

The Finance Committee recommended the following Orders be adopted:

019-22. ORDERED THAT: The City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from a gift from the estate of Ida S. Raisanen in the approximate amount of \$2,556.92 (TWO THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX AND 92/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said gift, which is for the provision of recreational youth sports programs in the City parks

020-22 ORDERED THAT: There be and hereby is transferred the sum of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$400,000.00) same to be charged against RESERVE FOR SNOW & ICE REMOVAL and credited to the following DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SNOW & ICE accounts:

EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$200,000.00
SALT	\$200,000.00

022-22. ORDERED THAT: There be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of FORTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$40,000.00) same to be transferred from POLICE, PERSONAL SERVICES, PATROLMEN and credited to the following accounts:

POLICE, EQUIP. & REPAIR, GAS & OIL	\$20,000.00
POLICE, MAINT. OF BUILDINGS, REPAIR AND CARE	\$20,000.00

023-22. ORDERED THAT: The City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, FY22 Shannon Community Safety Initiative grant in the approximate amount of \$416,812.00 (FOUR HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED TWELVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to reduce gang and youth related violence.

024-22. ORDERED THAT: The City Council authorizes the Superintendent to submit to the MA School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form dated March 1, 2022 for the Longsjo Middle School located at 98 Academy Street, Fitchburg, MA which describes and explains deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the MA School Building Authority in the future.

Report read and accepted. Orders adopted by unanimous consent 11/0.

Orders signed by the Mayor March 2, 2022.

The Finance Committee recommended the following Order NOT be adopted:

025-22. ORDERED THAT: There be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARD (\$480,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, COVID PREMIUM PAY.

Report read and accepted. A vote to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to NOT adopt the Order passed by a vote of 7 in favor and 4 opposed (Cragin, Green Schultz, Van Hazinga)

A motion to reconsider the vote passed by unanimous consent.

Councilor Green recused herself.

A vote to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to NOT adopt the Order passed by a vote of 6 in favor and 4 opposed (Cragin, Cruz, Schultz, Van Hazinga).

The Finance Committee recommended the following Budget be adopted:

Proposed Budget for American Rescue Plan Act Funds
[Proposed ARPA Budget](#)

Report read and accepted. Budget adopted by unanimous consent 11/0.

VIII. ORDERS – FINANCE

The following Orders were referred to the Finance Committee:

030-22. ORDERED THAT: The City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts grant in the approximate amount of \$30,000.00 (THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to provide outreach services to the homeless population in the city.

031-22. ORDERED THAT: The City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditures of funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Housing and Community Development grant in the approximate amount of \$100,000.00 (ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to provide outreach services to the homeless population in the city.

A motion to refer the following Order to the Economic Development Committee passed by unanimous consent.

IX. ORDERS – OTHER

032-22. ORDERED THAT: Authorizing the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Fitchburg and the Twin Cities Rail Trail Association regarding the roles and responsibilities of each party to maintain the new trail as outlined in the attached Order.

The following Petitions were referred to the City Property Committee:

X. PETITIONS

033-22. Tom Skwierawski, Exe. Director of Community Planning & Development, to request City Council declare the following parcel as surplus property:
50 Granite Street
Assessor's Map 82/6/0
(City Property Committee)

034-22. Tom Skwierawski, Exe. Director of Community Planning & Development, to request City Council declare the following parcel as surplus property:
0 Sawmill Pond Road
Assessor's Map S53/6/0
(City Property Committee)

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Zarrella made the following announcement - Ward 1 City Councilor Bernie Schultz is hosting a Ward 1 Community Meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. here in the Fitchburg Legislative Building, 700 Main Street. Building Commissioner Mark Barbadoro and Gary Withington from DPW will make presentations, and then answer questions following their presentations.

Councilor Coutrure announced a Ward 3 Community Meeting on Thursday, March 10th at the Legislative Building starting at 6:00 p.m. Present will be a representatives from the Police Department and DPW.

Councilor Cragin announced the annual dog license awareness poster contest will close this Friday. The nominations will be judged by a consortium consisting of the Police Chief, animal control officer and memebers of Be PAWSitive. This is to remind our residents that it is critical that they get their dogs licensed and immunized for rabies.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Amanda K. Alford, Provisional City Clerk