REGULAR MEETING OF THE PEABODY CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 23, 2025

PRESENT COUNCILLORS: TURCO, PEACH, GOULD, GAMACHE, HIGGINS, MANNING-MARTIN, WELTON, MCGINN, ROSSIGNOLL, MELVILLE, AND DAIGLE

ABSENT COUNCILLORS: None

An in-person and remotely held meeting of the Peabody City Council opened with a moment of silent prayer after being called to order by City Council President Julie K. Daigle.

Salute to the American Flag.

COUNCILLOR DAIGLE – OPEN MEETING LAW STATEMENT: THIS MEETING IS BEING TELEVISED LIVE ON CABLE CHANNEL 9 AND BEING TAPED BY PEABODY ACCESS TV, AND ALSO BEING RECORDED BY OUR CITY COUNCIL STENOGRAPHER.

P531-25 COUNCILLOR GOULD – MOVE TO receive and approve, under suspension of the rules, late communication Item 1 the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2025.
(Carried 11-0)

(MAYOR BETTENCOURT RECOGNIZED THE FOLLOWING LONG-STANDING PEABODY BUSINESSES: DINA THIBODEAU OF DANCE WITH DINA; NADINE DIGIULIO OF IDEAL TRANSPORTATION CO, INC.; DAVID AND CATHY GRAVEL OF GRAVOC; AND WILLIAM WOODS OF PATRICK J. WOODS INSURANCE AGENCY)

(MAYOR BETTENCOURT, MS. LESLIE COURTEMANCHE AND MR. DEREK MCCARTHY APPEARED TO SPEAK REGARDING ITEM 7-B)

P532-25 COUNCILLOR GOULD – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Item 7-B communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Various Appointments under date of October 16, 2025.
(Unanimous)

P533-25 COUNCILLOR GOULD – MOVE TO approve the appointment of Leslie Courtemanche, 210 Washington Street, Peabody, MA, as a member of the Conservation Commission (Alternate) for a One-year term to expire on 12/31/2026.
(Carried 11-0)

P534-25 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – MOVE TO approve the appointment of Derek McCarthy, 25 Joy Road, Peabody, MA, as a member of the Conservation Commission (Alternate) for a One-year term to expire on 12/31/2026.
(Carried 11-0)

P535-24 COUNCILLOR GAMACHE – MOVE TO approve the appointment of Sharon Cameron, 75 Lake Shore Road, Peabody, MA, as Human Services Director for a One-year term to expire on 9/30/2026.
(Carried 11-0)

HEARINGS

None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Legal Affairs Committee
October 23, 2025

P536-25 COUNCILLOR ROSSIGNOLL – Reporting for the Legal Affairs Committee – Legal Affairs met earlier this evening. In attendance were Councillors: Higgins, Melville, Peach, Turco, and myself as chair. All other councillors were present by the end of the meeting. We had one item on the agenda and that was a proposed code ordinance change for the City of Peabody regarding cryptocurrency. Also in attendance was District Attorney Paul Tucker, Police Chief Griffin, Sergeant Dave Bettencourt, Detective Matt Whelan, as well as the Mayor presenting the ordinance change. It was enlightening conversation, at the very least, regarding the scams that are going on with this cryptocurrency. The following motion was made. (Report received)

P537-25 COUNCILLOR ROSSIGNOLL – Reporting for the Legal Affairs Committee – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Item 7-A communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment-Crypto ATMs.
(Unanimous)

P538-25 COUNCILLOR ROSSIGNOLL – BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEABODY AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: That the Code of the City of Peabody adopted on April 11, 2024, and amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

By adding a new Section 20-7. Virtual Currency Kiosks as follows:

(1) Definitions.

(a) Virtual Currency: A digital representation of value used as medium of exchange, a unit of account, or a store of value, but does not have legal tender status as recognized by the United States Government, including but not limited to Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash, Dash, LiteCoin, Ripple, ZCash, Ethereum, and similar blockchain-based tokens.

(b) Virtual Currency Kiosk means any self-service kiosk, machine, or device installed in a publicly accessible location that enables users to buy, sell, exchange, or transfer Virtual Currency through the machine using cash, debit card, credit card, or other means of payment or other virtual currency.

(2) Virtual Currency Kiosks Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to host, allow, operate, permit, locate or place a Virtual Currency Kiosk within the City of Peabody. All Virtual Currency Kiosks existing within the City as of the Effective Date of this Ordinance must be removed within Seven (7) days after the Effective Date.

(3) Administration and Enforcement.

(a) This section shall be enforced by the police department.

(b) This section may be enforced through any lawful means, including but not limited to non-criminal disposition pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 21D. In the event of such disposition, and subject to the safeguards of § 21D, any business or individual that violates any provision of this article shall be subject to a fine of $300.00 for each violation.

(c) Each day that the violator continues to operate the virtual currency kiosk shall constitute a separate violation of this article.

(d) Fines are cumulative and each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one violation occurs, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.

(4) Severability.

Any provision of this ordinance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION TWO: All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION THREE: This ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.
(Carried 11-0)

P539-25 COUNCILLOR ROSSIGNOLL – Reporting for the Legal Affairs Committee – I just wanted to take this opportunity to again thank District Attorney Tucker; Police Chief Griffin, as well as Sergeant Bettencourt and Detective Whelan; and the Mayor for bringing this to us and for quick action. As District Attorney Tucker said, there's really a gap in timing. The State -- it's going to take a long time to act on this. Gloucester already has so we're, I believe, the third community now to move on this to protect seniors and fraud. (Report received)

Ad Hoc Committee on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
October 23, 2025

P540-25 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Ad Hoc Committee on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – The Ad Hoc Committee on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy met earlier this evening. Present for the committee were Councillors: Gould, Melville, and myself as chair. Also present were all other councillors. Joining the committee was the Director of Community Development and Planning, Mr. Bellavance. There were three items on the agenda. The first item was an update on Peabody's Green Community Program participation. Mr. Bellavance advised that they're making progress on spending the $271,000 designation grant that the City received some time ago, that 16 of 19 projects have been completed, and that the remaining three projects are to be -- hopefully -- completed by the end of this calendar year. They have $73,000 left of the initial designation grant. As a reminder, $271,000 was added to $195,000 in funds from the National Grid Program and $14,000 in City funds for a total of approximately $480,000 spent on these projects from those sources. Again there's $73,000 left to be spent from that original designation grant and that is significant because the City is not eligible for the competitive rounds of grant funding that happen in the spring and fall for the Green Communities Program until that initial money is spent. Mr. Bellavance indicated that they have been submitting, as required, the quarterly updates to the State and that they are in the process of submitting the annual report. He felt that they will be successful and is hopeful that they will be able to be in position to participate in the spring round of the competitive grants. He hopes that they will be looking at a smaller group of projects so that we can move these along faster. It was quite aggressive going after 19 projects initially and Mr. Bellavance indicated that there was some delays because of some procurement laws that needed to be followed, there was some changes in our staffing at the City in the Facilities Department, and some other challenges that dragged out the process longer than he would have liked that precluded us from finishing this up sooner and being eligible for again submitting applications in those competitive rounds.

The next item on the agenda was the Community Development comment on the possibility of pursuing Climate Leader Community Designation. The first criteria is to be a Green Community for one year in good standing and Mr. Bellavance indicated that when we complete our annual report, we will have satisfied that criteria. So that goes back to the first agenda item. He laid out what the other remaining steps are. There's six in total. The second is to establish and maintain a local committee to advise, coordinate, and/or lead clean energy and climate activities; the third is municipal decarbonization

commitment; the fourth is municipal decarbonization roadmap, which the Net Zero Roadmap that we have in the City may serve that purpose, although it may require an addendum; the fifth item was a zero-emission vehicle first policy; and the last item -- the sixth item -- is the adoption of a specialized stretch code. Mr. Bellavance didn't make a specific recommendation as to whether or not we should pursue this, but he did kind of suggest that moving along in this process would make sense to make a further determination once the details are understood and the impact on the community as to whether or not we want to go the distance and obtain the status of Climate Leader Community. Currently there are approximately 17 communities in the Commonwealth that have achieved this status, and once that status is achieved there are two additional sources of funding available to communities. The first is a decarbonization technical support grant that's up to $150,000 to hire vendors to produce recommendations and engineering designs for clean energy projects at municipal facilities. And then there's a second funding source. Climate Leader Communities are also eligible for decarbonization accelerator grants and that provides up to $1 million for projects that significantly reduce greenhouse gas from municipal operations. So again, pursuit of this or successfully achieving this designation would lead to eligibility for additional funding sources for the City and would help accelerate the progress in that regard.

The last item on the agenda was an update against progress on Peabody's Net Zero Roadmap. This is a report that's available on the City's website that was developed with work that happened actually going back a couple of years. The report breaks down progress areas into five categories: Buildings, Mobility, Energy, Natural Systems, and Other. Mr. Bellavance kind of quickly ran through some of the progress that has been made already thus far against the action items that are identified in this plan: Utilizing the Construction Review Committee to review energy efficiency and promote best practices; requesting that projects that come forward under 40B follow strict practices when it comes to building construction and energy efficiency. They're partnering with some outside groups, including the Ipswich River Watershed and the Essex County Greenbelt to further educate internal staff. The City's adopted a clean energy finance program called PACE, which stands for Process Assessed Clean Energy program. They are working on some additional community outreach and identification of some things that would be necessary to achieve net zero at any new municipal buildings. Obviously, this comes into play in a significant way for the consideration for the high school, should we decide to pursue that objective. Under Mobility, development of the pedestrian and bike plan, the City has received a $110,000 federal grant. Unfortunately, that's on hold at the moment so it's unclear as to whether or not we'll be able to utilize that in the long run. The initiative is to reduce the amount of miles traveled and focus on reducing the number of single-passenger car trips in the City. There was mention of the bike path that's included in the Central Street project that's currently underway. And again, under Mobility, there was a grant received and that resulted in the installation of six EV charging stations in the downtown parking lot. As part of that plan, the City's also purchased some vehicles with better gas mileage and uses a few electric vehicles. Public transportation: They're working with the MBTA on improving the bus stop location and those are some of the things that have been done. They're currently working on adopting a zero-emission municipal fleet policy and more citywide charging stations. Under Energy, they're working with Facilities to address outdated and poorly operating mechanical systems citywide. They're looking to obtain additional incentives with partners like National Grid where they can leverage some additional outside money to improve energy efficiency as was done in multiple projects related to the Green Communities Designation. They're working on a renewable energy purchase program, creating local net zero incentives, and they're looking to potentially add incentives to projects that come forward under special permits to entice developers to build net zero buildings. Under Natural Systems, provided some grant funding to the Newhall Fields operation at Tillie's to assist with their food program and education. As councillors all know, we've purchased a significant amount of open space over the years and supporting air pollution monitoring creating air quality pilot program. Looking at systems to develop better waste reduction methods on programs. And then under the fifth category, which is Other, the broad objective there is to at some point hire a sustainability coordinator to manage all of this and we have not reached that point as of yet. Madam President, that was the update from Mr. Bellavance on progress against Peabody's Net Zero Roadmap for the committee. There were no motions and this should be considered a report of progress on all fronts. (Report received)

Finance Committee
October 23, 2025

P541-25 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – The Finance Committee met earlier this evening. Present for the committee were Councillors: Gamache, Gould, Manning-Martin, and Turco. All other councillors were present. There was one item on the agenda: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Cyber Security Improvements Program grant application. That was presented to us by His Honor the Mayor. It's a $50,000 potential grant opportunity to apply to what was relayed to us as upgrades that will in total cost $135,000. A question from Councillor Turco was that there seemed to be a disconnect between the $51,120 in the application versus the $135,000 price tag that was included in the Mayor's cover letter. Mr. Paulitz, Director of Public Services, clarified that in total they anticipate the projects to cost $135,000 for cyber security improvements at the water treatment plants. For the purpose of simplifying the application and having it align with the monies available, the application they submitted was for a portion of the total program. So, with that, there was a follow-up question from Councillor Welton about where the balance of that money would come from, and the Mayor indicated that he would need to come back to the Council. So, this may be revisited at a future date. I assume if they're successful in receiving the $50,000 grant from the State, then the Mayor would then in turn pursue the balance from the Council. With that all as explanation, the following motion was made.
(Report received.)

P542-25 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE that the City Council of the City of Peabody at a meeting noticed and conducted in accordance with all applicable legal requirements duly votes to authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the applicant as its agent in filing applications for executing agreements regarding and performing any and all other actions necessary to secure for the applicant such as grants and/or loans for planning or construction of water pollution abatement projects or drinking water projects as may be made available to the applicant pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, Mass. General Law, Section 21, Section 27 through 33E, inclusive, as amended, and the Water Pollution Abatement Revolving Loan Program, Mass. General Law, Section 29C, for the following project: Peabody Water Treatment Cyber Security Upgrades.
(Carried 11-0)

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

P543-25 COUNCILLOR GOULD (Co-motion with Councillor Welton) – MOVE TO request that Peabody Municipal Light Plant and the Public Services Department install a streetlight on the existing pole between 35 Aberdeen Avenue and 37 Aberdeen Avenue.
(Unanimous)

P544-25 COUNCILLOR GAMACHE – MOVE TO request that Jennifer Davis, Dir., Parks, Recreation & Forestry Dept., explore expanding the parking lot at Lieutenant Ross Park.
(Unanimous)

P545-25 COUNCILLOR MANNING-MARTIN – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Item 8-A communication from Jennifer Davis, Dir., Parks, Recreation & Forestry Dept., regarding Response to Motion P496-25 (2 Sherwood Avenue).
(Unanimous)

P546-25 COUNCILLOR WELTON – MOVE TO receive and approve, under suspension of the rules, Item 7-D communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Special Event Application-YMCA of Metro North-November 22, 2025, subject to all papers being in order.
(Unanimous)

P547-25 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Item 7-C communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Transfer of Funds-CPC-Bikeway Independence Greenway Extension Project; $160,000 and refer to the Finance Committee.
(Unanimous)

P548-25 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, late communication Item 2 communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Transfer of Funds-Community Preservation Act Open Space $160,000 and refer to the Finance Committee.
(Unanimous)

P549-25 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – MOVE TO receive and approve, under suspension of the rules, Item 7-E communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Special Event Application-Trick or treating on Main Street-October 29, 2025, subject to all papers being in order.
(Unanimous)

P550-25 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Item 8-B communication from Pujal Shrestha, 119 Foster Street Rear, Building 2, regarding Special Permit Application and set up a public hearing.
(Unanimous)

P551-25 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Item 8-C communication from 288 Washington Street, LLC, 288 Washington Street, regarding Special Permit Application and set up a public hearing.
(Unanimous)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HIS HONOR THE MAYOR

Previously received.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND OTHERS

Previously received.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND REMONSTRANCES

Previously received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE PRECEDING MATTER

None.

MOVED: MOVE TO adjourn. Regular meeting of the Peabody City Council adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED TO HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, OCTOBER 29, 2025
RETURNED BY HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, OCTOBER 29, 2025

ATTEST: Allyson M. Danforth
(Allyson M. Danforth, City Clerk)

COMMUNICATIONS:
His Honor the Mayor re: Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Crypto ATMs
His Honor the Mayor re: Various Appointments

His Honor the Mayor re: Transfer of Funds – CPC – Bikeway Independence Greenway Extension Project; $160,000
His Honor the Mayor re: Special Event Application – YMCA of Metro North – November 22, 2025
His Honor the Mayor re: Special Event Application – Trick or treating on Main Street – October 29, 2025
Jennifer Davis, Dir., Parks, Recreation & Forestry, re: Response to Motion P496-25 (2 Sherwood Avenue)
Pujal Shrestha, 119 Foster Street Rear, Building 2, re: Special Permit Application
288 Washington Street, LLC, 288 Washington Street, re: Special Permit Application