



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council Legislative Matters Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

6:00 PM

This meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by Chair Scott at 6:00 pm and adjourned at 6:31 pm on a roll call vote of 3 in favor (Councilors Ewen-Campen, Strezo, Scott), 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Councilors Davis and Mbah).

Others present: Brendan Salisbury - Legislative and Policy Analyst, Sean Sheehan - Police Captain, Madalyn Letellier - Assistant City Clerk, Legislative Services.

Roll Call

Present: Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott

Absent: Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis and City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah

1. Committee Minutes (ID # [24-0649](#)) Approval of the Minutes of the Rules Special Committee Meeting of May 6, 2024.

RESULT: ACCEPTED

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

ABSENT: Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah

2. Committee Minutes (ID # [25-0518](#)) Approval of the Minutes of the Charter Review Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 18, 2025.

RESULT: ACCEPTED

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

ABSENT: Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah

3. Committee Minutes (ID # [25-1856](#)) Approval of the Minutes of the Legislative Matters Committee Meeting of December 2, 2025.

RESULT: ACCEPTED

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

ABSENT: Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah

4. 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.

Legislative & Policy Analyst Salisbury outlined this ordinance is required by Charter to put this in ordinance. Legislative & Policy Analyst Salisbury noted the slight differences from the Charter by adding specific dates for convening of the committee and a deadline for the submission of the report. Chair Scott asked about what happened to the Wage Theft Ordinance. Analyst Salisbury stated that a continuation of government is in effect so any ordinance that is still on the books is still valid.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

ABSENT: Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah

5. 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.

Legislative & Policy Analyst Salisbury recommended that an amendment be made to strike the entire section. Further review of Massachusetts General Law (MGL) makes it explicitly clear the City Council does not have authority in the appointing process of constables. With the acceptance of MGL 41, Section 91, which is up for acceptance on this agenda makes this ordinance in contradiction with its acceptance. Further explanation clarified that without the acceptance of the MGL the City does not have the ability to appoint constables and it should be put in the Administrative Code. Councilor Ewen-Campen clarified following the acceptance of the MGL the City Council would still have a role in removal of a constable should there be a need.

Chair Scott moved to amend the item by striking the entirety of the text in 10-20. This motion was approved on a roll call vote of 3 Councilors in favor (Ewen-Campen, Strezo, Scott) 2 Councilors absent (Davis and Mbah).

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE APPROVED AS AMENDED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- ABSENT:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah
6. 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.
- RESULT:** **RECOMMENDED TO BE APPROVED**
- AYE:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- ABSENT:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah
7. 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.
- Legislative & Policy Analyst Salisbury stated this process was largely undefined and the new charter has established a group petition requires a hearing within three months. It also defines that a hearing on the same topic cannot be heard within twelve months, and the clock starts from twelve months from when the item was submitted.
- RESULT:** **RECOMMENDED TO BE APPROVED**
- AYE:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- ABSENT:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah
8. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0094](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Ball Cameras.
- Agenda items # 26-0093, #2-0092, #25-1605, #25-1604, #25-1603 were taken up together.
- Captain Sheehan was present to review the re-submittal of the items following suggestions that were given at the previous Legislative Matters meeting from Councilor Davis. Councilor Ewen-Campen spoke to the process these reports go through before approval. The Council cannot amend the documents specifically, but requests can be made and staff can resubmit them based off the changes requested. The Councilor highlighted that the main point is that anything that has a surveillance aspect is not overly broad and does not impinge on the rights of individuals. Specific improvements and clarifications were requested on how they work and their regulations. Councilor Scott sponsored a member of the public, Councilor Ben Wheeler, who commented on the lack of information around costs and inconsistency

in the reports.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

ABSENT: Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah

9. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0093](#)) Requesting approval of Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Thermal Imaging Monoculars.

This item was taken up with agenda item #26-0094.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

ABSENT: Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah

10. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0092](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Under Door Cameras.

This item was taken up with agenda item #26-0094.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

ABSENT: Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah

11. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1605](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Ball Cameras.

This item was taken up with agenda item #26-0094.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

ABSENT: Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah

12. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1604](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Thermal Imaging Monoculars.

This item was taken up with agenda item #26-0094.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**
AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
ABSENT: Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah

13. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1603](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Under Door Cameras.

This item was taken up with agenda item #26-0094.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**
AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
ABSENT: Ward Six City Councilor Davis and City Councilor At Large Mbah