

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
Matters of Business of the Board of Aldermen

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2017, 7:00 PM
Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Board of Aldermen's minutes. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the data provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Alderman At Large William A. White Jr.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Alderman At Large	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Robert J. McWatters	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Tony Lafuente	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Absent	

1. Roll Call
202866
(ID:15585)

Call of the Roll.
Alderman Rossetti held a moment of silence for Ligia Taylor. Alderman Connolly held a moment of silence for Paul Carroll. Alderman Sullivan held a moment of silence for Linda Delvecchio-Bergen. Alderman McWatters held a moment of silence for Leah Accomando. Alderman Lafuente held a moment of silence for George Bishop.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

2. Minutes
202867
(ID:15586)

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 26, 2017.
RESULT: APPROVED

CITATIONS

3. Citation 202868 (ID:15593) By Ald. Niedergang, the Entire Board and the Mayor Commending Mary Mangan, who volunteered to be the City's first "Solar Coach" and was critical to the success of the Solarize Somerville campaign.

Alderman Niedergang invited Mary Mangan, Russell Koty and Oliver Sellers-Garcia to the podium to present Ms. Mangan with a citation for contributing mightily to the success of the Solarize Somerville Campaign.

RESULT: APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. Grant of Location 202869 (ID:15594) Submitted by Eversource to relocate 23 poles and 1 steel guy pole, and remove 1 pole, along the length of Beacon Street as part of the street widening project.

The President opened the public hearing. Jacqueline Duffy with Eversource discussed the details of the work to be completed. With no other speakers, the President closed the public hearing. Alderman Heuston stated that the Eversource plans don't match the Beacon St. construction plans, and they need further review by the DPW Commissioner and the Director of Transportation and Infrastructure.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

5. Order 202870 (ID:15575) By Ald. White Jr. Proposing an amendment to the Rules of this Board, to permit the issuance of subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents.

This will be kept before the Board while the Law Office conducts a review as to legality.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

6. Order 202871 (ID:15565) By Ald. Ballantyne That the City Arborist check the health of the tree at 23 Kingston Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

7. Order 202872 (ID:15576) By Ald. Rossetti, Connolly, White Jr., Sullivan That the Director of Traffic and Parking report the number of warnings and citations issued for snow covered vehicles following the 9AM lifting of the snow emergency on 2/13/17.

Alderman Rossetti would like to see a report on warnings and citations for snow-covered vehicles.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

- | | |
|---|--|
| 8. Order
202873
(ID:15577) | By Ald. McWatters
That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the sidewalk panels on Highland Avenue, from the Veteran's Honor Roll to Putnam Avenue. |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED
FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee</p> | |
| 9. Order
202874
(ID:15578) | By Ald. McWatters, Niedergang, Heuston
That the Commissioner of Public Works fill in the potholes on Bow, Lowell and Porter Streets and on Somerville Avenue, from Bow Street to School Street. |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED</p> | |
| 10. Order
202875
(ID:15584) | By Ald. Niedergang
That the Water and Sewer Superintendent report to this Board whether homeowners could install a separate water meter for outdoor water lines, which would not incur sewer fees. |
| <p>Alderman Niedergang would like to have a discussion with the Water Superintendent regarding outdoor water use rates.
RESULT: APPROVED
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee</p> | |
| 11. Order
202876
(ID:15579) | By Ald. Niedergang
That the Director of SPCD report to this Board on plans to utilize the \$220,000 in traffic mitigation funds paid by Maxwell's Green, and whether they can be used for improvements at Cedar Street, Murdock Street, and the "Patch" neighborhood west of Maxwell's Green. |
| <p>Alderman Niedergang stated that these funds have been sitting for over five years. He would like an update on their use.
RESULT: APPROVED
FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee</p> | |
| 12. Order
202877
(ID:15583) | By Ald. Niedergang
That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services report to this Board on the extent to which City inspectors enforce snow and ice removal in the city, broken down by ward, in response to complaints that many sidewalks were never cleared. |
| <p>Alderman Niedergang requested a report on tickets for snow violations, and President White asked that it cover the entire City.
RESULT: APPROVED
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee</p> | |
| 13. Withdrawn
202878
(ID:15582) | Withdrawn.
RESULT: WITHDRAWN |

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---|
| 14. | Withdrawn
202879
(ID:15580) | Withdrawn. |
| | | RESULT: WITHDRAWN |
| 15. | Withdrawn
202880
(ID:15581) | Withdrawn. |
| | | RESULT: WITHDRAWN |
| 16. | Communication
202881
(ID:15595) | By Ald. White Jr.
In his capacity as President, appointing Ald. Heuston to the Bicycle Advisory Committee. |
| | | RESULT: PLACED ON FILE |

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| 17. | Resolution
202725
(ID:15431) | By Ald. Rossetti, McWatters
That the Administration unveil the CPA-funded Prospect Hill Tour inclusion video at this Board's next meeting. |
| | | Alderman Rossetti introduced Dick Bauer who presented the 8-minute video. |
| | | RESULT: WORK COMPLETED |

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

18. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| A. | Committee
Report
202882
(ID:15596) | Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on February 16, 2017. |
| | | Alderman Rossetti reported on the items discussed at the meeting. She discussed transferring the powers of the Redevelopment Authority for the Union Square redevelopment to this Board. She said the Committee proposed an Ordinance to safeguard vulnerable road users: all new vehicles include these safeguards. The City owns 25 vehicles that need to be retrofitted at a cost of \$500-\$3,000 per vehicle. |
| | | RESULT: APPROVED |
| B. | Order
202621
(ID:15353) | By Ald. Niedergang, McLaughlin, Ballantyne, White Jr.
That the Director of SPCD share with this Board any plans for improving the performance and credibility of the Somerville Redevelopment Authority, and distribute to each Alderman the Kennedy School report on the future of the SRA. |
| | | RESULT: WORK COMPLETED |

19. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

A. Committee Report 202883 (ID:15597) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on February 22, 2017.

Alderman Connolly reported on the items discussed at the meeting. There was a discussion regarding the Appleton Street fire. This property had been used as an AirBnB. The Committee is looking into what measures need to be taken to establish local control for AirBnBs, including regulations, hotel taxes, etc. Another item discussed was special police details, which can be assigned to retired police officers up to the age of 65. The Committee is looking to increase the maximum age to 68.

RESULT: APPROVED

B. Order 201889 (ID:14567) By Ald. Connolly, Rossetti, Sullivan, White Jr., Niedergang That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services inspect 15-17-19 Henderson Street for all code violations and unauthorized removals of stop work orders and unsafe building notices, and report back to this Board on recommended actions to ensure the public's health and safety.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

C. Order 202319 (ID:14992) By Ald. Ballantyne That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services inspect 135 Hillsdale Road for an illegal rooming house.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

D. Order 202325 (ID:15016) By Ald. Ballantyne That the Director of Constituent Services and the Superintendent of Inspectional Services discuss the 311 calls and inspections related to 19 Clarendon Avenue.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

E. Order 202336 (ID:15046) By Ald. Heuston That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services inspect 44 Adrian Street for building and health code violations and contact the property owner to make necessary repairs.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

F. Order 202499 (ID:15186) By Ald. Ballantyne That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services update the Ward 7 Alderman regarding the inspection of 135 Hillsdale Road as an illegal rooming house.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- G. Order 202710 (ID:15400) By Ald. McLaughlin
That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services inspect the trash barrels of the apartment complex at the intersection of McGrath Highway, Bonair Street and Otis Street weekly and issue fines where appropriate.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- H. Order 202766 (ID:15459) By Ald. Heuston
That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services inspect the new construction on Beacon Place to determine if it complies with the approved construction plan, and report the findings to the Ward 2 Alderman.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

20. Mayor's Request 202884 (ID:15469) Requesting approval to appropriate \$360,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the Assembly Square Master Plan.

Alderman Lafuente requested to waive the readings of items 20 through 22 and refer them to the Finance Committee. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

21. Mayor's Request 202885 (ID:15564) Requesting acceptance of a \$120,000 grant that requires a match, from the Metro North Regional Employment Board to SPCD to promote advanced manufacturing.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

22. Mayor's Request 202886 (ID:15558) Requesting authorization to increase the expenditure cap of the Planning and Zoning Notice Revolving Fund from \$28,000 to \$35,000 for FY17.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

23. Mayor's Request 202887 (ID:15591) Requesting that this Board approve a 2017 local election calendar.

Alderman Rossetti requested to waive the reading of item 23 and refer it to the Legislative Matters Committee. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 24. Mayor's Request 202888 (ID:15573) | Requesting the appointment of Robert McCarthy to the position of District Fire Chief. | <p>Alderman Heuston requested to waive the readings of items 24 through 34 and refer them to the Confirmation of Appointments Committee. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.</p> <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |
| 25. Mayor's Request 202889 (ID:15572) | Requesting the appointment of Patrick Halloran to the position of Fire Lieutenant. | <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |
| 26. Mayor's Request 202890 (ID:15566) | Requesting the appointment of Mackenzie Richardson to the Police Reserve List. | <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |
| 27. Mayor's Request 202891 (ID:15567) | Requesting the appointment of Justin Brown to the Police Reserve List. | <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |
| 28. Mayor's Request 202892 (ID:15568) | Requesting the appointment of Justin Buswell to the Police Reserve List. | <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |
| 29. Mayor's Request 202893 (ID:15569) | Requesting the appointment of Mark McLaughlin to the Police Reserve List. | <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |
| 30. Mayor's Request 202894 (ID:15570) | Requesting the appointment of Sergio Costa to the Police Reserve List. | <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 31. Mayor's Request 202895 (ID:15571) | Requesting the appointment of Seamus Lynch to the Police Reserve List. | RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee |
| 32. Mayor's Request 202896 (ID:15421) | Requesting the appointment of Jessica R. Alter to the Commission for Women. | RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee |
| 33. Mayor's Request 202897 (ID:15422) | Requesting the appointment of Kaitlyn P. Dmyterko to the Commission for Women. | RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee |
| 34. Mayor's Request 202898 (ID:15423) | Requesting the appointment of Stephanie Goodell to the Commission for Women. | RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee |
| 35. Mayor's Request 202899 (ID:15574) | Requesting the appointment of retired Police Officer Joseph Macarelli as a Special Police Officer. | RESULT: APPROVED |

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 36. Officer's Communication 202900 (ID:15587) | Finance Director submitting a mid-year report of the City's budget performance for FY17. | RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee |
|---|--|--|

NEW BUSINESS

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

37. Order By Ald. Heuston
202901 That the Director of Communications send a CTY call to residents during a
(ID:15592) water main break in addition to knocking door to door.

Alderman Heuston would like to see the City communicate news of water breaks by means in addition to knocking door to door.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

38. Order By Ald. Heuston
202902 That the Chief Assessor inform this Board about whether a review is
(ID:15590) conducted each fiscal year to verify that residential exemptions are accurate, whether an audit is conducted before an exemption is granted, and whether there is data about the percentage of properties where residency cannot be verified.

Alderman Heuston requested an update with residential exemption information.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

39. Order By Ald. Heuston
202903 That the Director of SPCD and the Director of Traffic and Parking arrange a
(ID:15589) meeting with the Ward 2 Alderman to discuss a proposal for new parking regulations upon the completion of Beacon Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

40. Order By Ald. Heuston
202904 That the Director of Traffic and Parking replace the LOADING ZONE sign at
(ID:15588) 352 Washington Street with a standard parking sign.

RESULT: APPROVED

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 41. | Resolution
202905
(ID:15598) | <p>By Ald. White Jr., and the Entire Board</p> <p>That the Administration delay any final vote by the Redevelopment Authority on the Union Square Land Disposition Agreement until a public hearing is held to obtain public input and respond to public questions, and until the Agreement is discussed with this Board.</p> |
| | | <p>President White would like the Board more involved in the Union Square redevelopment. He proposed that a final vote by the Redevelopment Authority on the Union Square Land Disposition Agreement not be taken until a Public Hearing is held. Alderman Heuston raised concerns about the zoning in the Land Disposition Agreement which the Board has not voted on yet. Alderman Niedergang will schedule a meeting of the Housing and Community Development Committee, meeting as a Committee of the Whole, to consider the matter.</p> <p>RESULT: APPROVED</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee</p> |
| 42. | Mayor's
Request
202906
(ID:15557) | <p>Requesting a transfer of \$55,577 from the Transportation and Infrastructure Personal Services Account to the Salary Contingency Fund.</p> |
| | | <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee</p> |
| 43. | Mayor's
Communication
202907
(ID:15599) | <p>Conveying statistical and policy information from Airbnb relative to home sharing usage in Somerville.</p> |
| | | <p>Alderman Sullivan requested to waive the readings of items 43 through 45 and place them on file with referrals to the appropriate Committees. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.</p> <p>RESULT: PLACED ON FILE</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee</p> |
| 44. | Officer's
Communication
202908
(ID:15466) | <p>Chief Assessor responding to #202516 re: statutory tax exemptions and outreach efforts.</p> |
| | | <p>RESULT: PLACED ON FILE</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee</p> |
| 45. | Officer's
Communication
202909
(ID:15601) | <p>Director of SPCD conveying the Kennedy School's "Future of the SRA" report, in response to #202621.</p> |
| | | <p>RESULT: PLACED ON FILE</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee</p> |
| 46. | License/Permit
202910
(ID:15604) | <p>Public Event Permit, Groundwork Somerville Maple Syrup Boil-Down for School Field Trips, Growing Center, Mar 2, 9AM-2:30PM (raindate Mar 9).</p> |
| | | <p>Alderman Sullivan requested to waive the readings of items 46 through 48 and approve them. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.</p> <p>RESULT: APPROVED</p> |

47. License/Permit 202911 (ID:15603) Public Event Permit, BA Event Promotions Race of Ireland 5K Walk/Run, Davis Sq area, Mar 19, 7AM-3PM.

RESULT: APPROVED

48. License/Permit 202912 (ID:15602) Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, American Auto Gallery, 682 Mystic Ave.

RESULT: APPROVED

LATE ITEMS

49. Resolution 202913 (ID:15608) By Ald. Connolly That the Administration prepare a Home Rule Petition to increase the maximum age of Special Police Officers from 65 years old to 68.

RESULT: APPROVED
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

50. Communication 202914 (ID:15607) By Ald. Rossetti Conveying Mike Wisner's report of the Massport RNAV Hearing and Forum, held on February 22, 2017, with the associated Massport presentation.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:20 PM.