

# City of Philadelphia

*City Council  
Chief Clerk's Office  
402 City Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19107*



## Meeting Minutes (Long)

**Thursday, February 19, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

**Room 400, City Hall**

**CITY COUNCIL**

## **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: 15 - Councilmembers Brooks, Driscoll, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Harrity, Jones, Lozada, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas, Ahmad, Landau, O'Rourke, Young and Council President Johnson

EXCUSED: 2 - Councilmembers Bass and O'Neill

## **INVOCATION**

Council met, a quorum being present.

RABBI SHAWN ZEVIT OF MISHKAN SHALOM SYNAGOGUE, was introduced and offered an appropriate prayer.

## **APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS MOVED TO APPROVE THE JOURNAL  
of Thursday, February 12, 2026.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

## **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Councilmembers Bass and O'Neill

THE REQUEST WAS GRANTED.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Sergeant-at-Arms presented messages from the Mayor as follows:

February 18, 2026

### **TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA:**

I am submitting herewith for the consideration of your Honorable Body the following proposed Ordinance:

#### **AN ORDINANCE**

*Authorizing, generally, the continued issuance and sale by the City of Philadelphia of Gas Works Revenue Notes of the City, prescribing the forms of*

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*notes and providing for their execution and payment, pledging certain revenues of the Gas Works as security, adopting a rate covenant and directing the imposition and collection of rates and charges sufficient to comply therewith, prescribing the conditions precedent to the issuance of specific series of notes, including a resolution passed by the Bond Committee providing for establishment of credit support for notes, providing for designation of a fiscal agent and sinking fund depository, providing for establishment of a sinking fund and its management, providing remedies upon default, and providing for amendments and modifications.*

I hereby recommend your favorable consideration of this proposed Ordinance.

Respectfully,  
Cherelle L. Parker  
Mayor (File No. 260108)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ AND FILED.

February 18, 2026

**TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA:**

I am submitting herewith for the consideration of your Honorable Body the following proposed Ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE**

*Authorizing the execution, delivery and performance by the Philadelphia Facilities Management Corporation on behalf of the Philadelphia Gas Works of an amended Service Agreement with Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC for gas storage services under the Transco WSS Open Access Rate Schedule.*

I hereby recommend your favorable consideration of this proposed Ordinance.

Respectfully,  
Cherelle L. Parker  
Mayor (File No. 260109)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ AND FILED.

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February 18, 2026

**TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA:**

I am transmitting for the consideration of your Honorable Body a draft of a Resolution entitled:

**RESOLUTION**

*Authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 3902, 3906 W. Girard Avenue, 3911-15 Cambridge Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.*

This Resolution has my approval and therefore I respectfully request that this Honorable Body give it your favorable consideration.

Respectfully,  
Cherelle L. Parker  
Mayor (File No. 260110)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ AND FILED.

February 18, 2026

**TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA:**

I am transmitting for the consideration of your Honorable Body a draft of a Resolution entitled:

**RESOLUTION**

*Authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 515-33 W. Cumberland Street, 2502, 2504, 2506, 2508, 2511-21, 2543-51 N. Fairhill Street, 2506-22, 2524, 2526, 2534-42 N. Reese Street located in the 7th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.*

This Resolution has my approval and therefore I respectfully request that this Honorable Body give it your favorable consideration.

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Respectfully,  
Cherelle L. Parker  
Mayor (File No. 260111)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ AND FILED.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson Introduced and Referred the following Bill for Council President Johnson, Sponsored by Councilmember Gilmore Richardson:

**Bill No. 260112:** An Ordinance Authorizing, generally, the continued issuance and sale by the City of Philadelphia of Gas Works Revenue Notes of the City, prescribing the forms of notes and providing for their execution and payment, pledging certain revenues of the Gas Works as security, adopting a rate covenant and directing the imposition and collection of rates and charges sufficient to comply therewith, prescribing the conditions precedent to the issuance of specific series of notes, including a resolution passed by the Bond Committee providing for establishment of credit support for notes, providing for designation of a fiscal agent and sinking fund depository, providing for establishment of a sinking fund and its management, providing remedies upon default, and providing for amendments and modifications.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson Introduced and Referred the following Bill for Council President Johnson, Sponsored by Councilmember Gilmore Richardson:

**Bill No. 260113:** An Ordinance Authorizing the execution, delivery and performance by the Philadelphia Facilities Management Corporation on behalf of the Philadelphia Gas Works of an amended Service Agreement with Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC for gas storage services under the Transco WSS Open Access Rate Schedule.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson Introduced and Referred the following Bill for Council President Johnson, Sponsored by Councilmember Gilmore Richardson:

**Bill No. 260114:** An Ordinance Authorizing and directing the changing of the name of NovaCare Way to Eagles Way.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES.

Councilmember Gauthier Introduced and Referred the following Bill, Sponsored by

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Councilmember Gauthier:

**Bill No. 260115:** An Ordinance Authorizing Mukeshkumar Patel, owner and operator of the newsstand at the northwest corner of 34th Street and Convention Avenue and Civic Center Boulevard to construct, use, and maintain conduits in, under, and across the northwest corner of 34th Street and Convention Avenue and Civic Center Boulevard for the purpose of supplying electrical service to said newsstand, under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES.

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Council President Johnson, Sponsored by Councilmembers Gilmore Richardson, Phillips, Gauthier, Thomas, Landau, Lozada, Young, Harrity and O'Rourke:

**Resolution No. 260116:** Resolution Recognizing and Celebrating The Philadelphia Heritage and Phila Montco Branches of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Councilmember Bass, Sponsored by Councilmember Gilmore Richardson:

**Resolution No. 260117:** Resolution Honoring the leadership and service of Reverend Tony Pritchette for his unwavering commitment to spiritual empowerment, community outreach, and restorative justice in the City of Philadelphia in recognition of Black History Month.

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Councilmember Bass, Sponsored by Gilmore Richardson, Council President Johnson, Phillips, Thomas, Landau, Lozada, Young, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke, Squilla and Ahmad:

**Resolution No. 260118:** Resolution Honoring Pastor Rob Harrison of New Journey Christian Center and celebrating the vital role of faith leaders in shaping, uplifting, and strengthening the Germantown community and the City of Philadelphia in recognition of Black History Month.

Councilmember Gauthier Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Gauthier:

**Resolution No. 260119:** Resolution Authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to

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dispose of 3902, 3906 W. Girard Avenue, 3911-15 Cambridge Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

Councilmember Landau Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Landau:

**Resolution No. 260120:** Resolution Honoring Ukrainian organizations in Philadelphia for their service to Ukrainian Americans, Ukrainian refugees, and the broader Philadelphia community.

Councilmember Landau Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Landau:

**Resolution No. 260121:** Resolution Honoring and congratulating Philadelphia Gay News on the distinguished occasion of its 50th anniversary in Philadelphia, serving as Philadelphia's longest-running LGBTQ+ publication, and serving as a vital independent voice that advances equality, visibility, and community.

Councilmember Landau Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Landau:

**Resolution No. 260122:** Resolution Calling on the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to expand investments into the evidence-based solution to address homelessness that is Permanent Supportive Housing, and condemning the significant negative impacts such cuts to funding will have on Philadelphia's residents, municipal services, and exacerbate our ongoing housing crisis.

Councilmember Lozada Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Lozada:

**Resolution No. 260123:** Resolution Authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 515-33 W. Cumberland Street, 2502, 2504, 2506, 2508, 2511-21, 2543-51 N. Fairhill Street, 2506-22, 2524, 2526, 2534-42 N. Reese Street located in the 7th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

Councilmember Brooks Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Brooks:

**Resolution No. 260124:** Resolution Celebrating and honoring Vashti DuBois, Val Gay, Facetta Garrison-Greene, and the Black women who are leaders of culture and

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arts in the City and devote their lives to improving the arts and culture of Philadelphia, on the occasion of Black History Month.

Councilmember Brooks Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Brooks:

**Resolution No. 260125:** Resolution Calling on Governor Josh Shapiro and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to enact adult-use cannabis legalization in 2026.

Councilmember O'Rourke Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember O'Rourke:

**Resolution No. 260126:** Resolution Recognizing the beginning of the Lenten season, a sacred period of reflection, prayer, fasting, and service observed by millions of Christians in Philadelphia and throughout the world.

Councilmember O'Rourke Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember O'Rourke:

**Resolution No. 260127:** Resolution Recognizing and honoring the life of trailblazing Civil Rights leader, dedicated public servant, and lifelong activist, Reverend Jesse Jackson.

Councilmember Ahmad Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Ahmad:

**Resolution No. 260128:** Resolution Recognizing Saturday, February 21, 2026, as International Mother Language Day to honor the brave souls who, on this day in 1952, sacrificed their lives to retain the right to use their mother language Bangla, also known as Bengali.

Councilmember Ahmad Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Ahmad:

**Resolution No. 260129:** Resolution Urging the U.S. Senate to oppose the SAVE Act and reject any additional barrier to voter registration.

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no reports from Committees today.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE CALENDAR

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

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There were no Bills on First Reading today.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mykola Kosyk Landau Introducing  
Iryna Mazur Landau Introducing  
Fernando Ramirez Landau Introducing  
Jeremy Blatstein 251070  
Marta Rubel ( Landau Introducing  
Marguerite Anglin Brooks Intro  
Charles Hall 250989-A  
Lynn Landes 260097  
David Alexander Jenkins 260097  
Susan Slawson Brooks Introduction  
Michelle Flamer CP Introduction  
Regina Vaughn CP Introduction  
Karen Williams CP Introduction  
Ashley Misceovich 251097  
John McAuley 260097  
Samantha Craven 250989-A  
Jacob Zychick 251097  
Stephanie Arbutina 251108 251098-A  
Penny Ellison 250989-A  
Jordana Greenwald 241056 241070  
Marie Marinakis 250989  
Leslie Wood 250989  
Steven Edwards 260099  
Caroline Lipinski 250989  
Robert Rudnitsky 251097  
Rachel Handis 250989  
Sharon Carter Bass Introduction  
Sharon Pritchette Bass Introduction  
Ogbonna Haggins 250768  
Cait Allen 251097

SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY FOR FULL COMMENT FROM STATED MEETING OF THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 19, 2026.

**Please note that this is an in-person meeting, and it is open to the public. This meeting may also be viewed on Xfinity Channel 64, Fios Channel 40 or <http://phlcouncil.com/watch-city-council/>**

**Public comment will be received in-person regarding those matters printed on the agenda on the following pages. Speakers interested in participating in public comment at this meeting may call 215-686-3406 by no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting and they must submit the following information:**

- **Full name (including proper pronunciation and spelling)**
- **Identify the bill number or resolution number that will be addressed**
- **State whether you support or oppose that particular bill or resolution**
  - **Telephone number where you can be reached**

**Speakers may also sign-up to participate in public comment on the day of the meeting in Room 400, City Hall. Speakers who submitted the above information within the required time frame will be added to the list. Speakers will have up to three minutes to speak; the Council President, however, reserves the right based on circumstances to establish a different time limit. The Council President may also limit testimony where repetitious comments are offered on an agenda item.**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS IN A COUNCIL SESSION**

**Note: Some items do not occur at every session:**

**Invocation.**

**Approval of the journal of the preceding meeting.**

**Requests by Councilmembers for permission to be absent from the session.**

**Reading of communications from the Mayor.**

**Introduction of bills and resolutions (to be referred to appropriate Committees of Council).**

**Reports from Committees of Council.**

**Special business.**

**Bills on first reading.**

**Public comment on bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars - titles are printed below.**

**Bills that Council passed but that need to be returned by the Mayor for reconsideration.**

**Consideration of bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars.**

**Bills and resolutions on the Suspension Calendar.**

**Speeches by Councilmembers.**

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE**

**Resolution No. 241070-A, as amended:** Resolution Proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to eliminate the requirement that City officers and employees resign from their City office or employment before becoming candidates for public office; and providing for the submission of the amendment of the electors of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS AMENDED.

Councilmember Gauthier called up:

**Resolution No. 251108, as amended:** Resolution Proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter providing for the creation of the Office of the Youth Ombudsperson; and providing for the submission of the proposed amendment to the electors of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Gauthier called up:

**Resolution No. 260097:** Resolution Expressing support for Jerome Richardson and our First Amendment rights in the face of political persecution against protestors by the Trump Administration.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Jones called up:

**Resolution No. 260099:** Resolution Renaming the 3000 Block of West Harper Street “Joyce Hill Way” to honor the life and legacy of Joyce Hill.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING AND FINAL  
PASSAGE**

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**Bill No. 250989-A, as amended:** An Ordinance Amending Title 10 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Regulation of Individual Conduct and Activity,” by adding a new Section to impose a temporary moratorium on the breeding and transfer of puppies, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS READ AND PASSED.

*The Ayes and Nays were as follows:*

*Ayes: 15 Councilmembers Brooks, Driscoll, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Harrity, Jones, Lozada, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas, Ahmad, Landau, O'Rourke, Young and Council President Johnson*

*Nays: 0*

**Bill No. 251097, as amended:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9-4400 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Responsible Business Operations,” to add illegal sales of tobacco products to minors and unlicensed tobacco retailing as nuisance behaviors, and require completion of a Department-approved Tobacco Retailer Education and Compliance Training as a condition of lifting a Cease Operations Order, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS READ AND PASSED.

*The Ayes and Nays were as follows:*

*Ayes: 15 Councilmembers Brooks, Driscoll, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Harrity, Jones, Lozada, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas, Ahmad, Landau, O'Rourke, Young and Council President Johnson*

*Nays: 0*

**Bill No. 251098:** An Ordinance Providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in a Resolution approved by Council proposing an amendment to The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating to the creation of the Office of the Youth Ombudsperson; and authorizing and directing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.

THE BILL WAS READ AND PASSED.

*The Ayes and Nays were as follows:*

*Ayes: 15 Councilmembers Brooks, Driscoll, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Harrity, Jones, Lozada, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas, Ahmad, Landau, O'Rourke, Young and Council President Johnson*

*Nays: 0*

## RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson called up:

**Resolution No. 260116:** Resolution Recognizing and Celebrating The Philadelphia Heritage and Phila Montco Branches of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson called up:

**Resolution No. 260117:** Resolution Honoring the leadership and service of Reverend Tony Pritchette for his unwavering commitment to spiritual empowerment, community outreach, and restorative justice in the City of Philadelphia in recognition of Black History Month.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson called up:

**Resolution No. 260118:** Resolution Honoring Pastor Rob Harrison of New Journey Christian Center and celebrating the vital role of faith leaders in shaping, uplifting, and strengthening the Germantown community and the City of Philadelphia in recognition of Black History Month.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Landau called up:

**Resolution No. 260120:** Resolution Honoring Ukrainian organizations in Philadelphia for their service to Ukrainian Americans, Ukrainian refugees, and the broader Philadelphia community.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Landau called up:

**Resolution No. 260121:** Resolution Honoring and congratulating Philadelphia Gay News on the distinguished occasion of its 50th anniversary in Philadelphia, serving as Philadelphia's longest-running LGBTQ+ publication, and serving as a vital independent voice that advances equality, visibility, and community.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

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Councilmember Brooks called up:

**Resolution No. 260124:** Resolution Celebrating and honoring Vashti DuBois, Val Gay, Facetta Garrison-Greene, and the Black women who are leaders of culture and arts in the City and devote their lives to improving the arts and culture of Philadelphia, on the occasion of Black History Month.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember O'Rourke called up:

**Resolution No. 260126:** Resolution Recognizing the beginning of the Lenten season, a sacred period of reflection, prayer, fasting, and service observed by millions of Christians in Philadelphia and throughout the world.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

**Resolution No. 260127:** Resolution Recognizing and honoring the life of trailblazing Civil Rights leader, dedicated public servant, and lifelong activist, Reverend Jesse Jackson.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY STANDING VOTE.

Councilmember Ahmad called up:

**Resolution No. 260128:** Resolution Recognizing Saturday, February 21, 2026, as International Mother Language Day to honor the brave souls who, on this day in 1952, sacrificed their lives to retain the right to use their mother language Bangla, also known as Bengali.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

## SPECIAL BUSINESS

There was no Special Business today.

## SPEECHES

Councilmember Brooks, Councilmember O'Rourke, Councilmember Gauthier, Councilmember Ahmad, Councilmember Harrity, Councilmember Young, Councilmember Phillips, and Councilmember Landau

SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY FROM STATED MEETING OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026.

## ADJOURNMENT

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COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS MOVED TO ADJOURN

until Thursday February 26, 2026.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.