

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Chambers of the City Council
Monday, January 05, 2026

CITY COUNCIL
Municipal Building
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors-Elect Abreu, Baptiste, Burgo, Carney, Choquette, Gomes, Lopes, Oliver Pemberton, Pereira and Roy.

LATE: No One.

ABSENT: No One.

Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, called the meeting to order and presided.

Prayer led by: Reverend Leona Fisher, In the Name of Jesus Church.

Councillor-Elect Burgo led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, notifying of Organizational Meeting of City Council to be held on Monday, January 05, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., in City Council Chambers, for the following purpose:

- a. Temporary Organization of the City Council and Election of City Council President Pro Tem.
- b. Election Commission Reporting the Election of Municipal Officials.
- c. **Recess** for Swearing In of Elected Officials.
- d. **Reconvene** for Organization of the City Council for the Year 2026.
- e. Election of President of the City Council for 2026.
- f. Drawing for Seats (if applicable).
- g. Appointments of Assistant City Solicitors for 2026.
- h. Appointment of Attorney David J. Gerwatowski as Legislative Counsel to the City Council for 2026.
- i. Appointment of Weighers of Merchandise for 2026.

Received and Placed on File. (#0001)

COMMUNICATION, Election Commission reporting the Election of Municipal Officials for 2026.

**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS
2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

At the Municipal Election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, 8,393 voters or 11.3% of the registered voters in the City of New Bedford cast their ballots and the following individuals were elected to office:

Assessor at Large – for a term of six years

Peter E. Berthiaume, 29 Arnold Place

School Committee – for a term of four years

Melissa M. Costa, 1485 Old Plainville Road

Von M. Moniz, 71 Lafayette Street

Richard Aloysius Porter III, 1 Morgan Terrace

WARD COUNCILLORS

Ward One – for a term of two years

Leo Choquette, 21 Agnes Street, 02745

Ward Two – for a term of two years

Scott Gordon Pemberton, 18 Irvington Street, 02745

Ward Three – for a term of two years

Shawn Oliver, 62 Upton Street, 02746

Ward Four – for a term of two years

Derek Baptiste, 109 Locust Street, 02740

Ward Five – for a term of two years

Joseph P. Lopes, 74 Plymouth Street, 02740

Ward Six – for a term of two years

Ryan Joseph Pereira, 138 Butler Street, 02744

Received and Placed on File.

(#002)

City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council Dennis W. Farias announced that nominations will be in order for the Election of a Temporary President.

Councillor-Elect Pereira nominates Councillor-Elect Burgo, Councillor-Elect Baptiste seconds the Nomination.

Vote is taken on the Election of Councillor-Elect Burgo as PRESIDENT PRO TEM –Yeas 11, Nays 0.

President Pro Tem Burgo calls for a Recess at 6:07 p.m. in order that Elected Officials may proceed to the Whaling Museum to be Sworn In.

President Pro Tem Burgo reconvenes the Council meeting at 7:23 p.m. and announces that he will accept nominations from the floor for President of the New Bedford City Council for the Year 2026.

Councillor Carney nominates Councillor Pereira, Councillor Roy seconds the Nomination.

Councillor Gomes closes the nominations, Councillor Lopes seconds the closing of the nominations.

Councillor Oliver gives a nomination speech on behalf of Councillor Pereira.

Vote is taken on the Election of Councillor Ryan J. Pereira as 2026 City Council President by a roll call vote - Yeas 11, Nays 0.

President Pro Tem Burgo announces the results of the vote and declares:

COUNCILLOR RYAN J. PEREIRA ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR 2026.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM Burgo designates Councillor Abreu and Councillor Carney to escort City Council President Pereira to the Chair.

2026 City Council President Pereira addresses the City Council.

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of ATTORNEY OWEN MURPHY, Dartmouth, MA, as Assistant City Solicitor for a one year term expiring December 31, 2026.

Rule 38 Waived, Reappointment Confirmed and Rule 40 Waived – Yeas 11, Nays 0.

(#0003)

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of ATTORNEY MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON, Little Compton, RI, as Assistant City Solicitor for a one year term expiring December 31, 2026.

Rule 38 Waived, Reappointment Confirmed and Rule 40 Waived – Yeas 11, Nays 0.

(#0004)

WRITTEN MOTION, 2025 City Council President Shane Burgo, submitting to the Full City Council, the REAPPOINTMENT of ATTORNEY DAVID J. GERWATOWSKI, New Bedford, MA 02745, as LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL TO THE CITY COUNCIL for a one-year term, expiring December 31, 2026.

Rule 38 Waived, Reappointment Confirmed and Rule 40 Waived – Yeas 11, Nays 0.

(#0005)

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of WEIGHERS OF MERCHANDISE for a one-year term expiring December 31, 2026, from L & S Industries, Inc.

Ian McNaught

Lakeville , MA

Zachary DiRocco

Wareham, MA

Rule 38 Waived, Reappointment Confirmed and Rule 40 Waived – Yeas 11, Nays 0.

(#0006)

On a motion, the Council then adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

DENNIS W. FARIAS, CITY CLERK/
CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL