

City of Somerville, Massachusetts City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 24, 2024 7:00 PM City Council Chamber and Remote Participation

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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_-eHlbNx3ROivALNBX9LClQ

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll. (ID # 24-1521)

1.2. Remembrances Remembrances. (ID # 24-1522)

1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 26, 2024.

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

4.1. Order
(ID # 24-1514)

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of Libraries and other relevant departments discuss strategies and lay out safety protocols in advance to ensure a safe environment for everyone during events that may draw protests.

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4.2.	Order (ID # 24-1515)	By Councilor McLaughlin That the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry	
	`	consider the impact of park equipment that requires	

4.3. Order
By Councilor McLaughlin
(ID # 24-1516)
That the Director of Sustainability and Environment

creating future parks.

invest in rodent proof composting barrels in the

special parts that may take long periods to replace when

upcoming composting pilot program.

4.4. Order By Councilor McLaughlin

(ID # 24-1517) That the Director of Engineering address rainwater

runoff on Myrtle Street.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on (ID # 24-1508) October 22, 2024.

6.A.2. Order
(ID # 24-1300)

By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Grants Development and External
Funds and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Director update this Council on ARPA grant encumbrances ahead of the obligation deadline of

December 31, 2024.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work

completed.

6.A.3. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$100,000 from the

(ID # <u>24-1332</u>) Encore Artist and Cultural Support Stabilization Fund to

support Local Cultural Council grants to artists,

organizations, and schools.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.4. Mayor's Request (ID # 24-1333) Requesting the appropriation of \$220,120.80 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 approved.

6.A.5. Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-1334</u>)

Requesting approval to create the Prospect Street Traffic Conditions Stabilization Fund and accept a payment to the fund of \$262,000 from the Union Square RELP Master Developer LLC to satisfy special permit conditions.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.6. Mayor's Request (ID # **24-1335**)

Requesting approval to appropriate \$262,000 from the Prospect Street Traffic Conditions Stabilization Fund to implement the conditions of Planning Board case PB 2019-04.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.7. Mayor's Request (ID # **24-1374**)

Requesting the approval of a time-only contract extension for three years with a new expiration date of 9/1/2027, for the Somerville Hispanic Association for community development for restoration of 59 Cross Street.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.8. Mayor's Request (ID # **24-1377**)

Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$250,000 grant with no new match required, from MA Department of Transportation to the Mobility Division for an East Somerville soundwall feasibility study.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.9. Mayor's Request (ID # **24-1378**)

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$160 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Administration License Reimbursement Account for commercial license employee expense.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.10.Mayor's Request (ID # **24-1379**)

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$22,633.58 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Natural Gas Account for prior year balances on bills.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.11.Mayor's Request (ID # 24-1380)

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$4,675 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Highway Rubbish Removal Account for

Works Highway Rubbish Removal Account for

Recycling Services.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.12.Mayor's Request Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling (ID # **24-1381**) \$15 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Highway Rubbish Removal Account for disposal of break out material. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. 6.A.13.Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$33,940.50 (ID # **24-1410**) grant from Metro North Regional Employment Board to the Health and Human Services Department for the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. 6.A.14.Mayor's Request Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling (ID # **24-1417**) \$45.97 using available funds in the City Clerk Maintenance Contract Account for printer/copier service. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling 6.A.15.Mayor's Request \$24,802.06 using available funds in the Information (ID # **24-1429**) Technology Cellular & Paging Services and Leased -Photocopier Equipment Accounts for cellular and copier services. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. 6.A.16.Mayor's Request Requesting the appropriation of \$542,675 from the (ID # **24-1430**) Community Preservation Act (CPA) Open Space Reserve Fund for the development of the ArtFarm park improvement project. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. 6.A.17.Mayor's Request Requesting the transfer of \$174,776 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund Undesignated Fund (ID # **24-1431**) Balance to the Open Space Reserve. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$310,100 6.A.18. Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-1434</u>) grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for resilience hubs. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. 6.A.19. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling (ID # **24-1443**) \$48,930.22 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Electricity Account for solar net metering. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.20.Mayor's Request

(ID # **24-1444**)

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$60 using available funds in the Department of Public Works License Reimbursement Account for employee

reimbursement for hoisting licensing.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.21.Mayor's Request

(ID # **24-1445**)

Requesting approval to accept a donation of equipment valued at \$15,000 with no new match required, from the City of Boston Department of Emergency Management to the Department of Public Works for two trailers. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.22.Mayor's Request

(ID # **24-1477**)

Requesting acceptance of an easement for a pedestrian bridge over the Massachusetts Bay Transportation

Authority (MBTA) Green Line.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.B. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # **24-1507**)

Report of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, meeting on October 21, 2024.

6.B.2. Order

(ID # **24-0146**)

By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Strezo That the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) update this Council on current efforts to create a Community Center as part of the new developments in Union Square and Boynton Yards.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work

completed.

6.B.3. Resolution

(ID # <u>24-0902</u>)

By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Strezo, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Burnley Jr.

and Councilor Mbah

That the Administration hold a community meeting within the next 30 days to address the impacts of the missing United States Postal Service mail, and the overall lack of mail delivery in various parts of

Somerville.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work

completed.

6.C. LAND USE COMMITTEE

6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # **24-1506**)

Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting in Joint Session with the Planning Board on October 17, 2024.

6.D. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

6.D.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on October 15, 2024.

6.D.2. Resolution By Councilor Mbah, Councilor Sait, Councilor Burnley (ID # 24-1269) Jr. and Councilor Ewen-Campen

That the Administration make it easier for residents to host block parties by simplifying and shortening the approval process, and take steps to provide monetary awards or grants of \$100 for approved block parties. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work

completed.

6.D.3. Mayor's Request Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 6-97 of the Code of Ordinances to change the effective date

for the Fossil Fuel Free Ordinance.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.D.4. Order By Councilor Davis

(ID # <u>24-1510</u>) That, effective January 1, 2025, the City Council shall no

longer review and approve applications for block parties, and that the City Clerk shall assume responsibility for final approval of applications for block parties.

6.E. <u>LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE</u>

6.E.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, (ID # 24-1509) meeting on October 23, 2024.

6.E.2. License
(ID # 24-1043)

New Garage License, Building 2 Owner LLC, 808
Windsor St, 242 vehicles inside, 0 vehicles outside for storing vehicles only, 7 days a week 24 hours.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

7.1. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a Deed, Easement and Grant of (ID # 24-1503) Maintenance License for 808 Windsor Street.

7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # 24-1511) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$940,000 from the tax levy to various Fire Department Personal Services accounts to fund a collective bargaining agreement with the Firefighters Local 76.

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7.3.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-1512</u>)	Requesting the appropriation of \$233,881 from the Salary Contingency, Salaries account to various Fire Department Personal Services accounts to fund a collective bargaining agreement with Firefighters Local 76.	
7.4.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-1513</u>)	Requesting approval of an extension for 15 months with a new expiration date of 3/31/2026, and an increase of \$68,227.63, for the University of Massachusetts Boston for research and implementation services for the Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot.	
7.5.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-1491</u>)	Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$500,000 grant with no new match required, from MA Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Public Space and Urban Forestry Division for the Blessing of the Bay MassTrails improvement project.	
7.6.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-1260</u>)	Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$171,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for a Special Response Team rescue vehicle.	
8.	COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS		
8.1.	Officer's Communication (ID # <u>24-1520</u>)	City Solicitor requesting that this Council convene in Executive Session to discuss a recent decision in Cobble Hill Center, LLC v. Somerville Redevelopment Authority.	
8.2.	Officer's Communication (ID # <u>24-1432</u>)	Director of Health and Human Services conveying the Board of Health Annual Report for 2023.	
9.	NEW BUSINESS		
9.1.	License (ID # <u>24-1492</u>)	New Drainlayer's License, A & B Services, Inc.	
9.2.	License (ID # <u>24-1504</u>)	Renewing Drainlayer's License, DOG Excavation.	
9.3.	License	Renewing Lodging House License, Delta Tau Delta	

Renewing Outdoor Goods License, 130 Broadway, LLC,

Fraternity, 98 Professors Row.

130 Broadway.

(ID # **24-1494**)

(ID # <u>24-1495</u>)

License

9.4.

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9.5.	License (ID # <u>24-1493</u>)	New Second Hand Dealer License, Vintage Treasures, 482 Broadway.
9.6.	License (ID # <u>24-1497</u>)	Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Aris Auto Inc., 3 Craigie Street.
9.7.	License (ID # <u>24-1496</u>)	Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Broadway Brake, 45 Broadway.
9.8.	License (ID # <u>24-1498</u>)	Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Joy St Motors, 24 Joy Street.
9.9.	License (ID # <u>24-1499</u>)	Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Somerville Motors, Inc., 182 Washington Street.
9.10.	Small Wireless Facility (ID # <u>24-1519</u>)	Crown Castle Fiber LLC applying for a Small Wireless Facility License for facilities on an existing pole at 115 Pearl Street.
9.11.	Public Event (ID # <u>24-1500</u>)	Madeleine Finkenaur applying for a Public Event License for Fall Samhain Festival on October 25 from 6pm to 11:30pm.
9.12.	Public Event (ID # <u>24-1501</u>)	Dominique Stassart applying for a Public Event License for Halloween Trick or Treat on October 31 from 3pm to 8pm.
9.13.	Public Event (ID # <u>24-1518</u>)	Veterans Services Division applying for a Public Event License for Henry Hansen Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on November 7 from 8:30am to 10:30am.
9.14.	Public Event (ID # <u>24-1502</u>)	Union Square Main Streets applying for a Public Event License for 10th Annual Union Square Holiday Stroll on December 7 from 10am to 7pm (raindate December 8).
10.	SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS	
10.1.	Citation (ID # <u>24-1535</u>)	By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Clingan Commending Patricia Contente for sixteen years of dedicated service to the City Of Somerville.
10.2.	Order (ID # <u>24-1529</u>)	By Councilor Mbah and Councilor Pineda Neufeld That the Chief of Police provide an explanation regarding why there was no police assistance or crossing guard coverage at the intersection of Curtis Street and Powderhouse Boulevard during school drop-off hours on October 23, 2024.

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10.3.	Order (ID # <u>24-1530</u>)	By Councilor Mbah and Councilor Pineda Neufeld That the Chief of Police, in collaboration with the Director of Mobility, develop and present a plan to ensure that crossing guards are adequately stationed at critical intersections near schools during high-traffic hours and that, in the absence of crossing guards, police officers are deployed to ensure the safety of students and families.
10.4.	Communication (ID # <u>24-1526</u>)	By Councilor Mbah Conveying an update on the activities of the Job Creation and Retention Trust Fund (JCRT).
10.5.	Communication (ID # <u>24-1527</u>)	By Councilor Mbah Conveying an update on the activities of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
10.6.	Resolution (ID # <u>24-1536</u>)	By Councilor Burnley Jr. Celebrating National Friends of Libraries Week.
10.7.	Resolution (ID # <u>24-1528</u>)	By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Clingan That this Council hereby welcomes Nina Bear Ewen-Campen to Somerville, extends its best wishes to her very proud parents, and looks forward to Nina's bright future in Somerville.
10.8.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-1531</u>)	Requesting approval of a Pedestrian Crossing Easement Agreement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).
10.9.	Public Communication (ID # <u>24-1524</u>)	Harvard University conveying its Fall 2024 Accountability Report.
10.10	. Public	Tufts University conveying its Fall 2024 Accountability

Communication (ID # <u>24-1525</u>)

Report.

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10.11. Public Communication (ID # <u>24-1534</u>)

1,034 individuals, including two residents, submitting comments re: ceasefire.

ADJOURNMENT 11.