



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## Legislative Matters Committee

### Meeting Minutes Dispositions

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**Tuesday, April 15, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**Virtual**

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This meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by Chair Davis at 6:02pm and adjourned at 7:54pm on a roll call vote of 5 in favor (Councilors Strezo, Mbah, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Davis), 0 opposed, and 0 absent.

Others present: Meredith Stivers - Assistant City Solicitor, Jay Piques - Assistant City Solicitor, Brendan Salisbury - Legislative and Policy Analyst, Christine Blais - Director of Office of Sustainability and Environment, Vanessa Boukili - Senior Urban Forestry and Landscape Planner, Neha Singh - Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Madalyn Letellier - Legislative Services Manager.

#### **Roll Call**

**Present:** Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis, Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah and City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislative Matters Committee Meeting of April 1, 2025. [25-0661](#)

Accepted

**Aye:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Mbah and City Councilor At Large Strezo

#### Tree Ordinance

2. Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Chapter 12, Article VI of the Code of Ordinances to modify the Tree Preservation Ordinance. [25-0566](#)

Kept in committee

3. Chris Dwan submitting comments re: Urban Forestry Committee recommendations. [25-0077](#)

Kept in committee

4. That this Council discuss proposed amendments to the Tree Preservation Ordinance, as outlined in item #24-0493. [25-0066](#)

**Sponsors:** Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Scott and Councilor Sait

Recommended to be marked work completed

Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change

5. Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 2-304 through 2-310 of the Code of Ordinances to update the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change. [25-0257](#)

Recommended to be approved as amended

**Aye:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Mbah and City Councilor At Large Strezo

Surveillance Technology Impact Report

6. Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Hudl Focus cameras. [25-0452](#)

Recommended to be placed on file

7. Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Hudl Focus cameras. [25-0752](#)

Recommended to be placed on file

Short Term Rental Community Impact Legislation

8. Requesting the acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64G, Section 3D(b), to authorize the city to impose the community impact allowed under Chapter 3D(a) of G.L. c. 64G, on each transfer of occupancy of a short-term rental unit in a two- or three-family dwelling, that includes the operator's primary residence. [25-0484](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Mbah and City Councilor At Large Strezo

9. Requesting the acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64G, Section 3D(a), to authorize the city to impose a community impact fee of 3% of the total amount of rent upon each transfer of occupancy of "Professionally-managed units". [25-0483](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Mbah and City Councilor At Large Strezo

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To be discharged without recommendation for the purpose of reassigning to other committees

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10. That the City Solicitor confirm whether an LGBTQ Legal Services Stabilization Fund can be created to pay fees associated with gendered document changes and potential court sealing of records associated with such documents. [24-1686](#)

**Sponsors:** Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott

Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation

11. Conveying the cost of changes to identity documents, in support of item #24-1686. [25-0270](#)

**Sponsors:** Councilor Burnley Jr.

Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation

12. Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition submitting comments re: item #24-1686, creation of an LGBTQ Legal Services Stabilization Fund. [25-0336](#)

Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation

13. That the Director of Inspectional Services enforce Section 11-111 of the Code of Ordinances - Registration and maintenance of vacant property, in light of the recent collapse of 316 Somerville Avenue. [25-0379](#)

**Sponsors:** Councilor Scott, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Sait

Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation

Referenced Documents:

- Legislative Matters - 2025-04-15 - CEUCC Ordinance Amendments (with 25-0257)
- Legislative Matters - 2025-04-15 Memo - Tree Ordinance enforcement\_04-14-25 Final (with 25-0566)