



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 25, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation

Published May 23, 2023 1:20PM, Revised May 25, 2023 2:30PM.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted and via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audiovideo 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.

Register at the following website to view this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8051198514789370718>.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e. CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance, at 617-625-6600 x2059 or ada@somervillema.gov.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [23-0897](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [23-0898](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April
(ID # [23-0899](#)) 27, 2023.

2. CITATIONS

- 2.1. Citation By Councilor McLaughlin
(ID # [23-0895](#)) Commending Officer Thomas Lambert for his efforts on
May 18, 2023 to save a baby who was not breathing.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a
(ID # [23-0863](#)) total of 929 feet of conduit and one new manhole along
Poplar, Linwood, and Joy Streets.

- 3.2. Grant of Location (ID # [23-0864](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 45 feet of conduit in the intersection of Norwood Avenue and Medford Street, from Manhole 7419 to a point of pickup at 494 Medford Street.
- 3.3. Grant of Location (ID # [23-0865](#)) Group Design Build applying for a Grant of Location to install 130 feet of conduit in the intersection of Prescott Street and Summer Street, from Utility Pole 325/8 to a proposed handhole then continuing to a point of pickup at 3 Prescott Street.
- 3.4. Grant of Location (ID # [23-0866](#)) Verizon applying for a Grant of Location to install 60 feet of conduit in Ten Hills Road, from Utility Pole 498/10 to a point of pickup at 77-79 Ten Hills Road.

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [23-0830](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Clingan
That this Council conduct a public hearing pursuant to Section 7-222 of the Code of Ordinances, on the application for recognition of the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council.
- 4.2. Order (ID # [23-0883](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works remove or raise above human height, the wire wrapped around a pole in front of 54 Porter Street, and report back to this City Council who owns the pole.
- 4.3. Order (ID # [23-0884](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works remove or raise above human height, the wire wrapped around a street sign in front of 9 Brastow Avenue, and report back to this City Council who owns the pole.
- 4.4. Order (ID # [23-0885](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Engineering, the Director of Water and Sewer, and the Executive Director of the Arts Council collaborate to start an "Adopt a Catch Basin" program to promote visibility and cleanliness of catch basins in creative and artistic ways.
- 4.5. Order (ID # [23-0888](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Engineering update the Ward 1 Councilor regarding the pavement of Otis Street, which is half completed on one side.

- 4.6. Order (ID # [23-0887](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility install speed bumps on Myrtle Street, Lincoln Avenue and Virginia Street.
- 4.7. Order (ID # [23-0892](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility repaint the NO BIKES ON SIDEWALKS signs along East Broadway.
- 4.8. Order (ID # [23-0889](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works fill the potholes on the unfinished side of Otis Street.
- 4.9. Order (ID # [23-0891](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works inspect the tree wells in front of 173 Broadway for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- 4.10. Order (ID # [23-0893](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on the status of the annual Spring Cleanups for the upcoming season.
- 4.11. Order (ID # [23-0890](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Inspectional Services inspect the narrow alleyway near the Edgerly School for rodent activity and take appropriate measures.
- 4.12. Resolution (ID # [23-0886](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Mayor allocate \$65,000 to fully fund the Food for Free school market program that feeds Somerville students nutritious meals.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 5.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0778](#)) Requesting to appear with consultant Donald Jacobs, to provide information regarding the Classification and Compensation Study.
- 5.2. Public Communication (ID # [23-0724](#)) 138 registered voters submitting a petition requesting a public hearing regarding transparency in the development process.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CHARTER REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0837](#)) Report of the Special Committee on Charter Review, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on May 24, 2023.

- 6.A.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [22-1520](#)) Charter Review Committee conveying its recommendations and proposed Charter text. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.A.3. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0794](#)) City Clerk submitting amendments to the proposed charter to address scrivener's errors. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved as amended.
- 6.A.4. Resolution (ID # [23-0826](#)) By Councilor Davis
That language be added to the appropriate section of the Charter Review Committee's proposed Charter text to include a provision subjecting the City Solicitor to reappointment and reconfirmation every two years. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.A.5. Order (ID # [23-0916](#)) By Councilor Scott
That this City Council transmit the proposed charter, as amended by the City Council, to the Mayor for consideration. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE**
- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0836](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on May 23, 2023.
- 6.B.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0550](#)) Director of Water and Sewer conveying the FY 2024 Water & Sewer Rate proposal. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be not approved.
- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0606](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$5,063.14 grant, with no new match required, from the Barr Foundation for staff attendance at the Designing Cities 2023 conference. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0718](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$104,247.14 from the Bikeshare Stabilization fund for new stations at 5 Middlesex Ave and 10-50 Prospect St. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0725](#)) Requesting approval to extend the contract with the Mystic River Watershed Association for Blessing of the Bay Park Revitalization Phase 2 for an additional 24 months. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0772](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$17,950 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to the Health and Human Services Department to restructure the food security coalition.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0812](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$15,000 from the City Clerk Salaries Account to the City Clerk R&M - Software Account to expand the digital accessibility and archiving of the Code of Ordinances and Zoning Ordinances.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0823](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$15,000 from the Clerk of Committees Salaries - Monthly Account to the City Clerk R&M - Software Account to expand the digital accessibility and archiving of the Code of Ordinances and Zoning Ordinances.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.9. Ordinance (ID # [23-0827](#)) By Councilor Scott and Councilor Wilson Amending Section 2-323 of the Code of Ordinances, Salary Ranges, to provide cost-of-living adjustments for School Committee Members and City Councilors.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.C. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0834](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting in Joint Session with the Planning Board on May 18, 2023.
- 6.C.2. Public Communication (ID # [23-0634](#)) John Fragione and Agostino Feola, requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street from MR3 to MR5.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn.

6.D. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0833](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on May 16, 2023.

- 6.D.2. Order
(ID # [22-0043](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That the Commissioner of Public Works, the Director of Procurement and Contracting Services, and the Director of Mobility report to the Legislative Matters Committee on enforcement of and annual reporting on the Ordinance to Safeguard Vulnerable Road Users.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D.3. Order
(ID # [22-1271](#))
- By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Scott, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That this City Council and the City of Somerville formally recognize the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation.
- 6.D.4. Order
(ID # [22-1991](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
That the City Solicitor work with this Council to amend the Code of Ordinances to include nondiscrimination provisions based on relationship status.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D.5. Ordinance
(ID # [22-1994](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
Amending Sections 7-41, 7-43, 7-44, and 7-47 of the Code of Ordinances, related to Fair Housing.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.D.6. Order
(ID # [23-0858](#))
- By Councilor Kelly
That the Director of Housing submit a report to the City Council on the yearly number of Fair Housing complaints filed, sorted by those that are MCAD-protected and those that are not.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.E. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**
- 6.E.1. Committee Report
(ID # [23-0832](#))
- Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on May 15, 2023.
- 6.E.2. Order
(ID # [22-1529](#))
- By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Health and Human Services take steps to install emergency contraception dispensers in designated city bathrooms.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.3. Resolution (ID # [22-1687](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration update this Council on plans to establish a Community Engagement Center.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.4. Order (ID # [22-1760](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Food Access & Healthy Communities provide this Council with a report on the Taxi to Health program.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.F. RODENT ISSUES SPECIAL COMMITTEE
- 6.F.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0835](#)) Report of the Special Committee on Rodent Issues, meeting on May 23, 2023.
- 6.F.2. Order (ID # [22-0057](#)) By Councilor Kelly
That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Director of Health and Human Services report on progress regarding planned internal rodent control meetings and regular joint departmental meetings.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.F.3. Order (ID # [23-0238](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Inspectional Services provide Smart Boxes throughout East Somerville to address rodent issues.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.F.4. Order (ID # [23-0797](#)) By Councilor Kelly, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Environmental Health Coordinator update this Council on spring rodent mitigation programs and SMART box phases.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0844](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$6,430,638 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the Assembly Square Fire Station fit-out.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0873](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$211,370.90 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Highway Wages Account to the DPW Buildings Electricity Account for May & June expenses.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0870](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$150,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Grounds Wages Account to the DPW Admin Motor Gas and Oil Account to fund invoices on hand and May & June expense.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0845](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$50,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Admin Salaries Account to the DPW Snow Removal Account to cover a deficit.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0875](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$45,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Highway Wages Account to the DPW Snow Removal Account to cover a deficit.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0872](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$35,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Highway Salary Account to the DPW Admin Professional & Technical Account to cover May & June expenses.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0853](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$25,000 from the Parks and Recreation Professional & Technical Services Account to the Parks & Recreation Salaries & Wages Temp Account for school staff coaching of intramural sports.
- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0854](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$18,000 from the Parks & Recreation Fields Personal Services Account to the Parks & Recreation Rec/Youth Program Personal Services Account to cover the remainder of the fiscal year for teen spaces.
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0847](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$8,039.02 from the Police Department Personal Services Overtime Account to the Police Department Special Items Grant Match Account to fund the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Community Safety Initiative Shannon Grant match.

- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0852](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$550 from the Engineering Personal Services Account to the Infrastructure & Asset Management (IAM) Personal Services Account to fund IAM Somerville Municipal Employees Association (SMEA) staff holiday and longevity pay.
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0846](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$24,117.07 grant that requires a match, from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Community Safety Initiative to the Police Department for youth violence prevention.
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0813](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$6,781 Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) grant, with no new match required, from the Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for fire prevention education for students.
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0814](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$2,677 Senior Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) grant, with no new match required, from the Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for fire prevention education for older adults.
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0877](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$3,592.59 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Elevator R&M Account for elevator service.
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0882](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of James E. Torres to the position of Police Sergeant.
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0831](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Doris Jenkins to the Urban Forestry Committee.
- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0876](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for FLIR MC300C marine camera.

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0824](#)) City Clerk submitting recommendations for adjustments to certain fees charged by the City Clerk's Office, effective July 1, 2023.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [23-0860](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Keash Excavating Inc.

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| 9.2. | License
(ID # 23-0861) | Renewing Flammables License, Metropolitan Pipe and Supply Company, 30 Inner Belt Rd. |
| 9.3. | License
(ID # 23-0862) | Renewing Garage License, Brazil Auto Repair, 621 Somerville Ave. |
| 9.4. | License
(ID # 23-0871) | Renewing Garage License, Valvoline Instant Oil Change, 182 Washington St. |
| 9.5. | License
(ID # 23-0867) | Renewing Outdoor Parking License, Martha Lee Trust, 147 Highland Ave. |
| 9.6. | License
(ID # 23-0869) | Renewing Second Hand Dealer License, Great Eastern Vintage, 236 Pearl St. |
| 9.7. | Public Event
(ID # 23-0894) | Tracy Wishon applying for a Public Event License for Walker St/Leonard St BP on June 3 from 10am to 6pm (raindate June 4). |
| 9.8. | Public Event
(ID # 23-0868) | Jess Willis applying for a Public Event License for Taste of Somerville on June 14 from 12pm to 9pm (raindate June 15). |
| 9.9. | Public
Communication
(ID # 23-0848) | David Gutierrez submitting comments re: street closures during Porchfest. |
| 9.10. | Public
Communication
(ID # 23-0849) | Gurhan Ozen submitting comments re: notifications for street closures. |
| 9.11. | Public
Communication
(ID # 23-0850) | Christine and David Homsy submitting comments re: water and sewer rates. |
| 9.12. | Public
Communication
(ID # 23-0851) | Stephen Mackey submitting comments re: response to Linkage Nexus Study report. |
| 9.13. | Public
Communication
(ID # 23-0859) | Jenn Harrington submitting comments re: meeting with musicians and promoters. |

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Order (ID # [23-0900](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Director of Mobility and the Director of Engineering integrate traffic calming measures on Hudson and Summer Streets and plan for the work to be implemented prior to the start of the Highland Avenue improvement construction.
- 10.2. Order (ID # [23-0901](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Director of Mobility develop a strategy for the implementation of speed radar detectors on north-south cut-through streets throughout the city, including but not limited to Central Street and Cedar Street.
- 10.3. Order (ID # [23-0902](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Director of Mobility, Director of Engineering, Director of Parking, and Commissioner of Public Works establish criteria and guidelines for Council orders to be submitted for traffic calming and mobility related issues and items that should be submitted to 311 to ensure the City Council is addressing larger mobility strategic planning issues.
- 10.4. Order (ID # [23-0912](#)) By Councilor Kelly
That the Chief of Police halt the use of unmarked patrol vehicles for all traffic enforcement.
- 10.5. Order (ID # [23-0913](#)) By Councilor Kelly
That the Chief of Police and the Director of Mobility report to this Council on the methodology used for pedestrian and cyclist stops made by Police Department officers.
- 10.6. Resolution (ID # [23-0914](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
Demanding the end of anti-union activities by Starbucks.
- 10.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0522](#)) Requesting approval of a five year lease, with option for renewal, with 561 Windsor Street Owner LLC for dance space.
- 10.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0903](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$646.08 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Plumbing R&M Account for asbestos sampling.
- 10.9. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-0909](#)) Conveying the appointment of Ada Ren-Mitchell, Joe Burgio and Becky Donner to the Arts Council.

- 10.10. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-0910](#)) Conveying the appointment of Marianne Walles to the PILOT Advisory Task Force.
- 10.11. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-0911](#)) Conveying the appointment of John Long and Rositha Durham to the Municipal Compensation Advisory Board.
- 10.12. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0905](#)) City Solicitor requesting to appear in Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) regarding Cobble Hill Center, LLC v. Somerville Redevelopment Authority.
- 10.13. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0896](#)) School Committee conveying a resolution passed on May 8, 2023, regarding school facility challenges.
- 10.14. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0855](#)) Affordable Housing Trust conveying the FY 2018-2019 Affordable Housing Trust Fund report.
- 10.15. License (ID # [23-0919](#)) New Flammables License, John's Auto Sales, 166 Boston Avenue, 7,000 gallons.
- 10.16. License (ID # [23-0917](#)) New Garage License, Somerville Auto Center, 193 Somerville Avenue, 18 cars inside only, for autobody work and spray painting, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.
- 10.17. License (ID # [23-0918](#)) New Used Car Dealer License Class 2, John's Auto Sales, 166 Boston Avenue, 28 cars outside, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.

11. LATE ITEMS**12. ADJOURNMENT**