

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2020, 7:00 PM
 Meeting by Remote Participation

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the City Council'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 CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Stephanie Hirsch	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Wilfred N. Mbah	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	City Councilor At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One City Councilor	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two City Councilor	Present	
Ben Ewen-Campen	Ward Three City Councilor	Present	
Jesse Clingan	Ward Four City Councilor	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five City Councilor	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six City Councilor	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven City Councilor	Present	

1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
 209989
 (ID:22879) **RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**

2. Remembrances Remembrances.
 209990
 (ID:22880) Councilor Niedergang sponsored a moment of silence for Julio Quintanilla.
 Councilor White sponsored a moment of silence for John McKenna.
 RESULT: APPROVED

3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 12, 2020.
 209991
 (ID:22881) **RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**
 AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
 Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. Grant of Location 209992 (ID:22858)

Submitted by Eversource to install 56 feet of conduit in the intersection of Linden Avenue and Elm Street from Pole 112/6A to a point of pickup at 36 Elm Street.

The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Katie Flaherty presented herself. Michael Clark, a resident in the neighborhood, opposed the application, explaining that a fence was installed on his property without his permission by Eversource. Several tenants have complained to him that the fence doesn't allow them access to the main driveway, and he requested that Eversource repair the damages and remove the illegal fence immediately. Councilor Niedergang, the Ward Councilor, offered to work with Mr. Clark and Eversource to remedy the situation. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until April 24, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP: City Council
5. Grant of Location 209993 (ID:22859)

Submitted by Eversource to install 72 feet of conduit in Oak Street from utility pole 258/2 to a point of pickup at 5 Oak Street.

The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Katie Flaherty presented herself. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until April 24, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP: City Council
6. Grant of Location 209994 (ID:22860)

Submitted by Eversource to install 21 feet of conduit in Clyde Street from utility pole 74/4 to a point of pickup at 28 Clyde Street.

The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Katie Flaherty presented herself. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until April 24, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP: City Council
7. Grant of Location 209995 (ID:22861)

Submitted by Eversource to install 35 feet of conduit in Garfield Avenue from pole 139/2 to a point of pickup at 6 Garfield Avenue.

The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Katie Flaherty presented herself. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until April 24, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP: City Council

8. Grant of Location 209996 (ID:22862) Submitted by Eversource to install 138 feet of conduit in Somerville Avenue and Laurel Street from Manhole #8639 to a new Manhole #30989 on Laurel Street, then install 36 feet of conduit from that manhole to a point of pickup at the rear of 515 Somerville Avenue.

The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Katie Flaherty presented herself. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until April 24, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

FOLLOWUP: City Council

9. Grant of Location 209997 (ID:22863) Submitted by Eversource to install 70 feet of conduit in Broadway from manhole #2572 to a new handhole in front of Trum Field.

The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Katie Flaherty presented herself and, in response to a question, explained that a handhole is an underground link where conduit attaches to a property. She said she didn't know if the power was for a 5G antenna, but would provide more information next week. Councilor Scott noted the site is familiar to the Council, and the antenna has raised concerns. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until April 24, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

FOLLOWUP: City Council

10. Grant of Location 209998 (ID:22864) Submitted by Eversource to install 80 feet of conduit in Broadway from manhole #2569 to a new handhole at the intersection of Broadway and Dexter Street.

The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Katie Flaherty presented herself. Councilor Niedergang asked if a permit was required from the City of Medford, because the conduit crosses the border into that City, and he asked about the antenna being powered there. Ms. Flaherty said she would get answers to the Council. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until April 24, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

FOLLOWUP: City Council

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

11. Order 209999 (ID:22870) By City Councilor Mbah, Niedergang, Ballantyne, Clingan That the Chief of Police and the Chief Fire Engineer appear before this Council’s Committee on Public Health and Public Safety with an update on their plans to keep first responders safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilor Mbah expressed the need to keep the first responders safe. He noted that in New York City, 477 Firefighters and 1,000 Police Officers have tested positive for the Coronavirus. Councilor Niedergang commented that the Director of Health and Human Services has stated that there's one person responsible to train each department on Coronavirus safety, and he asked that the Fire and Police Chiefs provide the contact information for their trainer.

Councilor McLaughlin discussed a similar item on the agenda (#13), and stressed the importance of testing first responders to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. He noted that the State has stations in the City where the public can get tested. Councilor Niedergang confirmed that the Cambridge Health Alliance facility will test first responders.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

12. Order 210000 (ID:22871) By City Councilor Mbah That Director of Health and Human services provide this Council with evidence-based research on handling postal mail without protective equipment with respect to the spread of the coronavirus.

Councilor Mbah said he reached out to the Director of Health & Human Services for an answer, and hasn't received one. Councilor Ballantyne said that mail is handled at the federal level, and asked if he wanted the Director to contact the federal government. Councilor Mbah responded that it didn't matter where the information comes from. Councilor White expressed how important safe mail handling is for constituents.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

13. Resolution 210001 (ID:22875) By City Councilor McLaughlin That the Administration take measures to ensure that first responders and essential personnel are prioritized for COVID-19 testing for personal and public safety purposes.

For discussion of this item see #209999.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

14. Order 210002 (ID:22876) By City Councilor McLaughlin, Clingan, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr. That the Director of Communications broadcast remote meetings of this Council and its Committees on cable access television and coordinate with the Somerville Media Center to ensure all three channels are broadcasting remote meetings and COVID-19 related items.

Councilor Scott said he was excited to see the public watching this meeting and testifying at a public hearing. He said the City's level of communication with the public about the Coronavirus is amazing. Councilor Clingan said this meeting should stream on the existing broadcast system, and noted that some residents don't have local cable and can't watch the City Council meetings without streaming. Councilor McLaughlin added that live streaming is very useful.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

15. Order 210003 (ID:22877) By City Councilor McLaughlin, Clingan, Davis, Ballantyne, Niedergang, Scott, White Jr., Ewen-Campen, Rossetti, Hirsch, Mbah That the City Solicitor draft an ordinance formally recognizing domestic partnerships.

Councilor McLaughlin learned from a constituent that the City doesn't acknowledge domestic partnerships. He said this problem is Coronavirus-related because it can prevent an individual from being added to their partner's health insurance. He noted that both Cambridge and Boston recognize domestic partnerships. Councilor Ballantyne asked about the legality of domestic partnerships, and City Clerk John Long responded the public should consult an attorney to learn more, and that domestic partnerships are not recognized by the State or Federal Government but are recognized by some private companies for health insurance. Councilor Scott said that without the recognition of a domestic partnership, many legal processes can be difficult, such as estate planning and health coverage.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

16. Resolution 210004 (ID:22869) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Scott, Ballantyne, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr. That the Administration update this Council on opportunities to provide universal broadband internet access in Somerville.

Councilor Ewen-Campen noted the United Nations recognized the internet as a human right. The internet holds valuable public health information, safety resources and Government updates. However, many residents don't have internet access. He said the City Council was working to create a task force for internet accessibility and has requested more information on municipal broadband. Councilor Niedergang noted this project has been discussed among the Council for several years, and said internet access for residents is a top priority for the City.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

17. Resolution 209284 (ID:22154) By City Councilor Scott Supporting House Resolution 702, The People's Justice Guarantee.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP: City Council

18. Resolution 209931 (ID:22805) By City Councilor Mbah, Clingan That, in the event of a shelter in place order, this Council urges Governor Baker to activate all means necessary to support residents, such as no rent payments, no evictions, no tickets, and no loan repayments, until the order is lifted.

Councilor Mbah expressed how important it is to support to the most vulnerable residents during the Coronavirus outbreak. Councilor Niedergang said he doesn't know how to amend this item so he could support it. He said "no evictions for the vulnerable population" should simply be "no evictions," applying to every population. He also said the House has passed a No Evictions order, which is now waiting for Senate and Governor approval. Councilor Rossetti noted evictions have been discussed during the Public Health and Public Safety meetings, and said that landlords are still responsible for paying taxes and utilities, so she could not support this. Councilor Mbah discussed finding a solution, such as making an amendment to include landlords. Councilor Scott noted that a prior resolution offered by Councilor Ewen-Campen addressed evictions in an eloquent manner, and offered to work with Councilor Mbah to re-draft the resolution.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

19. License/Permit 209973 (ID:22787) New Extended Hours License, Dunkin Donuts, 282 Somerville Avenue, for 24/7 operation for in-store and take-out service only.

Councilor White noted this item had been Laid on the Table for the Ward Councilor to reach out to the owner. Councilor Scott said he had a meeting with the new owner and discussed issues that need to be corrected, and would like this to remain on the table until the owner has resolved them.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP: City Council

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

20. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210005 (ID:22867) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on March 31, 2020.

Councilor Ewen-Campen noted the Committee will only work on items the City has capacity to complete. The zoning amendments that would not require a public hearing are being completed, and the Committee is working on legislation for affordable housing. A public hearing has been scheduled for minor amendments to the zoning overhaul, and the public should view the report online for further details.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

21. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210006 (ID:22866) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on March 30, 2020.

Councilor Davis noted all members were present and encouraged the public to view the city website for Coronavirus updates. The public should stay home, practice social distancing and wear masks when going outside. A task force is working with businesses to implement safety guidelines such as social distancing. The Committee received a request to close public streets to provide wider walking paths for the public, but the Administration did not want to move forward.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- B. Resolution 209939 (ID:22813) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr. That the Administration create a task force to begin mid- to long-term logistical planning for a possible reduced workforce, in case this State of Emergency continues for an extended period.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- C. Resolution 209941 (ID:22815) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne, Clingan, Scott That the Administration coordinate with local charitable organizations to create a centralized fund to provide direct support to front line workers, residents, and local businesses most in need.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- D. Order 209944 (ID:22818) By City Councilor Niedergang, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Rossetti, Ballantyne, Davis, Hirsch, White Jr., Clingan That the Director of SPCD, the Commissioner of Public Works, and the Director of Parks and Recreation consider turning some or all Neighborways into modified pedestrian-only areas (allowing cars only for residents and their essential visitors), to relieve the current congestion on the Community Path and some sidewalks.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

22. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210007 (ID:22868) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on April 6, 2020.

Councilor Davis said weekly Committee meetings will continue. He mentioned a presentation by SomerStat Analyst Christine Koh about the Coronavirus crisis globally and locally, which is available online. Health and Human Services Director Doug Kress reported that the City is working with Cambridge to provide housing for individuals who are homeless, need quarantining, or are first responders. He asked the public to call 311 to report businesses that fail to comply with social distancing. He discussed the importance of wearing a mask when leaving home, and said the city website has instructions to make face masks and other COVID-19 safety information. City street sweeping begins April 15, and the Administration is considering not issuing tickets due to the stay-at-home order. Councilor Scott discussed city spending on the pandemic for personal protective equipment for city staff and organizations. The \$200,000 the City Council approved last meeting was expended in the last two weeks. He noted that all public gatherings have been canceled, including the July 4th fireworks.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- B. Resolution 209936 (ID:22810) By City Councilor Mbah, Ewen-Campen, Clingan That this Council calls on landlords and real estate agents to avoid showing occupied units to avoid the spread of coronavirus.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

23. Mayor's Request 210008 (ID:22872) Requesting the appropriation of \$109,453 from the Receipts Reserved-Insurance Reimbursement Account to the Information Technology Ordinary Maintenance Account to pay for water damage to equipment.

Councilor Scott noted #s 210008 and 210009 are both clerical items, as the Council accepted similar amounts from an insurance settlement a month ago.
RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

24. Mayor's Request 210009 (ID:22873) Requesting the appropriation of \$53,570 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation-Insurance Reimbursement Account to the DPW Admin Repairs and Maintenance Account to pay for water damage in the IT Department.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

25. Mayor's Request 210010 (ID:22841) Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Eliza Johnston to the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

26. Officer's Communication 210011 (ID:22874) Retirement Board notifying this City Council of a vote at the Retirement Board's May 28, 2020 meeting regarding a 2020 Cost of Living Adjustment for eligible retirees.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

NEW BUSINESS

27. License/Permit 210012 (ID:22845) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Your Space Landscape and Construction.

Councilor White requested to waive the readings of items 27 to 45 and approve them. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.
RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

28.	License/Permit 210013 (ID:22846)	Renewing Drainlayer's License, RM Pacella.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
29.	License/Permit 210014 (ID:22847)	Renewing Drainlayer's License, FE French Construction.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
30.	License/Permit 210015 (ID:22842)	Renewing Flammables License, Hillside Auto Repair, 583 Broadway.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
31.	License/Permit 210016 (ID:22848)	Renewing Garage License, Mercedes Benz of Boston, 19 Joy St.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
32.	License/Permit 210017 (ID:22849)	Renewing Garage License, Herb Chambers I-93, 259 McGrath Hwy.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
33.	License/Permit 210018 (ID:22850)	Renewing Garage License, Herb Chambers I-93, 71 Linwood St.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
34.	License/Permit 210019 (ID:22851)	Renewing Garage License, Mercedes Benz of Boston, 161 Linwood St.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
35.	License/Permit 210020 (ID:22852)	Renewing Garage License, Mercedes Benz of Boston Commercial Vans, 161 Linwood St.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

36.	License/Permit 210021 (ID:22853)	Renewing Garage License, Triumvirate Environmental, 191 Inner Belt Rd.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
37.	License/Permit 210022 (ID:22854)	Renewing Garage License, Chicken and Shakes Automotive, 6 Beach Ave.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
38.	License/Permit 210023 (ID:22843)	Renewing Outdoor Parking License, Mercedes Benz of Boston, 161 Linwood St.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
39.	License/Permit 210024 (ID:22844)	Renewing Billiards and Bowling License, Parise's Cafe, 97 Washington St.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
40.	License/Permit 210025 (ID:22865)	Small Wireless Facility License, ExteNet installing small wireless facilities on a replacement pole at 10 Radcliffe Road.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
41.	License/Permit 210026 (ID:22668)	Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Edelle Cab, Med #20.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
42.	License/Permit 210027 (ID:22855)	Renewing Taxi Medallion License, 32 Summer St Corp, Med #29.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
43.	License/Permit 210028 (ID:22667)	Renewing Taxi Medallion License, SJP Taxi, Med #45.	RESULT: AYES:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 44. | License/Permit
210029
(ID:22857) | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Silva Cab, Med #83. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 45. | License/Permit
210030
(ID:22856) | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Michael Cab, Med #88. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 46. | Order
210031
(ID:22884) | By City Councilor Ballantyne, Scott, Rossetti, Davis, McLaughlin, Niedergang, White Jr., Hirsch, Clingan, Ewen-Campen, Mbah
That the Election Commissioner discuss mailing absentee applications to registered voters for the upcoming primary and general elections. | <p>Councilor Ballantyne discussed making sure a high number of registered voters could vote. The Secretary of State stated he wouldn't allow municipalities to mail ballots to voters. She would like the city's Elections Commissioner to discuss mailing out absentee ballot applications to voters. Councilor Scott discussed a recent conversation with the Elections Commissioner, and said the State's guidance wasn't very helpful. He encouraged Councilors to contact the State Delegation and the Secretary of State for permission to mail out absentee ballots.</p> <p>RESULT: LAI D ON THE TABLE</p> |
| 47. | Order
210032
(ID:22885) | By City Councilor Ballantyne, Clingan, Ewen-Campen, McLaughlin
That the Chief of Police discuss what may be done to curb domestic and partner violence especially during the COVID-19 crisis, as victims are quarantined with their abusers. | <p>Councilor Ballantyne discussed her concern for increased domestic violence due to the stay-at-home order. The Chief of Police anticipated the domestic violence cases will increase this year. Somerville data shows that there has been an increase in domestic violence over the years. She requested that first responders make the safety of women their number one priority when responding to domestic violence calls, and urged the city to use social media to share domestic violence information with the public.</p> <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee</p> |

48. Order 210033 (ID:22886) By City Councilor Hirsch
That the Director of Health and Human Services explain the current protocol for notifying residents of positive COVID-19 tests and contacts and how services may be offered that allow them to receive treatment, maintain household stability, and isolate themselves as needed.

Councilor Hirsch discussed how individuals who tested positive for the Coronavirus will need support for the next steps, such as notifying people they encountered, maintaining employment, keeping housing, and separating from their children. She said the Health Department and School District are working together on creating a support system.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

49. Order 210034 (ID:22887) By City Councilor Hirsch, Scott
That the Board of Assessors extend the deadline for applications for Residential and/or Statutory Exemptions beyond the current April 1 deadline.

Councilor Hirsch noted the exemptions are based on age and income, and allow residents to pay less in taxes. Councilor White noted the April 1, deadline was established by state statute and there may be no local discretion.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

LATE ITEMS

50. Order 210035 (ID:22889) By City Councilor Rossetti
That the Director of Finance update this Council on all money received to date related to the COVID-19 situation.

Councilor Rossetti requested an update on all money received for COVID-19. Councilor Scott would like to convene a Finance Committee meeting before the next City Council meeting to discuss this item further.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

51. Order 210036 (ID:22890) By City Councilor Rossetti That the Director of Finance update this Council on all expenditures, encumbrances and anticipated expenses to date related to the COVID-19 situation.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

52. Mayor's Request 209751 (ID:22595) Requesting that the subterranean rights below Kensington Avenue and 0 Middlesex Avenue be declared surplus and available for disposition.

Discharged from the Committee on Finance.
Councilor Scott discussed the Finance Committee's concerns about this request for underground rights to subterranean property under a city street and an open space parcel. The intent is for the property to be declared surplus and available for bidding. There is an individual who hopes to build an underground parking garage. The conditions of the sale will include restoring a public park. Councilor White noted he was initially concerned, but has been assured that the request is only for underground development rights, and he now supports the item. For future surplus properties, a Declaration of Surplus should be conditioned on final approval by the Council. Councilor McLaughlin noted that a new development by Edge Technologies will be built. It's an environmentally friendly company based in Holland, and he expressed support for this request.
RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 9:00 PM.