



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

September 25, 2019
REPORT OF THE LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mary Jo Rossetti	Chair	Present	
Wilfred N. Mbah	Vice Chair	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two City Councilor	Present	

Others present: John Long - City Clerk, Steve MacEachern - DPW, Rossana Ferranti - ExteNet, Jacqui Duffy - Eversource, Peter Forcellese - Legislative Clerk.

The meeting took place in the Committee Room and was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chairman Rossetti and adjourned at 7:14 PM.

207772: Police Detective conveying a report of the arrest of the owner of Tosh Enterprises, which holds a Junk Dealer License at 260 Elm St.

Mr. Long reported that he has received documentation from the court that this case was dismissed on July 26, 2019, without prejudice.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

208358: Submitted by Eversource to install 23 feet of conduit in Chester Ave from Utility Pole 64/0 to a point of pickup at 141 Cross St.

Ms. Duffy told the committee that construction at this site is continuing. Chairman Rossetti reported that she had several meetings with neighbors and abutters and has assured them that the city will monitor the construction. Unfortunately for the neighbors, this development is being constructed by-right, so there is little that they, or the city, may do.

RESULT: APPROVED

208601: Submitted by Eversource to install 135 feet of conduit in Medford St from Manhole 12138 to a point of pickup at 340 Medford St.

Mr. Long stated that this project was to bring electricity to the GLX station at Gilman Square. A direct abutter had been having issues with Eversource and was frustrated that nothing was being done regarding his concerns, so he took action to call attention to the problem. Mr. Long has since spoken to the abutter, who told him that he did meet with an Eversource representative and was satisfied that they were going to look into his concerns. The abutter, via Mr. Long, said that he was unable to be at this meeting, but

expressed that he is not against the item before the committee. Chairman Rossetti would like to keep this item in committee until there is a satisfactory update from Eversource.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

208676: Submitted by ExteNet Systems to install a wireless small cell antenna and related equipment on the pole on Bradley St adjacent to 32 Jackson Rd.

Mr. Long told the members that the city's engineering and public works departments have recommended approval of this item. Since this request involves adding equipment to an existing pole, the utility company has 60 days to complete the work from the date the item was submitted, (7/29/19). Rosanna Feranti explained that these types of requests are customer driven, and in this case, some AT&T users have been experiencing performance issues, so this work is to off load some of the demand on the existing circuits.

Councilor Scott inquired about the power source of the equipment being added since, in some cases, the power supply can be intrusive. Ms. Feranti stated that there are no plans for any type of generator being installed to supply power. Councilor Mbah asked for an impact statement and Ms. Feranti said that one wasn't required or filed. She anticipates performing 40-50 installations during 2020.

RESULT:

APPROVED

208798: Submitted by ExteNet Systems to install a wireless small cell antenna and related equipment on a new pole replacing an existing pole at Trum Playground, 546 Broadway.

Mr. Long reported that all city sign-offs have been completed. This application was submitted on August 9, 2019 and is for work on a new pole, so the time limit for this item is 90 days from the submission date.

Mr. MacEachern explained that anytime equipment is replaced, e.g., lighting, it has to meet the city's specs and look the same as the item being replaced. Since this work is being done by a company outside of the city's contract, Councilor Scott thinks it would be prudent to have the plan go through another engineering cycle to be sure the city gets what it's supposed to get.

Ms. Feranti stated that the work calls for the addition of a conduit manhole in the sidewalk, and she will provide additional details on this to Mr. Long.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

208800: Submitted by Eversource to install 76 feet of conduit in Farragut Ave from Pole 220/1 to a point of pickup at the rear of 1244-1248 Broadway.

Chairman Rossetti submitted photos forwarded to her by Councilor Ballantyne on behalf of a constituent.

Residents Sanford Bogage and Mark Rosedale submitted photos of the pole in question and spoke of their concerns. Mr. MacEachern commented on the lines coming off the pole and he pointed out that Verizon has easements with property owners where a pole is located on private property. Councilor Mbah inquired about what can be done to manage this potentially dangerous situation and Mr. MacEachern said that, back in 2011, the court system effectively tied the hands of local governments with regard to forcing utility companies to move equipment.

Councilor Scott requested that Eversource provide additional information regarding their feeds and Mr. Bogage and Mr. Rosedale asked if there is a safety concern of the additional equipment damaging the pole. Chairman Rossetti asked Ms. Duffy to look into this and provide the information to Mr. Long.

Councilor Scott's motion *that the City Solicitor advise the Committee on Licenses and Permits regarding utility/communication dead drops throughout the city and also provide background and the status of the low voltage court cases initiated by the City of Boston,* was approved.

RESULT:	DISCHARGED W/NO RECOMMENDATION
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208803: Submitted by Eversource to install 34 feet of conduit in Murdock St from Pole 246/2 to a point of pickup at 17-25 Murdock St.

Joe Flaherty, owner of the project, appeared before the committee and explained that he had discussions with the owners of the house to work out an easement so they could cut across the developer's property. At that time, they had no issue with the location of the pole. Chairman Rossetti stated that she was contacted by the abutter who said she had no objection to the project, but was hopeful that because there was work requested, at the same time the placement of said pole could be relocated to no longer obstruct her driveway.

Mr. MacEachern informed the committee that Eversource does have a program to relocate a pole for an existing driveway at a cost of \$25,000. Councilor Scott asked how much it might cost to put the utilities underground and Mr. MacEachern didn't have that figure, but he estimated that it would cost \$5-6K per homeowner to then hook up to underground wiring system.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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Handouts:

- Bayles Dismissal 07-26-19 (with 207772)
- Comments & photos (with 208800)
- Photos (with 208800)
- Photos (with 208803)