

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
Matters of Business of the City Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 24, 2020, 7:00 PM
 Meeting by Remote Participation

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the City Council's minutes. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the data provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

OPENING CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Wilfred N. Mbah	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Kristen Strezo	City Councilor at Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One City Councilor	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two City Councilor	Present	
Ben Ewen-Campen	Ward Three City Councilor	Present	
Jesse Clingan	Ward Four City Councilor	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five City Councilor	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six City Councilor	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven City Councilor	Present	

1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
 210921
 (ID:23837) **RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**

2. Remembrances Remembrances.
 210922
 (ID:23838) Councilor Ewen-Campen sponsored a moment of silence for Kenneth Van Buskirk. Councilor McLaughlin sponsored a moment of silence for Howard Winter.
RESULT: APPROVED

3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, October 22, 2020.
 210923
 (ID:23839) **RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. Grant of Location 210924 (ID:23804)

Submitted by Cambridge Network Solutions to install 60 feet of conduit in Holland Street from a Level 3 manhole to utility pole 171/13 at 162 Holland Street.

The President opened the public hearing. Jeffrey Harrington from Cambridge Network Solutions spoke in favor of the item. There were no speakers against the item, and the President closed the public hearing.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

5. Grant of Location 210925 (ID:23805)

Submitted by RCN Telecom Services to install 20 feet of conduit in Broadway from RCN manhole 3 to CATV manhole 0 at 1060 Broadway.

The President opened the public hearing. Jeffrey Harrington from Cambridge Network Solutions spoke in favor of the item. There were no speakers against the item, and the President closed the public hearing.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

6. Officer's Communication 210926 (ID:23823)

Chief Assessor requesting to appear at this Council's November 24 meeting for the Classification Public Hearing and the determination and adoption of tax levy percentages for FY21, and requesting: 1) the adoption of a residential factor of 86.7935, the minimum allowable for the City for FY21; and 2) the acceptance of MGL c59 s5C, approving a residential exemption of 35% of average assessed value for owner occupied properties for FY21.

The President opened the public hearing and, with no speakers, closed it. Chief Assessor Frank Golden presented the FY21 tax classifications and explained the 2 motions before the Council; 1) adopt the residential factor of 86.7935 and 2) accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, section 5C approving a residential exemption of 35%. He asked resident-owners to file paperwork promptly so their residential exemptions don't come out of the overlay. He made several FY20 vs. FY21 comparisons for various types of properties. Commercial value increased 18%, and residential value increased by almost 6%. The commercial levy is over \$48 million and the residential levy is under \$136 million. Councilor Ewen-Campen asked about the increase in condo conversions and Mr. Golden replied that it's smaller than in previous years due to the condo conversion ordinance. Finance Director Ed Bean said the real tax impact of the new high school will be felt next year as principal payments become due. Councilor Rossetti asked for an insert in the tax bills explaining how much of their tax is due to the high school. She also asked about personal property audits, and Mr. Golden said that while forms are filled out annually by property owners, random audits are not performed. She urged such audits.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

7. Resolution 210927 (ID:23812) By City Councilor Strezo, Niedergang That the Administration update this Council on the hiring process for the soon-to-be-vacated position of Chief of Police.

Mayor's Aide Khushbu Webber said an announcement was sent out last week to the public and the Council explaining the process for filling the position. It could take up to a year but the expectation is that it won't take that long.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

8. Resolution 210928 (ID:23813) By City Councilor Strezo That representatives of the Community Land Trust discuss with this Council's Housing and Community Development Committee how the Council can help implement the Trust's goals.

Councilor Ewen-Campen recused. Councilor Strezo asked for more information on this topic.

RESULT: APPROVED. [10 TO 0]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
RECUSED: Ewen-Campen
FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

9. Order 210929 (ID:23815) By City Councilor Mbah, Ewen-Campen That the Commissioner of Public Works install lights at all playgrounds.

Councilor Mbah said it's important to be able to access all parks. Councilor Strezo asked how many parks or playgrounds don't have lights, and he said he's asking the DPW to make that determination. Councilor Ewen-Campen mentioned some playgrounds that don't have lights. Councilor Niedergang commented that he has communicated with Parks and Recreation Director Jill Lathan, who told him that the Administration does not want to add lights in playgrounds during the pandemic.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

10. Order 210930 (ID:23817) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Strezo
That the Director of SPCD commission independent Community Impact Studies for each upcoming Neighborhood Plan and large-scale redevelopment effort, to quantify possible displacement, rent increase, and other negative outcomes, and to propose mitigation strategies.

Councilor Ewen-Campen spoke about opportunity zones. He seeks a truthful analysis of the negative impacts of development to allow neighborhoods to make better informed decisions.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

11. Order 210931 (ID:23818) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Clingan, McLaughlin
That the Director of SPCD initiate a community process for the Homans Building site as soon as possible.

Councilor Ewen-Campen spoke about up-zoning parcels in Gilman Square, adding that the Homans Building site is a prime location for development.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

12. Order 210932 (ID:23819) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott, Mbah, Strezo, Ballantyne
That the Director of SPCD replace the NO BICYCLES ON SIDEWALK decals in the city's business districts and work with the Pedestrian and Transit Advocacy Committee to reduce conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians on sidewalks.

Councilor Mbah spoke on the item and asked that the decals be repainted to make them more visible. Councilors Ballantyne, Niedergang and Scott spoke in favor of the item.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

13. Communication 210933 (ID:23814) By City Councilor Rossetti
Reporting of the High School Building Committee meeting of November 16, 2020.

Councilor Rossetti said most of the school will be ready for opening in January of 2021. The modular units will be kept in use for the time being. The deficit for the High School project is now at \$600,000 and that is before the last phase of the project.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- | | | |
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| 14. | Grant of Location 210814 (ID:23709) | Submitted by Eversource to install 138 feet of conduit in Professors Row, from utility pole 289/12 to a point of pickup at 91 Professors Row. |
| | | <p>The City Clerk reported that no additional public comments have been received on items 14-18, the five NStar Grant of Location applications received by the Council at its last meeting.</p> <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| 15. | Grant of Location 210815 (ID:23710) | Submitted by Eversource to install 76 feet of conduit in Joy Street, from manhole 22832 to a point of pickup at the rear of 135 Linwood Street. |
| | | <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| 16. | Grant of Location 210816 (ID:23711) | Submitted by Eversource to install 31 feet of conduit in Woodbine Street, from utility pole 632/2 to a point of pickup at 15 Woodbine Street. |
| | | <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| 17. | Grant of Location 210817 (ID:23712) | Submitted by Eversource to install 337 feet of conduit in Grand Union Boulevard, from manhole 29310 to manhole 29175. |
| | | <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| 18. | Grant of Location 210818 (ID:23713) | Submitted by Eversource to install 5 feet of conduit in Curtis Street, from utility pole 289/16 to a point of pickup at 131 Curtis Street. |
| | | <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| 19. | Grant of Location 210812 (ID:23714) | Submitted by TC Systems Inc to install 65 feet of conduit in Florence Street, from utility pole 127/8 to a proposed handhole at the intersection of Pearl and Florence Streets. |
| | | <p>The President re-opened the public hearing from the previous Council meeting. Adam Heller from TC Systems spoke in favor of the item. There were no other speakers, and the President closed the public hearing.</p> <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |

20. Grant of Location 210813 (ID:23715) Submitted by TC Systems Inc to install 132 feet of conduit from a Comcast manhole at 77 Middlesex Ave to a proposed manhole at the intersection of Middlesex Ave and Foley St, then branching, with 7 feet going to Verizon Manhole #447 and 45 feet going to Pole 213/6, both at the same intersection.

The President re-opened the public hearing from the previous Council meeting. Adam Heller from TC Systems spoke in favor of the item. There were no other speakers, and the President closed the public hearing.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

21. CAUCUS OF THE 2021 CITY COUNCIL

- A. Committee Report 210934 (ID:23799) Report of the Caucus of the 2021 City Council, meeting on November 24, 2020.

The President announced that the Caucus had elected Councilor McLaughlin as President, and Councilor Rossetti as Vice President, in 2021.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

22. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210935 (ID:23832) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on November 23, 2020.

Councilor Scott reported that the Committee approved a number of requests to move money around, 5 months into the new budget, to better align it with the reality we find ourselves in. Chief among them was the Mayor's request to rescind the \$5.5 million appropriation of FY20 free cash into this year's budget, and instead combine it with other projected revenue to create a \$7 million appropriation into the Covid-19 Stabilization Fund.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- B. Mayor's Request 210842 (ID:23765) Requesting the appropriation of \$7,129,550 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the COVID-19 Stabilization Fund to provide resources to fight the pandemic.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

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| <p>C. Mayor's Request 210845 (ID:23731)</p> | <p>Requesting the appropriation of \$1,672,769 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Parking Meter Receipts Account in order to reduce the FY21 Tax Rate.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>D. Mayor's Request 210846 (ID:23732)</p> | <p>Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$600,000 to the School Lunch Revolving Fund to fund a projected budget deficit in FY21.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>E. Mayor's Request 210847 (ID:23752)</p> | <p>Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$259,492 to the Veterans Ice Rink Enterprise Fund.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>F. Mayor's Request 210848 (ID:23683)</p> | <p>Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$209,280 to the Fire Department Repair & Maintenance Vehicles Account to repair Ladder Two's aerial ladder.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: WITHDRAWN. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>G. Mayor's Request 210849 (ID:23753)</p> | <p>Requesting the appropriation of \$51,712 from the Dilboy Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to balance the FY21 Dilboy Enterprise Fund Budget.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>H. Mayor's Request 210850 (ID:23688)</p> | <p>Requesting the supplemental appropriation of \$11,907 to the Public Library's Digital Subscription Account to meet the FY21 appropriation requirement outlined by the MA Board of Library Commissioners.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |

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| <p>I. Mayor's Request 210851 (ID:23762)</p> | <p>Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$10,704 to the City Clerk Software Repair and Maintenance Account to develop new domestic partnership software and extend the city's MinuteTraq contract.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>J. Mayor's Request 210852 (ID:23733)</p> | <p>Requesting the rescission of the prior appropriation of \$5,253,206 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to reduce the FY21 Tax Levy, as approved on July 14 in #210317.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>K. Mayor's Request 210853 (ID:23760)</p> | <p>Requesting the reduction of the FY21 Kennedy School Pool Enterprise Budget by \$65,000 to balance the budget.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>L. Mayor's Request 210854 (ID:23754)</p> | <p>Requesting the reduction of \$8,848 from the appropriated FY21 Dilboy Enterprise Fund Budget to balance the budget.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>M. Mayor's Request 210855 (ID:23691)</p> | <p>Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$2,872.50 using available funds in the Communications Professional and Technical Services Account.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>N. Mayor's Request 210856 (ID:23695)</p> | <p>Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$200 using available funds in the Fire Department Dues and Memberships Account for CHAMP membership.</p> |
| <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |

- O. Mayor's Request 210857 (ID:23608) Requesting acceptance of a \$1,400,000 payment from the MBTA/MA DoT to the SPCD Mobility Division for required GLX traffic and pedestrian environmental commitments.
- RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
- P. Mayor's Request 210858 (ID:23679) Requesting acceptance of \$878,051 in CDBG CARES Act funds and \$632,359 in ESG CARES grant funds with no new match required, from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to prepare for, prevent, and respond to the impacts of Covid-19.
- RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
- Q. Mayor's Request 210860 (ID:23721) Requesting acceptance of a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Health to the Health and Human Services Department for its Covid-19 response.
- RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
- R. Mayor's Request 210862 (ID:23722) Requesting acceptance of a gift of \$88,140 with no new match required, from Ginkgo Bioworks to supply and process COVID 19 PCR tests for schools and other essential city personnel.
- RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
- S. Mayor's Request 210863 (ID:23684) Requesting acceptance of a \$25,600 grant with no new match required, from the MA Emergency Management Agency to the Fire Department for the purchase of safety equipment.
- RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
- T. Mayor's Request 210864 (ID:23681) Requesting acceptance of a \$13,305 grant with no new match required, from the MA Board of Library Commissioners to the Public Library to create a 2-year program to train immigrants via an ESOL civics awareness class, provide USCIS citizenship workshops, create a Citizenship Corner at each branch, and create a mechanism to sustain the program past the 2-year award. .
- RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- U. Mayor's Request 210903 (ID:23793) Requesting a transfer of \$15,000 from the Executive Administration Personal Services Account to the Grants Development Personal Services Account to cover an increase in hours for the part-time grant writer.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

23. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210936 (ID:23828) Report of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, meeting on November 16, 2020.

Councilor Strezio said the Committee discussed communication boards for the city's parks to enhance all children's ability to communicate. The Committee also discussed the eviction moratorium, and support for a second Bow Market-style facility as an incubator for small businesses. Councilor Ewen-Campen noted that the Administration will not remove the Soofa signs now but will consider doing so when the contract expires.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- B. Order 210688 (ID:23571) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen That the Director of Communications or the appropriate department remove the electronic Soofa signs from sidewalks in Ward 3.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

24. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210937 (ID:23830) Report of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on November 18, 2020.

Councilor Strezio reported that the Committee conducted a public hearing on the Winter Hill Urban Renewal Plan, and a detailed report is online.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

25. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210938 (ID:23831) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on November 19, 2020.

Councilor Ewen-Campen presented the committee report and noted that he has since learned that the so-called ‘5%’ rule, allowing a 5% variance for certain standards for 100% affordable housing developments in the affordable housing overlay district, is legally permissible.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- B. Ordinance 210472 (ID:23365) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen Proposing zoning map changes to 8 properties on McGrath Hwy between 368 and 414 McGrath Hwy, as listed within.

RESULT: ORDINANCE ORDAINED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

26. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210939 (ID:23829) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on November 17, 2020.

Councilor Davis presented the committee report, saying members were concerned that there wasn't enough detail in the Administration's surveillance technology impact reports for the Committee to properly review them.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

27. Mayor's Request 210940 (ID:23816) Requesting approval of amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for new changes, corrections and clarifications.

Also referred to the Planning Board.
RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

28. Mayor's Request 210941 (ID:23827) Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$1,591,206 in a bond for Dilboy Stadium improvements.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

29. Mayor's Request 210942 (ID:23833) Requesting the appropriation of \$500,000 from the Covid 19 Stablization Fund to provide Covid relief grants to the arts and cultural community.
- Arts Council Director Gregory Jenkins urged approval to support the local cultural community. Councilor Ballantyne noted that cultural organizations are in dire straits. On a question from Councilor Rossetti, Finance Director Ed Bean said the city has until the end of the fiscal year to expend the money.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
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30. Mayor's Request 210943 (ID:23810) Requesting the appropriation of \$249,713 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Insurance Settlements Account to reduce the FY21 tax rate.
- Finance Director Ed Bean explained that the tax levy approved this evening depends on the approval of this item to remain in balance.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
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31. Mayor's Request 210944 (ID:23811) Requesting an appropriation of \$209,280 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to repair Ladder Two's aerial ladder.
- Councilor Scott noted that this appropriation replaced one considered by the Finance Committee (#210848), which was withdrawn by the Administration.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
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32. Mayor's Request 210945 (ID:23767) Requesting acceptance of a \$400,000 PARC grant that requires a match, from MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to the Parks and Urban Forestry Division for Prospect Hill.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
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33. Mayor's Request 210946 (ID:23809) Requesting acceptance of a \$75,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for expenditures and backfill/overtime for the Special Response Team.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

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| <p>34. Mayor's Request
210947
(ID:23770)</p> | <p>Requesting the re-appointment of Alan Bishop as Constable.</p> <p>Councilor Rossetti noted that there are several individuals waiting to appear before the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments. Since all of the paperwork is in order, she moved to approve renewing the licenses of the 3 constables in items 34 to 36. Councilor Ewen-Campen asked if they would serve eviction notices during the city's eviction moratorium, and Mayor's Aide Khushbu Webber said she would find out if a communication sent to constables by the Law Department addressed evictions. Councilor Clingan pointed out that he previously submitted a resolution prohibiting such service. Due to the uncertainty, Councilor Rossetti suggested the items be tabled but President McLaughlin referred them to her Committee.</p> <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
 FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |
| <p>35. Mayor's Request
210948
(ID:23771)</p> | <p>Requesting the re-appointment of Catello Battinelli II as Constable.</p> <p>For discussion of this item see #210947.</p> <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
 FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |
| <p>36. Mayor's Request
210949
(ID:23772)</p> | <p>Requesting the re-appointment of Mary Battinelli as Constable.</p> <p>For discussion of this item see #210947.</p> <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
 FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |
| <p>37. Withdrawn
210950
(ID:23773)</p> | <p>Withdrawn.</p> <p>RESULT: WITHDRAWN</p> |
| <p>38. Mayor's Request
210951
(ID:23822)</p> | <p>Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Ami Feldman to the position of Library Trustee.</p> <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
 FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |
| <p>39. Mayor's Request
210952
(ID:23824)</p> | <p>Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Georgenia Toussaint to the position of Library Trustee.</p> <p>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
 FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p> |

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| 40. | Mayor's Request
210953
(ID:23807) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Christopher Spicer Hankle to the position of Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission. |
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| RESULT: | REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION |
| FOLLOWUP: | Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee |

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

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| 41. | Officer's Communication
210954
(ID:23834) | City Clerk submitting for approval the appointment of Ayerim Decena to the position of Legislative and Policy Analyst. |
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| Councilor Davis introduced Ayerim Decena as a candidate for one of two support positions for the Council. Ms. Decena presented her background. She is waiting for the results of her recent bar exam, so this position will have her entire focus. She is looking forward to taking on the job and working to develop a Police Civilian Oversight model. Discussion on the position followed from Councilors Rossetti, Ballantyne and McLaughlin, and Councilor Davis noted that policies from other parts of the country will be leveraged to create Somerville's policy under her lead. | |
| RESULT: | APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] |
| AYES: | Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |

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| 42. | Officer's Communication
210955
(ID:23835) | City Clerk submitting for approval the appointment of R. Mason to the position of Public Outreach Coordinator. |
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| Councilor Ewen-Campen introduced Randall Mason as a candidate for one of two support positions for the Council. He described Mr. Mason's experience in community outreach and designing and facilitating educational programs. Mr. Mason said that this position seems like a logical next step in his professional development. Discussion on the position followed from Councilors Ballantyne, Strezo and McLaughlin. | |
| RESULT: | APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] |
| AYES: | Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |

NEW BUSINESS

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| 43. | License/Permit
210956
(ID:23800) | Renewing Outdoor Seating License, Reliable Market, 45 Union Sq. |
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| Councilor White moved to waive the reading of items 43 to 49 and approve them. | |
| RESULT: | APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] |
| AYES: | Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |

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| 44. License/Permit
210957
(ID:23801) | Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Real Auto Shop, 463 McGrath Hwy. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 45. License/Permit
210958
(ID:23802) | Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Pearl St Auto Sales, 182 Pearl St. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 46. License/Permit
210959
(ID:23803) | Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Automotive Transport Service, 40 Joy St. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 47. License/Permit
210960
(ID:23806) | Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Broadway Sunoco, 258 Broadway. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 48. License/Permit
210961
(ID:23808) | Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Executive Auto Leasing and Sales, 30 Medford St. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 49. License/Permit
210962
(ID:23820) | Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Motorcycles and More, 109 Bailey Rd. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 50. Public
Communication
210963
(ID:23836) | Digital Fourth submitting comments re: the 4 Surveillance Technology Impact Reports submitted on October 22 and the 7 STIRs submitted on November 12. | RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee |

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

51. Communication By City Councilor Strezo
210964
(ID:23840)
Reporting on a meeting of the Children’s Cabinet.
- Councilor Strezo gave a brief report on the meeting and said that 90% of students are home and not in class at schools. Child-care has become a burden for working parents and many services are needed to assist families.
- RESULT:** **PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
52. Order
210965
(ID:23841)
By City Councilor Niedergang, Mbah, Strezo, Davis
That the Director of SPCD report to this Council in writing by December 4, and discuss with the Traffic and Parking Committee at its next meeting on December 7, what the plan is for replacing flex posts when they are knocked over or displaced.
- Councilor Niedergang commented that he would like the plan discussed in Committee so members could learn how it fits into the city's traffic calming.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee
53. Order
210966
(ID:23842)
By City Councilor Niedergang, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Davis, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.
That the Director of SPCD report to this Council why there are still so few speed bumps in the city, especially since the ones deployed on Powder House Boulevard seem to be making a dangerous area safer for pedestrians.
- Councilor Niedergang took up this item and item 54 together and said he wants to see more speed bumps installed as the quickest, cheapest and easiest way to calm traffic.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee
54. Order
210967
(ID:23843)
By City Councilor Niedergang, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Davis, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.
That the Director of SPCD explain to this Council in writing the Administration's opposition to deploying speed bumps, with less than a half-dozen installed citywide.
- For discussion of this item see #210966.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

55. Order
210968
(ID:23844)
- By City Councilor Niedergang, Scott
That the Director of SPCD brief the Traffic and Parking Committee on the work that will be done on our streets and Community Path pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement with the MBTA and MaDOT, which will provide the city with a \$1,400,000 payment.

Councilor Niedergang asked for an explanation of the role this document plays in the city's traffic calming work. Councilor Scott said that Mobility Director Brad Rawson committed during last night's Finance Committee meeting that Washington and Webster, Washington and Prospect, and Prospect and Webster would all be returned to scrambled crossing pedestrian intervals.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

56. Order
210969
(ID:23851)
- By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management or the Director of Engineering inform the Ward 5 City Councilor about any plans to mitigate flooding on Vernon Street near Lowell Street and on Alpine Street near Lowell Street.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Flood Forum Special Committee

57. Public
Communication
210970
(ID:23846)
- The Greater Boston Labor Council nominating Darlene Lombos to the Wage Theft Advisory Committee.

Councilor Rossetti moved to waive the reading of items 57 to 59, referring them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments.
RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

58. Public
Communication
210971
(ID:23848)
- The Welcome Project nominating Francisca Sepulveda to the Wage Theft Advisory Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

59. Public
Communication
210972
(ID:23849)
- Our Revolution Somerville nominating Colleen Fitzpatrick to the Wage Theft Advisory Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

60. Public Communication 210973 (ID:23845) Ulysses Lateiner submitting comments re: Digital Fourth's comments on the Surveillance Technology Impact Reports.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

61. Public Communication 210974 (ID:23850) Jeff Rosenberg submitting comments re: redistributing Police Department funding.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

LATE ITEMS

62. Resolution 210975 (ID:23856) By City Councilor Ballantyne, Niedergang That the Administration and the Commissioner of Public Works discuss the vehicle training process for all DPW employees and contractors whose job requires them to drive city vehicles.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

63. Order 210976 (ID:23857) By City Councilor Davis That the City Clerk requests that all candidates for re-appointment to the position of Constable appear at this Council's next meeting to address questions regarding their candidacy for re-appointment.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 11:10 PM.