

REGULAR MEETING
Chambers of the City Council
Thursday, January 22, 2026

CITY COUNCIL
Municipal Building
7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Council President Pereira, Councillors Abreu, Burgo, Carney, Choquette, Gomes,
Lopes, Oliver, Pemberton and Roy.

LATE: No one.
ABSENT: Councillor Baptiste

Council President Pereira called the meeting to order and presided.

Prayer led by: Morgan Proudfoot, Pastor, Grace Harbor Church.

Councillor Pemberton led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

PETITION, Verizon New England, Inc for location of Conduit at the INTERSECTION OF
COUNTY STREET and ALLEN STREET, this work is necessary to provide electric service to a node
attached to a light pole for wireless service. (Note: Police Details will be engaged while the work is being
completed.)

Hearing Held.
Petition Placed on File. (#0100)

AN ORDER,
Adopted and ordered recorded.
Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.
Approved February 03, 2026. (#0101)

PETITION, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for location of one handhole and
approximately 70' of Conduit in WALNUT STREET, this work is necessary to provide upgraded service
to Walnut Street.

Hearing Held,
Petition Placed on File. (#0102)

AN ORDER,
Adopted and ordered recorded.
Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.
Approved February 03, 2026. (#0103)

PETITION, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for location of approximately
38' of Conduit in WALNUT STREET, this work is necessary to provide electric service to 198 Walnut
Street.

Hearing Held.
Petition Placed on File. (#0104)

AN ORDER,
Adopted and ordered recorded.
Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.
Approved February 03, 2026. (#0105)

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$12,610,194.00 for the purpose of making critically needed repairs to City-owned buildings including, but not limited to, projects for the repair and renovation of public safety facilities, recreational facilities, general office space, replacement of capital equipment and vehicles, and roads and infrastructure improvements.

Referred to the Committee on Finance. (#0106)

LOAN ORDER,

Referred to the Committee on Finance. (#0107)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City Council go on record opposing the sale of nitrous oxide canisters and cylinders within the City to anyone under the age of 21; and further, requesting that the Committee on Ordinances draft an Ordinance to ban the sale of nitrous oxide containers and cylinders in New Bedford; this request is made in light of the increasing use and the serious and devastating effects associated with it.

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances, the Mitchell Administration, Health Department Director Stephanie Sloan, Police Chief Jason Thody and City Solicitor Eric Jaikes. (#0108)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu, Choquette and Pemberton, requesting that the Committee on Ordinances consider drafting an Ordinance prohibiting the sale of nitrous oxide-related products to individuals under the age of twenty-one (21) within the City of New Bedford, in response to growing public health and safety concerns surrounding the misuse of nitrous oxide, commonly sold as whipped cream chargers or similar products, which can cause serious neurological, respiratory, and long-term health harms, particularly among youth, and to ensure appropriate enforcement provisions and any necessary exemptions for legitimate commercial or medical use are considered.

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances, the Mitchell Administration, Health Department Director Stephanie Sloan, Police Chief Jason Thody and City Solicitor Eric Jaikes. (#0109)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Oliver, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings schedule a meeting prior to the Thursday, February 12, 2026 City Council meeting, for the purpose of allowing the residents of Illinois, Ohio, Jarry, Maryland, and Appleton Streets a forum in which they may voice any concerns regarding the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 9, Comprehensive Zoning, specifically as it relates to parking requirements under Appendix C – Table of Parking and Loading Requirements.

Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings. (#0110)

WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Pereira, requesting that the City Council adopt the attached proposed Ordinance Relative to City Council Committees.

Adopted. (#0111)

AN ORDINANCE, amending Chapter 2, of the City Code, RELATIVE TO CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

Passed to a Second Reading. (#0112)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with the Archdiocese of Boston's Planning Office for Urban Affairs to discuss the project timeline and proposed design plan for the former St. Killian's Church property on Ashley Boulevard.

Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings. (#0113)

PROJECT TIMELINE AND DESIGN PLAN, former St. Killian's Church on Ashley Boulevard.

Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings. (#0114)

COMMUNICATION, Anne Louro, Preservation Planner, to City Council, re: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW: NS HATHAWAY ROAD, (MAP 121/LOT 202), Formerly part of 805 Hathaway Road, a circa 1938 Wood-Framed Barn/Garage Structure, advising that “the structure is associated with the Seth Hathaway family and is representative of the City’s nineteenth century agricultural activities; the structure is not located within a National Register Historic District; the structure is of no notable historic significance either recorded or found with the existing condition of the structure **“in light of these findings, the Preservation Planner has determined that the wood-framed barn/garage structure located at NS Hathaway Road is neither a Historically Significant nor a Preferably Preserved Structure.”**

Demolition Granted.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0115)

COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, submitting an Application for a **NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE** on behalf of Suzete Rosa DePina, d/b/a **TIA SUZETE TRANSPORTATION**, 38 Trinity Street, New Bedford, MA. **(License to Expire - June 30, 2026.)**

Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings. (#0116)

COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, submitting an Application for a **NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE** on behalf of Christopher Okafor, d/b/a **KIK TRANSPORTATION**, 27 Maddie Drive, New Bedford, MA. **(License to Expire - June 30, 2026.)**

Livery License Granted.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0117)

CITATION, Councillor Gomes, honoring, PATRICIA J. VICTOR, on the celebration of her 90th Birthday and with Wishes that the Good Lord Give Her Continued Health and Happiness.

Adopted, to be presented at a later date. (#0118)

CITATION, Councillor Gomes, honoring, PATRICIA J. VICTOR, GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN, INC., in recognition of her contributions to the community by serving as a Foster Grandparent at the Carney Academy and the DeMello School and Junior Choir Director at the International Church of the Nazarene for 25 years.

Adopted, to be presented at a later date. (#0119)

CITATIONS, Councillor Gomes, honoring, JUAN ORTIZ-SIERRA, JEAN-CLAUDE DAVID, SAMUEL RODRIGUEZ, CORY SIMS and KATELYN ADAMIDES, in recognition of their APPOINTMENTS as NEW BEDFORD POLICE OFFICERS.

Adopted, to be presented at a later date. (#0120)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Baptiste, requesting, on behalf of the Whaling Museum, that the following street(s) be CLOSED: JOHNNY CAKE HILL, from William Street to Union Street, ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2026, FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. PLEASE NOTE: NO PARKING BOTH SIDES OF JOHNNY CAKE HILL; WILLIAM STREET at North Second Street to Bethel Street/Johnny Cake Hill AND BETHEL STREET, from Elm Street to William Street, ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2026, from 7:00 A.M. TO: 1:00 P.M., for the purpose of Moving an Azorean Boat From its Current Location.

Permission Granted.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0121)

PETITION/INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, Samantha Isidora, on behalf of **Salt 77 North Water Beauty Collective, 77 North Water Street, New Bedford MA 02740**, for Permission to Erect and Maintain a projecting 18” x 3’4” non-illuminated sign at **77 North Water Street, New Bedford, MA**; Provisionally Granted, subject to the approval of Commissioner of the Department of Inspectional Services and subject to Ratification by Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Petition Indemnity Granted.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0122)

COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to the City Council, notifying that the Office of the City Clerk has received Meeting Minutes from the Board of Assessors for meetings held on November 20, 2025, December 11, 2025 and December 18, 2025; the Community Preservation Committee for meetings held on October 28, 2025 and December 08, 2025; the Board of Health for meetings held on July 29, 2025 and August 20, 2025; the Licensing Board for meetings held on August 26, 2025, September 23, 2025 and November 18, 2025; the Planning Board for meetings held on August 7, 2024, August 13, 2025, October 08, 2025, September 10, 2025 and November 13, 2025; the Public Health Excellence Collaborative for meetings held on December 10, 2025 and January 07, 2026; the Park Board for a meeting held on October 15, 2025; GNB Regional Refuse Management District for meetings held on October 08, 2025 and November 12, 2025; and the Zoning Board of Appeals for a meeting held on October 16, 2025.

Received and Placed on File. (#0123)

APPLICATION, **Haugland Energy**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **Ashley Boulevard, from Coggeshall Street to Sawyer Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 12, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0124)

APPLICATION, **RJ Canessa Excavating**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **Crescent Street, (NS) 35’ E Plante Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 14, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0125)

APPLICATION, **Haugland Energy**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, of **Ashley Boulevard, from Coggeshall Street to Sawyer Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 12, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0126)

APPLICATION, **RJ Canessa Excavating**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, of **Crescent Street, (NS) 35’ E Plante Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 14, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0127)

APPLICATION, **Eversource Gas**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, of **County Street, working from Allen Street to Spring Street (including all intersections)**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 06, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0128)

APPLICATIONS, **Eversource Gas**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 08, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council as follows:

20 Ashley Street, Cove Street – Ruth Street (#0129)

30 Chestnut Street, Hillman Stret and North Street (#0130)

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026.

APPLICATIONS, **Eversource Gas**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 09, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council as follows:

185 - 187 Whitman Street (#0131)

492 Rivet Street (#0132)

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026.

APPLICATION, **Eversource Gas**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, of **132 William Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 13, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0133)

APPLICATIONS, **Eversource Gas**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 15, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council as follows:

Brock Avenue, Bellevue Street to Aquidneck Street (including all intersections) (#0134)

Intersection Purchase St @ Cedar Grove St (including 100' in all directions) (#0135)

130 Liberty Street (#0136)

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026.

APPLICATION, **Homestead**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **226 Park Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 16, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 27, 2026.

Approved February 03, 2026. (#0137)

On a motion, the Council then adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

APPLICATION, **Trexan, LLC**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **1501 Acushnet Avenue**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 14, 2025, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 26, 2026.

Approved January 28, 2026. (#0121)

APPLICATION, **C. Naughton Corp.**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, of **City wide (see attached list)**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 15, 2025, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 26, 2026.

Approved January 28, 2026. (#0127)

APPLICATIONS, **Eversource Gas**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on January 07, 2025, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council as follows:

Adams Street, County Street – Mt. Pleasant Street (working street & street to houses, including intersections & 50 ft. in all directions) (#0128)

Penniman Street, Purchase Street – Mt. Pleasant Street (working street & street to houses, including intersections & 50 ft. in all directions) (#0129)

John Street, Allen Street – 364 John Street (working street & street to houses, including intersections & 50 ft. in all directions) (#0130)

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval January 26, 2026.

Approved January 28, 2026.

On a motion, the Council then adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

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