

City of Philadelphia

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



Meeting Minutes (Long)

Thursday, February 26, 2026

10:00 AM

Room 400, City Hall

CITY COUNCIL

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 16 - Councilmembers Bass, Brooks, Driscoll, Gauthier, Harrity, Jones, Lozada, O'Neill, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas, Ahmad, Landau, O'Rourke, Young and Council President Johnson

ABSENT: 1 - Councilmember Gilmore Richardson

INVOCATION

Council met, a quorum being present.

REVEREND DR. VALERIE ANDREWS, PASTOR OF THE ETERNAL LIFE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, was introduced and offered an appropriate prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

COUNCILMEMBER BASS MOVED TO APPROVE THE JOURNAL
of Thursday February 19, 2026.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson

THE REQUEST WAS GRANTED.

COMMUNICATIONS

February 24, 2026

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

I am pleased to advise you that on February 24, 2026, I signed the following bills,
which were passed by Council at its session on February 12, 2026:

Bill No. 250988

Bill No. 251031

Respectfully,
Cherelle L. Parker
Mayor (File No. 260130)

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

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ AND FILED.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Phillips Introduced and Referred the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Phillips:

Bill No. 260131: An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Philadelphia to install, own, and maintain right-of-way encroachments on the 7600, 7700, and 7800 blocks of Ogontz Avenue, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

Councilmember Jones Introduced and Referred the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Jones:

Bill No. 260132: An Ordinance Regulating the direction of movement of traffic on Hermit Street between Manor Street and Manayunk Avenue.

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

Councilmember Young Introduced and Referred the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Young:

Bill No. 260133: An Ordinance Amending Section 14-303 of the Philadelphia Code entitled "Common Procedures and Requirements," by further clarifying exceptions to lapse of permits issued without construction documents, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES.

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

Bill No. 260134: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12-923 of the Philadelphia Code entitled "Smart Loading Zones" authorizing the Philadelphia Parking Authority to install smart loading zones in the area of Center City bounded by Spring Garden Street, Bainbridge Street, the Schuylkill River and the Delaware River, for the purpose of improving the appropriate use of loading zones and reducing traffic congestion, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

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

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

Resolution No. 260135: Resolution Honoring and recognizing Chief Inspector Nicholas Smith for his distinguished service, community-centered leadership, and unwavering commitment to public safety in the City of Philadelphia.

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

Resolution No. 260136: Resolution Also naming the 4700 Block of Wyalusing Avenue as “Philadelphia Masjid Way” in recognition of over 50 years of faith, service, leadership, and community excellence.

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

Resolution No. 260137: Resolution Congratulating the Audenried High School Girls Basketball Team on winning the 2026 Public League Championship against Imhotep High School, securing their fourth straight PPL championship.

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

Resolution No. 260138: Resolution Honoring and recognizing Philadelphia250 and the Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation, and their Philadelphia community partners for their work on the “Ring It On” citywide semiquincentennial initiative.

Councilmember Jones Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Council President Johnson, Sponsored by Councilmembers Jones, Phillips, Landau, Lozada, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke and Ahmad:

Resolution No. 260139: Resolution Calling on the PA General Assembly to take swift and decisive action to pass Pennsylvania Senate Bill 110, also known as Bryan’s Law, to amend the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act to extend line-of-duty death benefits to surviving spouses and children of first responders who die from job-related trauma, including PTSI-related suicide, ensuring equitable treatment for their families.

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

Resolution No. 260140: Resolution Recognizing February 28th, 2026, as HIV is Not a Crime Awareness Day in the City of Philadelphia.

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

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

Resolution No. 260141: Resolution Honoring and recognizing the U.S. Women's Hockey Team for winning the gold medal at the 2026 Winter Olympics and representing the United States with distinction, integrity, and excellence.

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

Resolution No. 260142: Resolution Recognizing and Celebrating March 2026 as Women's History Month in the City of Philadelphia and Championing the Power of Women Who Build Connections and Drive Prosperity for All

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

Resolution No. 260143: Resolution Recognizing and Honoring the Smedley Bulldog Blitz Cheerleaders as the First Philadelphia Public Elementary School to Compete at the UCA Nationals

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

Resolution No. 260144: Resolution Welcoming the 58th Mid-Atlantic Black Law Students Association Regional Convention to the City of Philadelphia

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

Resolution No. 260145: Resolution Recognizing March as "National Reading Month" and March 2nd as "Read Across America Day" in the City of Philadelphia, and further honoring the critical work of community organizations working to expand literacy skills of youth and adults across the City of Philadelphia.

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

Resolution No. 260146: Resolution Recognizing February 23 to February 27, 2026, as Public Schools Week and Celebrating the Essential Role of Public Schools, Educators, Students, and Families in Strengthening the City of Philadelphia

Councilmember Brooks Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Brooks:

Resolution No. 260147: Resolution Recognizing and celebrating Dr. Carol Simmons, Nyoca Carr, Estelle Vaughn, Pela McFee, Carolyn Booker, Winnie Harris, and the Black women who devote their lives to nourishing their neighbors and communities across Philadelphia, on the occasion of Black History Month.

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

Resolution No. 260148: Resolution Recognizing and honoring the Imhotep Charter High School boys' basketball team for winning its sixth consecutive Public League Championship and celebrating its historic achievement in Philadelphia high school basketball.

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

Resolution No. 260149: Resolution Honoring Pastor Clement M. Lupton, III for his outstanding leadership, faithful service, and transformative impact upon the spiritual and civic life of the City of Philadelphia in recognition of Black History Month.

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

Resolution No. 260150: Resolution Authorizing the Joint Committees on Public Health and Human Services and the Children and Youth to hold hearings to raise awareness regarding the role of gaming platforms and social platforms and their use in the grooming, recruitment, and exploitation of minors, including conduct that may lead to human trafficking.

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

Resolution No. 260151: Resolution Recognizing and honoring The Philadelphia Orchestra on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary, celebrating its founding in 1900 and its enduring role in establishing Philadelphia as a global center of culture, creativity, and artistic excellence.

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

Resolution No. 260152: Resolution Honoring Angelo Perryman and Perryman Building and Construction for seventy years of excellence, leadership, and lasting

impact on the City of Philadelphia.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no reports from Committees today.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CALENDAR

PUBLIC COMMENT

Estell Vaughn 260125
Lynn Landis 260129
Jeanne Lisitsky 260122
Katrina Delancey 260122
Evelyn Torres Landau Introducing
John McAuley 260129
Carolyn Booker Brooks Introducing
Zaahir Muhammed Gray Bass Introducing
Julia Cadwallender Young Introducing
Donna Bullock 260122
Jay Koftman Landau Introducing
Kimmel Proctor Young Introducing
Don Hannah Young Introducing
Dominique Young Introducing
Hannah Abrams Landau Introducing
Ana Parra 260122
Jinaki Bright Young Introducing
Faith Bedworth Landau Introducing
Katherine Upton Bass Introducing
Leon Hawes Bass Introducing
Victor Rodriguez Landau Introducing
Wick Savage Young Introducing
Rosko Scott Landau Introducing
Jayla Meeks Young Introducing
Mecca Vance Young Introducing
Stacey Trooskin Landau Introducing
David Alexander Jenkins 260172
Angela Crumby 260122
Judith Robinson 241070-A
Anne Dorn Young Introducing
Corinne Green Young Introducing
Ogbonna Hagins 250843
SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY FOR FULL COMMENT FROM STATED MEETING OF THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 26, 2026.

ABOUT PUBLIC COMMENT: City Council receives public comment on bills and resolutions that are printed on this agenda for the meeting. Speakers will have up to three minutes to speak; please prepare your comments to fit within that time limit. The Council President, may, depending on circumstances, establish a lower time limit. The Council President will announce the applicable time limit at the beginning of the public comment portion of the agenda. The Council President may also limit repetitious comments on the same agenda item or defer comments to the next meeting of Council.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Speakers for public comment can sign up in advance, submit comments electronically, or sign up to speak the day of the meeting.

To sign up in advance, speakers may call 215-686-3406 or email chiefclerk@phila.gov by no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting. Speakers who sign up in advance will be added to the list. Speakers must provide the following information:

- Full name (including proper pronunciation and spelling)
- The bill number or resolution number that will be addressed
 - Whether you support or oppose that particular bill or resolution
 - Telephone number where you can be reached
 - Street address

Speakers may also submit public comment electronically by email to chiefclerk@phila.gov no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting, preferably as a Word or a PDF attachment to the email. Electronic submissions become part of the written record of the proceedings but they are not read aloud in Council. To sign up the day of the meeting, come to Room 400,

City Hall and check in at the desk by the entrance.

**If you require an accommodation or service to fully participate,
please let the Chief Clerk's Office know when signing up for
Public Comment.**

***If you need an interpreter for these events, please call or email
the Chief Clerk's office for information about our language
services.**

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 ON FIRST READING

There were no Bills on First Reading today.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE

Councilmember Thomas called up:

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 ADOPTED.

Councilmember Gauthier called up:

Resolution No. 260119: 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.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Landau called up:

Resolution No. 260122: Resolution Calling on the United States Department of

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

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.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Lozada called up:

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.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Brooks called up:

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Ahmad called up:

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

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

Bill No. 241056, as amended: 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 to eliminate the requirement that City officers and employees resign from their City office or employment before becoming candidates for public office; and authorizing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.

THE BILL WAS READ AND PASSED.

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

The Ayes and Nays were as follows:

Absent: 1 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson

Ayes: 15 Councilmembers Bass, Brooks, Driscoll, Gauthier, Harrity, Jones, Lozada, O'Neill, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas, Ahmad, Landau, O'Rourke and Council President Johnson

Nays: 1 Councilmember Young

RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Phillips called up:

Resolution No. 260135: Resolution Honoring and recognizing Chief Inspector Nicholas Smith for his distinguished service, community-centered leadership, and unwavering commitment to public safety in the City of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Thomas called up:

Resolution No. 260137: Resolution Congratulating the Audenried High School Girls Basketball Team on winning the 2026 Public League Championship against Imhotep High School, securing their fourth straight PPL championship.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Thomas called up:

Resolution No. 260138: Resolution Honoring and recognizing Philadelphia250 and the Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation, and their Philadelphia community partners for their work on the “Ring It On” citywide semiquincentennial initiative.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Landau called up:

Resolution No. 260140: Resolution Recognizing February 28th, 2026, as HIV is Not a Crime Awareness Day in the City of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Landau called up:

Resolution No. 260141: Resolution Honoring and recognizing the U.S. Women’s Hockey Team for winning the gold medal at the 2026 Winter Olympics and representing the United States with distinction, integrity, and excellence.

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Lozada called up:

Resolution No. 260142: Resolution Recognizing and Celebrating March 2026 as Women’s History Month in the City of Philadelphia and Championing the Power of Women Who Build Connections and Drive Prosperity for All

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Lozada called up:

Resolution No. 260143: Resolution Recognizing and Honoring the Smedley Bulldog Blitz Cheerleaders as the First Philadelphia Public Elementary School to Compete at the UCA Nationals

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Young called up:

Resolution No. 260144: Resolution Welcoming the 58th Mid-Atlantic Black Law Students Association Regional Convention to the City of Philadelphia

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Young called up:

Resolution No. 260145: Resolution Recognizing March as “National Reading Month” and March 2nd as “Read Across America Day” in the City of Philadelphia, and further honoring the critical work of community organizations working to expand literacy skills of youth and adults across the City of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Young called up:

Resolution No. 260146: Resolution Recognizing February 23 to February 27, 2026, as Public Schools Week and Celebrating the Essential Role of Public Schools, Educators, Students, and Families in Strengthening the City of Philadelphia

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Brooks called up:

Resolution No. 260147: Resolution Recognizing and celebrating Dr. Carol Simmons,

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

Nyoca Carr, Estelle Vaughn, Pela McFee, Carolyn Booker, Winnie Harris, and the Black women who devote their lives to nourishing their neighbors and communities across Philadelphia, on the occasion of Black History Month.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Bass called up:

Resolution No. 260148: Resolution Recognizing and honoring the Imhotep Charter High School boys' basketball team for winning its sixth consecutive Public League Championship and celebrating its historic achievement in Philadelphia high school basketball.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Bass called up:

Resolution No. 260149: Resolution Honoring Pastor Clement M. Lupton, III for his outstanding leadership, faithful service, and transformative impact upon the spiritual and civic life of the City of Philadelphia in recognition of Black History Month.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Ahmad called up:

Resolution No. 260150: Resolution Authorizing the Joint Committees on Public Health and Human Services and the Children and Youth to hold hearings to raise awareness regarding the role of gaming platforms and social platforms and their use in the grooming, recruitment, and exploitation of minors, including conduct that may lead to human trafficking.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Ahmad called up:

Resolution No. 260151: Resolution Recognizing and honoring The Philadelphia Orchestra on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary, celebrating its founding in 1900 and its enduring role in establishing Philadelphia as a global center of culture, creativity, and artistic excellence.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Ahmad called up:

Resolution No. 260152: Resolution Honoring Angelo Perryman and Perryman

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

Building and Construction for seventy years of excellence, leadership, and lasting impact on the City of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

SPEECHES

Councilmember Brooks, Councilmember Ahmad, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Young, Councilmember Landau, Councilmember Young, and Councilmember Jones.

SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY FROM STATED MEETING OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMEMBER BASS MOVED TO ADJOURN

until Thursday March 5, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.