

City of Somerville, Massachusetts City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 22, 2024 7:00 PM City Council Chamber and Remote Participation

Published February 20, 2024 1:15 PM, Revised February 22, 2024 1:00 PM.

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_0_W6GyMITMS0zPKs33Q3Zw

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll. (ID # **24-0207**)

1.2. Remembrances Remembrances. (ID # 24-0208)

1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 25, 2024.

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

4.1. Order
(ID # 24-0178)

By Councilor Wilson
That this City Council hold a public hearing in the
Committee on Finance on the community's Fiscal Year
2025 budget priorities.

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4.2.	Resolution (ID # <u>24-0194</u>)	By Councilor Scott That the Administration provide this Council with a report on the implementation of a Universal Basic Income pilot, which was announced to be implemented with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in 2021.	
4.3.	Communication (ID # 24-0202)	By Councilor Mbah Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2025.	
4.4.	Order (ID # <u>24-0203</u>)	By Councilor Clingan That the Environmental Health Coordinator discuss the current contract with the pest control company that administers the city's rat abatement program.	
4.5.	Resolution (ID # <u>24-0204</u>)	By Councilor Clingan That the Administration fund the creation of an entire unit within the Department of Public Works tasked with battling the city's growing rodent infestation.	
5.	UNFINISHED BUSINESS		
6.	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES		
<u>6.A.</u>	FINANCE COMMITTEE		
6.A.1.	Committee Report (ID # 24-0187)	Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on February 20, 2024.	
6.A.2.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-0127</u>)	Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$278.40 using available funds in the Department of	

6.A.1.	Committee Report (ID # 24-0187)	Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on February 20, 2024.
6.A.2.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-0127</u>)	Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$278.40 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Plumbing Supply Account for building related plumbing materials. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
6.A.3.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-0128</u>)	Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$638 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Public Safety Supplies Account for Verizon Fleet subscription services. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
6.A.4.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-0129</u>)	Requesting the transfer of \$280,010 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund Undesignated Fund Balance to the Historic Preservation Reserve. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.A.5. Mayor's Request Requesting the appropriation of \$650,000 from the (ID # **24-0130**) Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund for the Capital Projects Division to restore the City Hall clock tower and roof. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. 6.A.6. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$49,250 from the (ID # **24-0134**) Energy Stabilization Fund for insulation projects for Department of Public Works steam systems. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. 6.A.7. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$75,900 from the (ID # **24-0135**) Energy Stabilization Fund for design services for a building project at 42 Cross Street. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. 6.A.8. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$48,529.99 grant with no new match required, from the Boston (ID # 24-0140) Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for installation of access controls, card entry access, and indoor fencing. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. 6.A.9. Mayor's Request Requesting the use of available funds in the amount of (ID # **24-0141**) \$24,317 from the Library's Personal Services account to reestablish a Librarian III West Branch Manager position. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. 6.A.10. Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a 30-year lease with (ID # **24-0154**) BRE-BMR Assembly Innovation I LLC, and the appropriation of \$171,969 from Free Cash to the Fire Department Special Items Account to fund said lease, for the Assembly Square Fire Station for the remainder of FY 2024. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be not approved. 6.B. LAND USE COMMITTEE 6.B.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on February 15, 2024. (ID # **24-0185**)

6.B.2. Public 234 Pearl Street Realty Trust and Goodpitch, LLC Communication requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 234 and (ID # 23-1810) 236 Pearl Street from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6).

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn.

6.D.4. License

(ID # <u>24-0023</u>)

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6.B.3.	Public Communication (ID # <u>23-1827</u>)	13 registered voters requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 8 Park Street, 10 Park Street, 504 Somerville Avenue, and 7-9 Properzi Way from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Climate & Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District, and 15-27 Properzi Way, 29 Properzi Way, 26-32 Park Street, 8-14 Tyler Street, 40 Park Street, 15 Dane Street, 7-9 Tyler Street, 460 Somerville Avenue, 444 Somerville Avenue, 440 Somerville Avenue, 30 Dane Street, and 24-28 Dane Street from Fabrication (FAB) to Climate & Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn.
6.B.4.	Public Communication (ID # 23-1830)	15 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinances to add Section 8.4.19, Climate & Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn.
<u>6.C.</u>	LEGISLATIVE MA	ATTERS COMMITTEE
6.C.1.	Committee Report (ID # 24-0181)	Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on February 13, 2024.
<u>6.D.</u>	LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE	
6.D.1.	Committee Report (ID # 24-0183)	Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on February 14, 2024.
6.D.2.	License (ID # <u>24-0020</u>)	New Billiards and Bowling License, Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Drive, for 5 billiard tables and 8 bowling lanes. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn.
6.D.3.	License (ID # <u>24-0022</u>)	New Extended Operating Hours License, Dunkin, 504 Broadway, opening 24/7 for in store and take-out services. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

2am for in-store service only.

New Extended Operating Hours License, Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Drive, opening Monday-Sunday until

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn.

6.D.5. License New Garage License, Broadway Gulf Inc, 212 Broadway, 3 vehicles inside, 7 vehicles outside, for (ID # **24-0024**) mechanical repairs and storing vehicles, Mon-Fri: 6am-10pm, Sat: 7am-3pm, Sun: closed. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation. 6.D.6. License New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Broadway Gulf (ID # **24-0027**) Inc, 212 Broadway, 3 vehicles inside, 10 vehicles outside, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation. 6.D.7. License New Extended Operating Hours License, Everfitness, 14 (ID # **24-0060**) McGrath Highway, opening Monday-Friday 24/5 for in-store service only. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn. 6.D.8. License New Garage License, John's Auto Sales Inc, 181 Somerville Ave, for 2 vehicles inside and 22 vehicles (ID # 24-0124) outside for mechanical repairs only, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: Closed. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE 6.E. 6.E.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Public Utilities and Public (ID # **24-0179**) Works, meeting on February 12, 2024. 6.E.2. Order By Councilor Ewen-Campen That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with (ID # **24-0085**) this City Council how the sidewalk clearing pilot program is working this winter. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed. 6.E.3. Order By Councilor Strezo That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director (ID # **24-0118**) of Infrastructure and Asset Management report on leaks at the Arts at the Armory Building and any exterior envelope damages in the past six months, and actions being taken to address such leaks and damages including the recently dislodged downspout.

completed.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

7.1.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-0081</u>)	Requesting approval of the discontinuance of Palmer Avenue.
7.2.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>24-0201</u>)	Requesting authorization to borrow \$2,240,740 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount to participate in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the Lead Line Service Replacement program.

7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # 24-0189) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$14,327.56 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for the purchase of firefighter safety equipment.

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

8.1.	Officer's	City Clerk requesting confirmation of the appointment of
	Communication	Natasha Frazier to the position of Assistant Clerk of
	(ID # <u>24-0190</u>)	Committees.

- 8.2. Officer's City Clerk requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Peter Forcellese, Sr. to the position of Legislative Clerk.
- 8.3. Officer's City Clerk requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Stephanie Widzowski to the position of Clerk of Committees.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

Public Event	Korean-American Citizens League of New England Inc
(ID # <u>24-0205</u>)	applying for a Public Event License for 4th Annual
	Lunar New Year Celebration on March 3 from 1:30pm to
	3:15pm (raindate March 10).

- 9.2. Public Event BA Events Promotion applying for a Public Event (ID # 24-0196) License for Race of Ireland on March 24 from 7am to 1:30pm.
- 9.3. Public Event St Benedict Parish applying for a Public Event License for Good Friday-Stations of the Cross Procession on March 29 from 4pm to 7:30pm.
- 9.4. Public Event Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for (ID # 24-0197) Porchfest on May 11 from 11am to 7pm (raindate May 12).

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9.5.	Public Event (ID # <u>24-0206</u>)	Union Square Main Streets applying for a Public Event License for Union Square Farmers Market on every Saturday, May 11 to October 26 from 6:45am to 2pm.	
9.6.	Public Event (ID # <u>24-0195</u>)	Elizabeth Hunter applying for a Public Event License for Marian, or the True Tale of Robin Hood on May 28-30, June 1-6, June 15-16, June 22-23 from 5pm to 9pm (raindate June 29 and June 30).	
9.7.	Public Communication (ID # <u>24-0199</u>)	Chasen Williams submitting comments re: intersection at Powder House Boulevard and Alewife Brook Parkway.	
9.8.	Public Communication (ID # 24-0200)	Four individuals submitting comments re: item 24-0089 a resolution in support of an enduring ceasefire in Gaza.	
10.	SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS		
10.1.	Resolution (ID # <u>24-0211</u>)	By Councilor McLaughlin That the Administration include in the FY 2025 budget, additional funding for rodent mitigation efforts, including an Office of Rodent Prevention similar to the one proposed in Boston, with appropriate staffing.	
10.2.	Resolution (ID # <u>24-0212</u>)	By Councilor McLaughlin That the Administration include in the FY 2025 budget, funding for a home air filtration pilot program to address air pollution along Interstate 93.	
10.3.	Communication (ID # <u>24-0214</u>)	By Councilor Wilson Conveying budget priorities and requests for FY 2025.	
10.4.	Officer's Communication (ID # <u>24-0210</u>)	Finance Director conveying FY 2024 Mid-Year Financial Report in accordance with Section 2-48 of the Code of Ordinances.	
10.5.	Public Communication (ID # <u>24-0213</u>)	Yitzchok Segall submitting comments re: item 24-0089 a resolution in support of an enduring ceasefire in Gaza.	

11. ADJOURNMENT