

SPECIAL MEETING
Chambers of the City Council
Thursday, March 05, 2026

CITY COUNCIL
Municipal Building
7:00 p.m.

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

LATE: No one.
ABSENT: No one.

Council President Pereira called the meeting to order and presided.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

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

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Abreu, to City Council, notifying that he will be unable to
attend the Special City Council meeting on Thursday, March 05, 2026, due to a previously scheduled
work-related commitment.

Received and Placed on File. (#0221)

COMMUNICATION, Council President Pereira, to Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk/Clerk of the
City Council, calling a SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING for **THURSDAY, MARCH 05, 2026** at
7:00 pm for the purpose of hearing the items on the City Council meeting agenda previously scheduled
for Thursday, February 26, 2026; said meeting was cancelled due to severe weather conditions.

Received and Placed on file. (#0222)

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDINANCE,
Amending Chapter 10, by inserting a new Section 10-86.1, Voluntary Electronic (Email) Delivery of Real
Estate and Personal Property Tax Bills, after Section 10-86.

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances. (#0223)

AN ORDINANCE,
Referred to the Committee on Ordinances. (#0224)

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the
TRANSFER of \$1,070,555.00 from STATE AID, and an ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$314,530.00
from STATE AID 950, to SCHOOL DEPARTMENT GENERAL EXPENSE.

Referred to the Committee on Finance. (#0225)

AN ORDER,
Referred to the Committee on Finance. (#0226)

AN ORDER,
Referred to the Committee on Finance. (#0227)

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$368,000.00 from GENERAL FUND STABILIZATION to SNOW REMOVAL PURCHASE OF SERVICES.

Received and Placed on File. (#0228)

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
IN CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 05, 2026

ORDERED, that the sum of THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$368,000) now standing to the credit of the account from GENERAL FUND STABILIZATION be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

SNOW REMOVAL PURCHASE OF SERVICES.....\$368,000

To be certified and approved by the Department Head.

Adopted – Yeas 9, Nays 0.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0229)

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of MARK O’NEAL STE. ROSE, New Bedford, MA as CONSTABLE.

Received and Placed on File. (#0230)

AN APPLICATION, MARK O’NEAL STE. ROSE, New Bedford, MA as CONSTABLE.

Reappointment Confirmed – Yeas 9, Nays 0. (#0231)

AN ORDINANCE, amending Chapter 9, Comprehensive Zoning, Section 4200D – Solar Energy Systems.

TABLED – September 11, 2026.

Removed from the TABLE.

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances and the Planning Board – September 25, 2025.

Passed to a Second Reading – January 08, 2026.

Passed to be Ordained – Yeas 9, Nays 0.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026 (#1485)

REPORT, Committee on Appointments and Briefings, recommending to the City Council APPROVAL of AN APPLICATION, Laguerre Pierre Marc, d/b/a L&S Transport, Inc., for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales and/or Rentals & General Repair, at 724 Ashley Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02745.

Recommendation Followed. (#0232)

SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION, Laguerre Pierre Marc, d/b/a L&S Transport, Inc., for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales and/or Rentals & General Repair, at 724 Ashley Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02745.

Public Hearing Held – February 17, 2026.

Special Permit Granted.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0233)

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Burgo, submitting a copy of a letter from Danny Romanowicz, Director of Inspectional Services, confirming that Laguerre Pierre Marc, d/b/a L & S Transport Inc., at 724 Ashley Boulevard, does not have an MDC (Metropolitan District Commission) trap and that the owner has applied to Licensing and the Department of Infrastructure to obtain a FOG (Fats, Oils and Grease) permit.

Received and Placed on File. (#0234)

REPORT, Committee on Appointments and Briefings, recommending to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPLICATION for a **NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE** on behalf of Suzete Rosa DePina, New Bedford, MA, d/b/a **TIA SUZETE TRANSPORTATION**, 38 Trinity Street, New Bedford, MA. **(License will expire June 30, 2026.)**

Recommendation Followed. (#0235)

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

Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings – January 22, 2026.

Livery License Granted.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 05, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0116)

REPORT, Committee on Appointments & Briefings, recommending to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JEFFREY DAVID FOISY, New Bedford, MA, as a CONSTABLE.

Recommendation Followed. (#0236)

AN APPLICATION, Jeffrey David Foisy, New Bedford, MA, APOINTMENT as a CONSTABLE.

Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings – December 11, 2025.

Appointment Confirmed. (#1931)

REPORT, Committee on Appointments & Briefings, recommending to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of DANIEL LUIS REYES ORTIZ, New Bedford, MA, as a CONSTABLE.

Recommendation Followed. (#0237)

AN APPLICATION, Daniel Luis Reyes Ortiz, New Bedford, MA, APPOINTMENT as a CONSTABLE.

Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings – January 08, 2026.

Appointment Confirmed. (#0017)

REPORT, Special Committee on Environmental Affairs, recommending that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Choquette, requesting that Jamie Ponte, Commissioner for the Department of Public Infrastructure, and James Costa, Wastewater Superintendent, appear before the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs to discuss the events contributing to the shellfish bed closures in Fairhaven, and affecting other adjacent communities, due to the overflow of sewage leaking into our coastal waters.

Recommendation Followed. (#0238)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Choquette, requesting that Jamie Ponte, Commissioner for the Department of Public Infrastructure, and James Costa, Wastewater Superintendent, appear before the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs to discuss the events contributing to the shellfish bed closures in Fairhaven, and affecting other adjacent communities, due to the overflow of sewage leaking into our coastal waters.

Referred to the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs - March 26, 2024.

NO FURTHER ACTION. (#0428)

REPORT, Special Committee on Environmental Affairs, recommending that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes, Dunn, Giesta, Lima, Abreu, Coelho, Carney, Markey and Lopes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with officials from the Department of Inspectional Services, the Department of Public Infrastructure, the Fire Department, the Health Department and the owner of Bob’s Tire Company located at 85 Brook Street, due to the local resident’s complaints of the foul odor and runoff water from the site where the shredding of tires is occurring, this has become a quality-of-life issue for the residents of that area; and further, that an explanation be given to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods as to when permission was given to shred tires at this location; and further, that if Bob’s Tire Company has any Code violations, that the shredding of tires be halted immediately at this site.

Recommendation Followed. (#0239)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes, Dunn, Giesta, Lima, Abreu, Coelho, Carney, Markey and Lopes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with officials from the Department of Inspectional Services, the Department of Public Infrastructure, the Fire Department, the Health Department and the owner of Bob’s Tire Company located at 85 Brook Street, due to the local resident’s complaints of the foul odor and runoff water from the site where the shredding of tires is occurring, this has become a quality-of-life issue for the residents of that area; and further, that an explanation be given to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods as to when permission was given to shred tires at this location; and further, that if Bob’s Tire Company has any Code violations, that the shredding of tires be halted immediately at this site.

Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods and the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs – February 13, 2020.

NO FURTHER ACTION. (Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods) – April 27, 2023.

NO FURTHER ACTION. (Special Committee on Environmental Affairs) (#0214)

REPORT, Special Committee on Environmental Affairs, recommending that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lima, Council President Lopes and Councillor Abreu, requesting that the Inspectional Services Commissioner Danny Romanowicz, Environmental Stewardship Director Michele Paul and Health Director Damon Chaplin appear before the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs to provide a written report detailing the business name and location of all tire storage and tire recycling facilities within the City with a determination as to whether or not each tire facility is in compliance with the City’s Planning and Zoning regulations and Environmental protocols.

Recommendation Followed. (#0240)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lima, Council President Lopes and Councillor Abreu, requesting that the Inspectional Services Commissioner Danny Romanowicz, Environmental Stewardship Director Michele Paul and Health Director Damon Chaplin appear before the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs to provide a written report detailing the business name and location of all tire storage and tire recycling facilities within the City with a determination as to whether or not each tire facility is in compliance with the City’s Planning and Zoning regulations and Environmental protocols.

Referred to the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs – June 11, 2020.

NO FURTHER ACTION. (#0687)

REPORT, Special Committee on Environmental Affairs, recommending that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Morad, requesting, that the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs meet with City Solicitor Mikaela McDermott and Director of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship Michele Paul, to obtain a full briefing regarding the City’s ongoing legal position and financial exposure resulting from the Mass DEP and EPA contamination site at Bliss Corner.

Recommendation Followed. (#0241)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Morad, requesting, that the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs meet with City Solicitor Mikaela McDermott and Director of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship Michele Paul, to obtain a full briefing regarding the City’s ongoing legal position and financial exposure resulting from the Mass DEP and EPA contamination site at Bliss Corner.

Referred to the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs - Yeas 11, Nay 0. - January 27, 2022.

NO FURTHER ACTION. (#0228)

REPORT, Committee on City Property, recommending that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Pemberton and Abreu, requesting, that Mr. Paul Brooks Jr., Director of Real Estate and Development for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River, appear before the Committee on City Property, to discuss the feasibility of leasing the Diocese’s 25,000 square foot parking lot on the corner of Ashley Boulevard and Earle Street to the City of New Bedford for municipal parking purposes.

Recommendation Followed. (#0242)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Pemberton and Abreu, requesting, that Mr. Paul Brooks Jr., Director of Real Estate and Development for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River, appear before the Committee on City Property, to discuss the feasibility of leasing the Diocese’s 25,000 square foot parking lot on the corner of Ashley Boulevard and Earle Street to the City of New Bedford for municipal parking purposes.

Referred to the Committee on City Property, Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River, Mitchell Administration and the Purchasing Department. – January 08, 2026.

NO FURTHER ACTION. (#0029)

COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION, Anne Louro, Preservation Planner, to City Council, re: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW: NE SOUTH WATER STREET, (MAP 47/LOT199), Former Eversource Office Building, a circa 1911 Brick Masonry/Aluminum Clad Vacant Building, advising that “the structure was initially constructed as a private garage and reflects the evolutionary development of the City’s waterfront, with buildings that illustrate a diverse range of uses; the structure is not located within a National Register Historic District; the structure has been modified and 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 brick masonry/aluminum clad, vacant building located at NE South Water Street is neither a Historically Significant nor a Preferably Preserved Structure.”**

Demolition Granted.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0243)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Baptiste, requesting, on behalf of the Zeiterion Theatre, that the following street(s) be CLOSED: a portion of SPRING STREET, from Purchase Street to Acushnet Avenue, from WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 at 12:00 pm to FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026 at 4:00 am, for the purpose of constructing a temporary loading dock.

GRANTED PROVISIONALLY BY THE 2026 CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT RYAN J. PEREIRA ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, TO BE RATIFIED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026.

Received and Action of the City Council President Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0244)

PETITION/INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, Drew Sylvia, d/b/a D and D Caterers, Inc., 53 Belleville Road, New Bedford, MA, for Permission to Erect and Maintain a 36” x 24” Illuminated Sign to overhang City property at 53 Belleville Road, 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.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0245)

APPLICATION, **Seaspray Container Company**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **14 Donny Drive**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 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 March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0246)

APPLICATIONS, **Aqua Line Utility, Inc.**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 09, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council as follows:

117 - 119 Branscomb Street (#0247)

ES King Street (#0248)

84 Irvington Street (#0249)

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026.

APPLICATION, **JLC Construction**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **4 Kearsarge Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 18, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0250)

APPLICATION, **Roto-Rooter**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **156 Grinnell Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 19, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0251)

APPLICATION, **RJ Canessa Excavating**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **526 Rivet Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 19, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0252)

APPLICATIONS, **Aqua Line Utility, Inc.**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 10, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council as follows:

117 – 119 Branscomb Street (#0253)

ES King Street (#0254)

84 Irvington Street (#0255)

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026.

APPLICATION, **JLC Construction**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, of **4 Kearsarge Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 18, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0256)

APPLICATION, **Roto-Rooter**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, of **156 Grinnell Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 19, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0257)

APPLICATION, **RJ Canessa Excavating**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, of **526 Rivet Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 19, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0258)

APPLICATIONS, **Eversource Gas**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 10, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council as follows:

97 Sidney Street (#0259)

16 Highland Street (#0260)

187 Crapo Street (#0261)

122 Deane Street, Ashley Boulevard - Acushnet Avenue (#0262)

96 Grinnell Street (#0263)

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026.

APPLICATIONS, **Eversource Gas**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 11, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council as follows:

564 Purchase Street (#0264)

374 Prescott Street (#0265)

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026.

APPLICATIONS, **Eversource Gas**, to DISTURB THE SURFACE, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 13, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council as follows:

336 - 338 Maple Street (#0266)

646 Rockdale Avenue (#0267)

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026.

APPLICATION, **Freedom Roofing LLC**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **799 Brock Avenue**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 10, 2026, subject to ratification by the Mayor and City Council.

Received and Action of the City Clerk Ratified.

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0268)

APPLICATION, **Mowbray Waste and Recycling**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **207 Walnut Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 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 March 09, 2026

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0269)

APPLICATION, **Costello Home Construction, LLC**, for permission to maintain a STREET OBSTRUCTION at **170 State Street**, provisionally granted by the City Clerk on February 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 March 09, 2026.

Approved March 13, 2026. (#0270)

On a motion, the Council then adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

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