



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

July 7, 2021  
REPORT OF THE LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William A. White Jr.	Chair	Present	
Wilfred N. Mbah	Vice Chair	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two City Councilor	Present	

The meeting was held via GoToWebinar and was called to order by Chair White at 6:36pm and adjourned at 7:16pm.

Others present: John Long - City Clerk; Hannah Pappenheim - Law

**Approval of the May 24, 2021 Minutes**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**Approval of the April 26, 2021 Minutes**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**Public Hearing: 101 South Street LLC**

**212145: New Flammables License, 101 South Street Owner LLC, 101 South St, storing 6,984 gallons.**

Chair White opened the public hearing at 6:38pm.

The applicant Paul Moan shared that there are 3 main components: the quantity of gasoline and motor oil for 250 parking spaces; a storage tank, and day tank on the roof adjacent to the generator; as well as 3900 gallons in compartmentalized control areas spread throughout the building. He also noted that he has received the permits from the Fire Department.

Chair White closed the public hearing at 6:41pm.

Councilor Scott raised a concern as to whether the complete application was available for review., Mr. Long clarified that all requested information had been submitted by the applicant and all necessary approvals had been obtained.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	White Jr., Mbah, Scott

**204527: Requesting that Eversource meet with this city’s Administration to discuss creating a city-wide Host Community Agreement.**

Chair White articulated that these agreements are generally entered into for major projects that will cause disruption, but any utility has the ability to seek licenses and permits, and the City Council’s purview is to condition them appropriately. Councilor Scott shared concerns about service updates and the corresponding disruption, and suggested the engineering permit process may not be sufficient to address those issues. There is also impending work that he fears will lead to many surface transformers, as the underground solution is more expensive for the utility. He emphasized the importance of finding a way to constrain the installation of above-ground electrical infrastructure, and also better understand the pace and placement of underground gas infrastructure which currently does not require a Grant of Location through the City Council. Chair White suggested that Mr. Raiche or the administration may be able to provide more information to address Councilor Scott’s concerns, which the Committee will address at a future committee meeting.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
----------------	--------------------------

**211856: City Clerk submitting a proposed amendment of Article III of Chapter 8, the Junk Dealer Ordinance.**

Chair White shared the background that there have been concerns about pawnbrokers, and the options would be to regulate them or to refuse to allow them. Councilor Scott supported a prohibition of pawnbroking operations, noting that it is an exploitative business and there is limited capacity for regular inspections. He added that he appreciates the work that went into this proposal to amend the ordinance for secondhand stores, with regard to the record keeping and other clarifications. Mr. Long also shared an update that he has worked on, which removes the language including pawnbrokers. Councilor Scott noted that he has other suggested changes regarding small value items and record keeping, and he will work with the Clerk on an updated version for the next meeting. Councilor Mbah also stated that he supported the prohibition on pawnbroking operations in the City.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
----------------	--------------------------

**212152: City Solicitor submitting an amendment to the Municipal Ordinances to prohibit pawnbroking.**

See 211856.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	White Jr., Mbah, Scott

**212026: Submitted by Verizon to install a Utility Pole 70S near the intersection of Houghton and Prospect Sts.**

Ross Bilodeau, on behalf of Verizon, noted that this pole is to serve a guide pole to provide support for an existing pole which is leaning. Councilor Scott asked for clarification that there would be no service mounted on this pole, and Mr. Bilodeau confirmed that it would be a guide pole, to transfer support. Councilor Scott also expressed concern about the impact of the proposed guide pole's location on ADA requirements as to side walk width and added that double poles are discouraged. Councilor Scott also noted that the plan that had been submitted did not accurately reflect where the pole was to be located. Mr. Bilodeau added that guide poles are typically on the opposite side of the street, and there may not be an alternative that is a good fit. Councilor Scott suggested that an engineering diagram or precise plan would be useful. Chair White suggested Councilor Scott could meet with a Verizon representative and determine an alternative and a more accurate plan as to the location of the proposed pole.

**RESULT:**

**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**Referenced Material:**

- 2021 7-7-21 Junk Dealers updated (with 211856)