

City of Malden

Meeting Minutes - Final

City Council

Council President Ryan O'Malley Councillor at Large Karen Colon-Hayes Councillor Paul Condon Councillor Peg Crowe Councillor Amanda Linehan Councillor at Large Carey McDonald Councillor Jadeane Sica Councillor Chris Simonelli Councillor at Large Craig Spadafora Councillor Ari Taylor Councillor Stephen Winslow

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers 215 Pleasant Street Malden, MA 02148

Committee of the Whole

Watch the meeting with Teams: https://tinyurl.com/bdzrcnju

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President O'Malley called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF SERVICE MEMBERS

3. ROLL CALL

Councillor Spadafora was in attendance via video call so all votes taken this evening were done by roll call.

Also in attendance was the Honorable Mayor Gary Christenson, Maria Luise, Ron Hogan, Charles Ranaghan, Dan Grover, Alicia McNeil, Lisa Cagno.

 Present - Councillors:
 9 Karen Colon Hayes, Paul Condon, Peg Crowe, Amanda Linehan, Carey McDonald, Ryan O'Malley, Craig Spadafora, Ari Taylor and Stephen Winslow

Absent - Councillors: 2 - Jadeane Sica and Chris Simonelli

4. MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

236-25 Order: The Mayor will submit the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Appropriation Orders for the General Fund, Water Sewer Enterprise Fund, Community Preservation Fund, and Cable Access Fund.

Sponsors: Carey McDonald

<u>Attachments:</u> Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation Orders Budget Book

Mayor Christenson presented to the Council the FY26 city budget stating Malden's

revenues will no longer support the city's expenses. The current financial climate is something the administration has seen coming and has been working several years to avoid but now such issues as inflation, rise in health care costs, and inequity of the Chapter 70 funding formula has caused great strain on Malden's finances.

Mayor Christenson stated the administration is going to have to work together over the next several months to come up with a solution that will put Malden on track financially both for the short and in the long term. This begins with no new borrowing and no new hires. The proposed budget reflects the use of \$8mil in one time revenues to support the operating budget. This is unsustainable as it depletes reserves that are necessary in the event of a city emergency.

Finance Chair Carey McDonald acknowledged this tight budget cycle will mean finding ways to serve the city with less and in some cases, doing less things. This evening at their meeting, the Finance Committee discussed a preliminary schedule to analyze the budget and hold public hearings on the matter, which will begin on May 27.

A motion was made by Councillor Colon Hayes, seconded by Councillor Winslow, that the Order be referred to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 9 - Colon Hayes, Condon, Crowe, Linehan, McDonald, O'Malley, Spadafora, Taylor and Winslow

5. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Crowe, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote: Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Yea: 9 - Colon Hayes, Condon, Crowe, Linehan, McDonald, O'Malley, Spadafora, Taylor and Winslow

CAROL ANN DESIDERIO, CITY CLERK

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