

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts**  
**Matters of Business of the City Council**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

June 2, 2022, 6:00 PM  
City Council Chamber and Remote Participation  
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*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.*

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen.

| <b>Attendee Name</b>            | <b>Title</b>              | <b>Status</b> | <b>Arrived</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Willie Burnley Jr.              | City Councilor At Large   | Present       |                |
| Charlotte Kelly                 | City Councilor At Large   | Present       |                |
| Jake Wilson                     | City Councilor At Large   | Present       |                |
| Beatriz GomezMouakad            | Ward Five City Councilor  | Present       |                |
| Judy PinedaNeufeld              | Ward Seven City Councilor | Present       |                |
| Kristen Strezo                  | City Councilor at Large   | Present       |                |
| Matthew McLaughlin              | Ward One City Councilor   | Absent        |                |
| Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott | Ward Two City Councilor   | Present       |                |
| Ben Ewen-Campen                 | Ward Three City Councilor | Present       |                |
| Jesse Clingan                   | Ward Four City Councilor  | Present       |                |
| Lance L. Davis                  | Ward Six City Councilor   | Present       |                |

1. Roll Call                      Call of the Roll.  
213911  
(ID:28889)

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| <b>RESULT:            PLACED ON FILE</b> |
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**CITATIONS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**

2. Mayor's Request 213912 (ID:28887)

Requesting the appropriation of \$292,720,095 to fund the FY 2023 General Fund Operating Budget.

Mayor Ballantyne presented the \$309,500,000 FY 2023 City Budget saying that it is the product of collaboration among city staff, the City Council, and the community, and referred to it as a foundation for progress in Somerville. Mayor Ballantyne credited support from commercial development as instrumental in providing stability during COVID. The proposed budget reflects a nearly \$23 million increase over the FY 2022 budget, fueled by planned growth and development. The Mayor stressed four major components of the budget, as follows:

1. Equity at the Core
  - a. Investing in youth
    - i. increasing the school budget by \$8.4 million
    - ii. allocating \$850,000 for school building infrastructure
    - iii. increasing, by 88%, the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program
    - iv. committing to Teen Centers
    - v. hiring a Director of Youth Services
  - b. Investing in language access
  - c. Examining safe consumption sites
  - d. Adding new positions in HHS, SOIA, OHS and RSJ
2. A Clean, Green Somerville
  - a. Investing in a Clean Green Energy Efficiency Rehab Program
  - b. Introducing a Pollinator Action Plan
  - c. Allocating funds for trees
  - d. Proposing a Zero Waste Program
  - e. Adding new positions in Housing, OSE and PSUF
3. Modernizing City Support Systems
  - a. Envisioning a shift in the governing structure
  - b. Hiring a Chief Administration Officer
  - c. Creating a new Office of Accountability, Transparency and Access
  - d. Building out the virtual City Hall
  - e. Adding 2 IT support positions
  - f. Implementing Planning and Zoning software for staff and public use
  - g. Adding 3 ISD positions
  - h. Adding a financial analyst in the Finance Department
  - i. Adding a recruitment manager and project manager in HR Department
4. Creating Future-Proof Systems
  - a. Investing in city buildings and infrastructure
  - b. Allocating \$8.3 million for affordable housing programs
  - c. Continuing to build the Emergency Management Department
  - d. Making investments in IT

Mayor Ballantyne also noted the following investments:

- Adding an Arts Development Manager to the Arts Council
- Allocating \$1.8 million for safe streets and traffic improvements
- Expanding services for seniors
- Investing in libraries, parks, and recreation

She noted that the Police Department will be level staffed as the city awaits the Staffing and Operation Studies and said that the department will continue to evolve with community engagement. Regarding ARPA funds, the Mayor commented that a Community Advisory Committee will be formed to assist with allocating those funds. Additionally, the administration is planning for short- and long-term support for non-profits.

Councilor Wilson inquired about the shared budget priorities and Mayor Ballantyne explained it's just a decision of where the funds would be allocated from, e.g., the new positions added for mental health and LGBTQ+, and the Fare Free Bus program will use ARPA funds and the administration is trying for a bus and rapid transit program.

Councilor Burnley commented that City Council is understaffed and underfunded while Mayor's Office has more legislative staff. Mayor Ballantyne explained that their work is to support the Council, not create legislation. Addressing Councilor Burnley's concern that councilors are not paid enough, the Mayor stated that the Human Resources Department is performing a compensation study by comparing salaries to surrounding communities and implementing best practices. This study will include councilor positions.

Councilor Scott asked about the funding source for the \$8.3 million for early acquisition funds and the Mayor said they are from GLX residuals. Councilor Scott asked about the \$850,000 for school infrastructure and the Mayor replied that those funds will be listed under the Capital Projects section of the budget. When questioned about the \$550,000 cost for the school infrastructure study, Mayor Ballantyne explained that the state requires a plan before it will consider providing any funding. An enrollment study will be completed this year and the data will be used to create the plan to secure funding. Councilor Scott voiced his disappointment that the proposed budget made no mention about the disabilities commission.

Councilor Kelly asked about the timeline for the school building assessment and the Mayor said it will take 6 months and include a community process. Councilor Kelly asked about increased ISD inspectors for weekends, nights and holidays and Mayor Ballantyne noted that would be discussed during the ISD budget review. Councilor Kelly inquired why the investment in LGBTQ+ falls under the RSJ Department and the Mayor replied that other communities have followed that structure and noted this is where the current part time position is housed. Councilor Kelly requested information about overtime in departments and asked for a rough estimate of the cost for studies, consultants, etc., over last FY, and finally, Councilor Kelley asked about any new direct financial subsidies for residents.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld asked about the Mayor's vision for the Youth Services Director position and Mayor Ballantyne explained that it's a voice for youth to focus on what services the city could provide to them outside of school time. Additionally, the Director would take the lead on creating teen centers. It's a starting point to deliver on our equities since the position has a job and connection component to it, to connect youth to the opportunities around us.

Councilor Scott doesn't see an increase in maintenance for city buildings. The Mayor said the administration will be working on a capital investment plan during the summer and fall and funding avenues will be examined.

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee**

3. Mayor's Request 213913 (ID:28888)

Requesting the appropriation or reserve of \$3,862,866 in estimated FY 2023 Community Preservation Act revenue for CPA projects and expenses.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
4. Mayor's Request 213914 (ID:28882)

Requesting the appropriation of \$17,514,916 to fund the FY 2023 Water Enterprise Fund budget.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
5. Mayor's Request 213915 (ID:28883)

Requesting approval to appropriate \$748,185 from the Water Capital Stabilization Fund to the Water Enterprise Fund to balance the FY 2023 Water Enterprise Fund budget.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
6. Mayor's Request 213916 (ID:28884)

Requesting an appropriation of \$28,856,300 to fund the FY 2023 Sewer Enterprise Fund budget.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
7. Mayor's Request 213917 (ID:28885)

Requesting an appropriation of \$1,300,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings Account to the Sewer Capital Stabilization Fund.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

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8. Mayor's Request 213918 (ID:28874) Requesting an appropriation of \$372,490 to fund the FY 2023 Founders Ice Rink Enterprise Fund budget.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
9. Mayor's Request 213919 (ID:28875) Requesting an appropriation of \$372,490 from the Founders Ice Rink Retained Earnings Account to subsidize the FY 2023 Founders Ice Rink Enterprise Fund budget.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
10. Mayor's Request 213920 (ID:28876) Requesting the appropriation of \$193,000 to fund the FY 2023 Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund budget.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
11. Mayor's Request 213921 (ID:28877) Requesting the appropriation of \$25,000 from the Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings Account to subsidize the FY 2023 Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund budget.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
12. Mayor's Request 213922 (ID:28878) Requesting the appropriation of \$539,801 to fund the FY 2023 Kennedy School Pool Enterprise Fund budget.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

13. Mayor's Request 213923 (ID:28879) Requesting an appropriation of \$191,455 from the Kennedy School Pool Retained Earnings Account to subsidize the FY 2023 Kennedy School Pool Enterprise Fund budget.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

14. Mayor's Request 213924 (ID:28886) Requesting the appropriation of \$420,663 for the FY 2023 Cable Television PEG Access Fund Budget.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

15. Mayor's Request 213925 (ID:28880) Requesting a transfer of \$975,088 from the Salary Contingency Account to the Salary and Wage Stabilization Fund.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

16. Mayor's Request 213926 (ID:28881) Requesting the approval of FY 2023 expenditure limitations for departmental Revolving Funds.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

**COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

17. Mayor's Request 213927 (ID:28894) Requesting the appropriation of \$3,000,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") Account to the Facility Construction and Renovation Stabilization Fund.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

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| 18. Mayor's Request 213928 (ID:28891) | Requesting the appropriation of \$2,400,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") Account to the Sewer Capital Stabilization Fund.  |
|                                       | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.</p> <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| 19. Mayor's Request 213929 (ID:28895) | Requesting the appropriation of \$2,000,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") Account to the Parks Stabilization Fund.  |
|                                       | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.</p> <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| 20. Mayor's Request 213930 (ID:28901) | Requesting the appropriation of \$1,250,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund.  |
|                                       | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.</p> <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| 21. Mayor's Request 213931 (ID:28896) | Requesting the appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") Account to the Street Reconstruction & Renovation Stabilization Fund.                               |
|                                       | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.</p> <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| 22. Mayor's Request 213932 (ID:28897) | Requesting the appropriation of \$800,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") Account to the Traffic Safety Stabilization Fund.   |
|                                       | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.</p> <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| 23. Mayor's Request 213933 (ID:28890) | Requesting the appropriation of \$600,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") Account to the Water Capital Stabilization Fund.  |
|                                       | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.</p> <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |



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| <p>24. Mayor's Request<br/>213934<br/>(ID:28900)</p> | <p>Requesting the appropriation of \$500,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") Account to the Marijuana Stabilization Fund.</p>   |
|  | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.<br/><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| <p>25. Mayor's Request<br/>213935<br/>(ID:28893)</p> | <p>Requesting the appropriation of \$500,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") Account to the Open Space Acquisition Stabilization Fund.</p>                                |
|  | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.<br/><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| <p>26. Mayor's Request<br/>213936<br/>(ID:28898)</p> | <p>Requesting the appropriation of \$291,706 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") Account to the Energy Stabilization Fund.</p>  |
|  | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.<br/><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| <p>27. Mayor's Request<br/>213937<br/>(ID:28899)</p> | <p>Requesting the appropriation of \$250,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") Account to the Street Tree Stabilization Fund.</p>   |
|  | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.<br/><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| <p>28. Mayor's Request<br/>213938<br/>(ID:28903)</p> | <p>Requesting approval to create the Participatory Budgeting Stabilization Fund.</p>   |
|  | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.<br/><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| <p>29. Mayor's Request<br/>213939<br/>(ID:28904)</p> | <p>Requesting the appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance Account ("Free Cash") to the Participatory Budgeting Stabilization Fund.</p>                             |
|  | <p>Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.<br/><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |

30. Mayor's Request 213940 (ID:28905) Requesting approval to re-purpose the Green Line Extension (GLX) Stabilization Fund to create an "Early Action" Affordable Housing Program and transfer the balance of the GLX Stabilization Fund to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the reading and refer the item to the Committee on Finance.

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

**LATE ITEMS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was Adjourned at 7:23 PM.