



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 11, 2025

7:00 PM

**City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation**

Published September 9, 2025, 1:45 PM, Revised Published September 11, 2025, 12:00 PM.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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_-bp7EU0PSiOG8R1hnDPG-Q

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

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| 1.1. | Roll Call
(ID # 25-1434) | Call of the Roll. |
| 1.2. | Remembrances
(ID # 25-1435) | Remembrances. |
| 1.3. | Minutes
(ID # 25-1436) | Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 10, 2025. |
| 1.4. | Minutes
(ID # 25-1437) | Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 30, 2025. |

2. CITATIONS

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| 2.1. | Citation
(ID # 25-1430) | By Councilor Davis
Commending participants of the inaugural Municipal Civics Academy for their commitment to civic engagement and devotion to the city. |
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3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1388](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 10 feet of conduit in Aldersey Street, from Utility Pole 4/3 to a point of pickup at 17 Aldersey Street.
- 3.2. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1389](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 40 feet of conduit in Hinckley Street, from Utility Pole 170/6 to a point of pickup at 35 Richardson Street.
- 3.3. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1390](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 104 feet of conduit in Glenwood Road, from Manhole 7417 to a point of pickup at 72 Glenwood Road.

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [25-1421](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That this Council discuss the Somerville Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SSEPAC) report sent to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in response to the upcoming DESE district review of Somerville Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 4.2. Order (ID # [25-1422](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide information regarding the installation, safety and accessibility of a railing on the concrete stairs between the play structures and the soccer field at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School playground.
- 4.3. Order (ID # [25-1423](#)) By Councilor Mbah
That the City Clerk implement the hiring practices detailed within for positions in the City Council and City Clerk Departments.
- 4.4. Order (ID # [25-1424](#)) By Councilor Clingan, Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Mobility and the Director of Engineering collaborate to install crosswalks across Walnut Street and Wigglesworth Street near Sunnyside Avenue to protect Winter Hill Community Innovation School students, families, and educators using the Otis Street footbridge.

- 4.5. Order (ID # [25-1426](#)) By Councilor Scott
That the City Clerk provide this Council with an update regarding promulgation from the state Cannabis Control Commission of regulations and licensure procedures related to the operation of cannabis consumption lounges.
- 4.6. Order (ID # [25-1427](#)) By Councilor Scott
That the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry discuss with this Council, a policy for use of open space on municipal property around city buildings for community gardens.
- 4.7. Resolution (ID # [25-1425](#)) By Councilor Scott
That the Administration, including the Director of Mobility, discuss with this Council a process for establishing municipal standards for furnishings at bus stops and shelters.
- 4.8. Resolution (ID # [25-1428](#)) By Councilor Scott
That the Mayor update this Council on any plans to issue a requirement for federal law enforcement agents acting within the City of Somerville to provide identification upon request and preventing the use of identity-concealing masks within the city by federal agents.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1431](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on September 9, 2025.
- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1271](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$323.75 using available funds in the CityTV R&M - Audio/Visual Equipment Account for on-site engineering services and travel expenses.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1274](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$840 using available funds in the Communications Department Food Supplies & Refreshment Account for Slice of the City events pizza orders.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

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| 6.A.4. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1277) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$91.62 using available funds in the Office of Immigrant Affairs Neighborhood Improvement Council Account for snacks for Community Get Together event.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1279) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$19,188.01 using available funds in the Information Technology Maintenance Software and Computer Equipment Accounts for monitoring software and Uninterruptible Power Supply hardware.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1280) | Requesting the appropriation of \$2,630,071 from the Community Preservation Act Affordable Housing Reserve to the Affordable Housing Trust.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1283) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,497.50 using available funds in the Communications Department Food Supplies & Refreshment Account for Civic Day event food.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.8. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1284) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$925 using available funds in the Parks & Recreation Equipment Rental Account for equipment rentals during Family Fun Day event.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1285) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$212,842.26 grant with no new match required, from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to the Health and Human Services Department for a Shared Services Coordinator and a Clinical Community Health Worker.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1286) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$98.39 using available funds in the Parks & Recreation Athletic Supplies Account for tag belts for a teen flag football program.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1289) | Requesting approval to appropriate \$56,601 from the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund to the Non-Contributory Pension Account to fund an increased pension amount.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
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| 6.A.12.Mayor's Request
(ID # <u>25-1298</u>) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$8,748.66 using available funds in the Police Department Maintenance Software, Professional & Technical Services, and In-State Travel accounts for various items.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.13.Mayor's Request
(ID # <u>25-1299</u>) | Requesting approval of a transfer of \$5,777 from the Police Overtime Account to the Police Grant Match Account for the FY 2025 Shannon Grant match requirement.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.14.Mayor's Request
(ID # <u>25-1300</u>) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$128,500 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for target hardening at the Police Department headquarters.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.15.Mayor's Request
(ID # <u>25-1301</u>) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$4,015 using available funds in the Human Resources Professional and Technical Services Account for medical screening services.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.16.Mayor's Request
(ID # <u>25-1302</u>) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$100.08 using available funds in the Human Resources Professional and Technical Services Account for confidential shredding services.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.17.Mayor's Request
(ID # <u>25-1303</u>) | Requesting the appropriation of \$240,664.10 from the Receipts Reserved-Transportation Network Company Revenue Fund to the Transportation Network Company Special Revenue Fund for Vision Zero safety efforts.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn. |
| 6.A.18.Mayor's Request
(ID # <u>25-1304</u>) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$55,000 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Mental Health to the Police Department for Crisis Intervention Training and technical assistance for personnel and program expenses.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
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- 6.A.19. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1305](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$10,000 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Mental Health to the Police Department for Jail Diversion Program personnel expenses.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.20. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1309](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$25.69 using available funds in the Emergency Management Office Supplies Account for office supplies.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.21. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1332](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$71.88 using available funds in the Emergency Management Office Supplies Account for office supplies.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.22. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1339](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$1,100,000 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development and Police Department for the development of the Union Square Plaza and Streetscape Phase 1.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation.

6.B. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report
(ID # [25-1401](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on September 4, 2025.
- 6.B.2. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-0975](#)) Sublime Systems submitting comments re: items #24-1460, #25-0128, #25-0129, and #25-0131, amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for laboratory, research and development, and arts uses.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.B.3. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-0976](#)) Bill Valetta submitting comments re: item #25-0085, an Order regarding zoning for bonuses for additional affordable housing and other enumerated community benefits.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.C. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1420](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on September 8, 2025.
- 6.C.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-1317](#)) Licensing Commission requesting the acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138, Section 12D, to allow current wine and malt beverages license holders to apply to convert to a non-transferable all forms alcohol license.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.3. Public Communication (ID # [25-1335](#)) Former Mayor Eugene C. Brune, former Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay, and former Alderman John "Jack" Connolly submitting comments re: Chapter 53, Section 18B of the Massachusetts General Laws.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.C.4. Order (ID # [25-1373](#)) By Councilor Mbah
That the City of Somerville hereby accepts the provisions of Chapter 53 Section 18B of the Massachusetts General Laws.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1407](#)) Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to raise the sound business practices and written quote contract thresholds under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B for city contracts with certified disadvantaged businesses.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1382](#)) Requesting approval of the discontinuance of a portion of Sewall Court.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1383](#)) Requesting approval of the partial termination of the City Utility Easement on Sewall Court.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1411](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$4,300,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the design of the Morrison Avenue Linear Storage Sewer Separation project.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1384](#)) Requesting approval to extend and amend a contract with Eastern Bank for an additional year until 8/31/2026, for the banking services of the Treasury Department.

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| 7.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1412) | Requesting approval of a transfer of \$350,048 from the Department of Infrastructure and Asset Management (IAM) Ordinary Maintenance Professional & Technical Services Account to the IAM Capital Outlay Professional & Technical Services Account. |
| 7.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1385) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$301,000 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Mental Health to the Police Department for Crisis Intervention Training and technical assistance for personnel and program expenses. |
| 7.8. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1409) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$295,463 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts State 911 Department to the Police Department for enhanced 911 telecommunicator personnel costs. |
| 7.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1408) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$155,271.38 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts State 911 Department to the Police Department for training costs for 911 certification. |
| 7.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1295) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$50,000 grant with no new match required, from Commonwealth of MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for a study investigating possible zoning incentives to increase the ability to comply with the Fossil Fuel Free Ordinance. |
| 7.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1386) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$50,000 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Mental Health to the Police Department for Jail Diversion Program personnel expenses. |
| 7.12. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1410) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$24,500 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts State 911 Department to the Police Department for emergency medical dispatch. |
| 7.13. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1418) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$10,000 grant with no new match required, from the Fenway Community Health Center to the Police Department for post-overdose support. |
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- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1413](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$10,452.22 using available funds in the Department of Infrastructure & Asset Management Ordinary Maintenance Professional & Technical Account for Strategic Asset Management Plan.
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1414](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$596.25 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Repairs-Comm Equipment, Repairs-Fire Alarm, and Reimbursement of Licenses Accounts.
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1387](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$545.31 using available funds in the Police Department Equipment Maintenance Account for electronic access door service.
- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1294](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$330 using available funds in the Office of Sustainability and Environment Professional and Technical Services Account for monitoring the Argenziano School solar array.
- 7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1416](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$137.77 using available funds in the Emergency Management Office Supplies Account for office supplies.
- 7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1417](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$71.88 using available funds in the Emergency Management Office Supplies Account for office supplies.
- 7.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1415](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$23.41 using available funds in the Emergency Management Public Safety Supplies Account for public safety supplies.
- 7.21. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1374](#)) Requesting approval of an exemption for Johnathan Tsirigotis as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(b).

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-1405](#)) City Clerk conveying Block Party Licenses issued.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [25-1391](#)) New Drainlayer's License, Mackay Construction Services Inc.
- 9.2. Small Wireless Facility (ID # [25-1392](#)) Crown Castle Fiber LLC applying for a Small Wireless Facility License for facilities on an existing pole at 8 Central Street.
- 9.3. Public Event (ID # [25-1371](#)) Neighborways Design applying for a Public Event License for Assembly Mobility Hub Paint Day on June 18 from 4pm to 7:30pm.
- 9.4. Public Event (ID # [25-1397](#)) Federal Realty applying for a Public Event License for Riverfest on September 13 from 9am to 11pm (raindate September 14).
- 9.5. Public Event (ID # [25-1395](#)) Davis Square Village applying for a Public Event License for Davis Square Village Community Event on September 13 from 11am to 5pm (raindate September 14).
- 9.6. Public Event (ID # [25-1393](#)) BluBoiBooking applying for a Public Event License for Astrofest on September 20 from 12pm to 10pm.
- 9.7. Public Event (ID # [25-1394](#)) Office of Immigrant Affairs applying for a Public Event License for ChocoMingle: Level Up on September 25 from 2:30pm to 6:30pm.
- 9.8. Public Event (ID # [25-1396](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Ignite Festival on September 27 from 2pm to 10pm (raindate September 28).
- 9.9. Public Event (ID # [25-1398](#)) Mobility Division applying for a Public Event License for Western Pearl Street Reconstruction Updated Design Open House on October 1 from 3:30pm to 7:30pm.
- 9.10. Public Event (ID # [25-1399](#)) Elizabeth Peabody House applying for a Public Event License for Winter Hill Community Event on October 18 from 8am to 6pm (raindate October 19).
- 9.11. Public Communication (ID # [25-1403](#)) Michael Vaglica submitting comments re: bike lanes.
- 9.12. Public Communication (ID # [25-1404](#)) Greta Pintacuda submitting comments re: bird feeding.

- 9.13. Public Communication
(ID # [25-1406](#)) Lindsay Macasay submitting comments re: Davis Square.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Resolution
(ID # [25-1438](#)) By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Clingan
That the Administration inform this Council of the process, action and communication used to consider acquiring the closed school building privately owned by the Archdiocese of Boston, on Thurston Street, after the Winter Hill Community Innovation School was deemed unsuitable for use.
- 10.2. Order
(ID # [25-1439](#)) By Councilor Wilson
That the City Clerk work with this Council to amend the Code of Ordinances to better regulate the sale of second-hand goods.
- 10.3. Order
(ID # [25-1445](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the City Solicitor update this Council on the new Immigration and Customs Enforcement cooperation requirements attached to forthcoming Urban Area Security Initiative grants.
- 10.4. Order
(ID # [25-1446](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Chief of Police or the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region representative update this Council on the strategy for applying for Urban Area Security Initiative or any other federal grants that require Immigration and Customs Enforcement cooperation.
- 10.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1400](#)) Requesting the adoption of an Order of Taking for the acquisition of Lot 3 at 299 Broadway for municipal purposes including parking.
- 10.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1433](#)) Requesting approval of temporary and permanent easements over Lot 3 of 299 Broadway in favor of 299 Broadway Property Owner, LLC.
- 10.7. License
(ID # [25-1444](#)) New Livery License, Med Transportation, 34 Grant Street, operating 2 vehicles.

11. ADJOURNMENT