

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

September 26, 2019, 7:00 PM
City Council Chamber, City Hall-93 Highland Avenue

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
 (ID # 21754)

2. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, August
 (ID # 21755) 22, 2019.

CITATIONS

3. Citation By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Niedergang, and the
 (ID # 21760) Mayor
 Congratulating Bishop Henry Moultrie II on the
 auspicious occasion of his retirement after 45 years of
 Pastoral leadership at the Mission Church of Our Lord
 Jesus Christ.

4. Citation By City Councilor White Jr., and the Mayor
 (ID # 21761) Congratulating the Patronage of St. Joseph Church,
 Somerville's first Roman Catholic Parish, now
 celebrating 150 years of faithful service to the
 community.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. Grant of Submitted by Eversource to install 34 feet of conduit in
 Location Washington St, from Pole 358/17 to a point of pickup at
 (ID # 21762) 105 Washington St.

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

6. Resolution By City Councilor Ballantyne, Hirsch
 (ID # 21731) That the Administration, the Chief of Police and the
 Superintendent of Schools implement a policy that
 discourages municipal employees from parking city
 vehicles in MBTA bus stops.

7. Order By City Councilor Ballantyne
 (ID # 21732) That the Director of Traffic and Parking immediately
 address the incomplete striping of Powderhouse
 Boulevard, as the lack of clear striping puts pedestrians,
 bicyclists and drivers at risk.

8. Order (ID # 21749) By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Director of SPCD place signage on Medford Street letting pedestrians know where they can walk.
9. Order (ID # 21750) By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Director of the Arts Council discuss the SomerStreets and city-wide strategies in light of the city's growing population.
10. Order (ID # 21751) By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Director of SPCD develop a plan to plant a native species pollinator garden along the Community Path.
11. Order (ID # 21744) By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of SPCD schedule a meeting with the residents of Partridge Avenue who filed a traffic calming petition, or respond to them with a written communication.
12. Order (ID # 21745) By City Councilor Mbah, Ewen-Campen
That the City Solicitor and Chief of Police report to this Council on how civil asset forfeiture funds have been received and spent over the past 5 years, and how they can be directed to the General Fund.
13. Order (ID # 21746) By City Councilor Hirsch
That the Director of SPCD or the Director of SomerStat develop an estimate of funding required to pay for or subsidize MBTA fares for residents of different income levels and ages.
14. Order (ID # 21747) By City Councilor Hirsch
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management discuss the next steps to evaluate the needs of municipal functions not included in the first round of the Departmental Relocation Strategy, such as Recreation, Council on Aging, and Parking.
15. Order (ID # 21748) By City Councilor Hirsch
That the Director of SomerStat provide an update on the implementation of the Happiness Survey.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

16. Resolution 208892 By City Councilor White Jr.
Supporting House H.2848, an Act to Ensure Gas Safety and Consumer Fairness.

17. Resolution By City Councilor White Jr.
208893 Supporting House H.2849 and Senate S.1940, an Act for
Utility Transition to Using Renewable Energy (Future).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

18. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report of the Committee on Confirmation of
Report Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on
(ID # 21739) September 23, 2019.
- B. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Richard
208524 Lavey to the position of Police Captain.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- C. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Michael
208525 Holland to the position of Police Lieutenant.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- D. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Michael
208526 Kiely to the position of Police Lieutenant.
RECOMMENDED: Not Approved
- E. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Michael
208527 Capasso to the position of Police Lieutenant.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- F. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Paul
208528 Anderson to the position of Police Sergeant.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- G. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Devin
208529 Schneider to the position of Police Sergeant.
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
- H. Resolution By City Councilor Mbah
208620 That this Council's Confirmation of Appointments and
Personnel Matters Committee be provided legal counsel
to advise in the matter of #208571 and #208572, due to a
conflict of interest expressed by the City Solicitor's
Office.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- I. Order By City Councilor Rossetti
208621 That the Director of Personnel provide the Committee on
Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters
with any available public documents regarding the
signatories to the police reserve list who were not
appointed.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- J. Order 208622 By City Councilor Scott
That the City Solicitor and the Director of Personnel provide the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters with a clarification of the civil service classification categories.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

19. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 21740) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on September 24, 2019.
- B. Mayor's Request 208707 Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$817,000 in a bond for demolition, legal fees, and site preparation work at 90 Washington St.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- C. Mayor's Request 208708 Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$537,000 in a bond for environmental remediation and design services at Conway Park.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- D. Mayor's Request 208710 Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$63,503.53 using available funds in the Redevelopment Authority Ordinary Maintenance Account for Legal services for the 90 Washington Demonstration Project.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- E. Mayor's Request 208854 Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$2,745,543.06 in a bond to fund Union Square Revitalization Plan eminent domain settlements.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- F. Mayor's Request 208855 Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$900,000 for participation in the MWRA Lead Line Replacement Program.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- G. Mayor's Request 208858 Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$58,056.94 using available funds in various DPW General Fund Accounts.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- H. Mayor's Request 208859 Requesting acceptance of a \$191,075 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division to the Office of Sustainability & Environment for energy efficiency projects in school and administrative buildings.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- I. Mayor's Request 208860 Requesting acceptance of a \$43,600 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Cultural Council to the Arts Council to support the LCC re-grant program.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- J. Mayor's Request 208861 Requesting acceptance of a \$11,500 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Cultural Council to the Arts Council for supporting operational costs.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- K. Mayor's Request 208894 Requesting acceptance of a \$298,280 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Mental Health to the Police Department, for Crisis Intervention Team training.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- L. Mayor's Request 208895 Requesting acceptance of a \$105,555.55 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for maritime equipment.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- M. Mayor's Request 208896 Requesting acceptance of a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for expenditures and backfill/overtime for the Special Response Team.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- N. Mayor's Request 208897 Requesting acceptance of a \$50,459.46 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for expenditures for the purchase of a Prime Mover.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

20. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 21738) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on September 19, 2019.

21. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 21735) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on September 17, 2019.
- B. Mayor's Request 208626 Requesting approval of an Ordinance to be known as the Housing Stability Notification Act.
RECOMMENDED: Approved as Amended
- C. Order (ID # 21752) By City Councilor Davis
That the City Solicitor draft language in the Housing Stability Notification Act, to clarify that a failure to comply with its provisions shall constitute a separate violation for each former homeowner or tenant.

22. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 21741) Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on September 25, 2019.

- B. Officer's Communication 207772 Police Detective conveying a report of the arrest of the owner of Tosh Enterprises, which holds a Junk Dealer License at 260 Elm St.
RECOMMENDED: Placed on File

- C. Grant of Location 208358 Submitted by Eversource to install 23 feet of conduit in Chester Ave from Utility Pole 64/0 to a point of pickup at 141 Cross St.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- D. Grant of Location 208676 Submitted by ExteNet Systems to install a wireless small cell antenna and related equipment on the pole on Bradley St adjacent to 32 Jackson Rd.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- E. Grant of Location 208800 Submitted by Eversource to install 76 feet of conduit in Farragut Ave from Pole 220/1 to a point of pickup at the rear of 1244-1248 Broadway.
RECOMMENDED: Discharged w/no Recommendation

- F. Grant of Location 208803 Submitted by Eversource to install 34 feet of conduit in Murdock St from Pole 246/2 to a point of pickup at 17-25 Murdock St.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- G. Order (ID # 21782) By City Councilor Scott
That the City Solicitor advise this Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits about regulating utility/communication dead drops, with background on the low voltage court cases initiated by the City of Boston.

23. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 21737) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on September 18, 2019.

24. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 21736) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on September 18, 2019.

- B. Public Communication 202594 Cambridge Director of Traffic and Parking responding to #202317, requesting an appearance to discuss Inman Square traffic changes.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- C. Order 204796 By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of SPCD consider painting two new crosswalks on Elm Street near the Kennedy School, and discuss these and other traffic-calming measures there with the Ward 5 Alderman.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- D. Order 205077 By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of SPCD update this Board on Cambridge's plan to eliminate the left turn onto Massachusetts Avenue from the Porter Square shopping center, which is likely to add traffic to White Street, a small street that is inadequate for such traffic.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- E. Order 205092 By City Councilor Clingan
That the Traffic Commission consider creating a process for residents to comment on parking changes that affect their streets.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- F. Resolution 205333 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Traffic Commission revoke the "48-hour parking ban."
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- G. Order 205802 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, McLaughlin, Scott
That the Director of SPCD report to the Wards 1, 2 and 3 Aldermen and this Board on the plans for any GLX-related closures of Washington Street, near the McGrath Highway underpass.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- H. Order 207590 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott, Rossetti, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr.
That the Director of Traffic and Parking immediately prioritize blocking truck access to Warren Avenue to prevent additional crashes and property damage during the Somerville Avenue detour.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- I. Order 207591 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott, Rossetti, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr.
That the Director of Traffic and Parking immediately install pedestrian safety measures on Bow Street, Warren Avenue and Columbus Avenue to deal with the increase of traffic during the Somerville Avenue detour.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- J. Order 207715 By City Councilor Niedergang, Davis, Mbah
That the Director of SPCD inform the Ward 5 and Ward 6 Councilors and the public as soon as possible the route and schedule for the City shuttle van that will ferry passengers around the closed Broadway/Ball Square Bridge.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- K. Order 208033 By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install new, vehicle-safe, bolt-in-place YIELD FOR PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALK signs at the intersections of Lowell and Hudson Streets and Lowell and Albion Streets, as soon as they are available.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- L. Order 208036 By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of SPCD report to this Council in writing by May 9, 2019 ridership data for the "Bridge Hopper" shuttle.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- M. Order 208688 By City Councilor Hirsch, Niedergang, Ballantyne
That the Director of Mobility discuss with advocates and Councilors, options for the selection process for the new Pedestrian/Transit Committee and discuss its possible relationship to the Vision Zero Task Force and the Bicycle Committee.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- N. Order 208846 By City Councilor Niedergang, Davis
That the Director of SPCD report to this Council with ridership data for the City's "Bridge Hopper" shuttle to assess whether it has been worthwhile and whether there should be changes to its operation. (2nd request)
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

25. Mayor's Request (ID # 21734) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$45,000 to the DPW Buildings & Grounds Electricity Account to procure renewable energy for City operations.
26. Mayor's Request (ID # 21753) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$330 using available funds in the Health and Human Services Professional & Technical Services Account for contracted nursing services.
27. Mayor's Request (ID # 21729) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$120 for a subscription using available funds in the Library's Magazines and Periodicals Account.
28. Mayor's Request (ID # 21742) Requesting acceptance of a \$50,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for the purchase of 2 all-terrain vehicles.
29. Mayor's Request (ID # 21743) Requesting acceptance of an \$18,700 grant with no new match required, from the MA Dept of Public Health to the Police Department to purchase and provide training for Naxalone.

30. Mayor's Request (ID # 21728) Requesting approval of a time extension for the contract with Suffolk Construction for High School Construction Manager services, to December 31, 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

31. Officer's Communication (ID # 21756) Director of Housing Stability responding to #208626 with an updated Housing Stability Notification Act ordinance pursuant to the Legislative Matters Committee meeting on 9/17/19.

NEW BUSINESS

32. License/Permit (ID # 21763) Public Event License, Gilman Sq Neighborhood Association Block Party, Richdale Ave from School St to Lee St and Essex St from Richdale Ave to Medford St, Sep 28, 11AM-6PM (raindate Sep 29).
33. License/Permit (ID # 21764) Public Event License, Duck Village Block Party, Palmacci Park and Skehan St from Durham St to Hanson St and Hanson St from Skehan St to Nevada St, Sep 28, Noon-9PM (raindate Sep 29).
34. License/Permit (ID # 21765) Public Event License, Women's Commission Candlelight Vigil for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Statue Park, Oct 2, 1-8PM.
35. License/Permit (ID # 21766) Public Event License, Benton Rd Block Party, from Summer St to Highland Ave, Oct 5, Noon-6PM (raindate Oct 6).
36. License/Permit (ID # 21767) Public Event License, Highland Rd Block Party, from Summer St to Highland Ave, Oct 6, 2-8PM (raindate Oct 5).
37. License/Permit (ID # 21768) Public Event License, HONK! Festival, Fri Oct 11, 2-9:30PM: Hodgkins Park and area sidewalks; Sat Oct 12, 10AM-10PM: Seven Hills, Statue, and Kenney Parks, Elm St from Dover St to Cutter Ave, Chester St from Elm St to Herbert St, Dover St from Davis Sq to Flatbread Pizza, Summer St north side from Elm St to Windom St; Sun Oct 13, 10AM-2PM: Herbert St Lot, Day St from Orchard St to Elm St, Bowers Ave, Elm St to Beech St, Beech St to Cambridge.
38. License/Permit (ID # 21769) Public Event License, HONK! Festival Dinner and Party, ArtFarm, Oct 12 & 13, 4PM-2AM.
39. License/Permit (ID # 21770) Public Event License, Bond St Block Party, from Jaques St to Broadway, Oct 19, 10AM-5PM (raindate Oct 26).

- 40. License/Permit (ID # 21771) Renewing Open Air Vendor License, Next Wave-Full Circle School, 8 Bonair St.
- 41. Public Communication (ID # 21772) 29 Washington Street Realty Trust proposing a zoning amendment to re-zone their property at 29 Washington St to MR4 or MR5.
- 42. Public Communication (ID # 21773) 15 residents submitting comments re: airplane noise.
- 43. Public Communication (ID # 21774) Isabella Revett submitting comments re: the role of the Somerville Police in Boston's Straight Pride Parade on Aug 31.

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 44. Order (ID # 21775) By City Councilor Clingan That the Commissioner of Public Works demand that Russell Disposal put an immediate end to the illegal practice of backing their trucks down one-way streets.
- 45. Order (ID # 21776) By City Councilor Clingan That the Director of Parking install an illuminated STOP sign at the corner of Jacques Street at Edgar Avenue.
- 46. Order (ID # 21777) By City Councilor Hirsch That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss with this Council, any implications for Somerville as a result of the Governor's newly announced four-month ban on the sale of vaping products.
- 47. Order (ID # 21781) By City Councilor Scott That this Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits schedule a Show Cause hearing to determine why any business licenses issued to the Herb Chamber companies by this body should not be suspended or revoked for violations of the City's Wage Theft Ordinance.
- 48. Mayor's Request (ID # 21784) Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to expand the funding scope of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- 49. Officer's Communication (ID # 21779) Senior Planner requesting to appear before this Council to provide an update on the SomerVision 2040 process.

- 50. Officer's Communication (ID # 21778) Director of Parks and Recreation responding to #208682 re: opportunities and barriers for non-binary youth and adults to participate in athletics and access public facilities.
- 51. Officer's Communication (ID # 21730) Director of Parks and Recreation responding to #208816 re: maintenance and staffing at the Kennedy School Pool.
- 52. License/Permit (ID # 21780) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Keash Excavation.
- 53. Public Communication (ID # 21783) 28 residents commenting on the completion of the reconstruction of Beacon Street, and next steps.

LATE ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT