City of Somerville, Massachusetts Matters of Business of the City Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2020, 7:00 PM Meeting by Remote Participation *************

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the City Council's minutes. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the data provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

OPENING CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Stephanie Hirsch	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Wilfred N. Mbah	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	City Councilor At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One City Councilor	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two City Councilor	Present	
Ben Ewen-Campen	Ward Three City Councilor	Present	
Jesse Clingan	Ward Four City Councilor	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five City Councilor	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six City Councilor	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven City Councilor	Present	

1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.

(ID:22824)	RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
(ID:22824)	RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE

2.	Remembrances 209928 (ID:22825)	Remembrances. Councilor Niedergang sponsored a moment of silence for Catherine D'Andrea. Councilor Clingan sponsored a moment of silence for Deanna Cremin, who was senselessly murdered 25 years ago and would today be celebrating her 42 nd birthday. RESULT: APPROVED
3.	Minutes 209929 (ID:22826)	Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 25, 2020. RESULT:APPROVED

CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

4. Resolution By City Councilor Mbah

209930 That this Council urges Governor Baker to enact a single-payer health (ID:22804) insurance system during this pandemic to reduce the bureaucracy for Covid-19 testing and treatment, and to make such testing and treatment free to those without health insurance.

> Councilor Mbah expressed the need for single-payer health insurance due to the rapid spread of the Coronavirus. Councilor Niedergang agreed in principal, but said that changing the insurance system during a crisis is not a good idea.

RESULT:	APPROVED
FOLLOWUP:	Public Health and Public Safety Committee

Resolution 209931 By City Councilor Mbah That, in the event of a shelter in place order, this Council urges Governor Baker to activate all means necessary to support residents, such as no rent payments, no evictions, no tickets, and no loan repayments, until the order is lifted.

Councilor Mbah said this item is self-explanatory. Councilor Niedergang said he does not support it because the public should continue to pay rent if they can. There are many residents who are not unemployed, and have good income. Councilor Ballantyne concurred with Councilor Niedergang, saying appropriate actions have already been taken by the Governor. Councilor Hirsch expressed gratitude for the Governor's actions to support residents during this time.

RESULT:	LAID ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP:	City Council

Resolution 209932 (ID:22806)
 By City Councilor Mbah, White Jr. That thIs Council urges the President of the United States to invoke the Defense Production Act with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 Councilor Mbah expressed the need for medical supplies, such as masks. Councilor White agreed that the President should invoke the Defense Production Act, which was passed to insure the United States could access adequate supplies in an emergency.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.	 Resolution 209933 (ID:22807) By City Councilor Mbah That the Mayor mandate that grocery stores allocate special how and vulnerable populations during this pandemic and implement distancing guidelines. 	
		Councilor Mbah noted some grocery stores are already implementing special shopping hours for seniors, and urged all grocery stores to allocate special hours for seniors and vulnerable populations during this pandemic. Councilor Scott and Councilor Rossetti reported this has already been enacted by the Governor. RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
8.	Resolution 209934 (ID:22808)	By City Councilor Mbah That the Administration update this Council on the City's disaster preparedness assessment for emergencies during this pandemic and how this reduces our first responders' workforce.
		Councilor Mbah urged the protection of the workforce during this pandemic.RESULT:APPROVEDFOLLOWUP:Public Health and Public Safety Committee
9.	Resolution 209935 (ID:22809)	By City Councilor Mbah That this Council supports Senator Ron Wyden's bill to delay Real ID for a year due to the coronavirus outbreak.
		Councilor Mbah noted the bipartisan bill passed, postponing for a year the requirement to have a Real ID in order to travel. RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
10.	Resolution 209936 (ID:22810)	By City Councilor Mbah, Ewen-Campen, Clingan That this Council calls on landlords and real estate agents to avoid showing occupied units to avoid the spread of coronavirus.
		Councilor Mbah said he would like residents to stay home and practice social distancing. Councilor Ewen-Campen noted several reports that landlords are insisting on performing appraisals and showings, and agreed that this behavior should be prohibited. RESULT: APPROVED FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee
		FOLLOWOF: Fubic Health and Fubic Safety Committee
11.	Resolution 209937 (ID:22811)	By City Councilor Mbah That the Administration provide financial relief to small businesses as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
		Councilor Mbah noted he would like to add non-profit organizations to thelist, saying many have been impacted by the pandemic. RESULT:APPROVEDFOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

12. Resolution 209938 (ID:22812)		By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Davis, Niedergang, McLaughlin, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr., Rossetti That this Council calls on the State and Federal government to enact a coronavirus relief response that is equitable in its approach to housing, work, financial assistance, voting rights, and incarcerated people.
		Councilor Ewen-Campen has received many calls from residents and small businesses who need financial assistance, and urged the State and Federal government to enact a Coronavirus relief response that is equitable in its approach to housing, work, financial assistance, businesses, voting rights, and incarcerated people. RESULT: APPROVED
13.	Resolution 209939 (ID:22813)	By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr. That the Administration create a task force to begin mid- to long-term logistical planning for a possible reduced workforce, in case this State of Emergency continues for an extended period.
		Councilor Ewen-Campen said he is working with the Administration to create an infrastructure to keep the economy growing. The task force infrastructure will consist of cleaning schedules, quarantine areas, shelters and local Coronavirus testing. He discussed how everyone is using the internet to access services and few residents do not have internet access. RESULT: APPROVED FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee
14.	Resolution 209940 (ID:22814)	By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott That this Council collaborate with the Administration to create a one-page coronavirus information sheet that can be physically delivered to every resident and small business owner, containing public health information, emergency resources, and instructions on where to get more information. Councilor Ewen-Campen said a COVID-19 information sheet could answer general questions during this outbreak. RESULT: APPROVED FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee
15.	Resolution 209941 (ID:22815)	By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne, Clingan, Scott That the Administration coordinate with local charitable organizations to create a centralized fund to provide direct support to front line workers, residents, and local businesses most in need.
		Councilor Ewen-Campen noted this was submitted on behalf of constituents, to support to front line workers, residents, and local businesses most in need.RESULT:APPROVEDFOLLOWUP:Public Health and Public Safety Committee

16. Order By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Niedergang, Scott, Mbah, Davis, Ballantyne 209942 That the Director SPCD consider temporarily "pedestrianizing" several streets (ID:22816) across the City to allow people out for daily walks to more effectively maintain safe physical distances. Councilor Ewen-Campen requested to waive the readings of items 16 and 17 and approve them. There being no opposition, the motion was approved. **RESULT: APPROVED** 17. Resolution By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott, Davis, Mbah, Clingan 209943 That the Administration work directly with private landlords to cease all activities that require landlords, inspectors, or assessors to enter apartments for (ID:22817) the duration of the crisis, to cease any threat of eviction or utility shut offs, and to freeze rent payments. **RESULT: APPROVED** 18. Order By City Councilor Niedergang, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Rossetti, Ballantyne, 209944 Davis, Hirsch, White Jr., Clingan (ID:22818) That the Director of SPCD, the Commissioner of Public Works, and the Director of Parks and Recreation consider turning some or all Neighborways into modified pedestrian-only areas (allowing cars only for residents and their essential visitors), to relieve the current congestion on the Community Path and some sidewalks.

Councilor Niedergang noted this was discussed at the Public Health and Safety Committee meeting with the Mayor, and the Administration is reviewing it.

RESULT:APPROVEDFOLLOWUP:Public Health and Public Safety Committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

 19. Resolution 209284 (ID:22154)
 By City Councilor Scott Supporting House Resolution 702, The People's Justice Guarantee.
 RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE FOLLOWUP: City Council

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

20. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A.	Committee	Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on March 25, 2020.
	Report 209945 (ID:22803)	Councilor Scott noted the Committee discussed many routine matters, and accepted a variety of grants. The Committee considered an equipment request of the Fields Department, for lawn mowers, turf cutting tools, and trucks, but due to the financial impact of the Coronavirus outbreak they decided to hold off for now. The Committee is reviewing a number of FY21 program improvement requests submitted by city departments, but the Coronavirus pandemic is reducing projected revenues. Finance Director Ed Bean reported that the City can make it thru FY20 without any debt or layoffs, but there will be less revenue in FY21. The Administration has already announced 0% salary increases for non-union employees, and it will be difficult to maintain a level services budget. The City is waiting for the Governor to make regulatory changes to allow the amortization of emergency spending over multiple years. Finally, Councilor Scott noted that the pandemic is causing the Committee to reassess the process of creating a people's budget. RESULT: APPROVED
B.	Mayor's Request 209829 (ID:22575)	Requesting the transfer of \$60,000 within the Inspectional Services Department, from its Salaries Account to its Professional and Technical Services Account, to continue using contract health inspectors for required food service inspections.
		RESULT: APPROVED
C.	Mayor's Request	Requesting acceptance of a \$250,000 annual payment from Wynn MA LLC in accordance with its Surrounding Community Agreement.
	209831 (ID:22721)	RESULT: APPROVED
D.	Mayor's Request 209832 (ID:22647)	Requesting acceptance of a \$208,734 grant that requires a match, from MA DOT to SPCD's Mobility Division to expand the Blue Bike program.
		RESULT: APPROVED
E.	Mayor's Request 209833 (ID:22645)	Requesting acceptance of a \$59,151.53 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for the purchase of a security camera system to enhance physical security at Police Headquarters.
		RESULT: APPROVED

F. Mayor's Request 209834 (ID:22400)	Request 209834	Requesting approval to create the 259 McGrath Highway Stabilization Fund and accept a payment to the Fund of \$3,500 from Divine Signs for tree replacement and signage.		
	(ID:22400)	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne	
G.	Mayor's Request 209835		val to create the 378 Highland Ave Stabilization Fund and to the Fund of \$3,000 from C. Poutahidis for the parklet.	
	(ID:22401)	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne	
H. Mayor's Request 209836 (ID:22719)		Fund and accept a	val to create the Small Business Assistance Stabilization a payment to the Fund of \$150,000 from Wynn MA LLC to s so local businesses can take advantage of the opportunities ncore Casino.	
		RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne	
I. Mayor's Request 209837 (ID:22720)		Safety Stabilizatio	val to create the Water Transportation/Riverway Public on Fund and accept a payment to the Fund of \$150,000 from for the purpose of funding improvements to facilitate water	
		RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne	
F 2	Mayor's Request 209918	1 0	sfer of \$155,000 from the Public Schools Ordinary ount to the city's Information Technology Ordinary ount.	
	(ID:22766)	RESULT:	APPROVED	

	21.	PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
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 A. Committee Report 209946 (ID:22802)
 Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on March 24, 2020.
 Councilor Davis noted that all members attended the city's first virtual meeting, along with the Mayor and members of the Administration. They discussed the COVID-19 response with staff from the Cambridge Health

Alliance. The minutes for this meeting are very detailed and the recording is online. Two epidemiologists said that in 2-3 weeks there will be a peak in cases and it will take several weeks before there is a decrease. Individuals who are exposed to the virus show symptoms within 5 to 14 days, and can spread it to others before showing symptoms. They expressed the need for everyone to practice social distancing and staying home to prevent spreading the virus. A drive-thru testing station has been installed at the Somerville Hospital and on Tuesday they performed over 450 tests. Test results can take several days. They are following the guidance of the World Health Organization. The City currently has a good stockpile of protective equipment but needs other medical equipment, and could use face masks and face shields made by the public. A website in the meeting minutes shows how to make a face mask or shield. Cambridge Health Alliance staff also discussed their plans to close the emergency room and convert the hospital to an urgent care facility, opening on April 30, 2020. **RESULT: APPROVED**

 B. Communication By City Councilor Davis 209635 Conveying a request from the Cambridge Health Alliance to appe (ID:22499) Committee on Public Health and Public Safety to discuss the Heal Somerville Initiatives and the conversion of the Somerville Hospir emergency room to urgent care. 		est from the Cambridge Health Alliance to appear before the blic Health and Public Safety to discuss the Healthy ives and the conversion of the Somerville Hospital's	
		RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
C. Resolution 209807 (ID:22736)	209807		r Mbah cration mandate that all public gathering places, including hand sanitizers available at entrances to limit the spread of
		RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
D.	Communication	By City Councilor	r Hirsch

	(ID:22773)	RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED	
	209921	Submitting a cor	npilation of residents' questions regarding coronavirus.	
D.	Communication	n By City Councilor Hirsch		

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

Requesting acceptance of a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from 22. Mayor's Request the MA Dept of Health to the Health and Human Services Department for 209947 COVID-19 public health emergency responses. (ID:22779) Councilor Rossetti requested a report from the Health and Human Services Department of how the money is being spent. **RESULT: APPROVED**

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

NEW BUSINESS

23.	License/Permit 209948 (ID:22784)	Renewing Drainlayer's License, Barletta Heavy Division.		
			requested to waive the readings of items 23 to 47 and here being no opposition, the motion was approved. APPROVED	
24.	License/Permit 209949 (ID:22790)	Renewing Drainlay	ver's License, Suffolk Engineering.	
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
25.	License/Permit 209950 (ID:22791)	Renewing Drainlayer's License, CM Conway Construction.		
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
26.	License/Permit 209951 (ID:22792)	Renewing Drainlay	ver's License, GLX Constructors.	
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
27.	License/Permit 209952 (ID:22819)	Renewing Drainlay	ver's License, EB Rotondi and Sons.	
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
28.	License/Permit 209953 (ID:22820)	Renewing Drainlay	ver's License, McGue Excavating.	
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
29.	License/Permit 209954 (ID:22822)	Renewing Drainlay	ver's License, Galway Excavation.	
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
30.	License/Permit 209955 (ID:22786)	Renewing Flamma	bles License, Dewire Family Trust, 387 Washington St.	
		RESULT:	APPROVED	

21		
31.	209956	Renewing Flammables License, BBS Services, 45 Broadway.
	(ID:22785)	RESULT: APPROVED
32.		Renewing Flammables License, DW Propco JK LLC, 0 Dawes Street.
	209957 (ID:22821)	RESULT: APPROVED
	(ID.22021)	
33.	License/Permit	Renewing Garage License, Broadway Brake, 45 Broadway.
	209958	RESULT: APPROVED
	(ID:22781)	
34.	License/Permit	Renewing Garage License, Drain Doctor, 612 Broadway.
	209959	RESULT: APPROVED
	(ID:22782)	
35.	License/Permit	Renewing Garage License, DW Propco JK LLC, 0 Dawes Street.
	209960	RESULT: APPROVED
	(ID:22783)	RESULT. ATTROVED
36.	License/Permit	Renewing Garage License, Dewire Family Trust, 387 Washington St.
	209961	RESULT: APPROVED
	(ID:22795)	KESULI. AIIKOVED
37.	License/Permit	Renewing Garage License, Dewire Family Trust, 381 Washington St.
57.	209962	RESULT: APPROVED
	(ID:22796)	KESULI: APPROVED
38.	License/Permit	Renewing Garage License, Dewire Family Trust, 141 Beacon St.
50.	209963	
	(ID:22797)	RESULT: APPROVED
39.	Liconso/Pormit	Renewing Garage License, Dino's Auto Center, 308 McGrath.
39.	209964	
	(ID:22798)	RESULT: APPROVED
10		
40.	209965	Renewing Garage License, William Doucette Auto Sales, 325 Alewife Brook Pkwy.
	(ID:22799)	RESULT: APPROVED
		KESULI: AFFROVED
41.	License/Permit	Renewing Garage License, Brazil Auto Repair, 621 Somerville Ave.
71.	209966	
	(ID:22800)	RESULT: APPROVED
40	Licones/Darmit	Panauing Corosa Liconso, EW Dussell and Sons Disposel 120 McCreth Urre
42.	209967	Renewing Garage License, FW Russell and Sons Disposal, 120 McGrath Hwy.
	(ID:22801)	RESULT: APPROVED

43.	License/Permit 209968 (ID:22793)	Renewing Outdoor Parking License, Pat's Towing, 160 McGrath Hwy.		
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
44.	License/Permit 209969 (ID:22794)	Renewing Outdoor McGrath Hwy.	Parking License, FW Russell and Sons Disposal, 120	
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
45.	License/Permit 209970 (ID:22788)	Renewing Extende Street.	d Operating Hours License, Oath Craft Pizza, 278 Elm	
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
46.	License/Permit 209971 (ID:22789)	Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, Mr. B's, 142 Cross St.		
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
47.	License/Permit 209972 (ID:22780)	Renewing Mobile Food Vendor License, Wizard Catering.		
		RESULT:	APPROVED	
48.	License/Permit 209973 (ID:22787)	New Extended Hours License, Dunkin Donuts, 282 Somerville Avenue, for 24/7 operation for in-store and take-out service only.		
		the request. Coun issues with adher	noted the Council can request a public hearing or approve cilor Scott noted there has been a change in ownership and ing to City regulations. He would like to schedule a a the owner before approving the request.	
		RESULT: FOLLOWUP:	LAID ON THE TABLE City Council	
		FOLLOWUI.		
49.	Public Communication 209974 (ID:22827)	Tufts University submitting its Spring 2020 University Accountability report.		
		RESULT: FOLLOWUP:	PLACED ON FILE Housing and Community Development Committee	
50.	Public Communication 209975 (ID:22828)	5	submitting its Spring 2020 University Accountability	
		RESULT: FOLLOWUP:	PLACED ON FILE Housing and Community Development Committee	

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

51.	Order 209976 (ID:22830)	By City Councilor Ballantyne That the Director of SPCD discuss highlighting equity for seniors in SomerVision 2040 in the areas discussed in the attached document.		
		Councilor Ballant RESULT: FOLLOWUP:	yne noted that seniors make up 10% of the population. APPROVED Equity, Gender, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee	
52.	Resolution 209977 (ID:22831)	That the Administration housing for people	Hirsch, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah ation update this Council on planning underway to provide who are likely to be exposed to the Covid-19 virus and re recovering from the virus and don't need a hospital	
		were not discusse what first respond to the Coronaviru isolation, whether	noted items 52, 53 and 54 are questions she received that d in the Public Health and Safety meeting. She questioned lers should do to protect their families from being exposed s, what they should do if they are still recovering in there's a contingency staffing plan for firefighters, and ycling collectors are being supported. APPROVED Public Health and Public Safety Committee	
53.	Resolution 209978 (ID:22832)	That the Administra	Hirsch, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah ation update this Council on contingency staffing plans in r of front-line employees are unable to work due to illness	
		RESULT: FOLLOWUP:	APPROVED Public Health and Public Safety Committee	
54.	Resolution 209979 (ID:22833)	By City Councilor Hirsch, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah That the Administration update this Council on any efforts to ensure that city trash and recycling contractors are protected from coronavirus exposure and supported if exposed.		
		RESULT: FOLLOWUP:	APPROVED Public Health and Public Safety Committee	
55.	Mayor's Request 209980 (ID:22829)		eptance of the First Amendment to the Sanitary Sewer nt with the City of Cambridge for work in Medford Street.	
		RESULT: FOLLOWUP:	REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION Finance Committee	

56.Mayor'sRequesting acceptance of a second \$100,000 grant with noRequestrequired, from the MA Department of Health to the Health209981Services Department for COVID 19 expenses.		MA Department of Health to the Health and Human	
	(ID:22823)	RESULT:	APPROVED
57.	License/Permit 209982 (ID:22834)		cility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell xisting pole at 44 Crescent Street.
			requested to waive the readings of items 57 to 63 and here being no opposition, the motion was approved. APPROVED
58.	License/Permit 209983		cility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell xisting pole at 61 Concord Avenue.
	(ID:22835)	RESULT:	APPROVED
59.	License/Permit 209984 (ID:22836)		cility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell xisting pole at 17 Otis Street.
		RESULT:	APPROVED
60.	License/Permit 209985 (ID:22837)		cility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell xisting pole at 12 Dartmouth Street.
		RESULT:	APPROVED
61.	License/Permit 209986 (ID:22838)		cility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell xisting pole at 75 Heath Street.
		RESULT:	APPROVED
62.	License/Permit 209987 (ID:22839)		cility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell xisting pole at 17 Aldrich Street.
		RESULT:	APPROVED
63.	License/Permit 209988 (ID:22840)		cility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell xisting pole at 9 Austin Street.
		RESULT:	APPROVED

LATE ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:25 PM.