



CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **City Hall, Council Chambers**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, May 27, 2026**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Carmichael led the pledge of allegiance.

4. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: Councilor Richer, Councilor Carmichael, Councilor Retrosi, Councilor Cullen, Councilor Robison, Councilor Granfield, Councilor Veitch, Deputy Mayor Williams, Mayor Shanahan

Also Present: City Manager Joyal, City Attorney Wyatt, City Clerk Vansylyvong-Bizier

5. PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilor Retrosi.

Vote: 9-0.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. PUBLIC FORUM

Taxpayers, Business owners, and Residents are invited to speak on any issue pertaining to the business of the City of Dover. Statements shall be limited to five minutes.

Aaron Williams, 51 Sixth St, spoke in favor of item 13.B.1.

Eric Lever, 43 Main St, spoke in favor of item 13.B.1.

Abe Mcguire, Crosby Rd, shared concerns about the use of drones to identify stormwater. Mr. Maguire acknowledged that the drones would not be used but is concerned for the privacy rights of himself as well as the residents of Dover.

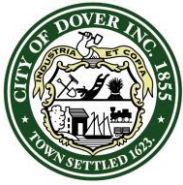
Linda Merullo, Sandy Ln, shared concerns about the use of drones to identify stormwater and shared the same concerns as Mr. Maguire. Ms. Merullo stated there should be better notification to residents for a project such as that.

Mary Hebbard, Spruce Ln, shared the same concerns as Ms. Merullo & Mr. Maguire.

Matthew Freeman, Whittier St, thanked Mayor Shanahan and Councilor Carmichael for their help with Dover Porch Fest. Mr. Freeman let the Council know that the event will take place on Sunday, June 14th from 1-5pm.

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Joyal gave an overview of the report that he submitted to the Council in writing. Mr. Joyal stated that the Public Library's opening date will need to be pushed back from June 5th as there is additional work to be done, the new opening date will be June 26th. The new Fire training facility has moved their opening date, and Mr. Joyal will let the Council know of that new date once it has been decided.



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The City Manager addressed the use of drones for the I&I project and explained that the vendor has been instructed not to use drones.

City Manager Joyal stated there the Community Trail, pending a grant, will be extended down past Dover Middle School and into the Bellamy park.

City Manager Joyal shared a brief update on the Willand Pond milfoil removal. The vendor has completed their certifications and they will be removing the milfoil starting this week.

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to accept the City Manager's report, seconded by Councilor Veitch.

Vote: 9-0.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 6, 2026 – Workshop Meeting

B. May 13, 2026 – Regular Meeting

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Retrosi.

Vote: 9-0.

11. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shanahan introduced Laurie Macintosh. Ms. Macintosh gave a brief PowerPoint Presentation to the Council educating them on Our Place NH – an organization that creates housing solutions for adults with intellectual and development disabilities.

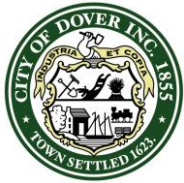
Mayor Shanahan went over the meetings and events he attended over the last few weeks.

Mayor Shanahan turned it over to Councilor Robison for him to share some words about Memorial Day. Councilor Robison shared a piece that he wrote about Memorial Day, and his late brother, Jay:

"Memorial Day is a time for reflection, gratitude, and remembering those who served and sacrificed for our country. For me, it's also a day to think about my brother Jay—a man I never truly knew, but whose legacy has shaped my life in more ways than I can count.

Jay was only twenty-one years old when he died, just beginning a new chapter as a Seaman in the Navy after serving two years in the Army. Our lives only briefly overlapped; he passed away shortly after my first birthday. Growing up, I heard stories about Jay from my siblings—stories that painted him as quick-witted with a wicked sense of humor, but also someone with a hidden soft side. He was selective with his friends, but fiercely loyal, always ready to move mountains for those he cared about. His sense of adventure was legendary. It's funny how often I'm told that I'm a lot like him, despite the different paths we've taken.

There's one memory that stands out, even though it's wrapped in mystery and silence. In our family room, there was a spot I was never allowed to go near—a small coffee table with seemingly random items and pictures. As a child, curiosity would get the best of me, but straying too close always meant a stern warning. My parents never explained why that spot was off-limits, but as I grew older, the reason slowly became clear. In my mid-teens, we finally talked about that coffee table and the treasures it held. There were photos of Jay as a child, pictures of his military service standing in front of a helicopter, and snapshots from a family trip to Kentucky



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to visit him during his Army days. Two photos captured his military funeral. Among these items were his naval uniform—a smart peacoat—and a tightly folded, slightly fading American flag.

What struck me most was what my parents told me:

"We live in a special place. A place where every person can make a difference. A place you can make decisions through voting. A place where you can volunteer and make things better through public service. A place you can defend by protecting all of us. Jay decided defending was his path. It wasn't a path we wanted, but we supported him. It crushed us when he died and we've never been the same since. The only thing that gives us comfort is his sacrifice ensures we can still vote and serve others. And we also see a lot of him in you though we don't know how the heck that happened. You're going to be an adult before long. How are you going to make a difference?"

That conversation was the last time we talked about that coffee table. When my parents passed, my older siblings chose to keep many of Jay's belongings, and I supported that decision completely—they had grown up with him and those items meant the world to them.

But the question my parents asked—*How are you going to make a difference?*—has lingered in my mind ever since. At eighteen, I tried to follow Jay's path and enlisted in the Navy, but was disqualified for physical reasons. I've voted in every election I could, and volunteered and donated to charities when possible. Yet, sometimes I've wondered if that was enough.

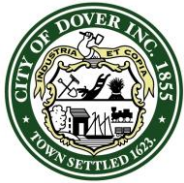
Last year, I decided to take a bigger step and run for public office. I carry Jay's example with me. I may never be able to give as much as Jay gave, but I promise to give everything I have.

While we are grateful for the recognition on this special day, my family and I don't need it to remember; I think about my brother Jay all the time. Instead, I would ask everyone to use this day not just to remember, but also to be inspired.

Many have felt a calling to defend this grand experiment called the United States. We may have different political parties, religions, last names, skin colors, or values. However, we have more in common than we have differences. It's worth defending, and my brother felt it was worth dying for. Let his sacrifice inspire you as it does me. Let it lead you to empathy for each other, a desire to make the world a better place, and a commitment to continue making our nation something virtuous for all."



Jay Robison



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12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES IN THE 2nd READING

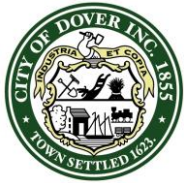
B. ORDINANCES IN THE 3RD READING

C. RESOLUTIONS

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO MERIT PLAN, CLASSIFICATION PLAN, AND PAY PLAN**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST
- 2. AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND DONATED FUNDS FROM THE COMMUNITY TRAIL CHALK ART FUNDRAISER**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST
- 3. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR MONITORING OF PUDDING HILL AQUIFER FOLLOWING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PUDDING HILL WATER TREATMENT PLANT**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST
- 4. AUTHORITY TO RELEASE HENRY LAW AVENUE WETLANDS PERMIT COMPENSATORY MITIGATION PAYMENT**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST
- 5. AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE REALITI360 SIMULATION SYSTEM FROM AMERICAN 3B SCIENTIFIC, LP**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST
- 6. B26013 DOWNTOWN PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICLE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CDGB - ADDITIONAL SOW FOR WALDRON COURT**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST
- 7. B26060 PENNY LANE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST
- 8. B26067 SAND AND GRAVEL**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST
- 9. B25037 RFP26-005 NPDES SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL (CMOM)**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST
- 10. B26014 INSTALLATION OF ROOF MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEM AS THE WWTP - INSTALLATION OF SUPPORT BEAMS**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST
- 11. AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE BOND COUNSEL SERVICES WITH DEVINE MILLIMET & BRANCH PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST



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Deputy Mayor Williams moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Councilor Carmichael.

Mayor Shanahan asked if any Councilors would like to pull any items. Councilor Cullen requested item 13.A.10. is pulled, Councilor Richer requested item 13.A.1., Councilor Carmichael requested item 13.A.5., and Councilor Veitch requested item 13.A.9.

Roll Call Vote on remaining items: 9-0.

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to approve item 13.A.1., seconded by Councilor Richer. City Manager Joyal explained that the merit plan applies to non-union employees and that this resolution is fixing the language to reflect what is actually occurring. Councilor Richer inquired about maternity/paternity leave, and if this was a benefit offered. City Manager Joyal explained that it is offered to employees, and would send more information to the Council.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0.

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to approve item 13.A.5., seconded by Councilor Robison. City Manager Joyal invited Fire & Rescue Chief Driscoll to the podium to give an overview of the resolution and the product being purchased.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0.

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to approve item 13.A.9., seconded by Councilor Robison. City Manager Joyal explain parts of the plan to the Council and gave an overview of the plan.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0.

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to approve item 13.A.10., seconded by Councilor Richer. City Manager Joyal gave an overview of the resolution to the Council.

Roll Call Vote: 8-1, with Councilor Cullen opposed.

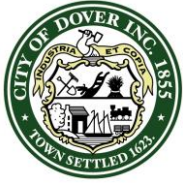
COMMITTEE REPORTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Arts Commission (Robison) | 13. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Richer) |
| 2. Conservation Commission (Williams) | 14. Transportation Advisory Commission (Cullen) |
| 3. Library Board of Trustees (Richer) | 15. Heritage Commission (Retrosi) |
| 4. Appointments Committee (Williams) | 16. Board of Health (Veitch) |
| 5. Planning Board (Robison) | 17. Downtown TIF Advisory Board (Robison) |
| 6. School Board Liaison (Carmichael) | 18. Cochecho Waterfront Development Advisory Committee (Shanahan) |
| 7. Recreation Advisory (Retrosi) | 19. COAST (Shanahan) |
| 8. Energy Commission (Veitch) | 20. Waterfront TIF Advisory Board (Cullen) |
| 9. Parking Commission (Cullen) | 21. Dover Main Street |
| 10. Legislative Liaison (Shanahan) | 22. Strafford Regional Planning Commission (Williams) |
| 11. Committee for Racial Equity and Inclusion (Carmichael) | 23. Government Affairs (Shanahan) |
| 12. Ordinance Committee (Shanahan) | 24. Joint Building Committee – Athletic Complex (Cullen) |
| | 25. Cemetery Board (Veitch) |
| | 26. Dover Utilities Commission (Carmichael) |

Councilor Robison gave an overview of the last Planning Board meeting.

Mayor Shanahan gave an overview of the Legislative Liaison report.

Councilor Cullen gave an overview of the most recent Transportation Advisory Commission meeting.



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B. RESOLUTIONS

- 1. B26013 DOWNTOWN PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICLE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CDBG - ADDITION OF FIRST AND SECOND STREET CROSSWALK REPAIRS**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Carmichael.

City Manager Joyal gave an overview of the resolution to the Council.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0.

- 2. B26066 AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE TWO (2) SIX WHEEL DUMP TRUCKS FROM ADVANTAGE TRUCK GROUP**
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Robison.

City Manager Joyal gave an overview of the resolution to the Council.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0.

- 3. FY2026 GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TRANSFERS TO CERTAIN SPECIAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS TO ADDRESS FUND DEFICITS (THIS RESOLUTION REQUIRES A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE)**
(TO BE REFERRED TO A PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE TO OCCUR ON JUNE 10, 2026)
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to refer the resolution to a public hearing, seconded by Councilor Carmichael.

Vote: 9-0.

- 4. AUTHORIZATION OF ANNUAL APPRAISAL OF REAL ESTATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 (TAX YEAR 2026)**
(TO BE REFERRED TO TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS ON JULY 8, 2026 AND JULY 22, 2026 WITH A VOTE TO OCCUR ON AUGUST 22, 2026)
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST

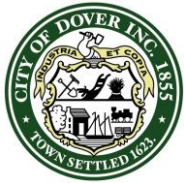
Deputy Mayor Williams moved to refer the resolution to a public hearing, seconded by Councilor Carmichael.

Vote: 9-0.

- 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR BONDING AND FY2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS APPROPRIATION FOR WATERFRONT TIF DEVELOPMENT SITE IMPROVEMENTS – VALIDATING, RATIFYING AND ADOPTING RESOLUTION R-2023.03.29-051 (THIS RESOLUTION REQUIRES A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE)**
(TO BE REFERRED TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 3, 2026 WITH A VOTE TO OCCUR ON JUNE 10, 2026)
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to refer the resolution to a public hearing, seconded by Councilor Richer.

City Manager Joyal explained that this resolution is being revisited so as to ensure the public hearing is noticed properly, the public hearing did not make it into the newspaper



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when the resolution was initially referred in 2023.

Vote: 9-0.

- 6. AUTHORIZATION FOR BONDING AND FY2027 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
APPROPRIATION FOR DOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL HVAC UPGRADE IMPROVEMENTS
(THIS RESOLUTION REQUIRES A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE)
(TO BE REFERRED TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 10, 2026 WITH A VOTE TO
OCCUR ON JULY 8, 2026)
SPONSORED BY MAYOR SHANAHAN BY REQUEST**

Deputy Mayor Williams moved to refer the resolution to a public hearing, seconded by Councilor Richer.

Vote: 9-0.

C. ORDINANCES IN 1ST READING

14. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

Councilor Carmichael moved to place a letter on file from Ms. & Mr. Blanchard regarding their opposition to the Dollar Tree that will be occupying 679 Central Ave, seconded by Mayor Shanahan.

Vote: 9-0.

15. COUNCIL MATTERS OF INTEREST

Councilor Robison noted that the Nottingham Planning Board was going to review an initial proposal for a data center, but after increased public attention, they moved the meeting to a larger venue. Councilor Robison was pleased to see that Dover residents participated in the petition and had planned to attend the meeting, but it was reported that the applicant withdrew. Councilor Robison commended those who made their voices heard.

Councilor Cullen commented on the housing market in Dover and discussed the Council's efforts to increase attainable and affordable housing and the extent to which those efforts have been successful.

Councilor Richer commented on the amount of emails and communications the Council gets, and appreciates the input from citizens and residents.

Councilor Robison echoed the same sentiment, and has been pleasantly surprised with the amount of feedback they receive from citizens and residents.

Mayor Shanahan stated he will be hosting his Mayor's hours the following day from 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

16. ADJOURN

Councilor Carmichael moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Veitch.

Vote: 9-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.