

Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

Councilor Jeremy Dubs

Councilor Chris Stratton

Councilor Meg Robbins

Councilor Deborah Klemer

Present - all members

MEETING AGENDA

Date: February 24, 2026

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 212 Main Street

Northampton, MA

1. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

All members present

2. Announcement of Audio/Video Recording

This meeting is being audio/video recorded.

3. Public Comment

Maciborski

Wolf

4. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Vote for Chair

- Debbie Klemmer nominates Councilor Dubbs for Chair.
- Councilor Dubs gives his qualifications
- Council Vice President Klemmer gives endorsement
- Unanimous Vote for Councilor Dubs as Chair

Vote for Vice Chair

- Dubbs nominates Klemer
- Robbins nominates Stratton
- Klemer gives her qualifications
- Stratton give his qualifications
- Robbins speak on behalf of Stratton
- Dubbs speaks on behalf of Klemer

Member	Vote #1	Vote #2	Vote #3
Dubbs	K	K	S
Stratton	S	S	S
Klemer	K	K	K
Robbins	S	S	S

Councilor Stratton elected Vice Chair 3-1

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

A. Minutes of December 15, 2025 Special City Services Committee Meeting

Documents:

12-15-2025_City Services Committee.pdf

Stratton moved to approve, 2nd by Klemer

Unanimously passes minutes

6. Items Referred to Committee

A. 26.008 Appointment of Attorney Alan Seewald as City Solicitor

History:

- Referred to City Services - 1/15/2026

Documents:

26.008 Appointment of Attorney Alan Seewald as City Solicitor.pdf

Seewald gives testimony

Q&A from Councilors to Attorney Seewald

Motion by Robbins for neutral recommendation 2nd by Dubbs

In discussing the recommendation, Councilor Robbins and Councilor Stratton indicated that, while they would positively recommend the reappointment of Attorney Seewald as city solicitor as defined in the charter, they felt strongly about the need to explore the establishment of a separate city solicitor position for the City Council itself. Thus, their reluctance to make a positive recommendation did not reflect dissatisfaction with Attorney Seewald's performance but a belief in the importance of separate legal representation for the executive and legislative branches of government.

Member	Vote #1
Dubbs	Yes
Stratton	Yes

Klemer	Yes - with reservation. Is really positive. Voting to break stalemate
Robbins	Yes

7. Set Meeting Schedule and Format for 2026 - 2027

Documents:

City Services 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule.pdf

Stratton moves to approve proposed schedule with 4 pm, cancel early march meeting Hybrid meetings; 2nd Dubbs

Unanimously Approved

8. New Business

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Robbins; 2nd Klemner

Unanimous