



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation

Published January 7, 2025, 1:00 PM, Revised Published January 9, 2025 12:00 PM.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted 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 listen to this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s9XwX0uTTMWStwJpxEkc-Q

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 # [25-0073](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [25-0074](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
(ID # [25-0075](#)) November 26, 2024.

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order By Councilor Strezo
(ID # [25-0034](#)) That the Chief of Police, the Director of Parking and the Director of Mobility discuss the consistent running of red lights during the weekday rush hour and repeated driver misuse of the Broadway bus lanes, including near the Temple Street and Broadway intersection.

-
- 4.2. Order
(ID # [25-0038](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Chief of Police, the Director of Parking and the Director of Mobility discuss the previous and ongoing strategy for implementation and public education of drivers violating the NO LEFT TURN signage at the Somerville High School exit on Highland Avenue and Vinal Avenue.
- 4.3. Order
(ID # [25-0035](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Commissioner of Public Works discuss how uncleared and/or unsalted sidewalks and driveways are addressed and fined after it snows, including how much staff it takes to address community reports of uncleared private property.
- 4.4. Order
(ID # [25-0036](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Finance discuss the path for City Councilors to receive administrative support staff to assist with City Council work and communication with constituents.
- 4.5. Order
(ID # [25-0037](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Finance discuss the path for City Councilors to receive administrative support staff in the form of paid internships to assist City Councilors with City Council work and communication with constituents.
- 4.6. Order
(ID # [25-0039](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Health and Human Services provide an update on the availability and accessibility of free menstrual products in all city-owned bathrooms, including realistic sizes.
- 4.7. Order
(ID # [25-0041](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of the Council on Aging discuss how the Council on Aging can help support seniors dealing with grocery store inflation and how the city can help support their transportation to regional discount grocery stores.
- 4.8. Order
(ID # [25-0042](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Veterans Services provide an estimated timeline as to when the removed Veteran's memorial monuments on the City Hall concourse will be re-installed.
-

- 4.9. Order
(ID # [25-0043](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Veterans Services install signage at the previous locations of Veteran Memorial landmarks, acknowledging the missing Veterans Memorials and conveying to the public a timeline and/or plan for their re-installation.
- 4.10. Resolution
(ID # [25-0040](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Administration create a full time staff position within the Executive office, known as a Senior Liaison, who will work to prevent potential barriers within Somerville to growing older in place.
- 4.11. Order
(ID # [25-0061](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Mobility install DRIVE SLOW - CHILDREN AT PLAY signs on Heath Street, between Edgar Avenue and Fenwick Street.
- 4.12. Resolution
(ID # [25-0060](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Administration discuss the decision to stop the annual employee holiday breakfast at the Department of Public Works building.
- 4.13. Resolution
(ID # [25-0062](#)) By Councilor Clingan and Councilor McLaughlin
That the Administration return the Vietnam and Korean War memorials to a new, public location as soon as possible rather than waiting for a comprehensive plan for all veterans memorials.
- 4.14. Order
(ID # [25-0063](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management update this Council on the timeline for constructing a new school building.
- 4.15. Order
(ID # [25-0064](#)) By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Clingan
That the Chief Fire Engineer and the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council how to ensure Fire Department facilities are well maintained.
- 4.16. Order
(ID # [25-0068](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Scott
That the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on short- and long-term plans for the Founders Memorial Skating Rink.

- 4.17. Order (ID # [25-0072](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Mbah
That the Director of Parks and Recreation update this Council on the progress of conducting a representative, multi-lingual survey of the community to determine recreational programming needs.
- 4.18. Order (ID # [25-0070](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment discuss with this Council plans to connect more households with the new incentives in the 2025-2027 Mass Save Plan.
- 4.19. Resolution (ID # [25-0069](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Sait
That the Administration form a Community Center Task Force to coordinate community uses of multiple planned and potential community center spaces in the city to guard against duplicative and incomplete addressing of needs.
- 4.20. Order (ID # [25-0066](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That this Council discuss proposed amendments to the Tree Preservation Ordinance, as outlined in item #24-0493.
- 4.21. Order (ID # [25-0067](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Parks and Recreation restore or replace the nearly 30 year old Nunziato Field plaque.
- 4.22. Resolution (ID # [25-0065](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
In Support of Primary Care Physicians at Mass General Brigham.
- 4.23. Order (ID # [25-0071](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Engineering report to this Council on the failure of the boiler at the Brown School and the short- and long-term plans to address heating for the building.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-0044](#)) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on January 8, 2025.

- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1762](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Ryan Westgate to the position of Police Officer.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0046](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$4,000,000 from the Overlay Surplus, as declared by the Board of Assessors, to the Judgments and Settlements Account to pay additional costs of purchasing the parcel of land known as 90 Washington Street.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0052](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$929,513 from the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund to the Fire - Other Lump Sum Payments account to fund the retrospective portion of a collective bargaining settlement with the Local 76 Firefighters Union.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0054](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$472,854 from the Salary Contingency account to various Fire Department Personal Services accounts to fund a collective bargaining settlement with the Local 76 Firefighters Union.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0047](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$100,000 from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to satisfy a court judgment.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0016](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$109,296 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Fire Department for staffing costs.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0018](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from the Barr Foundation to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for a Community Heat Resilience Pilot Grant Program.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0020](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Economic Development to the Economic Development Division for a Small Business Success Technical Assistance program.

- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0021](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to the Office of Housing Stability for a Senior Housing Bridge pilot program.
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0013](#)) Requesting approval to accept a gift valued at \$3,594 with no new match required, of an evacuation chair from the Estate of Thomas F. Cahill to the Fire Department.
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0017](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$15,764.40 using available funds in the Information Technology Maintenance Software Account for voice maintenance, and in the Information Technology Computer Hardware Account for laptop accessories.
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0032](#)) Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Darcy Haynes as Constable.
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0050](#)) Requesting that City Councilors submit budget funding priorities by March 27, 2025.
- 7.13. Withdrawn (ID # [25-0033](#)) Withdrawn.
- 7.14. Withdrawn (ID # [25-0048](#)) Withdrawn.

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0014](#)) City Clerk requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Peter Forcellese, Sr. to the position of Legislative Clerk.
- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0015](#)) City Clerk requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Madalyn Letellier to the position of Legislative Services Manager.
- 8.3. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0019](#)) Director of Economic Development and Director of the Arts Council conveying an updated draft Armory Master Plan.
- 8.4. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0022](#)) City Council Legislative and Policy Analyst conveying the City Clerk's Office Manual on Legislative Drafting.
- 8.5. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0023](#)) City Council Finance Analyst conveying FY 2025 second quarter spending update.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [25-0024](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Gene Automotive, 56 Joy Street.
- 9.2. License (ID # [25-0025](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Intercar, 39 Webster Avenue.
- 9.3. License (ID # [25-0026](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Union Gulf Service LLC, 231 Washington Street.
- 9.4. License (ID # [25-0027](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, United Motors, 188 Broadway.
- 9.5. Public Communication (ID # [25-0028](#)) Cole Rainey-Slavick submitting comments re: broker fees.
- 9.6. Public Communication (ID # [25-0029](#)) Three residents submitting comments re: item #24-1580, draft Armory Master Plan.
- 9.7. Public Communication (ID # [25-0030](#)) Andrew Sessa submitting comments re: West Branch Library.
- 9.8. Public Communication (ID # [25-0031](#)) 1,186 individuals, including one resident, submitting comments re: ceasefire.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Communication (ID # [25-0076](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
In her capacity as President, conveying this Council's updated Standing and Special Committee assignments and Commission appointments for 2025.
- 10.2. Order (ID # [25-0081](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Human Resources provide this Council with details of employee trainings provided and which are required.
- 10.3. Order (ID # [25-0082](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Human Resources appear before the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters to discuss the city's protocols for returning to work when an employee has been disciplined for an offense deemed sexual in nature.

-
- 10.4. Order
(ID # [25-0083](#)) By Councilor Sait
That the Commissioner of Public Works make a change to the calendar by extending the yard waste collection by at least one week.
- 10.5. Order
(ID # [25-0084](#)) By Councilor Sait and Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Mobility, Director of Engineering, and Director of Parking appear before this Council to present on the Citywide Parking and Curb Use Study.
- 10.6. Order
(ID # [25-0085](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Planning, Preservation and Zoning draft an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances for transit oriented height and density bonuses for additional affordable housing and other enumerated community benefits.
- 10.7. Order
(ID # [25-0086](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility update the Ward 1 City Councilor on the status of the Kensington Connector.
- 10.8. Order
(ID # [25-0087](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Health and Human Services, Director of Housing, and Director of Housing Stability update this City Council regularly on progress towards addressing homelessness.
- 10.9. Order
(ID # [25-0089](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator provide an estimate for the costs of upgrading 165 Broadway for ADA compliance.
- 10.10. Order
(ID # [25-0090](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of the Arts Council work with Teen Empowerment and other related city agencies to develop youth-led murals within the walls of 165 Broadway.
- 10.11. Order
(ID # [25-0091](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works clear the second floor of 165 Broadway of unused city materials to expand building uses for Teen Empowerment.
- 10.12. Order
(ID # [25-0092](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works address maintenance issues within 165 Broadway.

- 10.13. Order
(ID # [25-0093](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on the use of beet juice to address ice and snow during winter storms.
- 10.14. Order
(ID # [25-0094](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Parking allow public use of school parking lots during snow storms.
- 10.15. Resolution
(ID # [25-0088](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Administration prioritize 165 Broadway for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance to ensure full use of youth-related activities in the building.
- 10.16. License
(ID # [25-0080](#)) New Drainlayer's License, Hunter Environmental Winter Storm Services.
- 10.17. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-0077](#)) Chris Dwan submitting comments re: Urban Forestry Committee recommendations.

11. ADJOURNMENT