



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 27, 2023

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 and 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 view this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9165434801687427168>.

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [23-0670](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [23-0671](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 23,
(ID # [23-0672](#)) 2023.

2. CITATIONS

- 2.1. Citation By Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Clingan
(ID # [23-0659](#)) Commending Anne Irwin for her contributions as a School
Adjustment Councilor, providing therapeutic and emotional
support to high school students.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install a new
(ID # [23-0682](#)) sidewalk vault and 20 feet of conduit in Linwood Street, from
Manhole 44/19 to a point of pickup at 10 Poplar Street.

- 3.2. Grant of Location (ID # [23-0683](#)) Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install 38 feet of conduit in Tufts Street, from Utility Pole 5 to a point of pickup at 31 Tufts Street.

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [23-0669](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That this City Council invites Cobble Hill residents Bill Mahaney and Anne Ryan to speak about 90 Washington Street.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 5.1. Communication (ID # [23-0547](#)) By Councilor Strezio
Conveying a report of the Children's Cabinet meetings of March 14, 2023 and April 11, 2023.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CHARTER REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0664](#)) Report of the Special Committee on Charter Review, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on April 26, 2023.

- 6.A.2. Order (ID # [23-0707](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen
Amending Section 2-8 (a) of the Charter Review Committee's proposed Charter text to read: The city council shall not unreasonably reject such an appointment unless the candidate does not have the experience, training, and/or education to perform the duties of the office or position.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.3. Order (ID # [23-0709](#)) By Councilor Scott
Amending Section 1-7 (18) of the Charter Review Committee's proposed Charter text to update the definition of "posting or post" to read: means making available publicly on the city website, at city hall, and in a local newspaper, and/or as otherwise may be required by law under the General Laws. For the purposes of this definition, a local newspaper shall be a newspaper of general circulation within the city, with either weekly or daily circulation. The city council president may, from time to time, select a local newspaper for posting according to a procedure that shall be set forth in the rules of the city council.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.4. Order
(ID # [23-0710](#))
- By Councilor Scott
Amending Section 2-8 (b) of the Charter Review Committee's proposed Charter text to add: (1) In the event of a vacancy on a multiple member body where the seat has remained vacant in excess of one year and the mayor has not referred to the city council any proposed appointees to fill the vacancy, the city council president may present to the mayor the names of no more than three individuals as recommendations for appointment. The procedure for selecting names for presentation to the mayor shall be established within the rules of the city council. (2) The mayor shall twice annually, in February and August, post a complete list of the vacancies within all multiple member bodies, as well as the procedures for individuals to apply to become a member of those bodies.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.5. Resolution
(ID # [23-0711](#))
- By Councilor Scott
That the proposed Charter be revised to include a provision that Police and Fire appointments and promotions are subject to City Council confirmation.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.6. Order
(ID # [23-0712](#))
- By Councilor Scott
Amending Section 2-8 of the Charter Review Committee's proposed Charter text to add: (c) Constables - The mayor shall refer to the city council and simultaneously file with the city clerk the name of each person the mayor desires to appoint as a constable within the city. The city council shall not unreasonably withhold confirmation of such appointments and shall accompany a rejection with a written statement describing the reason, which shall be delivered to and placed on file with the city clerk within 30 days of filing. The question on confirmation of any appointment submitted by the mayor shall not be subject to the procedure of charter objection provided in section 2-9 (b) of this charter.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.7. Resolution
(ID # [23-0713](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That the proposed Charter be revised to include language to establish a three-year term for constables and to ensure that applicants for constable appointment are submitted for confirmation with sufficient time for City Council review prior to the expiration of the term.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.8. Resolution (ID # [23-0714](#)) By Councilor Scott
Supporting the recommended language by the Charter Review Committee for a simple majority requirement for approving the administrative code.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.9. Resolution (ID # [23-0715](#)) By Councilor Scott
That the proposed Charter be revised to add language to Section 5-1 to provide that if no city council meeting is held within the subsequent 30 days of the first meeting, the city council shall instead have 30 days from the second regularly scheduled meeting after the submission to approve an administrative order.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE**
- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0662](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on April 25, 2023.
- 6.B.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0507](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$30,000 from the DPW Electrical Account to the DPW Fleet Account for costs related to motor parts and accessories.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0510](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,618,683 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Affordable Housing Reserve to the Affordable Housing Trust.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0521](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend an \$18,840 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for mattress recycling.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0526](#)) Requesting the use of \$14,154.88 in available funds from the Health and Human Services Salaries Account to fund a Finance Manager position.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0527](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$180,000 from the Medical Marijuana Stabilization Fund for the Substance Use Prevention Coordinator position for FY 2024 and FY 2025.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0530](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$4,200,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for additional work on the Somerville Ave Streetscape & Utilities project.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0531](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$2,000,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for additional work on the Somerville Ave Streetscape & Utilities project.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0532](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$2,840,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the recurring FY 2023 Building Improvements program.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0533](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$7,110,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for participation in the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Local Water System Assistance Program for Water Main Rehabilitation projects.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0539](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$135,050.89 from the Parks and Open Space Stabilization fund for completion of the 25% design services for Union Square Plaza and Streetscape project.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0542](#)) Requesting the transfer of \$12,729.52 in available funds from the Parks & Recreation Uniforms Account to the Department of Public Works Interior Building Maintenance Account for the installation of a buzzer system with a security camera at the Ederly Building.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0544](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a grant of \$2,500 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to the Public Library for a Library Comix Con event.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0633](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$1,000 from the Engineering Personal Services Salaries Account to the Infrastructure & Asset Management Personal Services Salaries Account to fund the IAM Administrative Assistant position reclassification.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.15. Communication By Councilor Wilson
(ID # [23-0642](#)) Conveying the draft schedule for the FY 2024 Budget Review.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.C. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Housing and Community
(ID # [23-0657](#)) Development, meeting on April 19, 2023.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request Requesting the appropriation of \$26,279.51 from the Medical
(ID # [23-0673](#)) Marijuana Stabilization Fund for the Supervised Consumption Plan.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a transfer of \$60,000 from the Fire
(ID # [23-0549](#)) Department Salaries Account to the Fire Alarm Overtime Account to cover a deficit in the Fire Alarm Overtime account.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a transfer of \$27,200 from the Office of
(ID # [23-0656](#)) Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) Housing Division Personal Services Account to the OSPCD Administration Division Personal Services Account to fund temporary salaries to cover the OSPCD special counsel vacancy.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a transfer of \$17,590.52 from the
(ID # [23-0655](#)) Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) Economic Development Division Personal Services Account to the OSPCD Administration Personal Services Account to fund a grants and procurement analyst position.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for
(ID # [23-0643](#)) PMA Consultants LLC, for owner's project manager (OPM) services for the Building Master Plan project.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$65,040 grant with
(ID # [23-0668](#)) no new match required, from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Police Department for the traffic safety program.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$17,950 grant with
(ID # [23-0661](#)) no new match required, from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to the Health and Human Services Department for produce for the Mobile Market.

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0666](#)) City Solicitor requesting to appear in Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) regarding Cobble Hill Center, LLC v. Somerville Redevelopment Authority.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [23-0674](#)) New Drainlayer's License, Cavalieri Construction Co., Inc.
- 9.2. License (ID # [23-0675](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Classic Site Solutions Inc.
- 9.3. License (ID # [23-0677](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Raffaele Construction Corp.
- 9.4. License (ID # [23-0676](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, The Welch Corp.
- 9.5. License (ID # [23-0678](#)) Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, Domino's, 201 Elm St.
- 9.6. License (ID # [23-0679](#)) Renewing Extended Hours Operating License, Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Dr.
- 9.7. License (ID # [23-0699](#)) Renewing Flammables License, BBS Services, 45 Broadway.
- 9.8. License (ID # [23-0698](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Somerville Mobil, 360 Medford St.
- 9.9. License (ID # [23-0700](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Trum Field Sunoco, 541 Broadway.
- 9.10. License (ID # [23-0680](#)) Renewing Garage License, Broadway Motor Cars, 161 Broadway.
- 9.11. License (ID # [23-0681](#)) Renewing Open Air Vendor License, The Somerville Flea, Buena Vista Parking Lot.
- 9.12. Public Event (ID # [23-0694](#)) Winter Hill Community AIM Program applying for a Public Event License for AIM Walk and Roll on April 30 from 11am to 3pm.
- 9.13. Public Event (ID # [23-0695](#)) Francesca Broekman applying for a Public Event License for Holi Festival of Colors on April 30 from 1pm to 5pm (raindate May 6 and 7).

- 9.14. Public Event (ID # [23-0696](#)) Friends of the Community Growing Center applying for a Public Event License for Community Growing Center Calendar on various dates and times from May-December.
- 9.15. Public Event (ID # [23-0684](#)) Chuck Lechien, Jr. applying for a Public Event License for Porchfest on Prospect Hill on May 13 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm (raindate May 14).
- 9.16. Public Event (ID # [23-0685](#)) Garden Club applying for a Public Event License for Garden Club Plant Sale on May 14 from 8:30am to 5pm.
- 9.17. Public Event (ID # [23-0686](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica Performance on May 18 from 11am to 3pm (raindate May 19 from 5:30pm-9:30pm).
- 9.18. Public Event (ID # [23-0687](#)) Nancy O'Connor applying for a Public Event License for Browning Rd BP on May 20 from 3pm to 8pm (raindate May 21).
- 9.19. Public Event (ID # [23-0688](#)) Ann Peralta applying for a Public Event License for Warwick St BP on June 3 from 2pm to 8pm (raindate June 4, 10, 11).
- 9.20. Public Event (ID # [23-0689](#)) Marla Wessland applying for a Public Event License for 19th Wallace St BP on June 3 from 3:30pm to 9:30pm (raindate June 4).
- 9.21. Public Event (ID # [23-0690](#)) Arts Council and East Somerville Main Streets applying for a Public Event License for SomerStreets: Carnival on June 4 from 12pm to 8pm (raindate June 11).
- 9.22. Public Event (ID # [23-0691](#)) Meredith Jones applying for a Public Event License for Trull St BP on June 17 from 12pm to 8:30pm (raindate June 18).
- 9.23. Public Event (ID # [23-0692](#)) Tadhg Pearson applying for a Public Event License for Munroe St BP on June 17 from 1:30pm to 9pm (raindate June 18).
- 9.24. Public Event (ID # [23-0693](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Big Gay Dance Party on June 17 from 3pm to 9pm (raindate June 18).

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Order (ID # [23-0702](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That this Council work with community partners to hold an educational session on forming worker cooperatives.
- 10.2. Order (ID # [23-0703](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Parks and Recreation ensure a notice is posted on every community board in parks advertising city job postings.

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- 10.3. Order
(ID # [23-0704](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment update this Council on the Administration's Inflation Reduction Act application and its funding status, particularly targeted toward people of color and low-income residents.
- 10.4. Resolution
(ID # [23-0701](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
Demanding Harvard University come to the bargaining table.
- 10.5. Resolution
(ID # [23-0705](#)) By Councilor Scott and Councilor Ewen-Campen
Urging the Mayor to move forward tomorrow on the Letter of Intent to apply for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) grant to help pay for major capital improvements to the Central Library.
- 10.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-0660](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 8.1, Affordable Housing, of the Zoning Ordinances to remove errant text and amend the dimensional standards.
- 10.7. License
(ID # [23-0708](#)) New Drainlayer's License, D&R General Contracting Inc.
- 10.8. Public Event
(ID # [23-0706](#)) Somernova applying for a Public Event License for Somerville Open Studios @ Somernova on May 6 from 12pm to 11pm.
- 10.9. Public Event
(ID # [23-0717](#)) Toriah Mimms applying for a Public Event License for The Curl Bar BP on May 21 from 9am to 6pm (raindate May 27).
- 10.10. Public
Communication
(ID # [23-0716](#)) Urban Forestry Committee submitting comments re: reaffirming support for retaining the trees at 90 Washington Street.
- 11. LATE ITEMS**
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**