



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 23, 2024

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation

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NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted 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.

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [24-0800](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [24-0801](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April
(ID # [24-0802](#)) 25, 2024.

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order By Councilor Strezo
(ID # [24-0788](#)) That this Council discuss how the lapse in consistent
mail delivery in Somerville has affected municipal bill
collection, reports of bills not received, or accounts
marked delinquent.

- 4.2. Resolution (ID # [24-0789](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Postmaster share recent and ongoing efforts to adequately staff postal carrier routes and communicate any steps taken to address Post Office staff shortages in Somerville.
- 4.3. Communication (ID # [24-0787](#)) By Councilor Strezo
Conveying a report of the Children's Cabinet.
- 4.4. Order (ID # [24-0790](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Engineering appear before the Committee on Land Use to discuss how required electrical equipment can modify the plans for already-approved new developments, such as at 379 Somerville Avenue.
- 4.5. Order (ID # [24-0791](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Mobility begin a public process to determine how to manage traffic issues on Benton Road in light of the upcoming change of Central Street to a one-way from Summer Street to Highland Avenue.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. EQUITY, GENDER, FAMILIES AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0703](#)) Report of the Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations, meeting on May 15, 2024.
- 6.A.2. Order (ID # [24-0477](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations conduct a Committee of the Whole Public Hearing to hear how the increases in water and sewer rates are affecting Somerville residents, and be it further Ordered that all relevant city departments be in attendance.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.A.3. Resolution (ID # [24-0717](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration address its plan to prevent displacement in relation to water and sewer bills.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.4. Resolution (ID # [24-0718](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration report to this Council the plans for the committed and unspent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars and how much, if any, can be spent on current and future water and sewer bill relief for residents.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE**
- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0705](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on May 21, 2024.
- 6.B.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0627](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$32,695 using available funds in the Parks and Recreation Building Rental account for portable invoices.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0643](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$50,000 grant with no new match required from Home Energy Efficiency Team, Inc. to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for a feasibility study to identify potential locations for geothermal networks.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0644](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$3,010,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the recurring FY 2024 Building Improvements program.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0654](#)) Requesting approval to use available funds in the City Clerk Salaries account in the amount of \$1,913.40 to fund a Legislative Services Manager position.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0655](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$250,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Law Department Legal Services Account for anticipated outside legal counsel invoices.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0660](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$70 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Fleet Division R&M Vehicles account for vehicle inspection invoices.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0661](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$7,075 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Division Rental Buildings account for portable restroom rental services.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0666](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$28,000 grant with no new match required, from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for the Recycle Dividend Program.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0668](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$80,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Lights & Lines accounts to the DPW Grounds Professional and Technical account to cover year-end grounds maintenance expenses.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0669](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend an up to \$60,000 grant with no new match required, from the Low Income Housing Water Assistance Program through the City of Cambridge to the Water and Sewer Department for income eligible ratepayers who are directly billed for their service(s) and who have an arrearage.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.C. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0704](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on May 20, 2024.

6.D. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0706](#)) Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on May 22, 2024.
- 6.D.2. License (ID # [24-0609](#)) New Extended Operating Hours License, Eat Greek Gyros, 215 Elm St, for in-store, take-out, and delivery services until 2am.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.D.3. License (ID # [24-0635](#)) New Extended Operating Hours License, Papa John's, 622 Somerville Ave, opening Sun-Thur until 1am, Fri-Sat until 2am for takeout and delivery services. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.D.4. License (ID # [24-0692](#)) New Garage License, BRE-BMR Assembly Innovation I LLC, 122 Assembly Park Drive, 306 vehicles inside, 0 vehicles outside for charging money to store vehicles and operating a tow, operating 7 days a week 24 hours. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.E. RODENT ISSUES SPECIAL COMMITTEE
- 6.E.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0702](#)) Report of the Special Committee on Rodent Issues, meeting on May 14, 2024.
- 6.E.2. Order (ID # [24-0663](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Environmental Health Coordinator appear before the Special Committee on Rodent Issues to present the 2024 Integrated Pest Management Plan. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0786](#)) Requesting that this Council convene in Executive Session to receive an update on the status of collective bargaining negotiations with all municipal bargaining units.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0656](#)) Requesting approval of a conveyance and grant of easement for Leonard Grimes Park at 31 Tufts Street.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0720](#)) Requesting approval to execute the Third Amendment to the lease agreement with Dana Family Series, LLC, for the Grove Street parking lot, through June 30, 2025.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0767](#)) Requesting approval to settle a claim for \$7,182 pursuant to Section 2-124 of the Code of Ordinances.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0681](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$40,000 from the Kennedy Pool Electricity Account to the Kennedy Pool Salaries & Wages Temporary Account to increase employees for programs.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0768](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$7,182 from the Unemployment Compensation account to the Law Department Judgments and Settlements account to settle a pending claim.

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- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0773](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Mobility Division for traffic safety improvements at the Alewife Brook Parkway and Broadway intersection.
- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0774](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$75,000 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Public Space and Urban Forestry Division for a multi-use trail at Blessing of the Bay park.
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0772](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$60,067 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Police Department for the traffic safety program.
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0775](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$3,000 grant with no new match required, from the Barr Foundation to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Mobility Division for the National Association of City Transportation Officials Designing Cities 2024 Conference Registration.
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0719](#)) Requesting approval to accept a gift valued at \$18,000, from Boston's Office of Emergency Management to the Department of Public Works for a generator.
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0785](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$4,120 using available funds in the Police Department Professional and Technical account for random drug screening and breath alcohol testing.
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0697](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$385 using available funds in the Department of Racial and Social Justice Professional and Technical Services Account for transcription services.
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0698](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$250 using available funds in the Department of Racial and Social Justice Professional and Technical Services Account for translation/interpretation services.

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- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0784](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$199.99 using available funds in the Police Department In Service Training account for public relations training for first responders.
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0712](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Ellen Ellis to the Council on Aging.
- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0713](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Tania Medeiros Romanoff to the Council on Aging.
- 7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0714](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Brad Bortner to the Council on Aging.
- 7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0777](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Sari Kayyali to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- 7.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0778](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Amanda Rychel to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- 7.21. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0779](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Maria Salim to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- 7.22. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0780](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Adrienne Agarwal to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- 7.23. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0781](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Katharine Lange to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- 7.24. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0782](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Kathryne Benesh to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- 7.25. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0783](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Paul Morgan to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- 7.26. Mayor's Communication (ID # [24-0693](#)) Conveying the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for exterior cameras at fire stations.
- 8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS**
- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [24-0696](#)) City Clerk requesting confirmation of the appointment of Madalyn Letellier to the position of Legislative Services Manager.
- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [24-0798](#)) City Clerk submitting recommendations for adjustments to certain fees charged by the City Clerk's Office, effective July 1, 2024.
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- 8.3. Officer's Communication (ID # [24-0799](#)) Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development reporting on recent workshops on housing development and filling office and life science spaces.
- 9. NEW BUSINESS**
- 9.1. License (ID # [24-0721](#)) New Drainlayer's License, N&M Excavating.
- 9.2. License (ID # [24-0722](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Borges Sewer & Drain LLC.
- 9.3. License (ID # [24-0723](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Kealey Excavation Corporation.
- 9.4. License (ID # [24-0724](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, McCourt Construction.
- 9.5. License (ID # [24-0725](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, McGue Excavating LLC.
- 9.6. License (ID # [24-0726](#)) Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, Pepi's Pizzeria, 516B Medford St.
- 9.7. License (ID # [24-0793](#)) New Flammables License, Building 2 Owner LLC, 808 Windsor Street, storing 3,549 gallons.
- 9.8. License (ID # [24-0733](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Aris Auto Inc., 3 Craigie St.
- 9.9. License (ID # [24-0728](#)) Renewing Flammables License, BBS Services, 45 Broadway.
- 9.10. License (ID # [24-0735](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Boston Closet Company, 229 Lowell St.
- 9.11. License (ID # [24-0729](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Broadway Gulf, 212 Broadway.
- 9.12. License (ID # [24-0730](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Broadway Sunoco, 258 Broadway.
- 9.13. License (ID # [24-0741](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Evocative, 50 Inner Belt Rd.
- 9.14. License (ID # [24-0732](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Hillside Auto Repair, Inc., 583 Broadway.
- 9.15. License (ID # [24-0739](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Keolis Commuter Services, LLC, 23R Inner Belt Rd.

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| 9.16. | License
(ID # 24-0744) | Renewing Flammables License, Keolis Commuter Services, LLC, 70 R Third Ave. |
| 9.17. | License
(ID # 24-0745) | Renewing Flammables License, Keolis Commuter Services, LLC, 132 Washington St. |
| 9.18. | License
(ID # 24-0736) | Renewing Flammables License, Mercedes Benz of Boston, 259 McGrath Hwy. |
| 9.19. | License
(ID # 24-0740) | Renewing Flammables License, Metropolitan Pipe and Supply Company, 30 Inner Belt Rd. |
| 9.20. | License
(ID # 24-0742) | Renewing Flammables License, Pearl Street Auto Sales, 182 Pearl St. |
| 9.21. | License
(ID # 24-0727) | Renewing Flammables License, Sam's Gas & Service, 166 Boston Ave. |
| 9.22. | License
(ID # 24-0743) | Renewing Flammables License, Silicon PropCo 2021, LLC, 101 South St. |
| 9.23. | License
(ID # 24-0737) | Renewing Flammables License, Somerville Mobil, 360 Medford St. |
| 9.24. | License
(ID # 24-0731) | Renewing Flammables License, Trum Field Sunoco, 541 Broadway. |
| 9.25. | License
(ID # 24-0734) | Renewing Flammables License, U-Haul of Boston, 151 Linwood St. |
| 9.26. | License
(ID # 24-0738) | Renewing Flammables License, U-Haul Company of Boston, 600 Mystic Valley Pkwy. |
| 9.27. | License
(ID # 24-0747) | Renewing Flammables License, Union Gulf Service LLC, 231 Washington St. |
| 9.28. | License
(ID # 24-0746) | Renewing Flammables License, Valvoline Instant Oil Change AB0001, 182 Washington St. |
| 9.29. | License
(ID # 24-0748) | Renewing Garage License, Sullivan Tire, 263 Beacon St. |
| 9.30. | License
(ID # 24-0749) | Renewing Garage License, Teele Square Auto, 1284 Broadway. |
| 9.31. | License
(ID # 24-0750) | Renewing Garage License, U-Haul of Boston, 151 Linwood St. |
| 9.32. | License
(ID # 24-0766) | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Cinema Taxi Inc, Med. #16 58. |
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- 9.33. Public Event (ID # [24-0792](#)) Jodee Frias applying for a Public Event License for Tufts University Graduate Student Council 28th Annual 5K Charity Race on May 25 from 8am to 1:30pm (raindate May 27).
- 9.34. Public Event (ID # [24-0751](#)) Alexandra Weiner applying for a Public Event License for Calvin Street BP on May 26 from 10am to 8pm (raindate May 27).
- 9.35. Public Event (ID # [24-0752](#)) Veterans Department applying for a Public Event License for Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony on May 27 from 9am to 11:30am.
- 9.36. Public Event (ID # [24-0794](#)) Stephanie Galaitsi applying for a Public Event License for Josephine Ave BP and Mural Painting on June 1 from 7am to 2pm (raindate June 2).
- 9.37. Public Event (ID # [24-0795](#)) Tracy Wilson applying for a Public Event License for Walker St/Leonard St BP on June 1 from 2pm to 7pm (raindate June 2).
- 9.38. Public Event (ID # [24-0796](#)) Rachel Powe applying for a Public Event License for Leonard St/Walker St BP on June 1 from 2pm to 8pm (raindate June 2).
- 9.39. Public Event (ID # [24-0753](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Nepali Culture Fest on June 1 from 2:30pm to 9:30pm (raindate June 8).
- 9.40. Public Event (ID # [24-0754](#)) Marla Wessland applying for a Public Event License for Wallace Street BP on June 1 from 3:30pm to 9:30pm (raindate June 2).
- 9.41. Public Event (ID # [24-0755](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for SomerStreets: Carnival on June 2 from 12pm to 8pm (raindate June 9).
- 9.42. Public Event (ID # [24-0797](#)) Todd Kaplan applying for a Public Event License for Todd Kaplan Birthday Party on June 2 from 1pm to 5pm (raindate June 16).
- 9.43. Public Event (ID # [24-0756](#)) Rishika Dhawan applying for a Public Event License for CultureHouse Union Square BP on June 2 from 2pm to 8:30pm (raindate June 9).
- 9.44. Public Event (ID # [24-0757](#)) Bow Market applying for a Public Event License for Annual Curated Vintage Market on June 2 and October 13 from 9am to 9pm (raindates June 9 and October 20).

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- 9.45. Public Event
(ID # [24-0758](#)) Family Bike Ride/Community Pedal Power applying for a Public Event License for Family Bike Ride River Ride on June 8 from 11am to 11:30am (raindate June 9).
- 9.46. Public Event
(ID # [24-0759](#)) Ann Peralta applying for a Public Event License for Warwick St. BP on June 9 from 2pm to 8pm (raindates June 15 and June 16).
- 9.47. Public Event
(ID # [24-0760](#)) Matt Timmins applying for a Public Event License for Upper Bartlett BP on June 15 from 1pm to 10pm (raindate June 16).
- 9.48. Public Event
(ID # [24-0761](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Big Gay Dance Party on June 22 from 3pm to 9pm (raindate June 23).
- 9.49. Public Event
(ID # [24-0762](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Fourth of July Celebration on June 27 from 1pm to 11pm (raindate June 28).
- 9.50. Public Event
(ID # [24-0763](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for ArtBeat: Wild on July 13 from 8am to 11pm (raindate July 14).
- 9.51. Public Event
(ID # [24-0764](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for SomerStreets: Strike up the Bands on August 4 from 12pm to 8pm.
- 9.52. Public Event
(ID # [24-0765](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Yart Sale on August 10 from 11:30am to 7pm (raindate August 11).
- 9.53. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-0701](#)) Green Cab Company, Inc. requesting an increase in the taxicab meter rate to \$3.80 for the first 1/8 of a mile, \$0.50 for each additional 1/8 of a mile and \$32 per hour waiting time.
- 9.54. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-0695](#)) Graham Davidson submitting comments re: residential exemption.
- 9.55. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-0699](#)) Jeff Kaufman submitting comments re: Section 7-153 of the Code of Ordinances.
- 9.56. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-0700](#)) Robert Bao submitting comments re: portable toilets at PorchFest.
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- 9.57. Public Communication (ID # [24-0715](#)) Mark Niedergang submitting comments re: item #24-0641, a Zoning Map Amendment for the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0803](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Matthew Kane to the position of Fire Lieutenant.
- 10.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0804](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Michael Finnegan to the position of Fire Lieutenant.
- 10.3. Mayor's Communication (ID # [24-0810](#)) Proclaiming April 2024 to be Arab American Heritage Month.
- 10.4. Mayor's Communication (ID # [24-0812](#)) Proclaiming May 2024 to be Jewish American Heritage Month.
- 10.5. Public Event (ID # [24-0807](#)) Jamie Gouger applying for a Public Event License for Garcia Hand Picked Bertha Pop Up on June 7 from 1pm to 8pm (raindate June 21).
- 10.6. Public Event (ID # [24-0808](#)) Nicole Girouard applying for a Public Event License for Classical Ideal: Celebrating Artistic Heritage of the Classical World on June 8 from 12pm to 4pm (raindate June 9).
- 10.7. Public Event (ID # [24-0806](#)) Economic Development applying for a Public Event License for Gilman Park Community Event on June 15 through September 30 from 7am to 10pm.
- 10.8. Public Event (ID # [24-0809](#)) Daniel Wong applying for a Public Event License for Spring Oak Bolton Houghton BP on June 15 from 1pm to 6pm (raindate June 16).
- 10.9. Public Event (ID # [24-0811](#)) Department of Racial and Social Justice applying for a Public Event License for Juneteenth Flag Raising on June 18 from 10am to 1pm (raindate June 17).
- 10.10. Public Communication (ID # [24-0805](#)) Aaron Weber submitting comments re: density bonus.

11. ADJOURNMENT