

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2014, 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	
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	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	

1. #196070 Call of the Roll.
Roll Call

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

2. #196071 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 26, 2013.
Minutes

RESULT: APPROVED

CITATIONS

3. #196072 By Ald. Sullivan, and the Entire Board and the Mayor
Citation Commending Nicholas Stiles, who is retiring after 40 years of dedicated service as a Police Officer.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

4. #196073 Citation By Ald. Sullivan, and the Entire Board and the Mayor Commending the St. Clements Football Team, which finished first in the Catholic Central Small League with an undefeated record, and won the Division 6 North Championship trophy.

RESULT: APPROVED

5. #196074 Citation By Ald. Sullivan, and the Entire Board and the Mayor Commending John Richard, a senior at Arlington Catholic High School, who was named to the Boston Globe All-Scholastic Team for 2013.

RESULT: APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. #196075 Grant of Location Submitted by Tufts University, to install about 650 feet of overhead cable on Sawyer Avenue and about 839 feet of overhead cable on Packard Avenue, with connections to several Tufts-owned buildings.

RESULT: APPROVED

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

7. #196076 Order By Ald. Rossetti, McWatters That the Director of Traffic and Parking provide this Board with a report on the number of tickets issued, and the resulting revenue, during a typical snow storm and its impact, i.e., the effectiveness of those penalties during the next storm.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

8. #196077 Order By Ald. Niedergang That the Director of Traffic and Parking increase enforcement of parking regulations by the driveways to 301 and 303 Lowell Street for two weeks to improve access and egress for residents and report the results to the Ward 5 Alderman.

RESULT: APPROVED

9. #196078 Order By Ald. Niedergang That the Director of Traffic and Parking report to the Ward 5 Alderman on the feasibility of restoring two parking spaces in front of 179 Albion Street that were changed to NO PARKING spaces following the repaving of the street.

RESULT: APPROVED

10. #196079 Order
By Ald. Sullivan, McLaughlin, Connolly, Rossetti, White Jr.
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install a NO PARKING sign at the garage entrance between the two driveways of 240 Pearl Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

11. #196080 Order
By Ald. Sullivan, Lafuente, Connolly, Rossetti, White Jr.
That the Director of Traffic and Parking contact Mass Highway to install the proper traffic signals at the intersection of Route 28 and Mystic Avenue.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

12. #196081 Order
By Ald. Connolly, Gewirtz
That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the depressions and potholes on College Avenue between Morrison Avenue and the Powderhouse Rotary.

RESULT: APPROVED

13. #196082 Order
By Ald. Connolly, Gewirtz
That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the pothole at the intersection of Appleton and Clifton Streets.

RESULT: APPROVED

14. #196083 Order
By Ald. White Jr.
That this Board amend the Rules of the Board, to eliminate the Information Technology Committee as a Standing Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Rules Special Committee

15. #196084 Order
By Ald. White Jr.
That this Board amend the Rules of this Board, to establish a procedure for maintaining the minutes and reports of this Board and its committees.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Rules Special Committee

16. #196085 By Ald. White Jr.
Communication In his capacity as President, submitting this Board's Committee assignments for 2014 and creating four Special Committees.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

17. #195980 By Ald. The Entire Board
Citation Commending outgoing Alderman Thomas F. Taylor for his outstanding service to the people of Ward Three and the entire City as Alderman, from 1986 to 2013, making him the longest-serving Ward Alderman in the City's history.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

18. #195996 Severed portion of the Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on
Committee Report November 19, 2013 (#195235 was the only item severed and laid on the table).

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

19. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- A. #196086 Report of the Committee on Housing and Community Development,
Committee Report meeting on December 19, 2013.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #194277 By Ald. Heuston, Taylor, White Jr., O'Donovan, Lafuente, Connolly
Order That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Traffic and Parking provide this Board with recommendations to address the traffic and parking concerns of business owners on Somerville Avenue, especially within the 400-700 blocks.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- C. #194410 By Ald. Sullivan
Resolution That this Board requests that the Administration consider a program to allow dog owners and dogs to enjoy off-leash play and exercise time in certain city parks at designated times.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- D. #194658 Michele Biscoe submitting comments re: #194410, considering designated
Public off-leash times for dogs in certain parks.
Communication

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- E. #195074 By Ald. Lafuente, White Jr., Sullivan
Order That the Director of SPCD (ISD), the Chief of Police and the Chief Fire
Engineer appear before this Board to discuss the process of fining absentee
landlords and/or their unruly tenants as it relates to repeat offenders.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- F. #195089 By Ald. Gewirtz
Order That the Director of SPCD (ISD) provide this Board with an analysis of the
Cabot Farms building on Broadway, at the Powderhouse Rotary, and a list
of strategies the city can employ to urge improvement of the property.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- G. #195347 By Ald. Heuston
Resolution That the Administration consider implementing a pilot Parklet in the
Brickbottom area of Ward 2.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- H. #195360 By Ald. Taylor
Order That the Director of SPCD remove the bike rack at the corner of Highland
Avenue and Crocker Street and either find an alternative site or replace it
with a smaller rack.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- I. #195598 By Ald. Lafuente
Order That the Chief Assessor develop a list of all absentee landlord property
locations in Ward 4.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- J. #195599 By Ald. Lafuente
Order That the City Solicitor inform this Board of the fee structure of fines on
absentee landlord property violations and how they can be increased.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- K. #195604 Order By Ald. Bastardi That the Community Liaison for the East Broadway Streetscape Project notify all residents and businesses prior to sidewalk replacement, and have the contractor provide proper access to all driveways.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- L. #195663 Resolution By Ald. Bastardi That the Administration begin steps to acquire the parcel of land at the intersection of Austin Street and Maine Terrace in hopes that it will become a green space.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

20. #196087 Mayor's Request Requesting approval to declare as surplus certain IT Department Telephony Equipment.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

21. #196088 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of an \$18,000 grant from the Metro Regional Employment Board to the YouthWorks Program.

RESULT: APPROVED

22. #196089 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$7,086 from the MA Fire Services Dept., for the Fire Dept.'s school education program.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

23. #196090 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$4,750 from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for participation in the Massachusetts Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Count

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

24. #196091 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$3,418 from the MA Fire Services Dept., for the Fire Dept.'s senior fire safety program.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

25. #196092 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Housing Authority employee Harold Curtis Jr., as a Special Police Officer for 2014.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

26. #196093 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Housing Authority employee Shawn Brady, as a Special Police Officer for 2014.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

27. #196094 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Housing Authority employee, Sean Browne, as a Special Police Officer for 2014.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

28. #196095 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Housing Authority employee, Michael Cabral, as a Special Police Officer for 2014.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

29. #196096 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Housing Authority employee, Jose Colon, as a Special Police Officer for 2014.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

30. #196097 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Housing Authority employee, Michael DeBethencourt, as a Special Police Officer for 2014.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

31. #196098 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Housing Authority employee, Michael Eastman, as a Special Police Officer for 2014.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

32. #196099 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Housing Authority employee, Wayne Gabaree, as a Special Police Officer for 2014.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

33. #196100 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Housing Authority employee, James Lawson, as a Special Police Officer for 2014.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

34. #196101 Officer's Communication Assistant City Solicitor responding to #195788 re: state and local requirements prior to establishment of medical marijuana facilities.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

NEW BUSINESS

35. #196102 License/Permit Public Event Permit, BA Event Promotions 5K Race of Ireland, Davis Sq area, Mar 16, 7AM-1PM.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

36. #196103 License/Permit Public Event Permit, MOM's 5K Run for Cancer, Davis Sq area, May 11, 9-11:30AM.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

37. #196104 License/Permit Sign/Awning Permit, Perfect Dental, 128 Broadway, 1 sign.

RESULT: APPROVED

38. #196105 License/Permit New Outdoor Seating License, Ola Gifts Cafe, 112 Broadway, 3 tables, 6 seats.

RESULT: APPROVED

39. #196106 License/Permit Renewing Outdoor Seating License, True Grounds, 717 Broadway.

RESULT: APPROVED

40. #196107 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Auto Brokers, 182 Washington St.

RESULT: APPROVED

41. #196108 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Beacon and Park Auto Sales, 75 Park St.

RESULT: APPROVED

42. #196109 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Top Cars of Boston, 39 Webster Ave.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

43. #196110 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Inman Motor Sales, 463 McGrath Hwy.

RESULT: APPROVED

44. #196111 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, A Plus Auto Body, 297 Medford St.

RESULT: APPROVED

45. #196112 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Mass Auto Brokers, 631 Somerville Ave.

RESULT: APPROVED

46. #196113 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Automotive Transport Service, 495 Columbia St.

RESULT: APPROVED

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

47. #196114 Order By Ald. Rossetti
That the Director of SPCD (ISD) provide this Board with a report on the number of tickets issued relative to clearing sidewalks, and the resulting revenue, during a typical snow storm and its impact, i.e., the effectiveness of those penalties during the next storm.

RESULT: APPROVED

48. #196115 Order By Ald. White Jr.
That this Board amend the Rules of this Board, to establish a procedure for the joint sponsorship of items.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Rules Special Committee

49. #196116 Order By Ald. White Jr., Lafuente, Rossetti, Gewirtz
That the Chief Assessor and the Director of SPCD appear before this Board's Finance Committee to discuss the increase in commercial and residential property valuations and real estate taxes, especially for restaurants, and its impact on existing businesses and future development.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

50. #196117 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$50,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("free cash") to the Personnel Dept. Professional and Technical Services Account to fund executive recruitment services for the Police Chief selection process.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

51. #196118 License/Permit Renewing Drainlayer's License, Roto Rooter Services.

RESULT: APPROVED

52. #196119 License/Permit Renewing Garage License, Frongillo Realty, 0 Spring Hill Terrace.

RESULT: APPROVED

53. #196120 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Green Automotive, 600 Windsor Place.

RESULT: APPROVED

54. #196121 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Teele Square Auto, 1284 Broadway.

RESULT: APPROVED

55. #196122 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Alewife Automotive, 395 Alewife Brook Pkwy.

RESULT: APPROVED

56. #196123 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, John's Auto Sales, 266 Beacon St.

RESULT: APPROVED

57. #196124 License/Permit New Used Car Dealer's License Class 2, PJ's Motorcars, 161 Broadway, 34 vehicles inside.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

58. #196125 Public Communication Sanford Pooler submitting comments re: #195769, installing GPS devices in city vehicles.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

LATE ITEMS

59. #196126 Order By Ald. Heuston That the City Clerk request that the owner of Top Cars LLC/Inman Motor Sales attend the next meeting of the Committee on Licenses and Permits to discuss the renewal of their Used Car Dealer's license.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

60. #196127 Officer's Communication DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted this evening.

January 9, 2014

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Submitted by John J. Long, City Clerk.