



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## City Council

### Regular Meeting Agenda

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Thursday, January 12, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote  
Participation

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NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted and via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audiovideo recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Register at the following website to view this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7400031442062594144>.

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#### 1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call                      Call of the Roll.  
(ID # [23-0089](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances              Remembrances.  
(ID # [23-0090](#))
- 1.3. Minutes                        Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, November  
(ID # [23-0091](#))                      22, 2022.

#### 2. CITATIONS

#### 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

#### 4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order                              By Councilor Clingan  
(ID # [23-0055](#))                        That the Director of Engineering and the Superintendent of  
Water and Sewer appear before this Council's Committee on  
Public Utilities and Public Works to discuss the notification  
protocols for street work and water shutoffs.

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- 4.2. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0056](#)) By Councilor Clingan  
That the Administration update this Council on the cable franchise contract negotiations with Comcast and explain what the process entails.
- 4.3. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0057](#)) By Councilor Clingan  
That the Administration update this Council on the contract renewal process with TZE and discuss how the process works.
- 4.4. Order  
(ID # [23-0052](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That this City Council's Committee on Land Use work with the Director of Planning, Preservation and Zoning to draft an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to remove the prohibition on more than four unrelated adults living together.
- 4.5. Order  
(ID # [23-0054](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen  
That the Director of Mobility formally petition the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to lower the speed limits on all state roads in Somerville to 25 miles per hour.
- 4.6. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0053](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Scott and Councilor McLaughlin  
That this City Council calls on the Administration to reverse its decision to remove the Somerville Media Center and the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers from the city-owned building at 90-92 Union Square, and to work with these community partners to find them suitable homes in Somerville before any further action is taken.
- 4.7. Order  
(ID # [23-0064](#)) By Councilor Strezo  
That this City Council's Committee on Housing and Community Development discuss the attached letter from the Somerville Fair Housing Commission regarding the current Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination backlog.
- 4.8. Order  
(ID # [23-0061](#)) By Councilor Strezo  
That the Commissioner of Public Works report on the maintenance schedule of street and traffic lights, including the number damaged or burned out.
- 4.9. Order  
(ID # [23-0062](#)) By Councilor Strezo  
That the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development and the Environmental Health Coordinator discuss the feasibility of including neighborhood-specific rat control funding in Community Benefits Agreements.
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- 4.10. Order  
(ID # [23-0063](#)) By Councilor Strezo  
That the Environmental Health Coordinator and the Director of Inspectional Services discuss resident reports of cars damaged by rats over the past five years.
- 4.11. Order  
(ID # [23-0067](#)) By Councilor Strezo  
That the Director of Housing discuss the feasibility of small home pocket neighborhoods to help address the affordable housing crisis.
- 4.12. Order  
(ID # [23-0066](#)) By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That the Director of Parking create a special parking designation for the area surrounding Holland Street, to accommodate seniors visiting the Council on Aging between the hours of 8 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday.
- 4.13. Withdrawn  
(ID # [23-0065](#)) Withdrawn.
- 4.14. Order  
(ID # [23-0082](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad  
That the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator, the Director of Inspectional Services, and the Director of Planning, Preservation & Zoning explain to this Council how the City provides oversight for compliance with Fair Housing Act Design Guidelines, the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board CMR 521 and the ADA Standards for Accessible Design, from plan review through building and occupancy permits.
- 4.15. Order  
(ID # [23-0083](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad  
That the Director of Mobility consider improvements to deficient conditions impacting the safety and pedestrian accessibility of Cedar Street.
- 4.16. Ordinance  
(ID # [23-0075](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
Amending Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 2 of the Code of Ordinances by adding a new section establishing Paid Leave for Survivors.
- 4.17. Ordinance  
(ID # [23-0076](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
Amending Chapter 8, Article I of the Code of Ordinances by adding a new section regarding Closed Captioning Accessibility.

- 4.18. Order  
(ID # [23-0081](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Board of Health deliver its annual report to this City Council in January, in compliance with Section 6-20 of the Code of Ordinances, with emphasis on the work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- 4.19. Order  
(ID # [23-0080](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Kelly and Councilor Scott  
That the Director of Procurement and Contracting Services update this Council on the status of the citywide disparity study.
- 4.20. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0077](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
In Support of Survivors.
- 4.21. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0078](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
Supporting Closed Captioning Accessibility.
- 4.22. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0079](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Kelly  
Supporting the Eradication of Medical Debt.
- 4.23. Order  
(ID # [23-0068](#)) By Councilor Wilson  
That the Director of Mobility and the Director of Engineering update this Council on the possibility of increasing installation of traffic calming measures beyond the number of projects currently planned for 2023.
- 4.24. Order  
(ID # [23-0069](#)) By Councilor Wilson  
That the Environmental Health Coordinator update this Council on any past pilots and any future plans for use of rodent hormonal birth control.
- 4.25. Order  
(ID # [23-0070](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment update this Council on plans for a pilot of on-street direct current fast charging stations for electric vehicles.
- 4.26. Order  
(ID # [23-0071](#)) By Councilor Wilson  
That the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment and the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on plans for household hazardous waste collection.
- 4.27. Order  
(ID # [23-0072](#)) By Councilor Wilson  
That the Director of Human Resources update this Council on the number of current job vacancies and the number of positions filled in 2022.

- 4.28. Resolution By Councilor Wilson  
(ID # [23-0073](#)) That the Administration and School Department prioritize fully meeting Somerville Public Schools families' demand for after school and vacation programming in the 2023-24 school year, including expanding the offerings of after-school enrichment clubs.

## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## 6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### 6.A. CHARTER REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Charter Review Special Committee, meeting as a  
(ID # [23-0047](#)) Committee of the Whole on January 11, 2023.
- 6.A.2. Resolution By Councilor Scott  
(ID # [23-0098](#)) Supporting the recommended language by the Charter Review Committee on expanding voting rights to non-citizen residents.
- 6.A.3. Resolution By Councilor Davis  
(ID # [23-0099](#)) Supporting the recommended language by the Charter Review Committee on expanding voting rights to 16- and 17-year old residents.
- 6.A.4. Resolution By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
(ID # [23-0100](#)) Supporting the recommended language by the Charter Review Committee on reducing signature requirements for several elected officials.
- 6.A.5. Resolution By Councilor Kelly  
(ID # [23-0102](#)) That language be added to the Charter that the City Council President or designee and School Committee Chair or designee be included in the composition of all study committees.

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request Requesting ordainment of an amendment to the Code of  
(ID # [23-0087](#)) Ordinances, Section 1-11 (Penalties and violations), to codify Traffic & Parking fines.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request Requesting the adoption of the Specialized Energy Code, 225  
(ID # [23-0084](#)) CMR, Sections 22 and 23, including Appendices RC and CC, in their entirety as the minimum energy code for the City.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Cynthia L.  
(ID # [23-0060](#)) Amara as City Solicitor.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Charles J.  
(ID # [23-0059](#)) Breen, Jr. as Fire Chief Engineer.

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- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0049](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$4,545,827 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for streets and sidewalk reconstruction.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0016](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$100,000 from the Encore Artist and Cultural Support Stabilization Fund to support Local Cultural Council grants to artists, organizations, and schools.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0037](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$5,000 from the Office of Sustainability and Environment Ordinary Maintenance Account to the Office of Sustainability and Environment Personal Services Account to reallocate approved funding for interns to the appropriate budget line.
- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0043](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$1,050 gift with no new match required, from Tufts University Technology Support Center to the Council on Aging to reduce the cost of a luncheon for older adults.
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0046](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$95,474.26 using available funds in various Department of Public Works Ordinary Maintenance Accounts for various services.
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0017](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$3,332 using available funds in the Office of Sustainability and Environment Ordinary Maintenance Professional and Technical Services Account for preventative maintenance of solar arrays.
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0044](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$796.67 using available funds in the City Clerk Office Supplies Account for various supplies.
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0035](#)) Requesting approval to extend a contract with the Community Action Agency of Somerville for an additional four months to 2/29/2023 for housing search and stabilization services.
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0048](#)) Requesting that the City Council petition the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to modify the posted speed limit on State Route 38 in Somerville.
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0050](#)) Requesting that the City Council petition the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to modify the posted speed limit on State Route 28 in Somerville.
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0051](#)) Requesting that the City Council petition the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to modify the posted speed limit on State Route 16 in Somerville.
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- 7.16. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-0086](#)) Conveying the 2022 Surveillance Technology Annual Report.

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0038](#)) City Clerk requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Stephanie Widzowski to the position of Clerk of Committees.
- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0039](#)) City Clerk requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Peter Forcellese, Sr. to the position of Legislative Clerk.
- 8.3. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0085](#)) Chief of Police conveying a response to item 22-1056, an order that the Chief of Police report to this Council, any verified or suspected false reports of gunshots by ShotSpotter.
- 8.4. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0036](#)) Fair Housing Commission Staff Liaison conveying the Fiscal Year 2021 Fair Housing Commission Annual Report.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [23-0032](#)) New Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Top Speed Vehicle, 631 Somerville Ave, 8 cars inside, 6 outside, Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 8am-2pm, Sun Closed.
- 9.2. License (ID # [23-0018](#)) Renewing Automatic Amusement Devices License, Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Dr.
- 9.3. License (ID # [23-0019](#)) Renewing Dog Kennel License, Riverdog Daycare, 321 Somerville Ave.
- 9.4. License (ID # [23-0034](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, F.E. French Construction.
- 9.5. License (ID # [23-0020](#)) Renewing Garage License, Master Used Cars, 121 Prospect St.
- 9.6. License (ID # [23-0021](#)) Renewing Open Air Vendor License, Next Wave-Full Circle School, 8 Bonair St.
- 9.7. License (ID # [23-0022](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Aris Auto, 3 Craigie St.
- 9.8. License (ID # [23-0023](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Automotive Transport Service, 40 Joy St.

- 9.9. License (ID # [23-0024](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Gene Automotive, 56 Joy St.
- 9.10. License (ID # [23-0025](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Intercar, 39 Webster Ave.
- 9.11. License (ID # [23-0033](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Joy St Motors, 24 Joy St.
- 9.12. License (ID # [23-0026](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Master Used Cars, 121 Prospect St.
- 9.13. License (ID # [23-0027](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Motorcycles & More, 109 Bailey Rd.
- 9.14. License (ID # [23-0028](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 3, Nissenbaum Auto Parts, 480 Columbia St.
- 9.15. License (ID # [23-0029](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 3, Nissenbaum Auto Parts, 0 Windsor St.
- 9.16. License (ID # [23-0030](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Somerville Motors, 182 Washington St.
- 9.17. License (ID # [23-0031](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Web Motor Sales, 5 Middlesex Ave.
- 9.18. License (ID # [23-0045](#)) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Raymy Inc, Med #59.
- 9.19. Public Communication (ID # [23-0015](#)) The Metro Building Trades Council nominating Rodrigo Badaro to the Wage Theft Advisory Committee.
- 9.20. Public Communication (ID # [23-0014](#)) The Welcome Project nominating Emilio Cruz to the Wage Theft Advisory Committee.
- 9.21. Public Communication (ID # [23-0013](#)) Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) submitting the required Fiscal Year 2024 retirement system appropriation.
- 10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**
- 10.1. Communication (ID # [23-0088](#)) By Councilor Strezo Conveying a reporting of the Children's Cabinet.



- 10.2. Order  
(ID # [23-0092](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That the Directors of Mobility and Traffic and Parking discuss with this Council the use of meters at electric vehicle charging stations and ability for the City's vendor to impose a monetary charge after a certain amount of time that the vehicle is parked there.
- 10.3. Order  
(ID # [23-0093](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That the Director of Mobility share and discuss with this Council, the plan to use the \$100,000 in funding secured from the state for a traffic study of the intersection of Route 16 and Broadway.
- 10.4. Order  
(ID # [23-0094](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That the Director of Health and Human Services share with this Council any plans to encourage or require indoor masking in light of the recent COVID-19 surge.
- 10.5. Order  
(ID # [23-0097](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That the Mobility Department consider adding speed humps or other traffic calming measures to Packard Avenue.
- 10.6. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0101](#)) Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to require the adoption of Institutional Master Plans.
- 10.7. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0103](#)) Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for residents aged 16 and 17 years old.
- 10.8. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0104](#)) Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition further defining the purposes of the Affordable Housing Trust.
- 10.9. Mayor's  
Communication  
(ID # [23-0107](#)) Conveying the 2022 Surveillance Technology Annual Report as it relates to Somerville Public Schools.
- 10.10. Mayor's  
Communication  
(ID # [23-0106](#)) Conveying information regarding item 23-0084, a Mayor's Request requesting the adoption of the Specialized Energy Code.
- 10.11. Officer's  
Communication  
(ID # [23-0108](#)) Commissioner of Public Works conveying responses to agenda items listed within.

**11. LATE ITEMS****12. ADJOURNMENT**