

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2012, 7:00 PM
Aldermanic Chambers

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
William M. Roche	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Thomas F. Taylor	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Sean T. O'Donovan	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Rebekah Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Robert C. Trane	Ward Seven Alderman	Absent	
Tony Lafuente	Ward 4 Alderman	Present	

1. #192540 Call of the Roll.
Roll Call

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

2. #192541 Approval of the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting, January 2, 2012, the
Minutes Special Meeting, January 10, 2012, and the Regular Meeting, January 12,
2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

CITATIONS

3. #192542 By Ald. Heuston, and the Entire Board and the Mayor
Citation Commending Frank Senesi, who is retiring after 8 years of dedicated service
as the Director of Veterans Affairs.

RESULT: APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. #192543 Grant of Location submitted by NStar Electric, to relocate a pole and install
Grant of Location 10 feet of conduit in Fellsway West.

RESULT: APPROVED

Ald. Roche recused.

5. #192544 Grant of Location submitted by NStar Electric, to install 40 feet of conduit in
Grant of Location from a pole to a point of pick up on Perkins St.

RESULT: APPROVED

Ald. Roche recused.

6. #192545 Grant of Location submitted by NStar Electric, to install 5 feet of conduit
Grant of Location from a pole to a private property at 11 George St.

RESULT: APPROVED

Ald. Roche recused.

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

7. #192546 By Ald. Lafuente, White Jr., Sullivan
Order That the Director of Traffic and Parking increase the number of drop off
spaces and improve systems to keep student drop-off vans out of the middle
of the street at the Winter Hill Community School and ensure that they stay
on the school side of Sycamore Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

8. #192547 By Ald. Lafuente, White Jr., Sullivan
Order That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the sidewalk on Heath Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

9. #192548 By Ald. Lafuente, White Jr., Sullivan
Order That the Commissioner of Public Works repair and paint the front stairs to
the City Hall Annex.

RESULT: APPROVED

10. #192549 By Ald. Lafuente, White Jr., Sullivan
Order That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the concrete and remove the
graffiti from the stairs leading from the Mystic Housing Development to the
Healy School.

RESULT: APPROVED

11. #192550 By Ald. O'Donovan, Gewirtz
Order That this Board's Committee on Senior Services and the city's
 Communications Dept. caution residents, especially senior citizens, to
 beware of ads sent to them by private vendors about water line insurance, and
 that the Law Dept. determine the legitimacy of these offers.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Senior Services Committee
Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

12. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- A. #192551 Report of the Committee on Environment and Energy, meeting on February
Committee Report 9, 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #190218 By Ald. Trane, Sullivan, Gewirtz, O'Donovan
Resolution That this Board requests that the Administration investigate the availability
 of grant funding for electric car charging stations being offered by the state.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- C. #192235 By Ald. Gewirtz
Order That the Commissioner of Public Works advise this Board of the timeline for
 delivering single stream recycling totes to medium to large condo buildings.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

13. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. #192552 Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on February 8, 2012.
Committee Report

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #188313 Requesting an Appropriation Of, and Authorization to Borrow, \$300,000, in
Mayor's a Bond for the Purchase of an Artificial Ice-Skating Rink.
Communication

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- C. #188404 Mayor's Communication Requesting Approval to Extend a Contract with Symmes Maini & McKee Associates Inc. for Architectural Services at the Argenziano School, to August 31, 2010.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- D. #188669 Mayor's Communication Requesting Authorization for the City Treasurer to File an Application with the MA Municipal Finance Oversight Board to Qualify Under MGL C44A Any and All Bonds Authorized But Unissued, and to Execute Such Documents as the MA Board May Require.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- E. #188877 Mayor's Communication Requesting Approval to Return \$20,000 from the MaxPak Stabilization Fund to KSS Investment LLC.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- F. #189721 Order By Ald. Desmond That OSPCD and the Law Department Provide the Committee on Finance with Information Regarding Fines and Legal Action Taken Relative to To the Owner of 46 Pearl Street.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- G. #190197 Order By Ald. White Jr. That the Director of Finance appear before this Board's Committee on Finance to discuss all insurance claims relating to the July 10, 2010 flood, including the claims approved and rejected, and that a representative of the City Solicitor's Office appear to discuss the claims that have been rejected.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- H. #190263 Public Communication Bradford Johnson submitting comments re: the Union Sq. DIF.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- I. #190264 Public Communication Grace Kessenich submitting comments re: the Union Sq. DIF.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

J. #190265 Ruth Nunnally submitting comments re: the Union Sq. DIF.
Public
Communication

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

K. #190266 Kate Wheeler submitting comments re: the Union Sq. DIF.
Public
Communication

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

L. #190267 Lori Johnston submitting comments re: the Union Sq. DIF.
Public
Communication

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

M. #190268 Jeff Levine submitting comments re: the Union Sq. DIF.
Public
Communication

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

N. #190269 David Scott submitting comments re: the Union Sq. DIF.
Public
Communication

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

O. #190270 Tom Marchese submitting comments re: the Union Sq. DIF.
Public
Communication

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

P. #190271 Barry Rafkind submitting comments re: the Union Sq. DIF.
Public
Communication

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

Q. #190272 Michael Chiu submitting comments re: the Union Sq. DIF.
Public
Communication

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- R. #191434 Senator Brown responding to #190904 re: the federal CDBG program.
Public
Communication

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- S. #191887 Requesting an appropriation of \$24,000 from the Capital Projects
Mayor's Request Stabilization Fund for the purchase of 6 mobile radios for the Police Dept.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Connolly, Desmond, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston,
Taylor, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Lafuente

ABSENT: Robert C. Trane

- T. #191971 Requesting an appropriation of \$45,000 from the Capital Projects
Mayor's Request Stabilization Fund for the purchase of 1 Ford 14-passenger van for the Police
Dept.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Connolly, Desmond, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston,
Taylor, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Lafuente

ABSENT: Robert C. Trane

- U. #192091 Requesting acceptance of a \$10,120.20 grant from the Cambridge Health
Mayor's Request Alliance acting as agent for the MA Dept. of Public Health, for the Health
Dept.'s tuberculosis prevention and control efforts.

RESULT: APPROVED

Ald. Heuston recused.

- V. #192190 Requesting the acceptance of \$2,856.87 from Federal Realty Investment
Mayor's Request Trust for the Fire Dept. to cover overtime associated with the Riverfest
Fireworks.

RESULT: APPROVED

- W. #192260 Requesting a transfer of \$1,000 in the Public Health Dept., from the Salaries
Mayor's Request Acct. to the Professional and Technical Services Acct., to support the Youth
Risk Behavior Survey.

RESULT: APPROVED

- X. #192323 Requesting an appropriation of \$150,000 and authorization to borrow that
Mayor's Request amount in a bond for renovations to the ISD Office.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Connolly, Desmond, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston,
Taylor, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Lafuente

ABSENT: Robert C. Trane

- Y. #192326 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of \$7,665 grant from the MA Dept. of Fire Services for the Fire Dept.'s Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) campaign.

RESULT: APPROVED

- Z. #192445 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a \$60,000 grant from the MA Dept. of Public Health for the Health Dept.'s strategies to increase healthy eating and active living.

RESULT: APPROVED

- AA. #192446 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a \$4,950 grant from the MA Public Safety and Security Highway Safety Division for the Police Dept.'s Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Mobilization.

RESULT: APPROVED

- AB. #192461 Public Communication Attorney Paul Hynes submitting comments re: the arbitration decision with the Firefighters Union.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- AC. #192462 Public Communication Paul Kafka-Gibbons submitting comments re: Veterans Memorial Rink operating hours.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- AD. #192472 Mayor's Request Requesting departmental transfers totalling \$1,157,534 as described within to the Fire Dept. Salaries Acct. to fund the JLMC Decision in the Arbitration with the International Association of Firefighters Local 76.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- AE. #192473 Mayor's Request Requesting Use of \$418,957 in available funds in the Fire Dept. Salaries Acct. to fund the JLMC Decision in the Arbitration with the International Association of Firefighters Local 76.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- AF. #192474 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$255,648 from Unreserved Fund Balance to the Fire Dept. Salaries Acct. to fund the JLMC Decision in the Arbitration with the International Association of Firefighters Local 76.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- AG. #192475 Mayor's Request Requesting a transfer of \$2,400,000 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the Fire Dept. Salaries Acct. to fund the JLMC Decision in the Arbitration with the International Association of Firefighters Local 76.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- AH. #192506 Mayor's Request Requesting approval of two Amended and Restated Easement Agreements for Assembly Square.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Connolly, Desmond, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston,
Taylor, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Lafuente

ABSENT: Robert C. Trane

- AI. #192507 Mayor's Request Requesting approval of an Amendment to the Assembly Square Layout and Alteration Order adopted by this Board in January, 2010.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Connolly, Desmond, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston,
Taylor, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Lafuente

ABSENT: Robert C. Trane

14. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- A. #192553 Committee Report 2012. Report of the Committee on Information Technology, meeting on February 8, Committee Report 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #192116 Order By Ald. Gewirtz
That the Director of SPCD research Boston's New Urban Mechanics program, that engages community members in promoting civic innovation, and determine if a similar program is feasible in Somerville.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- C. #192322 Order By Ald. Roche
That the Chief Information Officer make recommendations for a centralized database so that information may be shared among various city departments when tracking problem properties, etc.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- D. #192437 Order By Ald. White Jr., Gewirtz, Sullivan, Taylor
That the Chief Financial Officer post on the City's website, an "Open Checkbook" so the public can search details of city spending and vendor payments.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- E. #192539 Order By Ald. Desmond, Roche, Gewirtz, and the Entire Board
That the Director of Communications appear before this Board's Committee of Information Technology to explain why Comcast charges residents much more for its service than in other surrounding communities and to provide suggestions on if and how Somerville's rates could be lowered.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- F. #192554 Resolution By Ald. Desmond, Roche
That the Director of Communications and the Administration consider obtaining a discounted rate for senior citizens when the contracts with cable providers are renegotiated.

RESULT: APPROVED

15. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. #192555 Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on February 7, Committee Report 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #192402 Public Communication Erving Board of Selectmen requesting that this Board consider supporting a proposal in MA for Congressional District apportionment of Presidential Electors for the Electoral College.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

16. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. #192556 Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on Committee Report February 6, 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #189248 Board Communication By Ald. O'Donovan
That This Board's Subcommittee on Public Health and Public Safety Invite the Owner(S) of the Armory Building to a Meeting to Discuss Their Inability to Contain Noise During Performances.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- C. #190149 Order By Ald. White Jr.
That the Clerk of Committees send a communication to the owner of the Armory, requesting that he provide the committee with a timeline for completing the work to abate the noise emanating from the building.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- D. #190167 Mayor's Communication Submitting the City's Evaluation and Strategic Plan for the Fire Dept.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- E. #190957 Order By Ald. Heuston
That the City Solicitor and the Director of SPCD (ISD) provide recommendations for the abandoned property at 47 Harrison Street, and advise this Board on actions the city can take to address safety and health issues as well as taxes and fees owed the city.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- F. #192056 Order By Ald. White Jr., Pero
That the Commissioner of Public Works, or his representative, attend the next meeting of the Public Health and Safety Committee to discuss further measures to reduce the noise of the freezer fan at the Winter Hill Community School.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- G. #192350 Officer's Communication City Solicitor responding to #192224 re: health insurance coverage for survivors under GIC.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- H. #192481 Order By Ald. O'Donovan
That the Chief of Police inspect the area behind 1, 3, and 5 Woodbine Street and Somerville Junction Park for illegal drug activity, and conduct directed patrols there without compromising the element of surprise.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

17. SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

- A. #192557 Report of the Committee on Senior Services, meeting on February 1, 2012.
Committee Report

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #192525 By Ald. Sullivan, Taylor, White Jr., Connolly, Desmond, Trane, Heuston
Order That the Director of Traffic and Parking and the city's Traffic Engineer
attend the February 1, 2012 Senior Services Committee meeting at Properzi
Manor to discuss traffic and pedestrian safety in Union Square.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- C. #192558 By Ald. White Jr.
Order That the Chief of Police implement a directed patrol to enforce stopping at
the STOP sign on Prospect Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

- D. #192559 By Ald. White Jr.
Resolution That the Traffic Commission consider amending the city's traffic regulations
to prohibit bicycle riding in business districts and in the areas of the city's
senior buildings

RESULT: APPROVED

- E. #192560 By Ald. Connolly
Order That the Director of Traffic and Parking contact the owner of the property
housing Citizens Bank, as well as other proprietors on the lot, to discuss how
they might prevent the lot from being used as a cut through for drivers
attempting to avoid the traffic lights in Union Square.

RESULT: APPROVED

- F. #192561 By Ald. Connolly
Order That the Director of Traffic and Parking contact the manager of Citizens
Bank to request that one end of the bank's parking lot be closed to prevent it
from being used as a cut through.

RESULT: APPROVED

- G. #192562 By Ald. Connolly
Order That the Director of Traffic and Parking examine the flow of traffic in Union
Square and provide recommendations for any possible changes, including the
installation of signage to improve safety in the area.

RESULT: APPROVED

- H. #192563 Order By Ald. Connolly
That the Chief of Police prevent trucks from idling all night at the Reliable Market in Union Square and determine whether they are complying with all traffic regulations.

RESULT: APPROVED

- I. #192564 Order By Ald. Trane
That the Director of Traffic and Parking report back to the Committee on Senior Services whether Parking Control Officers can issue tickets to truck operators who keep their vehicles idling.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Senior Services Committee

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

18. #192565 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$781,250 for construction of a new park at 15-25 Cross Street and authorization to borrow that amount in a bond.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

19. #192566 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a PARC 19 grant of \$500,000 from the Division of Conservation Services for construction of the park at 15-25 Cross Street.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

20. #192567 Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a \$20,000 grant from the MA Cultural Council for the Arts Council's ArtsUnion program.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

21. #192568 Mayor's Request Requesting the appointment of Jack Hamilton to the Public Library Board of Trustees.

RESULT: APPROVED

22. #192569 Mayor's Request Requesting the appointment of Anil Gullapalli to the Public Library Board of Trustees.

RESULT: APPROVED

23. #192570 Mayor's Request Requesting the Appointment of Jeremy Mendelson to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

RESULT: APPROVED

24. #192571 Mayor's Request Requesting the appointment of Robert Smyth to the Arts Council.

RESULT: APPROVED

25. #192572 Mayor's Request Requesting the appointment of Nicole Pierce to the Arts Council.

RESULT: APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

26. #192573 Officer's Request City Clerk requesting approval of his Public Official's Bond.

RESULT: APPROVED

27. #192574 Officer's Communication Director of Traffic and Parking responding to various Board Orders.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

NEW BUSINESS

28. #192575 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Groundwork Somerville Maple Syrup Boil Down Festival, 22 Vinal Ave., Mar 3, 10-2PM.

RESULT: APPROVED

29. #192576 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Wheelbarrow Push For Our Troops, Charlestown to Medford via Broadway and Boston Ave., May 12, 9:30-11:30AM.

RESULT: APPROVED

30. #192577 License/Permit Public Event Permit, M.O.M.'s 5K Run for Cancer, Davis Sq. And Area Streets, May 13, 9:30AM.

RESULT: APPROVED

31. #192578 License/Permit Public Event Permit, MA Motorcycle Assn. Storm the State House, 9 New Washington St. To Boston, May 17, 10-2PM.

RESULT: APPROVED

32. #192579 License/Permit New Hawker Peddler License, The Tear Drop Inc., Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables Vendor.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

33. #192580 Order By Ald. Trane
That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the sidewalk at 24-26 Sterling Street, ASAP.

RESULT: APPROVED

34. #192581 Order By Ald. Trane
That the Director of Constituent Services (311) provide the Ward 7 Alderman with any call data regarding 24-26 Sterling Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

35. #192582 Order By Ald. Lafuente, White Jr., Sullivan
That the Committee on Public Health and Safety investigate the circumstances surrounding the February 6 fire at 35R and 37R Jaques St.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

36. #192583 Mayor's Request Requesting a transfer of \$931,762 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the School Salaries Acct. to fund salary increases for the settlement of various collective bargaining agreements.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

37. #192584 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a \$45,000 grant for FY2013 for the Police-Based Jail Diversion Program Grant for individuals with mental illnesses or emotional disturbances.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

38. #192585 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a \$32,000 grant for FY2012 for the Police-Based Jail Diversion Program Grant for individuals with mental illnesses or emotional disturbances.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

39. #192586 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Ras na h'Eireann USA Road Race, Davis Sq. and area streets, Mar 18, 11AM.

RESULT: APPROVED

40. #192587 License/Permit New Drainlayer License, TRI Construction Inc.

RESULT: APPROVED

LATE ITEMS

41. #192588 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$159,836.89 from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation-Insurance Losses (Fund 3204) to DPW Flood Costs (Fund 5059) to pay for expenses related to the July 10, 2010, flood

RESULT: APPROVED

42. #192259 Mayor's Request Requesting a transfer of \$20,000 in the Public Health Dept., from the Salaries Acct. to the Professional and Technical Services Acct., to fund the Healthy Dining Initiative Consultant.

RESULT: APPROVED

43. #192407 Mayor's Request Requesting that this Board review and approve the attached MBTA lease relating to the Community Path.

RESULT: APPROVED. [7 TO 3]
AYES: Connolly, Desmond, Sullivan, Roche, Heuston, O'Donovan, Lafuente
NAYS: William A. White Jr., Thomas F. Taylor, Rebekah Gewirtz
ABSENT: Robert C. Trane

44. #192589 Order By Ald. White Jr.
That the City Solicitor and Commissioner of Public Works appear before this Board's Committee on Public Health and Safety to discuss the city's application for a variance before the Architectural Access Board regarding 50 pedestrian facilities #V11-201.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

45. #192590 Resolution By Ald. Desmond, Roche
A resolution thanking Lincoln Technical Institute for their fund raising efforts on behalf of the Somerville Youth Development and Boxing Club.

RESULT: APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Submitted by John J. Long, City Clerk