



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2026

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 7:05 PM by Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis. The City Council entered Executive Session at 8:05 PM and returned at 9:28 PM with all Councilors present.

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [26-0366](#))

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [26-0367](#))

Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen requested a moment of silence in memory of Barbara McEachern.
Councilor McLaughlin requested a moment of silence in memory of Daniel Matthews.
Councilor Scott requested a moment of silence in memory of the 20 individuals who died in ICE captivity.
Councilor Scott requested a moment of silence in memory of the 100+ school children and first responders killed February 28th by a missile strike at the Shajarah Tayyebah elementary school building.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2026.
(ID # [26-0368](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

2. CITATIONS

- 2.1. Citation By Councilor Wheeler and Councilor Clingan
(ID # [26-0347](#)) Commending the Kendall Wanderers Football Club on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Councilor Wheeler read the Citation into the record. Johnathan Kilpatrick

accepted the award on behalf of the football club. Mayor Wilson spoke about role played by the club in welcoming immigrants over the years.

RESULT: APPROVED

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location (ID # [26-0304](#)) Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install 20 feet of conduit in Allen Street, from Utility Pole 3 to a point of pickup at 13-17 Allen Street.

Rod Rutland, representing Comcast, 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 # [26-0305](#)) Dagle Electrical applying for a Grant of Location to install 57 feet of conduit and one new charging station in the City Hall Concourse, from the War Memorial to a point of pickup at the proposed electrical vehicle charging station.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request.

There being no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 3.3. Grant of Location (ID # [26-0306](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to relocate existing Utility Pole 60/40 four feet northerly of its current location, near 3 Chester Avenue.

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 # [26-0312](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 164 feet of conduit and one new Manhole in Grant Street, from an existing Manhole 1900 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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- 3.5. Grant of Location (ID # [26-0309](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 82 feet of conduit in MacArthur Street, from Utility Pole 122/2 to a point of pickup at 17 MacArthur 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 # [26-0307](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 64 feet of conduit in Stone Avenue, from existing Manhole 14068 to a point of pickup at 11 Stone Avenue.
- 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**
- 3.7. Grant of Location (ID # [26-0310](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 6 feet of conduit in Chandler Street, from Utility Pole 227/6 to a point of pickup at 53 Chandler 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 # [26-0311](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 6 feet of conduit in Line Street, from Utility Pole 211/7 to a point of pickup at 62 Line 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. Councilor Scott noted pole 211/6 has been on Eversource's list of poles to be removed for over three years and he requested that this item be conditioned on having pole 211/6 addressed. He requested that this item be sent to the Committee on Licenses and Permits.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee
- 3.9. Grant of Location (ID # [26-0308](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 5 feet of conduit in Heath Street, from Utility Pole 165/13 to a point of pickup at 16 Edgar Avenue.
- Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and
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explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed. Councilor Hardt noted her concern with the amount of work going on in the area and asked that this item be sent to the Committee on Licenses and Permits so that work schedules can be coordinated.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

4.1. Communication
(ID # [26-0335](#))

By Councilor Mbah

Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2027.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading items 4.1, 4.8, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18, 4.22, 4.27, and 10.1 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

4.2. Order
(ID # [26-0354](#))

By Councilor Davis

That Rule 4 of the Rules of the City Council be amended to update submission deadlines for agenda items, consistent with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Councilor Davis explained that the submission deadline to place items on the agenda will change from Monday night to Tuesday at 8:30 AM.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

4.3. Order
(ID # [26-0340](#))

By Councilor Davis

That this City Council appoints Jessica Smith to the Public Financing of Campaigns Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

4.4. Order
(ID # [26-0341](#))

By Councilor Davis

That this City Council appoints James Leo Bedard to the Ranked Choice Voting Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

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- 4.5. Order
(ID # [26-0342](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That this City Council appoints Crystal Huff to the Ranked Choice Voting Committee.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee
- 4.6. Order
(ID # [26-0343](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That this City Council appoints Derrick Rice to the Review of Multiple Member Bodies Committee.
- This item was referred to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters. City Clerk Wells informed the Council that this item is time sensitive. Councilor Mbah moved for reconsideration. Reconsideration passed and the item was then approved.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- 4.7. Communication
(ID # [26-0339](#))
- By Councilor Davis
In his capacity as President, conveying this Council's updated Standing Committee assignments and Commission appointments for 2026.
- RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE
- 4.8. Communication
(ID # [26-0351](#))
- By Councilor Davis
Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2027.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading items 4.1, 4.8, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18, 4.22, 4.27, and 10.1 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 4.9. Order
(ID # [26-0336](#))
- By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Hardt, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wheeler
That the Director of Inspectional Services discuss with this Council how to ensure that temporary dumpster permits do not conflict with handicapped parking spaces, or that temporary handicapped parking spaces are relocated for the duration of the dumpster permit.
- This item was discussed with items #02-0337 and #26-0338. Councilor Ewen-Campen asked if the dumpster permits are reviewed prior to being issued.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Sustainability and Infrastructure Committee
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- 4.10. Resolution
(ID # [26-0337](#))
- By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Hardt, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wheeler
That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council how to ensure that handicapped parking spaces are not used for snow storage and are cleared at the same time as other spaces.
- This item was discussed with items #26-0336 and #26-0338.
Councilor Ewen-Campen noted that snow was piled in a handicapped parking spot. He sponsored Holly Simeone to speak on the matter. She said that there needs to be a conversation to resolve this problem and that the law dictates that handicapped parking spaces remain clear of snow. She would like the Commission for Persons with Disabilities to have a seat at the table to discuss this matter.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Sustainability and Infrastructure Committee
- 4.11. Resolution
(ID # [26-0338](#))
- By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Hardt, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wheeler
That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council how to ensure that accessible sidewalk ramps are cleared following snowstorms, and ensure that 311 reports on this issue are promptly responded to.
- This item was discussed with items #26-0336 and #26-0337.
Councilor Ewen-Campen noted that he received several calls about accessible sidewalks not being cleared, even after being reported.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Sustainability and Infrastructure Committee
- 4.12. Communication
(ID # [26-0344](#))
- By Councilor Ewen-Campen
Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2027.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading items 4.1, 4.8, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18, 4.22, 4.27, and 10.1 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 4.13. Communication
(ID # [26-0345](#))
- By Councilor Sait
Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2027.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading items 4.1, 4.8, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18, 4.22, 4.27, and 10.1 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

4.14. Resolution
(ID # [26-0350](#))

By Councilor Link, Councilor Hardt, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Davis, Councilor Strezo, Councilor Sait, Councilor Wheeler, Councilor Mbah and Councilor Clingan

In support of House Bill H.965 and Senate Bill S.2721, an Act restricting the use of rodenticides in the environment.

Councilor Link moved to amend the item in the fourth clause to insert "FGARs (First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides) and" after the text "H.965/S.2721 would restrict the sale and use of.". The amendment was approved by unanimous consent.

RESULT: APPROVED AS AMENDED

4.15. Communication
(ID # [26-0349](#))

By Councilor Link
Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2027.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading items 4.1, 4.8, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18, 4.22, 4.27, and 10.1 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

4.16. Order
(ID # [26-0352](#))

By Councilor Hardt

That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council, the policy of prohibiting parking on alternating sides of the street during a snow emergency, and whether it is the best way to meet snow removal needs.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Sustainability and Infrastructure Committee

4.17. Order
(ID # [26-0353](#))

By Councilor Hardt

That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council the frequency of street sweeping throughout the period of April through November.

Councilor Hardt would like to discuss reducing the frequency of street cleaning during the summer months to alleviate the parking situation.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Sustainability and Infrastructure Committee

4.18. Communication
(ID # [26-0355](#))

By Councilor Strezo
Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2027.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading items 4.1, 4.8, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18, 4.22, 4.27, and 10.1 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

4.19. Resolution
(ID # [26-0356](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Hardt, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wheeler In support of Senate Bill S.2975, an Act protecting access to justice.

Councilor McLaughlin sponsored State Senator Lydia Edwards and State Representative Christine Barber to address the Council. Senator Edwards spoke about the number of individuals arrested by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) in courthouses, leading some people to forego their court appearances. She noted that people are being arrested on civil charges and sometimes taken out of court. Senator Edwards stated that courts in Massachusetts (MA) will be governed by MA laws. This bill requires that ICE have a judicial warrant from a judge to arrest someone while in a courthouse. Persons making arrests must identify themselves, state their purpose and not be wearing a mask, unless for health reasons. There will be a hearing in the Judiciary Committee in about a month and once the bill is passed, it will take effect immediately. State Representative Christine Barber addressed the Council on the matter, saying that there were 600 ICE arrests in MA last year. Organizing around the bill is working and the Protect Act incorporates part of this bill, as well. Representative Barber stated that this bill would be enforceable by the state Attorney General and that this is the right moment to keep the momentum up.

RESULT: APPROVED

4.20. Resolution
(ID # [26-0358](#))

By Councilor Wheeler
That this City Council calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor to increase Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) by at least 6% in Fiscal Year 2027.

Councilor Wheeler commented that state aid to cities and towns has not kept pace with the cost of providing services and he feels that this increase would ease the financial burden on taxpayers.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 4.21. Resolution
(ID # [26-0359](#))
- By Councilor Wheeler, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Hardt, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait and Councilor Strezo
That this City Council calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor to fully fund the Student Opportunity Act, and maintain the \$150 per pupil minimum aid increase in Fiscal Year 2027.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- 4.22. Communication
(ID # [26-0360](#))
- By Councilor Wheeler
Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2027.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading items 4.1, 4.8, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18, 4.22, 4.27, and 10.1 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 4.23. Resolution
(ID # [26-0362](#))
- By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Mbah
That the Administration create a publicly accessible dashboard tracking progress toward planning and development goals in Gilman Square.
- Councilor Clingan explained that a dashboard on the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council’s webpage would provide visual timelines for the public.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee
- 4.24. Resolution
(ID # [26-0363](#))
- By Councilor Clingan
That Director of Mobility evaluate opportunities for improved pedestrian safety at the intersection of Broadway and Main Street.
- Councilor Clingan spoke about the danger experienced by parents and children while walking to the Healey School.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee
- 4.25. Resolution
(ID # [26-0364](#))
- By Councilor Clingan and Councilor Link
That the Director of Housing provide data on units produced through the city’s inclusionary housing program, including length of occupancy, unit refusal by lottery winners and other data to demonstrate the health of the program.
- Councilor Clingan spoke about the different charges that are sometimes added to the overall monthly cost of some of these properties, which ultimately lead some individuals to refuse acceptance of a property after

being selected to participate in the inclusionary housing program.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

4.26. Resolution
(ID # [26-0365](#))

By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Hardt, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wheeler Recognizing March 2026 as National Social Work Month.

Councilor Clingan spoke about the importance of social workers in society and praised them for the work they perform in an often unseen and quiet manner. He sponsored Marianne Walles and Coquina Fuller. Ms. Walles and Ms. Fuller thanked Councilor Clingan for bringing this item forward and thanked him for the recognition.

RESULT: APPROVED

4.27. Communication
(ID # [26-0357](#))

By Councilor Clingan
Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2027.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading items 4.1, 4.8, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18, 4.22, 4.27, and 10.1 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Grant of Location
(ID # [26-0185](#))

Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 75 feet of conduit in Prospect Street, from Utility Pole 291/12 to a point of pickup at 91 Prospect 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. Councilor Scott requested that this item be sent to the Committee on Licenses and Permits since a project for this work does not exist.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on March 10, 2026.
(ID # [26-0332](#))

Councilor Wheeler summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that there was a discussion about the Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing Tool (UCH-TIF) and that the committee recommended for approval three grants and one appropriation. Councilor Scott moved to sever items #25-0849, #26-0169 and #26-0271 from the committee report and requested a roll call vote on each item. He spoke about item #26-0271 and its requirement that the city participate in the Cop-Link system where information is shared. Regarding item #26-0169, Councilor Scott expressed his concerns about the use of Blue Voice (AI) to assist in writing police reports. Lastly, Councilor Scott noted that the funds associated with item #25-0849 could be used for helmets, shields, and chemical weapons, adding that police departments across the nation are utilizing this gear when opposing protesters.

Liaison Yasmine Raddassi explained that Blue Voice is a closed system and will not be used to generate police reports. Councilor Link noted his concerns about use of AI but said that if it is used as a search engine, he is less concerned.

Councilor Wheeler noted that the city shares data already, but any data collected under item #26-0271 will not be shared with the federal government. Councilor Clingan commented that these funds have a positive impact on the city's youth through various programs, adding that if the Council is opposing this grant out of an abundance of caution, then this body must be completely irresponsible in its actions. Councilor Hardt stated she was against accepting the grant (item #26-0271) but urged the mayor to allocate the same amount of funding into the FY27 budget for youth programming. Mayor Wilson informed the Council that the city's relationship with Cop-Link has existed for some time, and that Cop-Link will not change based on how the Council votes on these items, rather, it would just amount to the Council refusing money offered to the city.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.A.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$127,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Special Response Team equipment and training.
(ID # [25-0849](#))

Councilor Scott moved to sever this item from the Committee Report for further discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

NAY: Ward Two City Councilor Scott

6.A.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0169](#))

Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$43,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for software.

Councilor Scott moved to sever this item from the Committee Report for further discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

NAY: Ward Two City Councilor Scott, and City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.4. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [26-0201](#))

Director of Economic Development conveying the potential use of an Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing Tool (UCH-TIF) to incentivize housing production.

RESULT: **WORK COMPLETED**

6.A.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0268](#))

Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$31,000 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for upgrades to the Hazardous Household Waste Facility.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.A.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0270](#))

Requesting approval to appropriate \$56,339.46 from the Bike Share Stabilization Fund for installation and startup costs of a Blue Bike station at the Boynton Union Connect Transportation Management Association development site.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

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

- 6.A.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0271](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$22,800.08 grant that requires a match, from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Community Safety Initiative to the Police Department for youth violence prevention.

Councilor Scott moved to sever this item from the Committee Report for further discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

NAY: City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, and City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.B. HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EQUITY COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [26-0331](#)) Report of the Committee on Housing, Community Development and Equity, meeting on March 4, 2026.

Councilor Strezo summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that a public hearing was held regarding Out of the Blue's Community Arts Space at Arts at the Armory.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 6.B.2. Public Communication (ID # [26-0265](#)) That this City Council hold a public hearing on the petition submitted by 52 registered voters regarding Out of the Blue Community Arts Space at Arts at the Armory, pursuant to Section 2-11 of the City Charter.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

6.C. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [26-0333](#)) Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on March 11, 2026.

Councilor Hardt summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the sole agenda item was for a Grant of a Location for

Eversource.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 6.C.2. Grant of Location (ID # [26-0181](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 62 feet of conduit in Ivaloo Street, from Utility Pole 179/5 to a point of pickup at 38 Ivaloo Street.

RESULT: **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0334](#)) Requesting that this Council convene in Executive Session to receive an update on collective bargaining negotiations.

Labor Counsel Matt Sirigu appeared before the Council and confirmed that this item is appropriate for Executive Session. The Council entered Executive Session at 8:05 PM and returned to the regular meeting at 9:28 PM. President Davis reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session other than the vote to adjourn.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

ABSENT: Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, and City Councilor At Large Strezo

- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0202](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$75,000 from the Bike Share Stabilization Fund for installation and startup costs of a Blue Bike station at the 16-20 Medford Street development site.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading of items 7.2 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0298](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,167,395 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Community Housing Reserve to the Affordable Housing Trust.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading of items 7.2 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0297](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$399,255 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Undesignated Fund Balance to the CPA Fund Community Housing Reserve.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading of items 7.2 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0299](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Open Space Reserve to the Open Space Land Acquisition Fund.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading of items 7.2 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0300](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$100,766 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Historic Preservation Reserve to the Somerville Museum to conserve artifacts in its collection.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading of items 7.2 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0323](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$50,000 from the Community Preservation Act Budgeted Reserve to the Housing Authority for improvements to the open space at the Mystic River/View developments.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading of items 7.2 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0301](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$47,580 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health to the Police Department for overtime and backfill for Crisis Intervention Training certification and recertification.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading of items 7.2 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0325](#))

Requesting approval to establish a Grant Match Account with a \$15,000 transfer from the Department of Veterans' Services Grounds Maintenance Account to the Department of Veterans' Services Special Items Account for the Massachusetts General Court and the State Historical Records Advisory Board Grant match requirement.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading of items 7.2 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0321](#))

Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Courtney Reece to the position of Police Sergeant.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

7.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0322](#))

Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Ashley Catatao to the position of Police Sergeant.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

7.12. Mayor's
Communication
(ID # [26-0361](#))

Conveying the appointment of Chris Dwan to the Review of Multiple Member Bodies Committee.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

7.13. Mayor's
Communication
(ID # [26-0302](#))

Conveying the 2025 Surveillance Technology Annual Report.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

- 7.14. Mayor's
Communication
(ID # [26-0303](#))
- Conveying the 2026 Safe Streets Ordinance Annual Report.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

- 7.15. Mayor's
Communication
(ID # [26-0348](#))
- Conveying Public Safety for All findings and current initiatives.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

- 7.16. Mayor's
Communication
(ID # [26-0346](#))
- Proclaiming 2026 to be the Year of the Neighbor.

Mayor Wilson commented that we need to come together as a community in these difficult times. He reflected on a recent neighborhood meeting where speakers were heckled, and he urged people to listen to others who have different opinions from their own. He reported that his administration is bringing back neighborhood cleanups and looking for more creative ways for people to connect with each other. He asked for the Council's support in this initiative. Councilor Strezo suggested having a corporate sponsor for the community cleanups to which the mayor replied that a search for a sponsor has already begun. Councilor Sait commented that it's important for neighbors to get together, now, more than ever.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [26-0324](#))
- City Clerk conveying Block Party Licenses issued.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 8.2. Withdrawn
(ID # [26-0203](#))
- Withdrawn.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. Public Event
(ID # [26-0316](#))
- Dormition of the Virgin Mary applying for a Public Event License for Greek Independence Day Celebration 2026 on March 28 from 10am to 1:30pm.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.8 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.2. Public Event
(ID # [26-0315](#))

St. Benedict Parish applying for a Public Event License for Good Friday Stations of the Cross on April 3 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.8 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.3. Public Event
(ID # [26-0319](#))

Tufts Engineers without Borders applying for a Public Event License for Fred Berger Memorial 6K Run/Walk on April 12 from 10:30am to 3pm (raindate April 19).

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.8 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.4. Public Event
(ID # [26-0318](#))

Office of Immigrant Affairs applying for a Public Event License for Nepali National Flag Raising Ceremony 2026 on April 12 from 1pm to 4:30pm (raindate April 19).

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.8 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.5. Public Event
(ID # [26-0320](#))

SomerPromise applying for a Public Event License for Week of the Young Child Celebration 2026 on April 16 from 3:30pm to 7:30pm.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.8 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.6. Public Event
(ID # [26-0317](#))

Mystic River Watershed Association applying for a Public Event License for Mystic River Herring Run and Paddle on May 17 from 6am to 3pm.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.8 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

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- 9.7. Public Event
(ID # [26-0314](#))
- Mass Farmers Markets applying for a Public Event License for Davis Square Farmers Market every Wednesday from May 20 to November 25.
- Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.8 and approve them this evening.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 9.8. Public Event
(ID # [26-0313](#))
- The Curl Bar applying for a Public Event License for The Curl Bar Community Event 2026 on May 30 from 6am to 7pm (raindate May 31).
- Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.8 and approve them this evening.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 9.9. Public Communication
(ID # [26-0327](#))
- 29 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Zoning Ordinance Section 15.7.2.d Zoning Board of Appeals Board Rules.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the reading of items 9.9 through 9.12 and refer them to the Land Use Committee with a copy to the Planning Board.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
- 9.10. Public Communication
(ID # [26-0328](#))
- 14 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Zoning Ordinance Section 12.2.2 regarding affordable dwelling units.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the reading of items 9.9 through 9.12 and refer them to the Land Use Committee with a copy to the Planning Board.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
- 9.11. Public Communication
(ID # [26-0329](#))
- 14 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.12 Backyard Cottage.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the reading of items 9.9 through 9.12 and refer them to the Land Use Committee with a copy to the Planning Board.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
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- 9.12. Public Communication (ID # [26-0330](#)) 29 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.12 Backyard Cottage.

Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the reading of items 9.9 through 9.12 and refer them to the Land Use Committee with a copy to the Planning Board.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

- 9.13. Public Communication (ID # [26-0326](#)) Tufts University conveying its Spring 2026 Accountability Report.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Communication (ID # [26-0371](#)) By Councilor Hardt
 Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2027.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading items 4.1, 4.8, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18, 4.22, 4.27, and 10.1 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 10.2. Order (ID # [26-0373](#)) By Councilor Wheeler
 That this Council review construction-related parking in the area of Oak Street and Bolton Street.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

- 10.3. Public Communication (ID # [26-0369](#)) 62 individuals, including 60 residents, submitting comments re: item #26-0114, Fiscal Year 2027 budget priorities.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 10.4. Public Communication (ID # [26-0370](#)) Thouis Jones submitting comments re: bike lanes.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 10.5. Public Communication (ID # [26-0377](#)) Courtney Pollack submitting comments re: items #26-0055, #26-0156, and #26-0168, requests regarding public safety grants.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 10:49 PM.