



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

Meeting Minutes Dispositions

Monday, December 4, 2023

6:00 PM

Virtual

This meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by Chair Clingan at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 7:29 p.m. on a Roll Call Vote: 3 in favor (Councilors Kelly, Gomez Mouakad, Clingan), 0 opposed, 0 absent.

Others present:

Michael Potere – Assistant Clerk of Committees; Demetrios Vidalis – Director of Water and Sewer; Richard Raiche – Director of IAM; Hannah Carrillo – Legislative Liaison; Jake Wilson – At-Large City Councilor.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Jesse Clingan, Vice Chair Beatriz Gomez Mouakad and Charlotte Kelly

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Utilities and Public Works Committee Meeting of November 13, 2023. [23-1705](#)

Accepted

Aye: Chairperson Clingan, Vice Chair Gomez Mouakad and City Councilor At Large Kelly

2. That the Director of Engineering provide this Council with a timeline for all utility work and paving projects scheduled for Highland Ave including the Highland Ave redesign project. [23-1773](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Clingan, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott and Councilor Wilson

Kept in committee

3. That the Director of Water and Sewer explain the increases in water bills for households with new water meters and consider a forgiveness period for unexpected increases due to inaccuracies in prior metering. [23-1677](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Davis and Councilor Clingan

Kept in committee

4. That the Commissioner of Public Works install a water fountain for people and dogs at Nunziato field. [23-1596](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Ewen-Campen

Kept in committee

5. That the Administration report on capacity to allow parallel staffing and funding for the development of the 1895 Building, School Building Master Plan and the Fire Department Master Plan Building Study. [23-1437](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Ewen-Campen

Kept in committee

6. That the Administration collaborate with the School Department on determining the best and future use of the 1895 Building. [23-1436](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Ewen-Campen

Kept in committee

7. That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management report on ongoing deficiencies of City Hall and the City Hall Annex that could impair the future use of these buildings. [23-1435](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Ewen-Campen

Kept in committee

8. That the Director of Water and Sewer and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management explain what maintenance will be required for the new Poplar Street Pump Station and Spring Hill Sewer Separation Project, and how these maintenance requirements will be staffed to ensure their proper upkeep. [23-1183](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad

Recommended to be marked work completed

9. That this Council's Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works discuss the Somerville Internet Access Task Force's recommendation regarding Municipal Broadband. [23-0548](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Clingan

Recommended to be marked work completed

10. That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management and the [22-2124](#)

Director of Engineering discuss with this Council, a policy of burying utilities when a new thoroughfare is constructed.

Sponsors: Councilor Wilson, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Scott

Recommended to be marked work completed

11. That the Commissioner of Public Works provide information on options to engage local and minority owned businesses in contract work. [22-2023](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Strezo, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Burnley Jr.

Kept in committee

12. That the Administration work with the City Council to establish a process for enforcement of Section 11-63 of the Code of Ordinances. [22-1987](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Davis

Kept in committee

13. That this Council discuss municipal broadband, and the implementation of the Somerville Internet Access Task Force. [22-1848](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

Kept in committee

14. That the Administration make information about all licenses and permits viewable without requiring a CitizenServ account. [22-1797](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Clingan, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

Recommended to be marked work completed

15. That the Administration update this Council on developments related to the Request for Proposals for the disposition of the property located at 90 Union Square. [22-1763](#)

Sponsors: Councilor McLaughlin

Recommended to be marked work completed

16. That the Administration update this Council on actions taken related to the possible relocation of the Somerville Media Center and Massachusetts Alliance for Portuguese Speakers from the city-owned [22-1762](#)

property at 90 Union Square.

Sponsors: Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
Recommended to be marked work completed

17. That the Commissioner of Public Works update the Ward 1 City Councilor regarding plans to find a location for excessive snow other than 90 Washington Street. [22-1737](#)

Sponsors: Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Kelly
Recommended to be marked work completed

18. That the Director of Engineering develop safety protocols and notification requirements for any projects, planned or emergency, taking place within a determined radius of a school. [22-1688](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Clingan
Recommended to be marked work completed

19. That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management present to this Council, a plan to fix the Somerville Media Center's roof. [22-1596](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Burnley Jr.
Recommended to be marked work completed

20. Amending Sec. 11-63 of the Code of Ordinances regarding the removal of poles, conduits and wires. [22-0835](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Strezo, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Gomez Mouakad
Kept in committee

21. That the Commissioner of Public Works work with the MA Department of Transportation to address highway safety measures along I-93 that directly abut the East Somerville neighborhood. [22-0450](#)

Sponsors: Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Kelly and Councilor Strezo
Recommended to be marked work completed

22. That the Director of Engineering and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management consider implementing a pilot program for Green Infrastructure as a means to reduce issues of flooding in the Gilman Square Neighborhood. [22-0336](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
Recommended to be marked work completed

23. That the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development work with this Council to create policies to reduce the length of time that construction projects block sidewalk access, including the possibility of increasing fees to discourage extended sidewalk closures.

[22-0052](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Ewen-Campen

Kept in committee