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CITY OF SOMERVILLE

City of Somerville City Council Meeting

January 22, 2026

7:00 PM – 9:30 PM (ET)

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>> (delay in starting Zoom meeting)

>> [Recording in progress]

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audio video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Madam Clerk please call the roll.

>> [Roll call]

>> CLERK: With eight Councilors present and two absent we have a quorum.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: -- Councilman-- is under the weather and did not want to bring anything we could pick up. We wish her well.

Pursuant to rule 32 the City Council uphold the flag of the United states of America. We begin our meetings with a moment of silence.

Other Councilors that wish to say a few words?

>> Through the chair I want to recognize which I learned. This winter flu season Massachusetts, five children and over 100 adults have died of the flu. What is going on right now is very serious I encourage everybody to take precautions. To keep each other safe by getting flu shots. Especially if you're getting any symptoms, feel free to pull out those masks. Thank you

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Hear hear.

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: More of a general thing. Three fatal overdoses over the last couple of weeks. Five total overdoses, three fatal. And how want to keep those who have passed away, their families and friends and loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Indeed.

But everyone in the chamber please rise you're able for a moment of silence?

>> [Moment of silence]

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you. Madam Clerk, first item please.

>> CLERK: Next item is 1.3. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting December 11, 2025.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Seeing no discussion that item is approved.

And we would like to take a few items out of order, if there is no objection. That would be items-- together-- items 4.3, 4.4, and 4.7.

I will note that I think before we move on I think this might be the first time in -- This is my eleventh year in the Council that there are no grants and locations hearings. Sadly, we won't hear from our friends at the utilities. Hopefully, that means anything is on his way and moving and we don't have anything else.

Councilor Ewen-Campen on that point?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: I want to sponsor a speaker, Jackie Duffy.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: It is a question if we can get to a meeting with Jackie Duffy. There was this discussion about the item for which she may have been here tonight. Sound that is not going to be necessary from what I understand. We shall see stay tuned and we will never know.

All right if there is no objection, Madam Clerk please read so we can take together items 4.3, 4.4. 4.7.

Resolution

(ID # 26-0098)

By Councilor Strezo

That the Director of Health and Human Services immediately install menstrual product dispensers that provide free menstrual products in all city owned bathrooms.

4.4

Resolution

(ID # 26-0099)

By Councilor Strezo

That the Director of Health and Human Services immediately install menstrual product dispensers on each floor of City Hall that provide free menstrual products.

4.7

4.7. Resolution

(ID # 26-0125)

By Councilor Strezo

That the City Council calls for an end to period poverty, and an end to barriers making it difficult for residents to be able to afford menstrual products in Somerville.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you Mr. Chair. Colleagues and newbies get used to this conversation because I will keep talking about it until I don't have to any longer. Hopefully fingers crossed, we are in the horizon of something happening.

Fun fact. City Hall does not have a single menstrual products dispenser in any other bathrooms. 2025. Not one.

Why don't we say something to change that?

I understand that it has never been considered. Covering my bases that is why 4.3 and 4.4 exists as they do. Seemingly almost identical, but not. Because menstrual products are to be also free. They should be as free as using paper towels in a bathroom and budgeted as such. And if our new administration, respectfully, I am really looking forward to working with. I am asking that the administration make an immediate budget allocation to change this. And make menstrual products free and available to half the city staff.

And that leads us into... 4.6. Is that right?

We do not talk about 4.6 we will get to that one. 4.7 which is a resolution you called. That the City Council call for an end to period poverty. One in five administrators cannot afford menstrual products. The cost of living going up and the extra living expenses, it is increasing. And by the day.

Here to speak on that item Mr. President, I would like to sponsor the Somerville commission for women. We have some commissioners here. We are working-- we have an idea. And on February-- and I'm going to let them lead the conversation, they will either charge on this or talk about this.

And to speak on this item we have here Alex Barrett (sounds like), and Kaitlin Firth of the Somerville commission for women.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo like to sponsor the aforementioned speakers. Please read your name so we can make sure we get it on the closed captioning and for the record. Please go ahead.

>> Yes absolutely, thank you so much for...

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: mic down so your folks online can hear you.

>> Thank you all for allowing us to speak like I am Alexandra Barback (sounds like) one of the co-commissioners on the Somerville commission for women.

>> Hi everyone, my name is Kaitlin Fith (sounds like), cochair of the Somerville commission for women.

>> And I am-- a volunteer supporting them.

>> Earlier this week, the Somerville commission for women will voted unanimously support this resolution. And we are very proud and glad to be able to support something like this.

As Councilor Strezo said, we are in a cost-of-living crisis. And we know when the costs of necessities increase, like food or housing people are forced to choose between basic necessities and sometimes rudimentary products from their budget.

We know this can lead to reduced participation in society. Lack of access to public spaces. And it can sometimes have health consequences including death.

And so this is not just ... an issue for ... you know, a small subset of our community. 50% of people in Somerville do menstruate. And every single person who menstruates should have access to menstrual products. A Somerville resident should be able to walk

into a city building and receive services that will have a more tangible impact on their lives.

Thank you very much for allowing us to speak. Okay, thank you. Councilor Mbah would like to sign on, the whole Council like to sign on.

Councilor Strezo you have anything further?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: If I may. Thanks colleagues. Commissioners is there anything else you would like for me to talk about?

>> Not for now.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Stay tuned indeed I love the cliffhanger.

Did I see any discussion?

No.

Those items are approved. You want to have this sent to your committee?

Let-- bring another item when our cliffhanger is ready to be shared with the public perhaps.

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Yes I was thinking about that too.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: So those three items will be approved with a copy to public health and public safety.

Next item.

>> CLERK: Item 4.1
Resolution
(ID # 26-0091)
By Councilor Scott
That the Director of Engineering and the Director of Mobility draft a plan to convert the intersection of Ivaloo Street and Harrison Street into a pedestrian-only open space closed to vehicular traffic.

Resolution
(ID # 26-0091)
By Councilor Scott
That the Director of Engineering and the Director of Mobility draft a plan to convert the intersection of Ivaloo Street and Harrison Street into a pedestrian-only open space closed to vehicular traffic.

Closed to vehicular traffic.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is approved.

>> CLERK: 4.2

Order

(ID # 26-0100)

By Councilor Strezo

That this Council discuss a pilot program that incentivizes backyard cottages and/or Accessory Dwelling Units in owner occupied properties.

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Sometimes I feel I am repeating myself. Sometimes I feel I am repeating myself. Sometimes I feel I am repeating myself.

Like we discussed in housing activity development in the equity, I would like this to be sent there, and work with neighbors to see what we are missing to fruition.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler?

>> Thank you, to the chair I was excited to see this on the agenda and poking around trying to learn a little bit more. I thought one reference point might be helpful to share in the committee to discuss this was it looks like Salem has implemented a property tax exemption for ADUs that rent for below 70% of fair market value. It looks like this required home rule petition at the time-- not sure if it still would-- it also would require assessors for the city to verify documentation of rental amount.

It is interesting to see the folks already doing this, folks bringing in affordable housing. I was excited to hear this discussion.

>> PRESIDENT: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: We discussed this for three years in a row, in housing and community development. And in numerous dialogues with economic development and numerous housing departments and directors and conversations.

What I've brought in past years and want to continue to bring forward, is the New York State incentivizing program of production of the ADU+1 program. The budget request-- for those who are new to the dialogue-- welcome and I will be glad that we can work on this together. We have been talking about this and hoping... Because there is an appetite with residents. And where are barriers to incentivizing. Like for example the New York State program and getting the economic developer on board with this, we can do some really great things in Somerville and tackle the affordable housing crisis.

Very exciting. I'm very glad that we have some voices who want to talk about it. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT: Sounds like a couple of different abilities made some options that other towns have not thought of yet. We will keep this in community development, ultimately this is something we will send a finance.

From a concept standpoint, I want to keep in-- not housing but what we call it now?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: It is now HCDE.

>> PRESIDENT: Housing community and equity.

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Mr. President we played around this. But we didn't. We were working on the fight.

I working on the idea to start is in housing.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: No objection to that. Saying no other objection that will be approved and sent with a copy to housing, community development, and equity. Thank you.

Next item.

>> CLERK: Item 4.5

By Councilor Strezo

That the Administration purchase and install outdoor patio furniture, including tables and chairs, for the patio located outside of the first floor of City Hall on the Highland Avenue side of the building.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Can you picture it?

Not the ones that comply with the strong wind storm. If we put patio furniture out there, I have had conversations with DPW in 2025 to make this a reality. We can put chairs and create a community space for residents and everyone in the City Hall Concourse can have some really great moments. I picture that space. Let's make this possible. I am asking that Mayor's administration to send some cash this way to make this happen as soon as possible.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: All right. Seeing no discussion that is approved.

>> CLERK: 4.6

By Councilor Strezo

That the Commissioner of Public Works install privacy film and replace the shades of the women's bathroom on the second floor of City Hall.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Oh, another fun fact. Colleagues did you know that the windows in the bathroom, as described in this order, people can see into the bathroom of the second floor of the men's bathroom and out. In the men's is covered and in the women's only 50% of it is.

Now, about four years ago, five years ago?

There was no covering at all. So 50% of it is covered.

However, it is still very unprivate. And feels kind of violating and it is 2025. We would like to take care of that. And submit this to public health and public safety.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Next item?

>> CLERK: 4.8

By Councilor Davis

That the Commissioner of Public Works provide a written update to this Council and the School Committee on the status of restoring hot water to all areas of the Capuano Early Education Center, including which areas are affected, actions taken, and an estimated timeline for full restoration.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you. Could you read item 4.9 as well please?

>> CLERK: 4.9

By Councilor Davis

That the Commissioner of Public Works provide to the City Council a full-time equivalent analysis and recommendations for custodial staffing at each Somerville Public School, including distinctions between day versus evening shifts, disparities between school size, usage, and current custodial assignments.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Both of these items were referred to me by the school committee, with the request to place them -- say no discussion it will be approved with a copy to school building facilities and maintenance.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 4.10.

By Councilor Davis

That the Administration prioritize finalization of a Davis Square Neighborhood Plan, including updating community input in the content of the plan.

>> PRESIDENT MBAH: Councilor Davis?

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thank you Mr. President, I want to say to make it clear that this is not meant to be adversarial. I have a commitment-- giving commitment from both Mayor Wilson, that this is an absolute priority.

A little back story when I was first elected before I took office the mayor Tony came to me and said, "hey we have some lab developers interested in -- Square. That sounds like an interesting option let's have a neighborhood plan and a community conversation about that. That is when this neighborhood plan process started. That was 2005, no, 2015. Still a long time ago, not as long as 2005.

2015, we still do not have a finalized approved a plan whatever you want to call it. And so as I said, Mayor Wilson and Director Gallagany (sounds like) are fully on board. They told me they made it a priority, and I thought it was worth putting that on the agenda.

If anyone is looking into the issue they can see this on the agenda and hear this conversation and here conversation that we know and we agree and we are on it.

I look forward to the process moving forward. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT MBAH: That item is approved.

>> CLERK: 4.11

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on maintenance issues in the East Somerville, Capuano, and Edgerly Schools.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor McLaughlin?

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: Thank you Mr. President I did see another item about schools in general. I appreciate that I am of course always focused on East Somerville in the schools in my district that I've had over this past winter break for example the Capuano school is having issues with not having warm water and the road problems and other basic maintenance issues, that I would like some conversation about. Some answers. I find this is the best way to deal with it with the school building committee that we created to make sure that the public knows about this as well. I have spoken to the city about it, and they are addressing a lot of the issues, but the public always has questions I would like to refer this to that committee so we can discuss it.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Okay, seeing no discussion that The item is approved is approved.

Councilor Strezo would like to sign up and Councilor Mbah like to sign up.

Absolutely, it feels good to have these conversations. If that happens great, to have coordinated efforts as you well know Councilor McLaughlin, it is not a problem if we have a couple of different items. Thank you for that.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 4.12

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Administration form a commission to investigate the possibility of Ranked Choice Voting, as required by passage of the new city charter.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor McLaughlin?

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: And said thank you. Rank choice voting was a major discussion in the city charter conversation. It was decided that this point that it is so complicated it deserves its own separate commission to investigate the possibility of it. And so as part of the charter that we passed, we are required to investigate this. I just want to bring it up and make sure it gets its due diligence.

And on a personal level, something happened to me recently and I cannot quite say it that made me suddenly think that it is very important to have elections, where a mere plurality does not determine the race. I don't know what it is. Something less than 50% of the vote. This is of course referred to in local races. This will only apply to the city of Somerville races. Something we promise to the community, and we need to make this possible. At the legislative matters makes sense.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any further discussion?

All the Council should have the email that went out today requesting volunteers for this committee and the two others that were created by the new charter as well, and regulations for committee members that the City Council will be able to sign onto those.

If you want to have a further conversation in legislative matters, we can do that and in terms of at least getting the process started, we are definitely on and I need your input and volunteers for this and the others as well.

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: Happy to approve it.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is approved.

>> CLERK:

4.13.

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Administration provide monthly updates to the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety on progress towards addressing homelessness in Somerville.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor McLaughlin?

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: So this is a place order for the last couple of years discussing this issue. I would like this refer to public health and safety.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I think my name was on that going way back. I will sign onto that as well to reiterate that that was a repeat of that item.

Any discussion?

That is approved in the copy to public safety.

>> CLERK: 4.14

By Councilor McLaughlin

In support of an Act ensuring law enforcement identification for public safety.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor McLaughlin?

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: Thank you this will be my last one. Senator-- submitted this item to basically prohibit masks in Massachusetts. Most people support it and discussed it in the horseshoe in the past I won't go into a big speech about it. Everyone thinks it is a bad idea for law enforcement agencies to wear masks. If you're going to be operating within this community, and the people around you, you should at least be able to show your face.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: The whole Council would like to sign on. Councilor McLaughlin, they do not whether our exceptions and the proposed statute introduced by ...

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: There are exemptions where it would make sense. Such as if you had a person with a high profile individual in entertainment, and they did not want to identify that officer for the sake of the actual person in question.

There are exemptions. And there is a question whether we can do this to federal authorities. But I also think it would be a good message for state and local police to not do this, even though they are not doing it now. Let's not have it happen in the future and be able to distinguish state and local police from AF and ICE.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: --- Do you want to speak to that?

>> Mr. President, just to say obviously also exempting reasons for health and safety, things like that.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: So, that is approved.

Do you want a copy sent to delegation?

We will send a copy to the state delegation.

>> CLERK: 4.15.

By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Scott
That the Director of Mobility update this Council on the intersection improvements at Webster Avenue and Prospect Street.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Thank you Mr. President, the layout of this intersection where Prospect meets Webster is one of the most inherently dangerous in the city. Councilor Scott and I have put orders in and we have a new administration, and we have tons of questions so we can share with the public project timelines.

This intersection as part of phase 1 of the Union Square streetscapes redesign. Under the city has made progress. This Council recently approved funding to advance that work.

And so I would really like an update on whether we are moving forward with a quick bill in the meantime or whether we are going into actual construction. I asked this be referred to traffic and parking please.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Seeing no discussion that item is approved, with a copy to traffic and parking.

>> CLERK: 4.16

By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Scott That the Director of Mobility implement colored lane markings for bus and bike lanes on Prospect Street between Webster Avenue and Somerville Avenue.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Thank you Mr. President, the lane markings are really confusing, and I don't know if they have been the side was a been reconstructed I asked to get thermal colors down for the bus lanes and the bike lanes. It is a free-for-all now, especially for bikes and all road users. If we could get this referred to traffic and parking as well I would appreciate it.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is approved with a copy to traffic and parking.

>> CLERK: 4.17

By Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Commissioner of Public Works install waste receptacles near the entrance of the Warming Center on Prescott Street.

>> Can we please take up 4.18 and 19 at the same time?

>> CLERK: 4.18

By Councilor Ewen-Campen

That the Commissioner of Public Works perform regular litter clean-ups along Prescott Street near the Warming Center.

4.19

By Councilor Ewen-Campen

That the Administration investigate the possibility that deliveries, emergency vehicles, pick-ups, etc., occur in the Cummings School parking lot rather than on Prescott Street.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Thank you Mr. President, the overnight warming center that is at the former -- school on Prescott Street is now open for the second year. The weather right now is a perfect example of what an absolutely critical life-saving resource this is. I am incredibly grateful to the city that we have a warming center.

And there are absolutely unavoidable challenges of having this facility in the middle of a residential neighborhood that is not particularly close to where a lot of the patrons spend their days.

And I will say that over the past two years, there has been an uptick of issues that residents have been reporting. The mayor will ask the team to meet with the neighbors, that was well attended. And the neighbors were able to meet directly not only with their Mayor but with chief Benford (sounds like), the director of emergency services and have a productive back-and-forth.

The city staff has been working before and since that meeting and I am very grateful for that. I am committing to putting in a bunch of these orders to have a public conversation and make sure we are taking care of the straightforward elements of addressing this.

So these orders, two of them are really straightforward. There should be receptacles outside the center. They should have been there already. And they will be soon and I want to put this into mark that. And also to ask for more frequent cleanups along this. That is something we owe to the neighborhood.

The third will take a little more discussion. But not all the traffic associated with the center goes in Prescott Street. Which is not a wide street. And emergency vehicles, deliveries, and people arriving it affects people a lot. The traffic; on the other side is a large parking lot owned by the city. It seems like a lot of that stuff to be redirected to the parking lot especially now that the Springhill construction lay down stuff has been moved and there may be issues the complicated like ADA compliance. I would've asked for this to go to public health and public safety which is now sustainability and infrastructure.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That I still public health.

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Public utilities and public works excuse me. Which want that become?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Sustainability and infrastructure.

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Please.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: See no discussion those items are approved with a copy to sustainability and infrastructure.

>> CLERK: 4.20

By Councilor Ewen-Campen

(ID # 26-0121) That the Director of Mobility pilot the installation of dedicated bicycle YIELD signals to operate during the walk cycle at several intersections throughout the city, including Washington Street and Somerville Avenue, and Prospect Street and Somerville Avenue.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Thank you Mr. President, so something like two years ago, Councilor Wilson and I filed an order that has to do with safety issues around bicycles and intersections in particular we emphasized that there is extensive data -- including from the federal government itself, back when we trust the data coming from the federal government, showing that there is really clear public safety benefits to allow cyclists get started at intersections ahead of vehicles, when there are really no pedestrian or other road users. This is sometimes called the "Idaho stop" where red lights can be treated as a stoplight in situations where there are no pedestrians present.

And, especially because we have really limited resources to dedicate to enforcement having to do with rotating, there's always a very legitimate question about prioritizing those resources.

With the limited resources we have, had we spend those dollars to actually maximize road safety?

Is it worth it to focus these very expensive hours of enforcement to those behaviors that don't cause any safety issues?

That conversation caused a lot of motion and a lot of response but admittedly not a lot of progress. There is a ton of ambiguity about the status of this. In our proposal to be put yield lights for cyclists that can run whether appropriate, the walk signal or the red signal to remove that ambiguity. You are starting to have these lights installed around Cambridge and Boston. These will be useful here in Somerville.

And I have included conversations in Ward 3, where they would be particularly valuable and I am sure there are others and I as a Ask that this traffic and parking and I also want to say that I recently had a conversation with an artist who works in Somerville who was pulled over at the intersection of Prospect and Somerville Av., I don't want to speak to any intentions here but that interaction led to this person being arrested, jailed in the Somerville police station. Taken to court. And then everything merely being dismissed, because it was completely asinine.

And so I just ask, is this a good use of our public safety time and dollars?

I do not think so. I think there is a lot of urgency around this. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: All right, so...

>> I want to thank our Councilor, having kids over at Arts and Llano (sounds like), regularly myself am a passenger on my bike, a cyclist with my kids. I have seen parents pulled over for trying to cross while there was a pedestrian signal without pedestrians in the way. I think safety in schools is super important. I think this is awesome. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is approved with a copy to traffic and parking.

>> CLERK: 4.21

By Councilor Ewen-Campen

(ID # 26-0122) That the Director of Mobility prioritize speed hump installation and other traffic calming measures on Lowell Street between Summer Street and Highland Avenue.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Moved to approve.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Seeing no discussion, that either is approved. Councilor Wheeler would like to sign onto 4.21.

>> CLERK: 4.22

By Councilor Wheeler

(ID # 26-0114) Conveying that, pursuant to Section 6-2 of the City Charter, this City Council will hold a public hearing on the community's Fiscal Year 2027 budget priorities in the Committee on Finance on February 10, 2026.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you, through the chair, Tuesday, February 10 at 6 PM, there will be a community budget hearing. Where every Somerville resident is invited to speak to the Council finance committee about your values and vision. This will

be on Zoom. There is a possibility of coming in to City Hall if coming in physically is more convenient.

They will be live simultaneous translation in Spanish and Portuguese, with additional language is available on request. The easiest way to request this is to call 311, they promised me they will put that request through. And would publicizing that Zoom length version.

the City Council encourages everyone to participate and everyone to help get the word out. Do not need to be a registered voter to participate. You do not need to be a particular age. You just need to be someone who calls Somerville home. Whoever you are, whatever your part of the community is and your needs, we want to hear what is most important to you.

In addition cannot make one more logical note to the Council about this?

Last year the public he was for the committee as a whole. This one is a plan as part of the regular finance committee. This is a hearing with the public speaking not particularly members of the committee. And so that distinction didn't matter a whole lot.

We encourage everyone to join us and listen live. But if any of my colleagues you strongly that you would rather it be a committee of the whole, please reach out to me.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I will know that I did ask the clerk. Sounds like the history is pretty split. There have been both regular committee meetings and Council meetings. We can participate with technology. Thank you Councilor that item is placed on files.

Madame clerk next item.

>> CLERK: 5.1
City Clerk conveying information regarding the City
Communication Council's responsibilities pursuant to the 2025 City (ID # 26-0047)
Charter.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: All right, so this is a presentation. We have had this slide since there was a file on the agenda couple weeks ago. If you have had a chance to take a look our legislative and policy analyst Brandon Salsberry (sounds like) is here to speak to this, to talk about some of the new things charter says, and some of the things that are not necessarily new. But still important and relevant and this is the public and we heard about.

Mr. Salisbury, take it away.

>> For the record Brandon Salsberry legislative policy and analyst. I was in the public speaking is not my passion.

There are a number of new response ability for the City Council contained within the provisions and I would like to take this opportunity to walk you through those new responsibilities and answer any questions you may have some of you did send questions ahead of time. And I do deeply appreciate that. There are some changes to the presentation's notes but not to the slides that I will address those questions through.

First generally speaking I am not a fan of slides, but it is a good thing to print people for what is coming next. It's not going to linger here but this is what we are going to talk about tonight.

I will note actually-- sorry if you could go back-- this is one of the changes that I made to my notes.

You may notice that this does not include anything about the timelines related to the budget. That is because there are no specific tasks for the City Council to accomplish with the new timelines. It is just the two budget hearings.

So to the next slide, I am diving in and ripping the Band-Aid off here. The charter does require changes to the way that orders and resolutions have historically been handled by this body.

The issuance of biting directive to city staff has never been within the authority of the City Council. That is something that is quintessentially executive adoring. There has been historical practice of using orders as requests.

And in order to avoid frustration that comes from the confusion associated with that, we are going to be using resolutions for requests, and orders for orders.

We will get to the things that you can make demands on in another slide.

While this does seem at first blush like a big change, I can assure you that fundamentally nothing has changed. The request for actions that you would have been resubmitted as orders in the past are still submittable as resolutions. So we will not have someone say, "you cannot legally tell me to do that."

And we will have his body confused as to why action has not been taken on that request versus knowing when an order has been submitted that you can demand a response to that.

I will take this opportunity though as is my habit as some of you have started to understand, to encourage each of you to make this request through 311, through the IGA team also your own stuff. I can promise you that for a lot of these things will get you a very quick turnaround on them.

Next. Those orders.

Access to information some of you may know-- you may have read the charter, I hope so a lot of you around the horseshoe have been working on it for the last two years. Access to information is not new. This is something that was in the previous charter. But there are some new standards around it.

Specifically, and this is what orders will be reserved for, these provisions to grant pretty broad authority to the City Council.

This is to obtain information about the affairs of the city. The conduct or performance of any city agency. And there is some language about it that needs to be related to the official duties and responsibilities of the City Council.

As elected officials, helping your constituents and fighting information about programs and issues that affect them and providing general insight into the functions of city government. Informing yourselves about the activities of city departments for conversation regarding budget and things like that, it is a very broad sort of thing.

I am hard-pressed to think of any examples where this would not cover a question that you might have.

One thing is that the orders may not be framed as a request for information, when that information is not presumed to exist.

What I mean by this is, to use an example, there is a very big difference between commissioning a piece of art and buying a print of it. You can't say, "I would like information about this in certain new policy here," if that new policy does not exist. Because there is an understanding that what you are requesting actually is the creation of a new policy and then a discussion of that.

That would be a directive-- you are directing staff to do something. And so it will be a resolution.

We do ask that these be specific. That is very helpful. Not just for staff but also for members of the public and members of this council who might have questions about what is going on with this question.

They do not need to contain every single question that you want to ask about a particular topic. But it should be enough to guide people to understand what the discussion will be about.

Also, there is a specific requirement the charter that things stay on topic. You cannot veer off into other things that are tangentially related.

Let's see. Ah yes. The section also requires 14 days advance notice. I will once again reiterate that if you work with staff there is a possibility that that 14 days will not be

required if staff are prepared to speak on that issue. If you have had these conversations in advance in your bringing them to the public it might be a lot quicker.

So I do once again strongly encourage you to go through IGA and through your staff.

Also, general note for both orders and resolutions I do strongly encourage you to let us know what your preference is in terms of response. Written or having a person appear in person to discuss.

Next up.

Confirmation of appointment. This is another one where the looks like a lot changed, but actually not a lot has.

City Council does retain broad authority over confirmation of appointment and re-confirmation of specific positions.

What has changed is that there is now a timeline for the confirmation of most appointments and if the City Council fails to act within the timeline, that timeline is approved.

For department heads, the chief attorney and the city attorney, the City Council has 30 days from the date of the regular meeting where the item appears in the agenda. There are some building guardrails, it will be automatically confirmed during recess. If you have questions about that I will be happy to talk about this later I do not want to waste a whole lot of time on them.

If you wish to reject an appointment for these positions it does require a two thirds majority vote to reject and for these positions as well as leaves and fire partners, the rejection does have to be accommodated by a written reason for the rejection.

The city attorney has a two-year term and is subject to reconfirmation if they are appointed to a subsequent term. And the review for that confirmation is the same as it would be for the regular appointment process.

This is where the primary change is. Appointments to multiple governmental bodies, the City Council has 60 days to act on those appointments. Appointments to multiple member bodies for quasijudicial and regulatory bodies are subject reconfirmation.

The revised charter does codify the City Council's current practice which is to sort of automatically confirm any appointments to advisory committees and so there are no requirements for appointments to advisory committees to be submitted to the City Council.

That being said, it is my understanding that until we get some clarity through the process of the administrative code and the review of multiple member bodies, the

administration intends to continue submitting apartments for bodies that they would have typically submitted for in the past.

Let's see. Next. Administrative code.

I'm going to start with a simple definition here, so we are all on the same page..

An administrative code is a body of law that governs the structure and function of government, rather than the behaviors of nongovernmental entities like residents and businesses that operate in Somerville.

Previously, the mayor had unilateral authority to reorganize the city in whatever way they saw fit. The only oversight available to the City Council was through the budget process.

Now, you have the ability to review and approve-- or reject-- administrator orders or reorganization plans. The City Council-- and I want to stress this-- does not have the authority to make any amendments to the administrative code. That is the City Council-- the changes to the administrative code may not originate within the City Council. But when it is submitted you only have the ability to approve or reject you can certainly make requests for changes, but you cannot yourself make those changes.

So, the timeline for these is a 60 day timeline to act on the amendment. There is a requirement for a public hearing and because of that requirement for a public hearing we do have those same guardrails that we see with the confirmation of appointments to make sure we don't end up in a situation where we are not able to hold a public hearing because of recess or something like that.

The threshold for approval or rejection of the proposed amendments to the administrative code is a simple majority. And I do really want to highlight here that the city charter does require an administrative code.

As a matter of fact the specific language is that the city may only be organized by administrative code.

That means that when the administrative code before you is approved, there are a lot of parts of the ordinances that we need to come out. I would like to reassure you; I am working on it.

This is something that will be presented to you in a single package. So you can understand what is happening. The changes are necessary. They are not optional. The charter very explicitly says that there is anything in the code of ordinances that purports to organize the city it must come out. It is superseded by the administrative code.

Next is group petitions. I apologize I am reading this quickly. At the end they will be time for questions.

A public hearing must be held within three months after submission and a public hearing may not be held on the same subject within a 12 month period.

That 12 month tolls from the time the petition first appears on the agenda.

Next up. Budget hearings.

Now that I've had my thunder stolen on this, the 2025 charter does codify the current practice of the City Council to hold an initial public hearing. This must be held before the annual meeting which gives the public an opportunity to weigh in for the creation of the public. Also requires a continuation of the practice of holding a public hearing after submission of the proposed budget before the City Council takes action on it.

And that is it.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have. I also want to say that any questions you don't get to tonight, I am not going anywhere. Please email me.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: First off thank you. Excellent job. Very much appreciated.

Any questions?

Councilor Clingan?

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Thank you for you Mr. President. This 14 day notice, is that pride to-- would that be tied to the agenda?

I mean the agenda is 72 hours. We have been asked in the past for seven days if we want to have a staff appear as a courtesy.

So the 14 days, is that just like an email requesting?

Or is that pride to the agenda?

>> Mr. President Through you to Councilor Clingan.

Once it is distributed after the consideration period, that is 14 day notice begins.

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Thank you, through you Mr. President, this is in the charter, but I am troubled by this. So when we reject an appointment if we -- we are putting ourselves -- (indiscernible) -- If we put a reason in writing, technically as elected officials do we really have to give a reason?

>> Yes or no vote. Through you Mr. President.

>> The charter does lay out specific standards, not just the process for rejection but also the reason for rejection. Generally it is considered-- sorry let me rephrase that statement.

There are specific standards for the appointments of individuals, based on their qualifications and things like that.

The idea of this being that a mayor is not putting someone forward because they like them. And the City Council has the ability to say in writing, with not believe this individual is qualified. It is a check and balances on both sides of the equation, to make sure someone is not rejected because of personal differences, or someone appointed for personal reasons.

>> I'm confused about that because if an individual Councilor votes no, and the -- (indiscernible).

>> Mr. President, through you. That is correct I would expect that Councilor would likely make their case before voting no. But there is no requirement they do so in the charter.

>> Okay and then Mr. President and again this conversation has already been settled in the charter-- but I haven't thought much about this one. Essentially we are writing ourselves into not a lawsuit but into whatever the outcome is going to be with the administration, and how it plays out in regard to rejecting an appointment. We basically would be ... giving a written statement that may or may not be used against us at some point.

>> Mr. President, if I may I know it wasn't phrased as a question, but I do have a response I would suggest that if you are concerned about the possibility of a lawsuit I would strongly recommend speaking with the city attorney.

>> Thank you Mr. President.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Mbah?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Thank you. Legislative analyst Salisbury. I want to make sure I got it right. I appreciate you hitting us this information.

Next week I am planning to spend a lot of time with the city attorney. Because I have had some experience as-- but I want to clarify something. Imagine you have an appointment, I am the chair and I got a phone call, "oh this person to me before you is a bad person or this, this."

Should I reject that phone call?

How should I process that information?

Can you speak to that?

>> Mr. President, Through you I can't.

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: There have been some echoes, I want to really follow a lot of these are all. Everything is that is top-notch but again that happens behind the scenes, it will be good to have -- Maybe that will be for the city attorney so that I can understand the different scenarios. So I can know how to move this forward. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Mr. President, just because we are talking about confirmations and there are some new Councilors I want to share a little bit of perspective on where this conversation originated. My memory at least.

So, here's like the "everything is going well" scenario. The mayor is trying to recruit someone as director of the department, trying to convince them and move to Somerville and take the job.

It would be a challenge to recruit people if there was in our city charter, "oh yeah, the city council six months after you are hired can fire you for no reason."

And that is what we are protecting against. When things are going well, you try to recruit high quality talent. And you're trying to say if -- the City Council does have to approve you. But if they do not approve you they will give you a reason. This is a reasonable process.

The best scenario from the respect of me as a city Councilor, we have some god-awful mayor. They are trying to get their corrupt uncle to be the director of XYZ. We need to break the glass in case of emergency. No, you cannot put this person as head of the department here is why.

We are assuming this will go well. And this is in a professional context. But we have had these kinds of edge cases we are trying to control against.

Do we have the perfect solution?

I don't know but that is the logic behind this.

Someone that is considering taking a job here, putting their career at risk to take this job knows they will be treated fairly during the confirmation appointment. And also the mayor in the future knows not to put cranks up for these positions.

>> Thank you Mr. President and thank you Councilor Ewen-Campen for that framing. That was more on the department head HR.

I was thinking more about how politics can often play out in appointments of different member bodies when those things happen.

Certainly even considering playing around with somebody's livelihood or somebody coming here to take a high-level position, that wouldn't be what I had in mind when I thought about whether or not we were able to just make a no-vote without having to write a statement as such.

>> Mr. President to clarify for Councilor Clingan is not a requirement for multiple embodies. That is only a requirement for city attorney, Chief Administrative Office, or department heads. And police and fire confirmations. It is not a requirement for multiple member bodies.

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Okay that clarifies that. Thanks.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: To the chair it sounds like there are some outstanding questions about exactly how the criteria relate to the vote. And it seems like maybe it would be a good idea for us or for Perhaps clerks-- not sure, perhaps you analyst Salisbury, to email us an explanation of that in the future. We do not need to necessarily get that clarified now.

>> Mr. President through you- my apologies- I am not sure what questions that would be still outstanding with regards to that.

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thanks I will try to articulate mine if that is okay, through the chair.

Carrying on what Councilor Clingan was saying, if a councilor or set of Councilors were to feel they want to vote to reject an appointment, I heard a question from Councilor Clingan, how does the reasoning for that factor into the vote?

Do you have to say, I vote to reject and here is the reason?

Can you vote to reject and later on state a reason?

Can you vote to reject the never state the reason?

I did not hear an answer for that. I did hear there is a narrow set for reasons, and I did read that that narrow set stand in a particular place for ourselves.

>> Mr. President I will attempt to address this. There is nothing in the charter that explicitly states a specific set of reasons for rejection. There is a specific standard for appointment, which can be used as a guide. And I will note that this is my interpretation

in my professional role as legislative and policy analyst. For a legal opinion on this, I strongly recommend that you speak to the city attorney.

But what I will say is there is no specific standard for rejection. Not one that is Explicitly stated within the charter.

There are certainly reasons for rejection that might put the city in legal peril. I am not equipped to speak on those. And I would recommend a conversation with the city attorney if at any point you wish to reject an appointment and you are concerned about that.

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Mr. Vice President, can you take the chair please?

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thank you Mr. President and thank you again analyst Salsberry for all that. I forgot my glasses, I hope I remember what I had written down. They are up there.

On the point we were discussing, to my recollection there has been-- I can remember one case where the Council rejected something. Whether an appointment or a promotion I don't recall. And there was a reason given.

My recollection-- and I would encourage the chair of the committee or any members, as analysts said are concerned, to speak with the law department. Specifically looking at what was done in that case and what was the process. Recollection is there was a letter put together effectively by the Chair of the committee on behalf of the committee, laying the reason why. I don't recall specifically but I assume there was a consultation with the law office in putting that together. That is what attorneys are, therefore, to deal with those questions.

I believe it was done at least once I cannot recall the time, but we might start there I assume it was not done under the current charter.

Hopefully, we will never have to deal with this. No expectation that we will but you never know.

Two other things I want to touch on, an appointment that I bristled a little bit over. That applies when the Council is compelling and appearance. I do not recall that happening at least in my time here.

As you all know -- And if you don't rest assured that in almost every case, the administration is willing to appear when it makes sense and in accordance with the agenda and I would strongly encourage all of the chairs of committees to work together with the current office and the IGA to talk about that.

Before I put this agenda-- I have this meeting scheduled in a week-- what are you ready to talk about?

Is there anything you don't want to talk about?

Do you want me to put this on the agenda?

Are there reasons why something might not be right?

I took that approach in legislative matters and I found it very helpful. Sometimes I want to talk about something and there was a really good reason why it was not quite there yet. That really helps and I have not found any of the administrations with which I worked -- Putting up roadblocks for no good reason-- perhaps some folks feel differently about that, but I don't expect there to be a 14 day period. My expectation is that things will run pretty much the way they have been. Because I we have approached it from a collaborative standpoint.

The last thing is that one of the first exit Mr. Salsberry you mentioned, I thank you for the way you presented the discussion about orders and resolutions.

Another thing that caused me to bristle a little bit, when this was presented to me-- I did not realize we did completely agree, how it was worded and praised and so it is good to have discussion with folks. In my turnout that you are actually on the same page.

As Mr. Salsberry said, nothing has changed in terms of the Council's powers whatsoever in terms of orders and resolutions and what we can tell the administration to do. But since we have had the practice of putting legally, effective requests, it is confusing for people. It costs a lot of frustration among the public and among others.
"You are ignoring the Council!"

That is an objective fact.

I don't want to change it, because it feels a little bit better, the same order but I was compelled to change my view on that. If we approach the request-- the request for resolutions-- we are requesting that you do this it is still there. It is legally the same thing, but when you order something it actually means a lot more than it has historically.

We keep the order specifically to what the Council does have the legal authority to compel something it makes it a much stronger vehicle. That alone is a reason for a change in our practice. And I hope that it will be-- that we don't have to use those. As I said ideally, we never try to get the public administration to documentation or whatever and it hopefully won't be something that folks deal with.

My thoughts and I want to reiterate for the record, for the memory, for whatever else. Thank you Mr. President.

>> PRESIDENT MBAH: Thank you. Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: I do specifically that it was a civil service case. The City Council voted to reject an appointment, and we were required to submit an exclamation because had the mayor rejected the appointment he would've had to do the same thing in order to justify to the Civil Service Commission why we rejected an appointment that was the context of it, and I do think it is good practice.

First of all don't vote against someone just for no reason. Have a good reason even if you don't state it. If you win you're going to have to explain it eventually.

But it is important legally to have a written explanation so if you do get sued, people understand exactly why. And if you don't have a good reason you will lose the lawsuit. You should think about that when you reject an appointment.

If you have a good reason, you could win. In that case that civil service decision was upheld because we were on the right side of that issue.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you. For the questions or discussion?

Thank you again Mr. Salsberry. I really appreciate it. And as always the other thing that is worth emphasizing again as Brandon said, use our staff. I am thrilled we finally have staff to speak of, which was not a thing for many, many years. They are fantastic so they definitely leverage those resources ahead of time as much as possible. And it will make everything run more smoothly and make your job easier. Thank you.

>> Thank you Mr. President.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed on file.

>> CLERK: Mr. President may I ask we go back to 4.2 and send a copy sent to finance so we have an item to post on the agenda?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Excellent idea, same disposition will send a copy for that to finance.

>> CLERK: Thank you. We are now at 6.A.

Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on January (ID # 26-0126) 20, 2026.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: The finance committee met on January 20, 2026. We took a six item agenda and a productive meeting of just over an hour. We approved of two housing bridge pilot programs totaling \$200,000 for the office of housing stability. Those grants do not require a local match the committee discuss how those bridge programs

help residents to prevent being displaced and connecting them to longer term stable housing.

We were excited about and further recommended approval of a time only extension meaning no additional money required related to the Spring Hill sewer separation project. As well as a 103,421 dollar related to an agreement surrounding the approval of the Somerville union.

The longest discussion was the \$65,000 municipal Road safety program for the police department. This connects the topic of the Idaho stop, and the sense of bike safety.

We had a good discussion of the director of finance and administration of the police department Emily Wisdom and Police Lieutenant Michael Holland about how the department plans to use this grant.

We discussed among other things like how car enforcement will be targeted and chosen including how locations will be selected using crash data and the program to support safer streets for everyone who uses the street, pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. There was a discussion with the addition of this grant last year, about what the department intends to do with cyclist and pedestrian enforcement. Department representative said the focus of that component will be to take opportunities to educate and engage cyclists and protesters around safety. Will also include purchase and handing out safety items to those who do not have them: helmets, bicycle lights. That was a suggestion of the pedestrian transit advisory committee last year. I was glad to see that added. As well as light-up bracelets that are particularly useful to runners.

The department also said this component will include some amount of stop exactly as who officers see writing in ways that are judged as dangerous.

We discussed what that means. The committee emphasized that often as Councilor Davis and Councilor Ewen-Campen pointed out, they do that specifically to be safe and avoid dangerous traffic.

We also in our discussion did acknowledge that there are times that cyclists do do dangerous things. A cyclist running fast can surprise and endanger a pedestrian in a crosswalk. That was something for (indiscernible).

There were also questions about how thorough the safety item distribution was for this grant last year. And the police department agreed to share specific information with us but when and where items were distributed in the past year. That is information that is still forthcoming. They promised to give us that.

There were also questions about how the driver citation numbers in the grant application matched up with the citation numbers we were hearing with the department. And the department got back to us with a clarification on that as well, explaining those numbers combining the previous two years.

So ultimately overall, though the committee did express the desire for this grant application to be more clear in the future about plans for enforcement, the committee was satisfied that on balance this grant is a step in the direction of greater safety to all who share our streets. With that Mr. President, I asked that this committee report accepted as submitted.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion on the report?

Seeing no discussion, the report is approved.

Any votes on that one?

No.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 6.B.1.

Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, (ID # 26-0128) meeting on January 21, 2026.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Chair Wheeler back to you.

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you to the chair and due to councilor be out with the flu-- on Wednesday, January 26 we made via remote is patient with all members present. We took a three item agenda in a productive meeting of roughly 45 minutes.

We considered a request from Union Square auto sales LLC for a class 2 used car dealer license at -- 39 Webster Avenue, same place of a previous business we also took a request for a grant location to install 38 feet of conduit on Warwick Street off of Cedar Street on Ward 5.

There's a story there that goes back to this first being addressed in December. In short a neighbor who lives right by the utility pole pointed out that there are already several metal pipes for enclosing wiring that helped the wiring go up and down to the utility pole. Those are called "risers."

The poll is a bit of a crowded mass. So the committee was discussing that and want to make sure that this point was being considered seriously by Eversource, and this opportunity was taken to figure out how to keep things neat and clean them up, we decided to discharge his item without a recommendation so we could get more information and reach out to this neighbor for an update.

I am happy to say we were able to speak to them with assistance with Ward 5 counselor, Councilor Naima Sait, and they were able to speak with the reps and come

to an agreement on how to leave that pole in a good shape. Sounds like everybody was happy.

I will I trust that this report be accepted as submitted.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion of the committee report?

Once we approve the committee report, the item on Webster Av. Will be before us. So any discussion on the committee report itself?

Seeing no discussion, the report is approved. That leaves item... 7.5.4.

>> CLERK: Mr. President, 6.B rental location.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: On that item Councilor Sait?

>> COUNCILOR SAIT: Through you Mr. President, I would like to know how we are going to approach this. What Councilor Wheeler just explain, and I would like to make a motion to send this back to committee for further discussion. My constituent had a chance to speak to Jackie Duffy today. And I think they came to an agreement, but this conversation did not happen in committee. It is worth having this conversation public, making sure all the issues have been addressed.

There is another point that my constituent made. About there is another project that is going to happen, installing cable on that same pole. So making a request to have these two projects done at the same time. Instead of digging up the street twice, do it once. This is a request to the city.

It sounds like it is worth having further conversation about the conduit, and ... Trying to make this request in committee.

I want to give my constituent chance to express his concerns.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Through the Chair those concerns make perfect sense to me. For context because this would involve digging up the street, which can't really happen while the street is frozen solid, our understanding on the committee is that the work can't be done for several months anyway. And there isn't an urgent time pressure. I think that should be fine.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you Councilor Wheeler I also recall the representatives noting that nothing is happening. My recollection is consistent with yours.

No objection for that. I want to make sure that all the "i's" are dotted, and "t's" are crossed. And this will be referred back to committee.

>> CLERK: 7.1

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler.

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you, through the Chair I waved to move all the readings and lay items 7.1-7.4 and 10.6 on the table. And for anyone who does not know what laying on the table means, it just means postponing those items until the next Council meeting.

I would like to refer item 7.5 through 7.8 -- which I also propose to waive, if we could refer those to the finance committee.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion?

>> Mr. President, to be clear I don't want to waive the readings from 7.9-7.12.

>> Thank you perhaps I misstated. Thank you for catching that.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: So waving readings 7.1 through 7.8 and laying -- and 10.6 on the table, my understanding there is a bit of a wrinkle with the timing with a community preservation act.

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

Given the committee budget scheduled for February 10, we want to focus entirely on that and not on the additional items. Some of these items-- there is a question around urgency. So by laying that on the table, we are able to discuss them and possibly approved at the next Council meeting and allows the possibility we could approve them quickly.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Potentially makes them move forward more quickly than they would otherwise have. Seeing no objection those items 7.1-7.4 and 10.6 and 7.5-7.8 will be referred to finance.

Thank you.

>> CLERK: That brings us to agenda item 7.9
Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Under Door Cameras.

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>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Can we read 7.10 and 7.11 together?

>> CLERK: 7.10

Requesting approval of Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Thermal Imaging Monoculars.

7.11

Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Ball Cameras.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: So folks understand these are re-submissions of impact reports. Mr. Saulsberry mentioned earlier in talking about documents that we don't own and can't change, but we can make requests. And here's another perfect example these impact reports we had conversations with the administration and what they are willing to make revisions in these things are re-submissions missions of prior versions. I'm grateful to the administration for continuing that collaborative practice and this will be referred to legislative matters for action.

>> CLERK:

7.12

Conveying the temporary appointment of Eric Weisman as Interim Commissioner of Public Works

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed on file.

>> CLERK: And item 8 .1

City Clerk submitting an amendment to the Rules of the City Council to align with the provisions of the City Charter

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That items refer to legislative matters.

>> CLERK:

8.2

Chief of Police conveying a bi-annual report, pursuant to Section 2-6(g) of the Code of Ordinances.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: This is a report required by the city welcoming committee ordinance.

>> CLERK:

9.1

New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, USA Auto Hub, 61 Prospect Street, 15 vehicles outside, Mon-Fri:

9am-7pm, Sat: 9am-3pm, Sun: closed.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: We will refer that to license and permit.

>> CLERK:

9.2

Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Aris Auto Inc., 3 Craigie Street.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion on this one?

This is not and we might be typically considered for approval. Seen on that item is approved.

>> CLERK: 9.3

Boston Bike Polo submitting comments re: Founders Memorial Skating Rink.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That are it is approved.

>> CLERK: 9.4

Public
Communication

Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee submitting comments re: bus routes 90 and 88.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: These items have had a lot of helpful participation on routes 90 and 88. I am in favor of this conversation to really involve the people that use and rely on those bus routes, both in terms of the particulars of where it will go in the future how they will relate to the McGrath project redesign, and the frequency of those routes I would love to that take the form of some form of in-depth cooperative, planning meetings between multiple parties including the MTA, community members and relevant partners to holistically address those questions I think that is the best path forward.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Okay thank you. That item is placed on file.

>> CLERK:

10.1

By Councilor Sait

That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management and the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment provide a written report to this Council on updates to measures and practices taken to assess, monitor, maintain, and improve the physical environment in schools.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Can you read 10.2 please?

>> CLERK: 10.2

By Councilor Sait

That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management update this Council on when the school buildings maintenance project website will be available.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: As a recent practice with items that are supplemental items, meeting they were submitted after the Council's rules for submission, these were submitted also prior to 48 hours. Stay tuned to further discussion to better clarify how we will work this out forward.

My thought was to maintain consistency with what we've doing. Either late this on the table was set into a committee without any action so they can be fully noticed and fully discussed there.

My understanding is that the school willing facilities and maintenance---

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Yes Mr. President I would like to say both 10.1 and 10.2 to school buildings facilities and maintenance.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Is a reminder the recommendation will be required in committee for that. They will be able to recommend approval or not as opposed to just the discussion which is fine. That is how we will handle that one.

Next item.

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Through you Mr. President if you could actually clerk to read all the items, 10.3-10.5 before I speak to those.

>> CLERK: That brings us to item 10.3

By Councilor Sait

That the Director of Engineering provide an update on the construction of the Lowell Street and School Street crosswalks facing the Green Line stations.

An agenda item 10.4

By Councilor Sait

That the Director of Mobility add additional signage helping users of the Community Path get through Maxwell's Green to the Community Path and add clear signage directing users to the ramp and stairs on Lowell Street.

>> CLERK: And 10.5

By Councilor Sait

That the Director of Mobility discuss with this Council strategies for improving the safety of users of the Community Path, including improved signage, enforcement of the motorized vehicle ban on the path, coordination with community partners to encourage cooperative use, and regulation of e-bikes, including the imposition of speed limits.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: And those are referred to traffic and parking.

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: That is correct Mr. President.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Next item.

>> CLERK:

10.7

CultureHouse applying for a Public Event License for
CultureHouse Polar Putt on February 2 from 10am to 7pm

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: A level we organically have a counterexample for a different interpretation of the rule. Here is an event very clearly that would need action tonight if it is going to be approved, because we do not have another meeting before then. There is time emergency, that allows us some plausibility. Any discussion?

Seeing no discussion, that is approved. Go play some putt putt in Union Square.

>> CLERK:

10.8

George Vroom submitting comments re: snow plowing.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed on file. Are there any late items.

>> CLERK: There are no late items. No other items before this body.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you everyone, Councilor McLaughlin moved to adjourn, and we are adjourned.

>> [End]