



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

7:00 PM

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.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis.

The City Council entered recess at 7:56 PM and returned at 7:59 PM.

The City Council entered Executive Session at 9:50 PM and returned at 10:05 PM.

The City Council entered Executive Session at 10:07 PM and returned at 10:19 PM.

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [25-1771](#))

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

Present: Ward Seven City Councilor Emily Hardt
 City Councilor At Large Jake Wilson
 Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen
 Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott
 Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin
 City Councilor At Large Willie Burnley Jr.
 Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait
 City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo
 Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan
 City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah
 Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis

- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [25-1772](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2025.
(ID # [25-1773](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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- 3.1. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1756](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 10 feet of conduit in Harvard Street, from Utility Pole 163/1 to a point of pickup at 25 Atherton Street.
- Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 3.2. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1752](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 28 feet of conduit in Indiana Avenue, from Manhole 8411 to a point of pickup at 8 Indiana Avenue.
- Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. Crystal Huff spoke about local businesses experiencing brownouts as it rains heavily in the area. Jacqui Duffy said she would follow up with the resident about their concerns. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 3.3. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1753](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 37 feet of conduit in Cleveland Street, from Utility Pole 420/4 to a new Handhole next to 11 Harvard Street.
- Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 3.4. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1754](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 38 feet of conduit in Warwick Street, from Utility Pole 357/3 to a point of pickup at 16 Warwick Street.
- Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.
- At 8:30 PM, a resident interrupted proceedings to explain that he was unable to enter the building earlier due to capacity issues and wanted to address this item. President Davis moved for reconsideration and the item was reconsidered. President Davis re-opened the Public Hearing. Matthew Penny shared that he had questions about the necessity of the conduit. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee
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- 3.5. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1755](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 47 feet of conduit in Berkeley Street, from Utility Pole 30/3 to a point of pickup at 24 Berkeley Street.
- Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 3.6. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1757](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 48 feet of conduit in Vernon Street, from Utility Pole 152/9 to a point of pickup at 70 Vernon Street.
- Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.
- At 8:30 PM, a resident interrupted proceedings to explain that he was unable to enter the building earlier due to capacity issues and wanted to address this item. President Davis moved for reconsideration and the item was reconsidered. President Davis re-opened the Public Hearing. Elena Vicente spoke against this item, stating the fixture is disruptive to her mother's property. Tyler Barbosas, Ms. Vicente's son, also shared their disagreement with the installation of the conduit. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee
- 3.7. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1751](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 52 feet of conduit in Bolton Street, from Utility Pole 378/1 to a point of pickup at 8 Bolton Street.
- Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 3.8. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1758](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 223 feet of conduit in Broadway, from Manhole 10195 to a point of pickup at 299 Broadway.
- Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
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3.9. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1735](#))

Chief Assessor presenting proposed FY 2026 Tax Classifications and requesting the adoption of a minimum residential factor for FY 2026 and acceptance of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5C, a residential exemption of 35% of average assessed value for owner-occupied properties.

Chief Assessor Frank Golden presented two motions related to the tax rate for FY 2026.

That the City Council adopts a minimum residential factor of 82.816, the legal minimum for the City of Somerville for FY 2026.

That the City Council accepts the provision of Chapter 59, section 5C approving a residential exception of 35% of average assessed value for owner occupied properties for FY 2026.

Assessor Golden explained that the city is experiencing a loss of new growth because of the lack of interest in life science buildings, stating a general reduction in both commercial and residential property values. He stated that the vacant life science buildings are being taxed still and, along with the four stable buildings, hope that the vacant ones soon become occupied. Within his presentation he reviewed three tax options the city can choose from.

Deputy Assessor Janneke Donovan presented after where she reviewed real estate tax exemption options. In response to a question from Councilor Wilson about opting into the Hero Act for veterans' benefits, she said the benefit is already available under existing provisions and that the Hero Act has more restrictions than is currently being offered. Councilor Mbah inquired about the percentages of the Life Science new growth forecast. President Davis opened the public hearing.

There being no speakers, the public hearing was closed.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

4.1. Ordinance
(ID # [25-1762](#))

By Councilor Davis and Councilor Wilson

That the Code of Ordinances be amended to prohibit the use of tax-payer funds for self-promotion.

Councilor Wilson commented that this ordinance reflects good policy being codified.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

- 4.2. Order
(ID # [25-1716](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That the City Attorney's Office is authorized to respond to the Open Meeting Law complaint by Osnat Hoffman on behalf of the City Council.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 4.3. Order
(ID # [25-1722](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on how snow and ice is removed from different types of surfaces in schoolyards, including any limitations based on surface type.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

- 4.4. Resolution
(ID # [25-1721](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That the Administration and the School Department discuss with this Council the budgetary and planning impact of snow days, and how adaptation to climate change may affect future snow day planning.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

- 4.5. Communication
(ID # [25-1719](#))
- By Councilor Davis
In his capacity as President, cancelling the Regular Meeting of this Council scheduled for December 25, 2025.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

- 4.6. Resolution
(ID # [25-1720](#))
- By Councilor Mbah and Councilor Sait
In support of Climate Forward 2024.

This item was discussed with item #25-1699.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 4.7. Order
(ID # [25-1770](#))
- By Councilor Strezo
That this City Council discuss the safety of the Summer Street bike lane design around or near Putnam Street to Benton Road and how and if additional safety modifications can be made.

RESULT: **LAID ON THE TABLE**

4.8. Resolution
(ID # [25-1763](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Mbah
Supporting the resale of certain city owned property.

Councilor McLaughlin commented on a meeting he held with residents of Cobble Hill about available green space for seniors. He shared his idea for Corcoran Jennison to buy back the land, that way they will have access to the parking lot that already exists and will not have to take away more green space.

RESULT: APPROVED

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Resolution
(ID # [25-1700](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr.
In support of democratic divestment action regarding Ballot Question 3.

Councilor Burnley reiterated his support for the resolution, emphasizing the community attention it has continued to generate and the importance of listening to what the Somerville voters want. He sponsored Mo Katz-Christy to speak. They spoke of growing up within the Jewish community and the collective trauma held by Jewish residents. They spoke of their current work with Jewish families and working through the trauma that can be held in people's bodies, and the trauma people are currently facing in Gaza. They ended the remarks by advocating for the divestment of funds as outlined in ballot question 3. Councilor Burnley sponsored Sarah Halawa to speak. Sarah detailed her families experience in Somerville of being silenced when trying to discuss their Palestinian heritage and described events in Israel that she linked to genocide and ongoing racism towards Palestinians. She also closed her remarks by calling for the divestment of funds that is detailed in ballot question 3 that overwhelmingly supported the constituents. Councilor Strezo sponsored Sam Gechter to speak. He addressed anti-Zionism and hate during his remarks. Most of his remarks focused on the fact that this ballot question is taking resources and time away from the issues that plague constituents on a daily basis and urged the council to focus on local concerns. Councilor Mbah shared his thoughts that he will be supporting the resolution as it has been shown it is the will of the people. He sponsored Kate Opitz to speak. She is a long time Somerville resident who spoke out against antisemitic acts and that the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movements is largely performative. She also stated that the divestment as written is unenforceable and asked that the council not take such divisive action. Many Councilors shared their thoughts on the resolution. Councilors Ewen-Campen and Sait expressed their unguarded support for the resolution. Councilor Strezo shared her disagreement and continued her arguments that the ask is outside what is legal in the city. Councilor Hardt said she was unable to support as she is brand new to the council and cannot make a fully informed decision at this time. Councilor McLaughlin closed remarks that he would support the resolution as it is evident of the

importance to the community but also acknowledged the concerning funds currently in the pension fund and recognized the complexities that lie ahead.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

NAY: Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, and City Councilor At Large Strezo

5.2. Resolution
(ID # [25-1438](#))

By Councilor Strezo, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration inform this Council of the process, action and communication used to consider acquiring the closed school building privately owned by the Archdiocese of Boston, on Thurston Street, after the Winter Hill Community Innovation School was deemed unsuitable for use.

Councilor Clingan stated this topic is not one for public, the conversation of property taking is more for the next administration to take the lead on.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on November 19, 2025.
(ID # [25-1730](#))

Councilor Wilson presented the committee report and noted that item #25-1739 replaces the item marked as withdrawn to fix a text error. Councilor Wilson asked that the report be accepted as submitted.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.A.2. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1451](#))

Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management conveying the draft Combined Sewer Overflow Plan.

RESULT: **WORK COMPLETED**

6.A.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1620](#))

Requesting approval of a transfer of \$15,500 from various SomerStat Ordinary Maintenance Accounts to the SomerStat Salaries & Wages Temporary Account to fund additional temporary employee time.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1621](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend an \$87,450 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Office of Grants & Research to the Police Department for public safety staffing.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1622](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,765.28 using available funds in the Police Department Professional and Technical Services Account for case management services.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1624](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$729 from the Communications Department Community Outreach Account to the Somerville High School (SHS) Salaries Account for SHS staff participation in the new PK-8 School Building Planning Focus Group Session.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

- 6.A.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1636](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$109,296 grant, with no new match required, from Executive Office of Public Safety to the Fire Department for staffing costs.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1638](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$125.43 using available funds in the Department of Racial and Social Justice Computer Equipment Account for freight charges.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1640](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$5,285.77 using available funds in the Police Department Computer Supplies Account for computer supplies.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1646](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,547.55 using available funds in the Police Department Animal Control Professional and Technical Services Account for veterinary services.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1648](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$271 using available funds in the Police Department Badges, Emblems, Trophies Account for educational achievement award bars.

RESULT: APPROVED6.A.12.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1649](#))

Requesting approval of a Pedestrian Access Easement and grant of a Maintenance License for 495 Columbia Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

6.A.13.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1651](#))

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$54 using available funds in the Police Department Badges, Emblems, Trophies Account for a hat badge.

RESULT: APPROVED6.A.14.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1679](#))

Requesting the appropriation of \$403,980 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Debt Service, Interest on Notes/BANS Account for payment of interest for the 90 Washington Street property acquisition.

RESULT: APPROVED6.A.15.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1680](#))

Requesting the appropriation of \$407,090 from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings Account to the Water Enterprise Fund Debt Service Account to fund debt service for a Massachusetts Water Resource Authority loan.

RESULT: APPROVED6.A.16.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1698](#))

Requesting the appropriation of \$100,000 from the Community Benefits Stabilization Fund to the Armory Revolving Fund to prepare the Armory for onboarding and support of tenants.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

6.B. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1729](#)) Report of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, meeting on November 18, 2025.

Councilor Strezo presented the committee report and asked that the report be accepted as submitted

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.B.2. Order (ID # [24-0070](#)) By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Parks and Recreation discuss how inclusive playground accessibility is being considered in future playground plans and redesign projects.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.B.3. Order (ID # [24-1008](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Economic Development discuss with this Council ways to provide small businesses with financial and technical support when impacted by construction and other emergencies.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.B.4. Order (ID # [24-1488](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Economic Development appear before this Council's Committee on Housing and Community Development to discuss the immediate plans and short-term response efforts to best support and sustain small businesses, post-COVID.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.C. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1731](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on November 20, 2025.

Councilor McLaughlin presented the committee report and asked that the report be accepted as submitted.

Economic Development Planner Ben Demers shared that the items related to 90 Washington Street were approved by the Redevelopment Authority. He reviewed the next steps in the process and the plan to release a Request for Proposals early next year. Councilor Hardt asked about short-term parking. Planner Demers clarified this is for large surface area parking, there is still opportunity to allow for short-term parking later in the planning process.

RESULT: APPROVED

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- 6.C.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1594](#)) Requesting approval of the amended 90 Washington Street Demonstration Project Plan.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.C.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1595](#)) Requesting approval of an amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement between the City Council and Redevelopment Authority regarding the redevelopment of 90 Washington Street.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.C.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1596](#)) Requesting approval of the development objectives for the redevelopment of 90 Washington Street.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.C.5. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-1607](#)) Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development conveying a summary of the 90 Washington process review and development objectives.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE
- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1718](#)) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on November 17, 2025.
- Councilor Sait presented the committee report and asked that the report be accepted as submitted.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
7. **COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**
- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1765](#)) Requesting that this Council convene in Executive Session to discuss the potential settlement of a claim against a former employee.
- The Council voted to enter into Executive Session at 10:07 PM to discuss this item on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Hardt, Wilson, Ewen-Campen, Scott, McLaughlin, Burnley, Sait, Strezo, Clingan, Mbah, Davis), 0 opposed. The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 10:19 PM. President Davis reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session other than the vote to adjourn.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
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AYE: Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1714](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 12-178 of the Code of Ordinances to remove the prohibition on sourcing neonicotinoid-treated plants.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1728](#)) Requesting approval of a utility easement for NStar Electric Company at 0 Windsor Place (Boynton Yards).

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1737](#)) Requesting approval to accept a gift of real property located at 17 Inner Belt Road (9 New Washington Street) from Ralph C. DeVitto, Jr. and A Bram, Trustee, RCD Foundation.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1742](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$3,057,826 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the Fiscal Year 2026 Street Resurfacing Program.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1743](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$3,000,000 from the Street Reconstruction & Resurfacing Stabilization Fund for the FY 2026 Street Resurfacing Program.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1746](#))

Requesting approval to appropriate \$250,000 from the Immigrant Legal Services Stabilization Fund for legal services for immigrants and asylum seekers seeking permanent residency.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.8. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1745](#))

Requesting approval to appropriate \$250,000 from the Community Benefits Stabilization Fund Account to the Immigrant Legal Services Stabilization Fund Account for legal services for immigrants and asylum seekers seeking permanent residency.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1732](#))

Requesting approval to appropriate \$6,750 from the Medicinal Marijuana Stabilization Fund for additional duties related to the Out of School time activities for FY 2026.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1747](#))

Requesting the appropriation of \$205,000 from the Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to the Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund Electricity Account for delinquent electricity bills.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

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- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1748](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$225,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund Electricity Account for delinquent electricity bills.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1744](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$10,643 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund to recompense the fund for unallowable expenses.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1750](#)) Requesting the appropriation or reserve of \$7,260,181 in estimated FY 2026 Community Preservation Act (CPA) revenue for CPA projects and expenses.
- Director Inacio clarified this item is for the CPA budget appropriation now that the final tax increment has been determined.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED**
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1736](#)) Requesting authorization to establish a consolidated Gift Account for the Veteran Services Department to accept donations for Veterans Holiday Season uses and veterans in need of financial assistance.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1697](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$150 from the Office of Immigrant Affairs Neighborhood Improvement Council Account to the Somerville Public Schools Food Services Account for the Latin American and Caribbean Heritage Celebration.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
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FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1734](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$304,954.10 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to the Health and Human Services department for the 2025-2026 Winter Warming Center.

Director Carroll stated the Warming Center is set to open on December 8, 2025. This grant will cover operational costs from January - April 2026. Councilor Burnley clarified there is a capacity of 35 beds. Director Carroll shared the Warming Center will be at the Cummings School and renovations to the bathrooms to make them accessible and adult sized fixtures are on-going. For residents with questions the email to contact is warmingcenter@somervillema.gov.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1740](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$22,570 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Police Department for mobile data terminals.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1741](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$370 gift from the Tufts University Softball team to the Health and Human Services Mobile Farmers Market Revolving Fund for market needs.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1733](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$147.86 using available funds in the Department of Health and Human Services Program Supplies and Materials Account for meeting snacks.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3 through 7.12, 7.14, 7.15, and 7.17 through 7.19 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.20. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1726](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Andrew Patriquin to the position of Fire Captain.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1509](#)) Condominium Review Board conveying the FY 2023 Annual Report, pursuant to Section 7-70 of the Code of Ordinances.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

- 8.2. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1699](#)) The Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment conveying Climate Forward 2024.

This item was taken up with item #25-1720.

Councilor Mbah and Councilor Sait shared comments about the submitted resolution's goal to further the work being done with Climate Forward 2024. Office of Sustainability and Environment Director Christine Blais presented on the climate plan to mitigate and adapt to the challenges that are present in the city. The plan addresses flooding, extreme heat, and emissions.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

- 8.3. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1738](#)) SomerStat Director conveying an update on the Happiness Survey 2025.

SomerStat Director Anna Gartsman gave a presentation on the Happiness Survey data that was collected in 2025. All data and information from the survey is available online and any questions can be directed to data@somervillema.gov. Councilor Burnley made observations on the different ways they lived experience is portrayed through race, gender identity, and the differences between renters and homeowners.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

- 8.4. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1764](#)) City Attorney conveying a clarification on the purpose of item #25-1639.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

9. NEW BUSINESS

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- 9.1. License
(ID # [25-1759](#))
- New Drainlayer's License, Elite Construction Management Inc.
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of item 9.1 through 9.3 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.2. License
(ID # [25-1761](#))
- New Sign/Awning License, 59-61 Bow St LLC, 59-61 Bow Street, 6 Balconies and 12 Bays.
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of item 9.1 through 9.3 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.3. License
(ID # [25-1760](#))
- New Sign/Awning License, Bakery and Cafe Komugi, 68 Prospect Street, 2 Signs.
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of item 9.1 through 9.3 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.4. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-1715](#))
- Osnat Hoffman submitting an Open Meeting Law complaint against this City Council. Note that the Council may enter executive session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss.
- The Council voted to enter into Executive Session at 9:50 PM to discuss this item on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Hardt, Wilson, Ewen-Campen, Scott, McLaughlin, Burnley, Sait, Strezo, Clingan, Mbah, Davis), 0 opposed. The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 10:05 PM. President Davis reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session other than the vote to adjourn.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
- 9.5. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-1749](#))
- Bill Valletta submitting comments re: item #25-1698, regarding the Armory Revolving Fund.
- RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**
- 10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**
- 10.1. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1781](#))
- Requesting the appropriation of \$2,400,000 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Parking Meter Receipts Account to reduce the FY 2026 Tax Rate.
- Finance Director Ed Bean stated this number has not changed since the presentation of the budget.
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RESULT: APPROVED

- 10.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1739](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$729 from the Communications Department Community Outreach Account to the Somerville Public Schools Professional Salaries Account for staff participation in the PK-8 School Building Planning Focus Group Session.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 10.3. Public Communication (ID # [25-1774](#)) Davis Square Neighborhood Council submitting comments re: item #25-1539, a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 363 Highland Avenue from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) and from MR4 to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6), and 110 Willow Avenue MR4 to MR6.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 10.4. Public Communication (ID # [25-1775](#)) Daniel Wong submitting comments re: 90 Washington Street.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 10.5. Withdrawn (ID # [25-1727](#)) Withdrawn.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 10:45 PM.