

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
Matters of Business of the Board of Aldermen

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 2016, 7:30 PM
Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Board of Aldermen's minutes. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the data provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by Alderman At Large William A. White Jr.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Absent	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Alderman At Large	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Absent	
Robert J. McWatters	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Tony Lafuente	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	

1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.

202501
(ID:15188)

Alderman McWatters and President White held a moment of silence for Josephine Alibrandi. Alderman Ballantyne held a moment of silence for Vincenza Moreno. Alderman Sullivan held a moment of silence for Mark Haley.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. Mayor's Request 202364 (ID:15065) Submitting for approval the Green Line Extension Project Participation Agreement, and conveying 3 side letters.
- The Mayor updated the Board on his meeting with Green Line Extension Program Director John Dalton. The GLX team held an Industry Forum on November 16 in response to the recent RFI, attended by approximately 150 industry representatives who are interested in participating in the project. The procurement process is underway with a notice to proceed expected around February, 2018. The MBTA and Mass DOT still has to finish assembling their team. Also the Feds must complete a risk analysis, and whatever risks are flagged will have to be captured by contingency funds. Then the Feds can release their billion dollars. President White asked the Mayor what has been formally approved. Transportation Director Brad Rawson said the Mass DOT recently authorized about \$5 million in starter monies. Total funds available include \$996 million of MA Special Transit Bonds, \$150 million of flexed funds from the Boston Region MPO, and the contributions of Cambridge and Somerville. He requested the Board's support for this unprecedented financial commitment for a State transit project, because of Somerville's need for a reliable transit system. 25% of residents don't own a vehicle; when complete, 85% of residents will be within walking distance of rapid transportation. Chief Assessor Mark Levy spoke about the GLX Revenue Projection Summary done by RKG, which determined that there will be \$2.3 billion in new value created over the next 10 years. The Aldermen discussed the details of the financing and projections, and their impact on property tax bills. Finance Director Ed Bean said if the Home Rule Petition is filed and passes, the City could potentially go 5 years before having a principal payment due. Without it, a principal payments would begin in 2020. Alderman McWatters asked if there are any projections to lower the debt service by the sale of assets, and Mr. Bean responded that those numbers are still being vetted with the consultant. Alderman Rossetti said the cost of the High School project is still unknown; the actual figure should be known in February. Assistant City Solicitor Eileen McGettigan explained the Project Participation Agreement and the three side letters, which obligate the City to pay \$50 million and the State to construct the GLX. If the State does not go through with the project, the City's money will be refunded, and if construction comes in under budget, the City will be refunded 66% and Cambridge, 33%. Ms. McGettigan explained that the BOA must approve the Project Participation Agreement committing \$50 million, while the side letters can just be signed by the Mayor. One side letter allows the City to interconnect with certain drainage facilities constructed for the GLX. Director of Capital Projects and Planning Rob King explained that the Interconnection Agreement allows connections that will provide flood relief for Union Square, which will reduce the amount of infrastructure the City needs to build. Another side letter updates some prior MOUs; one result is that the Homans Building will now be partly, not completely, demolished. The final side letter expresses Mass DOT's commitment to support the City's Home Rule Petition for bonding.
- RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE**

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| 3. | Mayor's Request
202365
(ID:15086) | Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$50,000,000 in a bond to pay costs related to the extension of the MBTA Green Line to Somerville. |
| | | RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE |
| 4. | Officer's Communication
202381
(ID:15063) | Assistant City Solicitor submitting a Home Rule Petition authorizing the city to borrow funds to pay for the Green Line Extension. |
| | | RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE |

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

NEW BUSINESS

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

LATE ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 9:55 PM.