



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 26, 2026

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation

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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.

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [26-0288](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [26-0289](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
(ID # [26-0290](#)) January 22, 2026.

2. CITATIONS

- 2.1. Citation By Councilor Mbah
(ID # [26-0284](#)) Commending Director of Libraries Cathy Piantigini on
her return to work following a medical procedure.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Resolution (ID # [26-0283](#)) By Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Hardt
In support of Senate Bill S.237, an Act regulating self-checkouts in grocery establishments.
- 4.2. Communication (ID # [26-0275](#)) By Councilor Mbah
Conveying a report of the Job Creation and Retention Trust Fund.
- 4.3. Resolution (ID # [26-0279](#)) By Councilor Link
That the Director of Public Works and the Director of Mobility update this Council regarding plans to keep bike lanes, protected bike lanes, and other separated micromobility facilities clear and passable on major thoroughways, with particular attention to school routes, timelines after snowfall, staffing, and equipment capacity.
- 4.4. Resolution (ID # [26-0281](#)) By Councilor Link
That the Administration report to this Council regarding whether the city maintains, or can establish, a process to identify vendors that materially support United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as detailed within.
- 4.5. Resolution (ID # [26-0280](#)) By Councilor Link
That this City Council reaffirms and recognizes the importance of the arts in Somerville and the role of the Arts Council in supporting artists, cultural organizations, and community arts programming.
- 4.6. Resolution (ID # [26-0282](#)) By Councilor Link
In support of Senate Bill S.1010 and House Bill H.1576, an Act relative to creating a permanent affordability homeownership program.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [26-0276](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on February 24, 2026.

- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0055](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$618,181.81 grant that requires a match, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Fire Department for the replacement of aging breathing apparatus.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0056](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$6,166.19 from the Fire Department Ordinary Maintenance Other Equipment - Not Capitalized Account to the Fire Department Special Items Grant Match Account to fund the required match for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.4. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0075](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$420,566 from the Community Preservation Act Historic Preservation Reserve to the Elizabeth Peabody House for continued restoration of 277 Broadway.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0079](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Community Preservation Act Open Space Reserve for construction of improvements to the Kennedy Schoolyard.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0080](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$480,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Budgeted Reserve to the Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development for continued preservation of 59 Cross Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0081](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$74,365 from the Community Preservation Act Historic Preservation Reserve to Nicole Bairos for preservation of Buddy's Diner.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.8. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0084](#)) Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$2,000,000 in a bond for financing a portion of the Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation Project, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0085](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension until 12/31/2027 for Crowley Cottrell LLC to complete additional services for re-design and construction administration fees for Junction Park.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0089](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$3,000 from the Communications Department Professional and Technical Services Account to the Somerville Public Schools Professional Salaries Account for consulting services related to the inaugural event.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0097](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$3,342.05 using available funds in various Police Departments Ordinary Maintenance Accounts for various services.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.12. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0112](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$5,000 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.13. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0113](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$15,000 grant that requires a match from the Massachusetts General Court and the State Historical Records Advisory Board to the Veterans Services Department for support of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery and the archival digitization project.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.14. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0117](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$28,000 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for the Recycling Dividends Program.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.15. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0132](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only extension until 6/30/2027 for the contract with EB Rotondi & Sons Inc. for repairs to water main gate valves and appurtenances.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.16.Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0133](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only extension until 6/30/2027 for the contract with N. Granese & Sons Inc. for water distribution system maintenance and repair.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.17.Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0151](#)) Requesting the approval of a transfer of \$237,250 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Undesignated Fund Balance to the CPA Historic Preservation Reserve.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.18.Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0152](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$306,250 from the Community Preservation Act Historic Preservation Reserve for restoration of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery and veterans monuments.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.19.Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0153](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$124,331 from the Community Preservation Act Fund for improvements to Blessing of the Bay Linear Park.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.20.Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0154](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$150,000 from the Community Preservation Act Historic Preservation Reserve to Vida Real Church for exterior restoration of the building at 404 Broadway.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.21.Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0155](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$50,000 from the Community Preservation Act Budgeted Reserve to the Somerville Housing Authority for improvements to the open space at the Mystic River/View developments.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.22.Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0156](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$48,000 grant with no new match required, from Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) to the Fire Department for the replacement of security cameras at fire headquarters.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be not approved.
- 6.A.23.Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0160](#)) Requesting approval of a Pedestrian Access Sidewalk Easement and Maintenance License at 16-20 Medford Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.24. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0162](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$1,530,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the annual FY 2026 Sewer System Evaluation and Infiltration/Inflow Assessment.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.25. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0164](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$87,848 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Aging and Independence to the Council on Aging for health, wellness, social, and educational programming.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.26. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0166](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$154,136 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation-Settlement of Claims Account to the School Department Legal Settlement Account for an insurance settlement.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.27. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0167](#)) Requesting approval for settlement of a claim for \$10,400 pursuant to Section 2-124 of the Code of Ordinances.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.28. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0168](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$50,000 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.29. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0172](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$324,360 from the Medicinal Marijuana Stabilization Fund for the salary and fringe of four positions related to youth in FY 2027.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.30. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0188](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$299,910 from the Energy Stabilization Fund for a heat pump replacement project at 133 Holland Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.31. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0195](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$26,759 from the Energy Stabilization Fund for weatherizing the basement and envelope of 133 Holland Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.32. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0196](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$179,349 from the Energy Stabilization Fund for the addition of a solar array to the new roof of 133 Holland Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.33. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0197](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$210,525 from the Energy Stabilization Fund to replace lighting at Trum Field.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.34. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0199](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$299,460 from the Energy Stabilization Fund to replace the lighting at Dilboy Field.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE**
- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [26-0269](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on February 17, 2026.
- 6.B.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1603](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Under Door Cameras.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be placed on file.
- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1604](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Thermal Imaging Monoculars.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be placed on file.
- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1605](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Ball Cameras.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be placed on file.
- 6.B.5. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0042](#)) City Clerk requesting acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 91, relating to the appointment and removal of constables.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.6. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0043](#)) City Clerk submitting an amendment to Section 10-20 of the Code of Ordinances to align the constable appointment process with the provisions of the revised City Charter.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved as amended.
- 6.B.7. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0044](#)) City Clerk submitting an amendment to Chapter 2, Article V, Division 1 of the Code of Ordinances to add a review of multiple-member bodies, pursuant to the requirements of the City Charter.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0092](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Under Door Cameras.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0093](#)) Requesting approval of Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Thermal Imaging Monoculars.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0094](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Ball Cameras.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.11. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0127](#)) City Clerk submitting an amendment to the Rules of the City Council to align with the provisions of the City Charter.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.C. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [26-0277](#)) Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on February 25, 2026.
- 6.C.2. License (ID # [26-0115](#)) New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, USA Auto Hub, 61 Prospect Street, 15 vehicles outside, Mon-Fri: 9am-7pm, Sat: 9am-3pm, Sun: closed.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.3. Grant of Location (ID # [26-0185](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 75 feet of conduit in Prospect Street, from Utility Pole 291/12 to a point of pickup at 91 Prospect Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0204](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 8.1 of the Zoning Ordinance to provide for larger buildings, additional dimensional flexibility, and fewer use restrictions for affordable housing projects.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0270](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$56,339.46 from the Bike Share Stabilization Fund for installation and startup costs of a Blue Bike station at the Boynton Union Connect Transportation Management Association development site.

- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0278](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$5,700 from the Law Department Professional & Technical Services Account to the Executive Department Salaries & Wages Temporary Account to establish the position of Senior Advisor to the Mayor for Labor.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0268](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$31,000 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for upgrades to the Hazardous Household Waste Facility.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0271](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$22,800.08 grant that requires a match, from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Community Safety Initiative to the Police Department for youth violence prevention.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0171](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$565.50 using available funds in the Police Department Professional & Technical Services Account for case management services and biohazard cleaning.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0157](#)) Requesting approval of an extension to the temporary appointment of Kevin Klein as Interim Director of Inspectional Services.

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0266](#)) Director of Infrastructure & Asset Management conveying the Strategic Asset Management Plan report.
- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0267](#)) Director of Public Space & Urban Forestry conveying information regarding the Kennedy Inclusive Schoolyard renovation.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [26-0272](#)) New Second Hand Dealer license, Nostalgia, 322 Somerville Avenue, selling used clothes, footwear, and accessories.
- 9.2. Public Event (ID # [26-0273](#)) Bill Rogers Jingle Bell 5K Run/Walk applying for a Public Event License for The Race of Ireland 5K Run/Walk 2026 on March 15 from 7am to 3pm.

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- 9.3. Public Event
(ID # [26-0274](#)) Union Square Main Streets applying for a Public Event License for Union Square Farmers Market 2026 Saturdays from May 9 to October 31, from 6:30am to 2pm.
- 9.4. Public Communication
(ID # [26-0287](#)) 26 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance sections 3.1.8c, 3.1.9c, 3.1.10c, 3.1.13k, 3.1.13l, 3.2.12l. and 3.2.12m.
- 9.5. Public Communication
(ID # [26-0285](#)) Elyse Best submitting comments re: item #26-0114, Fiscal Year 2027 budget priorities.
- 9.6. Public Communication
(ID # [26-0286](#)) Ida Kao submitting comments re: Arts Council.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Public Communication
(ID # [26-0291](#)) Shannon Noel Curtis submitting comments re: snow.
- 10.2. Public Communication
(ID # [26-0292](#)) Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee submitting comments re: 2025 Annual Report.
- 10.3. Public Communication
(ID # [26-0293](#)) Michael Steele submitting comments re: Arts Council.

11. ADJOURNMENT