



City of Concord

City Council

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, September 14, 2026

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers
37 Green Street
Concord, NH 03301

Non-meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A: 2, I (a) to discuss collective bargaining strategies to begin at 6:00 p.m.

1. Mayor Champlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Roll Call.

Present: 14 - Councilor Stacey Brown, Mayor Byron Champlin, Councilor Mark Davie, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Jeff Foote, Councilor Michele Horne, Councilor Aislinn Kalob, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Judith Kurtz, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Kris Schultz, Councilor Ali Sekou, and Councilor Brent Todd

Excused: 1 - Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton

5. Approval of the Meeting Minutes.

August 10, 2026 City Council Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Councilor Todd moved approval of the August 10, 2026 Draft Meeting Minutes. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz and passed with no dissenting votes.

6. Agenda overview by the Mayor.

Consent Agenda Items

Action: Councilor Todd moved approval of the consent agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz.

It was noted that Items 9, 24, 25, 31, 32, and 33 were pulled from the consent agenda. Councilor Brown recused herself from Item 21, as her husband is a police

officer.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Referrals to the Parking Committee

7. Communication from Jeremy Baldwin, Pleasant Street resident, requesting consideration be given to allow Residential and Guest Parking in the Safe Off-Road Area on Pleasant Street between the entrance and exit of Russell's Animal Hospital.

Action: The communication was referred to the Parking Committee.

8. Communication from Stephanie Merfeld requesting review of Law Center-Area Parking Enforcement, Resident Permits, and Essex Street Winter Parking Restrictions.

Action: The communication was referred to the Parking Committee.

Referrals to the Public Safety Advisory Committee

9. Communication from Samantha Vansylyvong requesting consideration of Protections Regarding Flock Cameras and Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Surveillance within the City of Concord. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Kalob, listed as a referral to the Public Safety Advisory Committee.)

Action: Pulled from consent by Councilor Kalob.

Items Tabled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026 Public Hearings

10. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-8, Parking Time is Limited in Designated Places, Schedule III, to modify time-limits for parking spaces on the north side of Merrimack Street (Penacook); together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

11. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance by amending Article 28-7, Access, Circulation, Parking and Loading; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

12. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance by amending Article 28-8, Nonconforming Lots, Uses, and Structures, by amending Section 28-8-5 Nonconforming Structures, 28-8-5(d) Removal and Replacement of Certain Nonconforming Residential Structures; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

13. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance by amending Article 28-2-3, The Zoning Map, by amending Section 28-2-3(b)(1); together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

14. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance by amending Appendix B, List of Arterial Streets and amending Appendix C, List of Collector Streets; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

15. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title I, General Code, Chapter 8, Fire; together with a report from the City Solicitor.

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

16. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title III, Building and Housing Codes; Chapter 26, Building Regulations and Chapter 27, Housing Maintenance and Occupancy Code; together with a report from the City Solicitor.

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

17. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$23,397 for Law Enforcement Related Programs and accepting the sum of \$23,397 in Unmatched Grant Funds from the United States Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant program for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy Chief of Police.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

From the City Manager

18. Positive Citizen Comments.

Action: Positive comments received and filed.

Consent Reports

19. Diminimis gifts and donations report from the Library Director requesting authorization to accept gifts and donations totaling \$11,031.61, as provided under the pre-authorization granted by City Council.

Action: Consent report approved.

20. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Parks and Recreation Director requesting authorization to accept monetary gifts totaling \$4,179.60, as provided for under the pre-authorization granted by City Council.

Action: Consent report approved.

21. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Police Department requesting authorization to accept grant funding from the Concord Regional Crimeline in the amount of \$3,000, as provided for under preauthorization granted by the City Council.

Action: Consent report approved.

Councilor Brown recused herself from Item 21, as her husband is a police officer.

22. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Police Department requesting authorization to accept the donation of a K9 transport cage and all associated labor costs to install, a value of \$5,125, by the Concord Police Department K9 Association, as provided for under preauthorization granted by the City Council.

Action: Consent report approved.

23. Report authorizing the City Manager to execute a Consent and Approval Agreement with respect to the property Dimond Hill Farm located at 314 Hopkinton Road.

Action: Consent report approved.

24. Report from the Acting Deputy City Manager-Finance regarding an adjustment to Arena Fund transfer to General Fund for FY2026. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.

25. Full Measure & List Revaluation Project Update Report (CIP #639) from the Director of Assessing. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.

26. Report from the Assistant Director of Community Development, on behalf of the Parking Committee, regarding the State Street Garage Parking Analysis, Facility Needs Assessment, and Replacement Options Study.

Action: Consent report approved.

27. Report from the Human Services Director requesting City Council accept and adopt the proposed financial standards to be incorporated into the City's Welfare Guidelines.

Action: Consent report approved.

28. Report from the Parks and Recreation Director to expand scope of FY24 and FY25 CIP587 Cemetery Improvements to include Arch repairs at Blossom Hill Cemetery (CIP587).

Action: Consent report approved.

29. Report from the Parks and Recreation Director to move remaining donations from CIP528 Pocket Parks FY24 Eastman Clock Tower project to a misc grants and donations account.

Action: Consent report approved.

30. Report from the Interim Deputy Chief of Police recommending the City Council de-authorize \$1,980 in diminimis gifts which were not received from the Merrimack County Savings Bank.

Action: Consent report approved.

31. Report from the Transportation Engineer, on behalf of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee, in response to a referral from City Council regarding communications from residents regarding the new Middle School Traffic Plan and Neighborhood Safety Concerns. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Schlosser and Councilor Keach.)

Action: Pulled from consent by Councilor Schlosser and Councilor Keach.

32. Report from the Public Safety Advisory Board requesting City Council accept this report and recommend that the City Council inform the Planning Board that the Council wishes to prioritize public safety as part of the City's Master Plan update and recommend that the Planning Board consult with the Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) as part of the planning and community-engagement process. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.

33. Report from the DEIJB Committee in response to a City Council referral from Julia Freeman-Woolpert requesting review of current park permit fees for small community events and discussion of ways to improve access to public parks for local use. (Not previously distributed.) (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown and Councilor Kalob.)

Action: Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown and Councilor Kalob.

Consent Resolutions

34. Resolution designating depositories for the City of Concord, New Hampshire for the Fiscal Year 2027; together with a report from the City Treasurer/Tax Collector.

Action: Consent resolution approved.

35. Resolution adopting an Investment and Cash Management Policy; together with a report from the City Treasurer/Tax Collector.

Action: Consent resolution approved.

36. Resolution authorizing prepayment of taxes in accordance with RSA 80:52-a; together with a report from the City Treasurer/Tax Collector.

Action: Consent resolution approved.

37. Resolution relative to Short Term Investment of Excess Funds.

Action: Consent resolution approved.

End of Consent Agenda

Public Hearings

- 38A. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1(a), Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX, to modify seasonal no parking restrictions on Church Street between Bradley and

Lyndon Streets; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: City Manager Aspell noted that the Committee voted to direct staff to complete the ordinance which would amend the Parking Ordinance to establish a winter season parking restriction on the north side of the road from Jackson Street to Lyndon Street, replacing the previously proposed ordinance which would have extended no parking at all times on the north side of Church Street from Jackson Street to Rumford Street.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing. There being no testimony, he declared the hearing closed.

- 38B. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1(a), Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX, to modify school year no parking restrictions on Columbus Avenue; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: City Manager Aspell indicated the Parking Committee recommended to amend the Parking Ordinance to remove the school year parking restriction on the west side of the road, citing the availability of on-site parking for Bishop Brady High School which has alleviated parking issues that had previously existed along the roadway.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing. There being no testimony, he declared the hearing closed.

- 38C. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-8, Parking Time is Limited in Designated Places, Schedule III, to modify time-limits and enforcement hours for certain parking spaces on Warren Street adjacent to Concord High School; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: City Manager Aspell noted the request was to modify the parking restrictions for the parallel parking spaces along the north side of Warren Street adjacent to Concord High School.

Specifically, that the current 20-minute time limit be revised to 1-hour, and that the effective hours of this time limit be amended from 7:00 a.m - to Midnight to 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. He further noted the Parking Committee voted to direct Staff to

complete the attached ordinance which would amend the Parking Ordinance to modify both the time limit and the enforcement hours.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Tony Schinella, a resident, requested that the City Council approve the ordinance, noting that the request was intended to accommodate parents and visitors who may need more than 20 minutes. He thanked the Parking Committee for its time and consideration.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Champlin closed the hearing.

- 38D. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$23,100, for Police Department Roadway Safety Outreach Initiatives and accepting the sum of \$23,100, in grant funds from the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy Chief of Police.

Action: City Manager Aspell welcomed Deputy Police Chief Matthew Casey to come forward. City Manager Aspell noted the grant includes funding for the following initiatives: Speed Enforcement, DUI Enforcement, Distracted Driving Enforcement, Pedestrian/Bicycle Enforcement, Seatbelt Mobilization, Impaired Driving Mobilization, Distracted Driving Mobilization, and Community Outreach & Betterment. The funding provided by the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety covers the overtime costs associated with conducting these patrols and outreach initiatives.

City Manager Aspell further noted the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety requires a match be provided by the City as part of the grant. The City match for the Office of Highway Safety Initiatives grant is \$5,775.00. The City's match will be tracked and covered through equipment purchases, related vehicle costs, and administrative costs in managing the grant.

Deputy Police Chief Matthew Casey stated the grant requires specific language should the City Council vote to approve and appropriate the grant, which reads as follows: The City Council, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Highway Safety Grant as presented in the amount of \$23,100.00.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing. There being no testimony, he declared the hearing closed.

Public Hearing Action

39. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1(a), Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX, to modify seasonal no parking restrictions on Church Street between Bradley and Lyndon Streets; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: Councilor Todd moved approval of the ordinance. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz.

City Council briefly discussed the challenges of the street, including winter plowing challenges. Councilor Kalob emphasized the amount of work and consideration put into this request by the Parking Committee.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

40. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1(a), Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX, to modify school year no parking restrictions on Columbus Avenue; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: Councilor Todd moved approval of the ordinance. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz and passed with no dissenting votes.

41. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-8, Parking Time is Limited in Designated Places, Schedule III, to modify time-limits and enforcement hours for certain parking spaces on Warren Street adjacent to Concord High School; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: Councilor Sekou moved approval of the ordinance. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schlosser.

Councilor Fennessy briefly discussed the lack of parking enforcement in this particular area, particularly during winter months, and encouraged increased enforcement. Councilor Sekou expressed his support for the ordinance, noting that 20 minutes is insufficient and that one hour would be provide adequate time. Councilor Todd thanked Mr. Schinella for his insights.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

42. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$23,100, for Police Department Roadway Safety Outreach Initiatives and accepting the sum of \$23,100, in grant funds from the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy Chief of Police.

Action: Councilor Fennessy moved approval of the resolution. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Todd.

A brief discussion centered on what community outreach would look like. Deputy Police Chief Casey indicated this time of year provides greater flexibility to engage with various groups throughout the community. He noted ongoing initiatives with retirement communities, as well as planned outreach at Merrimack Valley High School and Concord High School, and with New Americans. These initiatives are planned to take place at the Community Center on the Heights. Councilor Sekou encouraged the initiatives to have an educational focus.

The City Council, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Highway Safety Grant as presented in the amount of \$23,100.00.

Councilor Brown recused herself as her husband is a police officer.

The motion passed by the required two-thirds majority.

Reports

43. Report from the Parks and Recreation Director on the request to build a Bike Park. (Citizen comments received.)

Action: City Manager Aspell welcomed Parks & Recreation Director David Gill to present.

Parks & Recreation Director Gill provided a brief update on the bike park proposal.

Council discussion ensued regarding alternative sites, funding, annual maintenance costs and responsibilities, safety and accessibility, community outreach, and abutter concerns.

Director Gill noted that the recommendation is to grant the bike park group permission to raise funds to further evaluate the Martin Park site. If approved, the group would be required to retain a qualified vendor to support the detailed design process, complete the necessary environmental reviews, and develop an operational plan.

Upon completion of the final design phase, including the final design, environmental review, and operations plan, the project would be formally presented to the City Council for review and approval. If the final design is approved, the group may then begin fundraising for construction.

Director Gill noted that this process would provide an opportunity to address site-specific concerns, confirm the feasibility of the proposed location, and ensure that the facility is compatible with the City's broader recreational, environmental, and neighborhood objectives.

Councilor Schlosser moved to accept the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Keach.

Councilor Fennessy noted the bike park group has been to at least two Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee (RPAC) meetings. He emphasized that citizen concerns need to be addressed, however, this is the first step.

Councilor Brown read into the record recent communication from a Concord resident: Requesting the following issues addressed before a bike park is constructed: Full remediation of all unsanctioned trails in the woods, clearly marked trails for walkers, which expressly exclude mountain biking, clear signage that indicates which areas are for bikes and which are not, the prohibition of dirt bikes in Martin Park, a full reconfiguration of the parking lot at Martin Park, and a leadership team that leads by example for young people, and does not abuse the existing trail system.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

New Business

44. Preliminary Discussion: City Manager Recruitment.

Action: Mayor Champlin stated that he was appointing the full City Council, acting as a Committee of the Whole, to serve as the Ad Hoc City Manager Search Committee. He noted that the Committee would remain in place until a new City Manager is recommended to and approved by the City Council, at which time the Ad Hoc City Manager Search Committee would be dissolved. He then invited Human Resources Director Jennifer Johnston and Purchasing Manager Tina Waterman to present options for the recruitment process.

Human Resources Director Johnston explained that there are two primary processes available for securing a professional executive search firm and asked Purchasing Manager Waterman to provide additional information.

Purchasing Manager Waterman distributed a handout and reviewed the four solicitation methods that could be used to recruit the next City Manager: Request for Quotes (RFQ), Request for Proposals (RFP), Invitation for Bid, and Cooperative Purchasing Agreement. She indicated that she would likely recommend either the RFQ or RFP process, noting that the RFP process is the method most commonly used by municipalities.

Director Johnston explained that she had contacted other municipalities that had recently completed City Manager searches and obtained recruitment templates from those municipalities for the Council's review.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding timelines, recruitment processes, engagement with executive search firms, and the importance of allowing sufficient time to identify the right candidate for the City of Concord rather than rushing the process.

Mayor Champlin then polled the Council and determined that there was consensus to proceed with the RFP process.

Unfinished Business

45. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1, Parking

Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX; to modify parking requirements on School Street between Pine and Liberty Streets; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development. (Action on this item tabled at the August 11, 2025 City Council meeting.) (Public comments received.)

Action: Item remained tabled.

46. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-6, Schedule I, to modify no parking restrictions on Church Street between Bradley and Rumford Streets; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development. (Referred back to the Parking Committee at the May 11, 2026 City Council meeting.)

Action: Councilor Todd moved to remove the item from the table. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz and passed with no dissenting votes.

Councilor Todd moved to not accept the report because it contains recommendations that have now been superseded. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz and passed with no dissenting votes.

47. Presentation on the Memorial Field Master Plan from the Parks and Recreation Director. (Presentation given at the November 10, 2025 City Council Meeting.) (Action on this item tabled at the November 24, 2025 City Council Meeting.) (Communication from Concord School District received.) (Petition and public testimony received.) (Additional public testimony received.) (Memorial Field Master Plan Update report from the Parks and Recreation Director submitted.) (Additional public testimony received.)

Action: Councilor Fennessy moved to remove the item from the table. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Horne and passed with no dissenting votes.

Councilor Fennessy moved to suspend City Council rules and set the item down for a public hearing in October. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kretovic.

Councilor Fennessy expressed that time is of the essence to make a decision whether to move forward with the final design and planning. He noted the Concord School District appropriated funds back in December to move forward with final design and permitting. He also reminded the City Council that \$600,000 had been designated with an asterisk in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in June of

2026 for this purpose.

Parks and Recreation Director David Gill noted that the Joint Subcommittee has met ten times and previously made a recommendation in November regarding the larger project, however, City Council tabled the consideration due to the projected cost and requested additional discussion. Following three additional meetings this year, the Subcommittee reached majority consensus on a Phase One Master Plan concept estimated at \$13.9 million. The project is currently estimated at \$1.2 million for final design and permitting, reduced from the \$1.5 million amount included in the FY26 budget. Although the project was previously approved, funding was not allocated because a master plan had not yet been approved by the Subcommittee. He explained if approved, the funding would allow the City to work with the School District on final design and permitting, further develop the associated business plan and evaluate anticipated operating costs and revenues. Advancing to final design and permitting would also position the project to pursue grant opportunities that could help offset construction costs.

Mayor Champlin asked Director Gill to speak about the importance of the final design and permitting process.

Director Gill emphasized the importance of proceeding with final planning and permitting to address longstanding deferred maintenance and establish a clear plan for the project's future. He noted that questions regarding the estimated \$13.9 million project cost, including potential funding sources such as grants, cost sharing, and naming rights, would require further discussion. Director Gill explained that an approved master plan and finalized design are generally necessary to pursue significant grant funding. He noted that advancing to final design would also create opportunities for fundraising and potential naming rights, similar to the process used for the Merrimack Lodge at White Park, which could help offset a portion of the overall project cost.

The City Council engaged in a lengthy discussion on funding, cost sharing, maintenance costs, the master planning process, and the approval process. Councilors expressed concern about moving forward with design plans without understanding the full scope of the project financially. Mayor Champlin questioned the possibility of negotiating a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Concord School District prior to the October meeting. Director Gill stated that

given the timeline, it would be difficult.

Councilor Kretovic moved the question. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Davie and passed with one dissenting vote.

Councilor Schultz requested a roll call on the motion to suspend the rules to set the item down for a public hearing in October.

Roll Call:

10 - Yes: Mayor Champlin, Councilor Davie, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Foote, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Kurtz, Councilor Schlosser, Councilor Sekou, Councilor Todd.

4 - No: Councilor Schultz, Councilor Brown, Councilor Horne, Councilor Kalob,

1 - Excused: Councilor Grady Sexton

The motion to suspend the rules and set the item for an October public hearing passed with the required two-thirds majority.

City Manager Aspell explained that moving the project forward would require preparation and approval of a resolution by Bond Counsel, followed by the required public notice period. He noted that the timeline was very tight and would need to be confirmed with Bond Counsel. He also asked whether the City Council wanted to use available impact fees to reduce the amount of the bond. Councilor Kurtz supported using impact fees, noting that some may need to be used within the required timeframe. Councilor Foote asked whether the Unassigned Fund Balance could also be considered. City Manager Aspell stated that it could, but cautioned that additional bonding could affect the City's bond rating and interest costs. Councilor Brown requested information on the amount of impact fees available, which City Manager Aspell said staff would provide at the next meeting.

City Manager Aspell further clarified that, because this is a City project, the Concord School District would need to provide its anticipated \$600,000 contribution to the City before the City Council could appropriate the funds. He stated that staff would work with Bond Counsel to determine whether the project could meet the October timeline. Council discussed the possibility of holding the

public hearing in October while delaying final action until November if necessary. He noted that the hearing could be held as scheduled and either closed or continued to a subsequent meeting, allowing the Council to proceed while maintaining the opportunity for public comment.

The Mayor sought and received consensus for staff to investigate using available impact fees to offset the bond amount.

Consideration of Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

9. Communication from Samantha Vansylyvong requesting consideration of Protections Regarding Flock Cameras and Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Surveillance within the City of Concord. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Kalob, listed as a referral to the Public Safety Advisory Committee.)

Action: Councilor Kalob shared that a constituent had reached out with concerns about the spread of AI-powered surveillance within the City of Concord and expressed hope that the City would take action to protect the public. She noted that RSA 261:75(b) establishes state-level restrictions on fixed automated license plate readers (ALPRs). Councilor Kalob suggested that the City Council consider addressing the issue at the local level. She further noted that the Portsmouth City Council had referred a draft ordinance containing specific safeguards to its legal department for review.

Councilor Fennessy noted that the bill, as originally enacted, included a sunset clause that was subsequently removed. As a result, the law remains in effect unless it is amended or repealed. He stated that state law is currently addressing these issues and, therefore, did not believe there was any additional action for the Council to take at this time.

Councilor Schultz echoed Councilor Kalob's sentiments. She also recognized Councilor Horne for addressing assumptions people may have about what might constitute a camera and said she felt it was a good idea to address the topic.

Mayor Champlin requested that the motion be amended to refer the communication to the Public Safety Advisory Committee and the Parking Committee.

The amended motion passed with no dissenting votes.

24. Report from the Acting Deputy City Manager-Finance regarding an adjustment to Arena Fund transfer to General Fund for FY2026. (Pulled from consent by

Councilor Brown.)

Action: Councilor Todd moved approval of the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Fennessy.

Councilor Brown discussed Items 24 and 25 together, noting that the Arena, Golf, and Solid Waste funds had operated as Enterprise Funds until 2018, when they were converted to Special Reserve Funds. Councilor Brown inferred that, at the time of the conversion, the expectation was that capital projects would be bonded and require assistance from the General Fund. Councilor Brown expressed concern about the subsequent increase in Golf Course capital expenditures, citing approximately \$11 million in expenditures and more than \$831,000 in current-year debt service borne by taxpayers.

Councilor Brown also referenced recent property revaluations and information from the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute regarding the distribution of the State's tax burden. Councilor Brown expressed concern about the impact of property taxes on lower-income residents and manufactured housing and condominium owners. Councilor Brown requested that the Finance Department provide information regarding the potential financial impact of returning the Arena and Golf funds to enterprise-fund status, including the effect on user fees and the existing debt service.

Councilor Kretovic provided clarification that the funds had been converted to Special Revenue Funds, rather than Special Reserve Funds, and explained the distinction between an Enterprise Fund and a Special Revenue Fund. Councilor Kretovic stated that the Golf Course had previously operated as an Enterprise Fund and, at the beginning of one season, owed the City approximately \$90,000 because operating revenues were insufficient to cover expenses. She explained that, under the Special Revenue Fund structure, revenues can be retained and used for authorized purposes, including setting aside funds for capital projects. Councilor Kretovic noted that Golf Course revenues have been used to offset capital costs that otherwise would have been borne by taxpayers and suggested that the distinctions between Enterprise and Special Revenue Funds, as well as operating losses and revenues, should be considered before requesting additional financial analysis.

Councilor Fennessy stated for clarification that the City cannot impose different property tax rates on different taxpayers and that the amount of taxes paid varies

based on the assessed value of the property.

Councilor Brown clarified that her comments regarding differing tax burdens were based on information published by the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute concerning the State's tax structure. Councilor Brown reiterated her request for an analysis of the financial implications of converting the special revenue funds back to enterprise funds, including how the existing approximately \$831,000 in Golf Course debt service would be addressed and whether user fees would need to increase. Councilor Brown referenced Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds and recent increases in those rates as an example of the potential effect of an enterprise-fund structure.

Councilor Schulz raised a point of order, stating that the discussion concerned the Arena Fund and questioning the relevance of the broader tax and fund-structure discussion to the item under consideration. She also noted that several of the issues raised had previously been discussed during the budget process and other Council deliberations.

Councilor Schultz moved the question. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kretovic and passed with one dissenting vote.

The motion to approve the report passed with no dissenting votes.

25. Full Measure & List Revaluation Project Update Report (CIP #639) from the Director of Assessing. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Councilor Fennessy moved to accept the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kretovic and passed with no dissenting votes.

31. Report from the Transportation Engineer, on behalf of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee, in response to a referral from City Council regarding communications from residents regarding the new Middle School Traffic Plan and Neighborhood Safety Concerns. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Schlosser and Councilor Keach.)

Action: Councilor Schlosser moved to accept the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz.

Councilor Schlosser summarized the history of the traffic review associated with the proposed middle school and emphasized that pedestrian and traffic safety

concerns had been raised consistently throughout the planning process. He noted that, beginning with the school's presentation to the Planning Board in January, the separation of parent drop-off and bus drop-off had been identified as an important safety objective. At the same time, residents had raised concerns about increased bus traffic on Cypress and Noyes Streets, particularly given the narrow streets, on-street parking, and lack of sidewalks and bicycle infrastructure.

Councilor Schlosser highlighted that these concerns had been considered by the Planning Board, Building Committee, Traffic Operations Committee, and TPAC at various stages of the review. The Building Committee's February traffic presentation identified sidewalks on Cypress and Noyes Streets as potential pedestrian-safety improvements, and concerns were again raised at the March neighborhood and abutter meeting. He noted that the proposed circulation plan presented in April would separate parent and bus traffic and reduce the volume of parent traffic in the neighborhood, but would also require buses to use portions of Noyes and Cypress Streets where there are limited pedestrian facilities and constrained roadway conditions.

Councilor Schlosser emphasized that multiple alternative traffic configurations had been evaluated, including options involving South Street, Conant Drive, and circulation around the athletic fields. After considering these alternatives, the Traffic Operations Committee concluded that the plan separating parent and bus traffic was preferable given the site constraints and the goal of minimizing conflicts and maximizing student safety. At the same time, the committee recognized the need for off-site improvements, particularly sidewalks on Cypress and Noyes Streets.

Councilor Schlosser noted that the updated traffic analysis similarly concluded that sidewalks were not necessary for safe and efficient school access but would significantly improve pedestrian comfort and walkability for students living in the neighborhood. He also addressed the feasibility of sidewalk construction, stating that a sidewalk on Cypress Street could largely be accommodated within the existing right-of-way, while Noyes Street presented greater challenges because of existing mature trees and other site conditions.

Councilor Schlosser emphasized that TPAC had carefully considered the extensive public testimony and prior committee work when it revisited the matter in July. He stated that TPAC's recommendation was to have the school district construct, or

make plans to construct, sidewalks and for the City Council or staff to discuss with the Concord School District whether the South Street entrance could be used in a manner similar to the current configuration, with appropriate safety measures, or whether an alternative could be developed that would avoid the use of Noyes and Cypress Streets.

Councilor Schlosser recommended that the Council accept TPAC's report and ask the Concord School District to reconsider whether buses could be accommodated without using Noyes and Cypress Streets. While acknowledging that the feasibility of such an alternative was uncertain, Councilor Schlosser stated that it was reasonable to ask the school district to consider the option again. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the extensive work of TPAC, the other City committees, residents, and staff, and specifically recognized Transportation Engineer Karen Hill for her substantial work in evaluating and synthesizing the traffic and pedestrian-safety issues.

Councilor Kretovic expressed concern about the school district's community engagement regarding the proposed traffic plan. She stated that affected residents should have been consulted before the plan advanced and referenced prior City discussions regarding sidewalks on Cypress and Noyes Streets and the goal of promoting safe, walkable routes to school. She questioned whether the proposed sidewalks would be funded by the school district or City taxpayers and whether the project's needs should take precedence over longstanding sidewalk requests near Penacook Elementary School. She supported asking the school district to reconsider its plan and explore alternatives that would avoid routing additional bus traffic through Cypress and Noyes Streets.

Councilor Todd supported continued engagement between the school district and affected residents. He also requested additional information regarding why the existing south drop-off area could not be modified to address safety concerns, potentially avoiding the need to separate bus and parent drop-off locations. He supported the motion as a means of encouraging further discussion. Councilor Kalob expressed support for the concerns raised by residents and other Councilors. She noted the importance of pedestrian safety and thanked Councilor Schlosser and affected residents for providing information and context regarding the proposed changes.

Councilor Fennessy stated that sidewalks could be reasonable if ultimately the

project results in increased traffic in the neighborhood. However, he expressed concern with recommending that the school district fund off-site improvements or reconsider its proposed access configuration. He said the school district should retain authority over the design of its project and that he was not comfortable directing changes to a plan developed after consideration of student, parent, and traffic-safety issues.

Councilor Schlosser clarified that the recommendation would request, rather than direct, that the school district reconsider its plan and that the district would retain authority over the final design. He disagreed with the characterization that the school district had failed to consider residents' concerns, noting that safety concerns had been identified and extensively considered. He stated that the district's rationale for separating parent and bus traffic was to improve student safety, while acknowledging the concerns associated with routing buses through neighborhood streets.

Councilor Fennessy reiterated that he viewed the TPAC recommendation as expressing concern with the school district's proposed approach. He stated that, because he had not participated in the school district's detailed evaluation of the safety and design considerations, he preferred to defer to the district regarding the project configuration.

The motion passed with one dissenting vote.

32. Report from the Public Safety Advisory Board requesting City Council accept this report and recommend that the City Council inform the Planning Board that the Council wishes to prioritize public safety as part of the City's Master Plan update and recommend that the Planning Board consult with the Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) as part of the planning and community-engagement process. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved approval of the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz.

Councilor Brown stated that public safety should be an integral component of the updated City Master Plan but questioned the recommendation to specifically include the Public Safety Board in the master planning process, noting that meetings are open to the public. Councilor Brown also raised concerns regarding the frequency and consistency of the Board's meetings.

Councilor Horne stated that City committees had been invited to participate in the

master planning process. Councilor Kurtz added that including the Public Safety Board would be consistent with the participation of other advisory boards.

Councilor Todd clarified that the Public Safety Board was not currently among the six committees participating in the process: Conservation Commission, Economic Development Advisory Committee, Energy Environment Committee, Heritage Commission, Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, and Transportation Policy Advisory Committee. Councilor Todd stated that the recommendation was intended to provide the Public Safety Board with an opportunity to contribute its expertise and perspective to the master planning process.

Councilor Kretovic emphasized the importance of incorporating police and fire service needs into the master plan, particularly in relation to anticipated growth, development, call volumes, and resource allocation. She stated that the Acting Police Chief and Fire Chief had requested that the Public Safety Board have a seat at the table during discussions concerning growth and development and indicated support for the motion.

Councilor Fennessy expressed support for including the Public Safety Board, citing the Board's role in discussions regarding development patterns and the long-term allocation of police and fire resources.

Councilor Brown requested clarification regarding which committees were participating in the master planning process and whether other committees were excluded.

Councilor Schlosser identified the six participating committees and stated that the Public Safety Board was requesting consideration for inclusion based on the importance of public safety to the community.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

33. Report from the DEIJB Committee in response to a City Council referral from Julia Freeman-Woolpert requesting review of current park permit fees for small community events and discussion of ways to improve access to public parks for local use. (Not previously distributed.) (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown and Councilor Kalob.)

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved approval of the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz.

Councilor Kalob stated that the report had been anticipated by several community members and commended the Committee for its work. Councilor Kalob noted that, although the report was brief, it demonstrated a need for the park fee waiver process to be more transparent and accessible. She stated that there did not appear to be an interest in eliminating park fees, but suggested that greater clarity and easily accessible information about the waiver process on the City's website would benefit all parties involved.

Councilor Brown agreed and stated that the Council should have access to information regarding who is receiving park fee waivers. Councilor Brown suggested that, even if such information remained confidential to the Council and was not disclosed publicly, providing the Council with this information would help members better understand their constituency.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Comments, Requests by Mayor, City Councilors

Action: Councilor Davie read communication he had received from a resident of the Pittman Building in Ward 4 regarding enforcement devices located in units at Concord Housing Authority properties. The resident stated that they had lived in the Pittman Building for seven years and that conditions had not always been the same. The resident expressed concern about what they described as constant pressure from housing authorities and stated that they felt a responsibility to advocate for fellow disabled residents who had been significantly affected by decisions involving housing and HUD without their rights being adequately considered.

On a more positive note, Councilor Davie noted that the first open house for the Master Plan would be held on Saturday and said he was looking forward to participating.

Councilor Schultz thanked Councilor Davie and congratulated the City Clerk's Office on another successful Primary Election Day. She noted that due to a change in state law future state primaries would be held in June. She also noted that Concord Ward 5 had been selected for a random audit by the Secretary of State's Office and, as she understood it, the results reflected well on the City Clerk's Office and the Ward 5 election officials. She offered her congratulations to all involved.

Councilor Kurtz wished a happy new year to Concord's Jewish residents celebrating the holiday. She added details regarding the Master Plan meeting, noting that it would be held on Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Governor's Hall at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 South Main Street. She also reminded residents that Concord's Multicultural Festival would be held on Sunday, September 20th, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Keach Park.

Councilor Kalob echoed Councilor Davie's comments regarding issues involving Concord Housing and redevelopment. She acknowledged the ongoing litigation and noted that the matter affects approximately 100 of her constituents who reside in the JFK Building. She encouraged Councilors, particularly those with public housing residents in their wards, as well as the Mayor and at-large Councilors, to reach out to residents and speak with them directly.

Councilor Kalob stated that she regularly encounters residents of the JFK Tower and Pittman Building and has had conversations with them about their concerns. She acknowledged that the City would need to await the outcome of the ongoing litigation but said that, based on her conversations with residents, she had observed significant concern and fear among some residents.

Councilor Kalob stated that she would provide a visual aid regarding the matter and noted that the materials were extensive. She clarified that Concord Housing and Redevelopment is not affiliated with the City of Concord, although the City Council approves appointments to its Board of Commissioners. She stated that the issue had occupied significant attention over the previous week and encouraged Councilors to speak with residents of public housing. She emphasized that many of these residents are elderly, permanently disabled, or both.

Councilor Schlosser announced that a resident meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m. at the West Street Ward House and stated that all residents were welcome to attend.

Councilor Sekou thanked Councilors for their comments regarding the election and upcoming community events, including the Multicultural Festival and the Master Plan process. He stated that he was pleased to be back in the United States after traveling in July and August to care for his mother. He described the experience as

difficult but meaningful and expressed his gratitude to the Council, members of the community, and others who reached out to him during his absence.

Councilor Sekou also expressed appreciation for the opportunity for his children to meet their grandparents for the first time. He described the experience as meaningful and memorable for his family. He thanked the community for its support, prayers, encouragement, and understanding during his absence and said he was grateful to return and continue serving the community.

Regarding the Master Plan, Councilor Sekou encouraged residents to participate in the process, emphasizing the importance of residents sharing their ideas and providing input.

Councilor Brown thanked Councilor Schultz for reporting on the Ward 5 election audit and said she looked forward to thanking the Ward 5 election officials who worked at the polls. Councilor Brown also discussed the Multicultural Festival and its economic impact on the community. She noted the festival's long history and continued growth and stated that, according to information provided by one of the organizers, approximately \$35,000 was spent on food from local restaurants, food trucks, and New American cooks; approximately \$5,000 was spent on local artists; and approximately \$10,000 was spent on local performers. She also noted that several thousand dollars were paid to the City for rentals and permits, that the festival did not receive a grant, and that additional spending benefited local vendors and businesses. She encouraged residents to attend the Multicultural Festival at Keach Park from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Councilor Foote noted that it had been 25 years since September 11, 2001, and reflected on the passage of time. He also recognized the Concord Fire Department and others who responded to a serious motor vehicle accident on Interstate 93 approximately four weeks earlier involving an East Concord resident whom he had known while growing up. He expressed his appreciation for the emergency responders' efforts.

Mayor Champlin noted that several Councilors had already mentioned items on his list, including the Multicultural Festival and the recent election. He emphasized the significant amount of work required by the City Clerk's Office to prepare for an election, including creating and verifying ballots, posting sample ballots for each

ward, training poll workers, and coordinating with ward moderators and clerks. Mayor Champlin expressed his appreciation and congratulations to the City Clerk's Office, City Clerk Janice Bonenfant, the Deputy City Clerk, City staff, and election workers. He noted that, because his name was not on the ballot, he had visited seven of the City's ten polling locations during the election. He said that the polling locations were operating smoothly and that poll workers were helpful and professional. He credited the City Clerk's Office and the poll workers for their preparation and training.

Mayor Champlin also reminded residents that the first public meeting for the Master Plan process would be held on Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 South Main Street. He described the meeting as an important opportunity for public input and encouraged residents to participate.

Mayor Champlin particularly encouraged families, young people, and young adults to participate, noting that decisions made through the Master Plan process could affect the community for decades to come. He stated that the Master Plan process would also include focus groups with various constituencies, meetings with City committees, and neighborhood meetings, providing additional opportunities for residents to offer input.

Mayor Champlin encouraged residents to visit the City's website and the Planning Board's Master Plan webpage for information about the process and opportunities to participate.

Comments, Requests by the City Manager

Adjournment

Action: Councilor Fennessy moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Todd and passed unanimously.

Information

Inf1 April 23, 2026 and May 28, 2026 Transportation Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf2 June 3, 2026 Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf3 June 4, 2026 Heritage Commission Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf4 June 10, 2026 Conservation Commission Trails Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf5 June 16, 2026 Traffic Operations Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf6 June 17, 2026 Planning Board Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf7 June 30, 2026 Architectural Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf8 July 27, 2026 Parking Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

A true copy, I attest:

Deborah Tuite

Deputy City Clerk