

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

February 28, 2019, 7:00 PM
City Council Chamber, City Hall-93 Highland Avenue

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
 (ID # 20413)

2. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting, January
 (ID # 20414) 15, 2019, and the Regular Meeting, January 24, 2019.

CITATIONS

3. Citation By City Councilor Ballantyne, Hirsch, Ewen-Campen,
 (ID # 20416) the Entire City Council and the Mayor
 Commending Gale Morano, who is retiring after 41
 years of dedicated service as Executive Director of the
 Somerville-based Open Center for Children.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. Grant of Submitted by Comcast to install 18 feet of conduit in
 Location Broadway, from an existing Comcast Manhole to an
 (ID # 20417) existing RCN Manhole, both in front of 987 Broadway,
 then continuing with new aerial strand and coaxial cable
 to 6 utility poles on Burnham St.

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

5. Resolution By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Niedergang
 (ID # 20399) Calling on the City's Congressional Delegation to
 sponsor the Universal Housing budget amendment.

6. Order By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
 (ID # 20403) That the Director of Traffic and Parking immediately
 prioritize blocking truck access to Warren Avenue to
 prevent additional crashes and property damage during
 the Somerville Avenue detour.

7. Order By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
 (ID # 20404) That the Director of Traffic and Parking immediately
 install pedestrian safety measures on Bow Street, Warren
 Avenue and Columbus Avenue to deal with the increase
 of traffic during the Somerville Avenue detour.

8. Order (ID # 20405) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Rossetti
That the Commissioner of Public Works direct the appropriate utility company to remove and/or bury the utility poles on Trull Lane.
9. Order (ID # 20406) By City Councilor Mbah
That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the potholes on Broadway and Medford Street.
10. Order (ID # 20407) By City Councilor White Jr.
That the Rules of the City Council be amended by deleting Rule 24 re: filling Council vacancies.
11. Order (ID # 20408) By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Director of SPCD prioritize Cameron Avenue for street paving this year.
12. Order (ID # 20409) By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Commissioner of Public Works fill the potholes on Holland Street between Teele Square and Cameron Avenue, and around 156 Powder House Boulevard, 12 Cameron Avenue, and 1198 Broadway.
13. Order (ID # 20410) By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Commissioner of Public Works ensure that all recycle trash is picked up in Teele Square, including loose materials strewn in the square.
14. Resolution (ID # 20411) By City Councilor Ballantyne
Supporting the Tufts Dining Workers “One Job Should Be Enough” campaign.
15. Resolution (ID # 20412) By City Councilor Hirsch, Ewen-Campen
That the Administration consider re-establishing a Technology Task Force to make recommendations about municipal and district information technology, including increasing data integration across divisions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

16. Order 207481 By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Chief Fire Engineer and the Chief of Police discuss with this Council, at its February 14, 2019 meeting, detailed safety plans for the upcoming bridge closures due to GLX construction.

17. Resolution 207499 By City Councilor Hirsch, Niedergang, Ballantyne, Ewen-Campen, Mbah
That the Administration respond to the requests outlined in the attached resident petition, organized by the Pedestrian and Transit Advocacy Group, to accelerate traffic calming investments and improve coordination and oversight.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

18. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 20397) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on February 25, 2019.
- B. Order 205472 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the city's Recruiter appear before the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters to discuss strategies to increase the diversity of candidates applying for civil service jobs.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- C. Mayor's Request 205525 Requesting the re-appointment of Ramon Bueno to the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- D. Mayor's Request 205526 Requesting the re-appointment of Julie Wood to the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- E. Mayor's Request 205527 Requesting the re-appointment of Michelle Melton to the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change
RECOMMENDED: Withdrawn
- F. Mayor's Request 207098 Requesting the reappointment of Daniel LeBlanc to the position of Trustee of the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- G. Mayor's Request 207100 Requesting the reappointment of Andrea Shapiro to the position of Trustee of the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- H. Mayor's Request 207340 Requesting the confirmation of Kimberly Wells to the position of Assistant Clerk of Committees.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

19. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 20398) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on February 26, 2019.

- B. Mayor's Request 206004 Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$8,745,000 in a bond to purchase land by eminent domain.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- C. Mayor's Request 206005 Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$1,860,000 in a bond for new Public Safety Building design, architectural, engineering, and owner's and contractual project management services.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- D. Public Communication 206735 Attorney Robert McLaughlin, Sr., submitting a court decision relevant to #206003, an Order of Taking for 90 Washington St.
RECOMMENDED: Placed on File
- E. Public Communication 207118 Attorney Michael Corcoran submitting comments re: #206003, a proposed Order of Taking of 90 Washington St.
RECOMMENDED: Placed on File
- F. Mayor's Request 207293 Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$220 using available funds in the Personnel Department Professional & Technical Services Account for investigative services.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- G. Officer's Communication 207429 City Engineer requesting to address this Board with a water and sewer infrastructure presentation outlining the needed capital, in anticipation of the upcoming rate recommendations.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- H. Order 207479 By City Councilor Ballantyne That the Director of Finance, the School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, with the Administration, provide by February 25, 2019, a written report on the budgetary impacts that adding an Innovation School (i.e. Powderhouse Studios), would have the School and City budgets over 10 years.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- I. Mayor's Request 207527 Requesting the appropriation of \$575,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance to the Law Department's Legal Services Account, to fund anticipated outside legal counsel invoices.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- J. Mayor's Request 207530 Requesting the appropriation of \$85,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance Account to the Damages to Persons and Property Account in order to fund the settlement of an outstanding claim.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- K. Mayor's Request 207536 Requesting acceptance of a \$41,125 grant with no new match required from the Metro North Workforce Board to SPCD's Economic Development Division for the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program.

- RECOMMENDED: Approved
- L. Officer's Communication 207548 City Solicitor seeking approval to settle an outstanding claim over \$5,000 in accordance with Ordinance 2-124, and to appear in Executive Session to discuss the matter.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- M. Public Communication 207582 McLaughlin Brothers PC submitting comments re: #206003, a proposed Order of Taking for 90 Washington St.
RECOMMENDED: Placed on File

20. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 20396) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on February 21, 2019.
- B. Resolution 205807 By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the City Solicitor draft an ordinance to establish the city's current green space as a minimum allowed amount, as described within.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- C. Order 206046 By City Councilor McLaughlin, Ewen-Campen, Davis, Rossetti, Clingan
That the City Solicitor draft a vacant properties ordinance similar to the one in Arlington.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- D. Order 206769 By City Councilor Mbah
That the City Solicitor draft an ordinance requiring that projects above a certain size include an impact statement regarding trees and green space, with updates at all stages of design, and prohibiting this Board from authorizing funds for any project that does not include this impact statement.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- E. Officer's Communication 206885 Assistant City Solicitor responding to #205807 with a draft Ordinance to establish and preserve the amount of green space in the City.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- F. Order 207371 By City Councilor Mbah, McLaughlin
That the City Solicitor work with the Director of Sustainability and Environment to draft an ordinance requiring solar renewable energy installation in new commercial development.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- G. Order (ID # 20390) By City Councilor Ballantyne
That #207371, requiring solar renewable energy installation in new commercial developments, be discharged from the Legislative Matters Committee and referred to the Committee on Land Use.

21. OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 20395) Report of the Committee on Open Space, Environment and Energy, meeting on February 20, 2019.
- B. Order 204355 By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Commissioner of Public Works and the city's landscape architects maintain the 30-foot slide at the North Street Veterans Park, check the entire structure for safety, and inform the Ward 7 Alderman of the slide's warranty.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- C. Resolution 205456 By City Councilor Davis, Ewen-Campen, Mbah
That the Administration revisit the decision to abandon plans for curbside composting and move forward with a pilot program.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- D. Resolution 205702 By City Councilor Mbah
That the Administration consider hiring licensed site professionals for oversight of acquired land and providing them with the authority to impose their recommendations on developers, to protect human health and the environment.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- E. Resolution 206307 By City Councilor Niedergang, Davis
That the Administration and the Director of Communications work with the Somerville Garden Club on their "Pod Patrol: Spread the word...not the weed" educational campaign to control the invasive Black Swallow-wort vine that is spreading rapidly and is harmful to songbirds, monarch butterflies and native plants.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- F. Order 207150 By City Councilor Mbah
That the Director of SPCD work with the DPW Commissioner to institute a curbside composting program.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

22. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 20394) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on February 19, 2019.
- B. Order 199244 By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Commissioner of Public Works or the Director of Traffic and Parking install traffic calming measures on Cameron Avenue and Clarendon Avenue.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- C. Order By City Councilor Sullivan, McLaughlin, White Jr.,
200054 Connolly, Rossetti
 That the Director of Traffic and Parking report to this
 Board on the feasibility of a flashing pedestrian walkway
 on Broadway near the East Branch library.
 RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- D. Public MA DOT Highway Administrator responding to
Communication #199846 re: a pedestrian crossing at Chester Avenue and
200176 McGrath Highway.
 RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- E. Order By City Councilor McLaughlin
200594 That the Director of Traffic and Parking take steps to
 make all of Dana Street permit parking for residents
 only.
 RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- F. Order By City Councilor McLaughlin
200767 That the Director of Traffic and Parking repair the TOW
 ZONE sign on Broadway, near Rent-A-Center, and hold
 Rent-A-Center responsible for the cost of the repair.
 RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- G. Public Lucy and Jason van Beever submitting comments re:
Communication #200639, a raised crosswalk at the West Somerville
200844 Neighborhood School.
 RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- H. Public Barry Rafkind submitting comments re: #200639, a
Communication raised crosswalk at the West Somerville Neighborhood
200845 School.
 RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- I. Order By City Councilor Ballantyne
201479 That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the
 malfunctioning pedestrian traffic signal at Alewife Brook
 Parkway near Powderhouse Boulevard at the Clarendon
 Hill housing complex.
 RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- J. Order By City Councilor McLaughlin
201506 That the Director of Traffic and Parking address traffic
 issues at the corner of Bonair and Edmands Streets.
 RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- K. Order By City Councilor Ballantyne
201989 That the Chief of Police and the Director of Traffic and
 Parking determine if the substantial increase in truck
 traffic on Powderhouse Boulevard is violating any
 ordinances restricting such traffic, and that the Traffic
 Engineer and Director of Capital Projects discuss with
 this Board's Committee on Traffic and Parking the
 reconstruction of the street and the installation of traffic
 calming measures.
 RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- L. Order 202101 By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of Traffic and Parking assess Sartwell Avenue for immediate traffic calming measures and report to the Ward 5 Alderman by the end of September.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- M. Order 202274 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking place a blinking crosswalk sign in front of the East Somerville library. (2nd request).
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- N. Order 203226 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Director of Traffic and Parking address the use of parking spaces on Norfolk and Tremont Streets by valet parkers for restaurants along Cambridge Street.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- O. Order 203371 By City Councilor Sullivan, Ballantyne, Connolly, Rossetti, White Jr.
That the Director of Traffic and Parking replace the missing restricted turn sign at Endicott Avenue and Broadway.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- P. Order 204891 By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Chief of Police cite motorists traveling in the wrong direction on Clarendon Avenue and Victoria Street from Woodstock Street.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- Q. Resolution 206850 By City Councilor Niedergang, Davis, Rossetti, Ballantyne
That the Mayor's Office report to this Board in writing with plans for the police presence around the detour route from the Broadway/Ball Square Bridge closure to protect the Ball Square neighborhood from cut-through traffic, especially at key intersections on Cedar Street, Highland Avenue, College Avenue, and Broadway.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- R. Order 207250 By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Director of SPCD and the Chief of Police implement immediate safety and traffic dampening measures along Powderhouse Blvd from North St. to the West Somerville Neighborhood School, and assign a Police Officer to the School during drop-offs and pick-ups.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- S. Order 207330 By City Councilor Niedergang, Davis
That the Director of SPCD and/or the Director of Traffic and Parking review all street direction signage in the Ball Square area, and add additional signage to make the direction of streets super clear.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 23. Mayor's Request (ID # 20391) Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$8,778,000 in a bond for the Somerville Redevelopment Authority's acquisition of 90 Washington Street by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise.
- 24. Mayor's Request (ID # 20393) Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$752,000 in a bond for field/playground improvements.
- 25. Mayor's Request (ID # 20392) Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$729,000 in a bond to reconstruct the Sacramento Street Underpass.
- 26. Mayor's Request (ID # 20384) Requesting acceptance of a \$1,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Medical Center Vital Village Network to the Health and Human Services Department for SomerBaby outreach and supplies.
- 27. Mayor's Request (ID # 20346) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Rachel Schwarz to the Human Rights Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

NEW BUSINESS

- 28. License/Permit (ID # 20418) Public Event License, Welcome Project, Build Bridges Not Walls Rally, Statue Park Davis Sq, Feb 20, 5:30-8:30PM. (Interim approval granted.)
- 29. License/Permit (ID # 20419) Public Event License, Groundwork Somerville Maple Syrup Boil Down, South St Farm and South St from Willow St to Windsor St, Mar 16, 8AM-3PM (raindate Mar 31).
- 30. License/Permit (ID # 20420) Public Event License, Unity Somerville Palm Sunday Donkey Walk, Powderhouse Park to Davis Sq via the College Ave sidewalk, Apr 14, 8:45-9:30AM.
- 31. License/Permit (ID # 20421) Public Event License, Unity Somerville Easter Sunrise Service, Powderhouse Park, Apr 21, 6:15-7:15AM.
- 32. License/Permit (ID # 20422) Public Event License, MOM's 5K Run and Walk for Cancer, Assembly Row and Mystic River Reservation, May 12, 7AM-3PM.
- 33. License/Permit (ID # 20423) Public Event License, MSPCA Fast and Furiest 5K Run, Walk and Wag, Assembly Row and Mystic River Reservation, May 19, 6AM-4PM.

- 34. License/Permit (ID # 20424) Renewing Outdoor Seating License, Diesel Cafe, 257 Elm St.
- 35. License/Permit (ID # 20425) New Outdoor Seating License, Elm St Taproom, 256 Elm St, 3 tables, 6 chairs.
- 36. Public Communication (ID # 20426) 2 residents submitting comments re: #205420, the proposed condominium review ordinance.
- 37. Public Communication (ID # 20427) Renee Scott submitting comments re: #207544, requesting the appointment of Tim Talun to the Planning Board.

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 38. Communication (ID # 20428) By City Councilor McLaughlin
Conveying a letter from several community groups to Tufts University President Monaco regarding its Pilot Agreement.
- 39. Order (ID # 20429) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the City Solicitor file a lawsuit to compel the State to provide air pollution mitigation along I-93, similar to the lawsuit that awarded the City the GLX.
- 40. Order (ID # 20430) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the City Solicitor provide this Council with a written explanation of any City and State regulations regarding public notifications. (2nd request)
- 41. Order (ID # 20431) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Chief of Police enforce all DO NOT ENTER traffic restrictions along Washington Street, between Sullivan Square and the Washington Street Bridge, during the GLX construction.
- 42. Order (ID # 20432) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking place a DO NOT ENTER – EXCEPT FOR ABUTTERS sign on the corner of Washington Street and Franklin Avenue to prevent cut through traffic during the GLX construction.
- 43. Order (ID # 20433) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of SPCD take immediate action to address the poor condition of Franklin Avenue.

44. Order (ID # 20434) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of SPCD pave Perkins Street.
45. Order (ID # 20435) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking repair the broken walk button on the stop light at Cross and Pearl Streets.
46. Order (ID # 20436) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works place trash barrels by the bus stops on Washington Street at its intersections with McGrath Highway and Columbus Avenue.
47. Order (ID # 20437) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of SPCD communicate with MA DOT to ensure signs are placed on state roads indicating long traffic delays during GLX construction to preempt cut through traffic.
48. Order (ID # 20438) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Chief of Police regularly enforce traffic laws at the intersection of Mt. Vernon Street and Broadway.
49. Order (ID # 20439) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works clean the surrounding area at the intersection of Tufts, Knowlton and Washington Streets.
50. Order (ID # 20440) By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of the Council on Aging consider expanding bus services to senior events to accommodate seniors who do not live in senior housing.
51. Order (ID # 20441) By City Councilor Scott
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install a second DO NOT ENTER – EXCEPT ABUTTERS sign at the corner of Durham and Beacon Streets to increase visibility for southbound traffic on Beacon Street.
52. Order (ID # 20442) By City Councilor Scott
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install two DO NOT ENTER – EXCEPT ABUTTERS signs at the corner of Durham and Beacon Streets, on the existing sign poles, to increase visibility for traffic on Dane Street.

53. Order By City Councilor Scott
(ID # 20443) That the Director of SPCD install a DON'T BLOCK
THE BOX street marking at the intersection of Dane at
Skehan Streets, to make exiting practical for residents.
54. Officer's City Solicitor requesting the appropriation of \$400,000
Communication from the Unreserved Fund Balance Account to the
(ID # 20444) Damage to Person & Property Account to increase the
balance in the Account.

LATE ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT