



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 26, 2024

7:00 PM

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.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. The City Council entered into recess at 7:39 PM and returned at 7:44 PM.

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [24-1405](#))

Councilor Sait arrived at 7:04 PM.
Councilor Mbah arrived at 7:12 PM.
Councilor Burnley arrived at 7:18 PM.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

Present: Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin
 Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis
 City Councilor At Large Jake Wilson
 Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait
 Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott
 City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah
 City Councilor At Large Willie Burnley Jr.
 Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan
 City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo
 Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld
 Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen

- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [24-1406](#))

Councilor Scott requested a moment of silence in memory of Regina Roderick.
Councilor Scott requested a moment of silence in memory of Francis Fahey.
Councilor McLaughlin & Davis requested a moment of silence in memory of Patricia Almedia.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2024.
(ID # [24-1407](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Small Wireless Facility (ID # [24-1361](#)) Crown Castle Fiber LLC applying for a Small Wireless Facility License for facilities on a new pole at 50 Brastow Avenue.

Brandi Spezzano, representing Crown Castle Fiber LLC, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed. President Ewen-Campen confirmed that this is a replacement of an existing pole and that a double pole will not be installed. He also asked about the fan noise and Ms. Spezano said the new equipment should not be as loud.

RESULT: APPROVED

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [24-1392](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Davis, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Sait, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Clingan

That the Chief of Police resume the practice of issuing tickets rather than warnings for serious moving violations that endanger public safety, including speeding and running red lights.

Councilor Ewen-Campen said that the best thing the city can do for public safety is to redesign streets, but police enforcement for traffic violations is a tool in the box that could also help. In 2023, of 901 stops for speeding, only 44 were ticketed and the remainders were given warnings. Councilor McLaughlin commented that people are scoffing at the laws in this city.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

- 4.2. Order (ID # [24-1394](#)) By Councilor Sait, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

That the Director of Mobility install speed limit signage, and update the signage to NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES and include scooters and mopeds, along the Community Path and at all its various entrances.

Councilor Sait spoke about people finding it unsafe to walk the path with motorized vehicles also on the path. She noted that many users were not aware of the prohibition of using those vehicles on the path, therefore, she is requesting a change to the signage to make people aware of it.

Councilor Clingan asked how the city can come up with a fine to deter this behavior and Councilor Scott asked that the Commission for Persons with

Disabilities be consulted so as not to include devices that are necessary and protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

4.3. Order
(ID # [24-1396](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Strezio and Councilor Sait
That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss with this Council the findings from the recent U.S. Surgeon General Advisory on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Parents and its recommendations to better support parents and caregivers.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld noted that 48% of parents say their stress is completely overwhelming and said that the Advisory lists a set of recommendations to support parents and caregivers.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee

4.4. Order
(ID # [24-1397](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Parks and Recreation discuss with this Council the recent cancellation and rescheduling of the Fall Festival originally scheduled for September 21st.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld noted that she received a notification that this event was cancelled 30 minutes before its scheduled start time and that the rain location, noted on the event flyer, was not used. She would like to avoid these miscommunications going forward, adding that it shows a lack of care for families and communities. Councilor Wilson commented that he couldn't find any information on the city's sites, where it had been advertised.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee

4.5. Order
(ID # [24-1398](#))

By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide this Council with a list of the elevators in all city buildings, the operational status of each elevator, and the maintenance and inspection records for each.

Councilor Ewen-Campen reported that two elevators in the Somerville Housing Authority's (SHA) Properzi Manor were out of order for over a week and he would like the SHA included in this conversation.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

- 4.6. Order
(ID # [24-1399](#))
- By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Davis
That the Director of Mobility update this Council on the current timeline for the Highland Avenue Redesign Project.
- Councilor Wilson asked again for an update on this project. He noted that the utility work has been completed and that a Capital Investment Plan (CIP) update was promised to be ready this fall. He would like to see a sense of urgency for getting this project moving. He also reported that the Administration has indicated that there has been no change to the schedule.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

- 4.7. Order
(ID # [24-1401](#))
- By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Mbah
That the Chairman of the Board of Election Commissioners report to this Council, the number of in-person early voting ballots in each election since the inception of early voting, as well as the cost of early voting in the 2023 municipal election.
- RESULT:** APPROVED

- 4.8. Resolution
(ID # [24-1400](#))
- By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Administration facilitate bike parking for large licensed public events in the city.
- Councilor Wilson commented that there is no space for bikes at large scale events and he would like to hear from the Administration about funding and staff to accommodate this. Councilor Burnley said that community members should have the option to bike to events, but that they need a place to park them.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. EQUITY, GENDER, FAMILIES AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report
(ID # [24-1341](#))
- Report of the Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations, meeting on September 19, 2024.

Councilor Strezo summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the committee discussed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility issues, importance of inclusive playgrounds, assessing a pilot program for each Ward, and the Braille embosser - which is now in the Racial and Social Justice Department.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.2. Resolution (ID # [24-0428](#)) By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Scott and Councilor Burnley Jr. That the Administration provide an update on the Braille embosser purchased in summer 2023, including its current location and the plan to put it to use.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.A.3. Order (ID # [24-0911](#)) By Councilor Clingan and Councilor Ewen-Campen That the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry provide this Council's Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations with an update on the inclusive playground swing project being worked on in collaboration with parent advocates.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.A.4. Order (ID # [24-1005](#)) By Councilor Clingan That the ADA Coordinator provide this Council with an update on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan Task Force.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.A.5. Order (ID # [24-1032](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezio and Councilor Wilson That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss with this Council how to serve residents through an ongoing transit equity program when the Taxi to Health program funding ends in October.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE
- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-1343](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on September 24, 2024.
Councilor Wilson summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the committee recommended approval of 1 authorization to borrow, 1 appropriation, 1 grant, 1 payment of prior year invoices and 2 time only contract extensions. Also discussed was the FY 2025 Streets and Sidewalks Reconstruction bond request.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.B.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1225](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$6,018,969 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for street and sidewalk reconstruction.
RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1227](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$56,215.42 from the Bike Share Stabilization Fund for installation and startup costs for a BlueBike station at 200 Inner Belt Road.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1228](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for fourteen months with a new expiration date of 12/31/2025, for P Gioioso & Sons Inc for construction services for the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.B.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1229](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for twelve months with a new expiration date of 12/31/2025, for Stantec Consulting Services Inc for design services for the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.B.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1261](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a technical assistance grant valued at \$25,000 with no new match required, from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for sustainable and resilient zoning development.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.B.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1309](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$770 using available funds in the Mayor's Office Food Supplies & Refreshments Account for food served at a Departmental Training meeting with Department Heads.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.C. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-1339](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on September 17, 2024.

Councilor Davis summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported the committee discussed the city's ordinance dealing with safety at construction projects, which would give the city some enforcement authority.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.C.2. Mayor's Communication (ID # [24-0693](#)) Conveying the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for exterior cameras at fire stations.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 6.C.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0716](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to the Code of Ordinances to add Sections 8-375 through 8-381 to promote and enforce safer construction practices.

RESULT: ORDINANCE ORDAINED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

6.D. OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-1340](#)) Report of the Committee on Open Space, Environment and Energy, meeting on September 19, 2024.

Councilor Mbah summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported the committee received an update on curbside composting, out of school time programs, climate forward recommendations. The composting item was kept in committee because of several unanswered questions.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.D.2. Resolution (ID # [24-0086](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen That the Administration explain the issues that are preventing Reavis Field from opening and how the process may be expedited.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.E. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 6.E.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-1342](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on September 23, 2024.

Councilor McLaughlin summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the meeting was dedicated to the library and the incidents that occurred there. He reported that private security has been hired to assist with the problems at the library. Councilor McLaughlin noted that the building that houses Teen Empowerment is not ADA compliant but he thinks that with repairs, it could be used as a teen center.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.E.2. Order (ID # [24-1263](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Director of Libraries, and other relevant departments, appear before this Council's Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations to discuss the plans for the library closing in the middle of the day and what immediate steps are being taken to reopen the library during this time period to best support library staff and patrons.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.E.3. Resolution (ID # [24-1267](#))

By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Clingan

That the Administration and relevant city departments discuss an immediate action plan to address the increase of fights happening at Edward L. Leathers Community Park after students are released from school.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.E.4. Resolution (ID # [24-1270](#))

By Councilor Mbah

That the Administration discuss the sufficiency of after school programs for high school students and the methods of outreach and guidance to ensure that all students have access to activities that meet their needs and interests.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.E.5. Resolution (ID # [24-1271](#))

By Councilor Mbah

That the Administration discuss the scope and limitations of staff at Somerville High School to supervise high school students in the after school period.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.E.6. Resolution
(ID # [24-1273](#))
- By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Sait, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Strezo, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Davis and Councilor Scott
- That the Administration update this Council on the status of the process to provide the resources and programming needed to safely re-open the Central Library during mid-day hours.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.7. Order
(ID # [24-1295](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin
- That the Chief of Police and the Chief Fire Engineer provide a record of all calls to first responders regarding incidents at all Somerville Public Library locations since September 1, 2023.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.8. Resolution
(ID # [24-1305](#))
- By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sait and Councilor Clingan
- That the Administration explore activating Somerville High School for community uses outside of school hours.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.9. Communication
(ID # [24-1313](#))
- By Councilor Scott, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Ewen-Campen
- Conveying full support for the Public Library Board of Trustees and Director of Libraries in their efforts to maintain safe and accessible library environments for patrons and employees alike.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.10. Communication
(ID # [24-1314](#))
- By Councilor Scott, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Ewen-Campen
- Conveying an invitation to the public to a community conversation about resources needed to restore full library access, hosted by Somerville's youth community and Somerville Municipal Employees Association members.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.11. Order
(ID # [24-1326](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Strezo
- That the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator take the necessary measures to ensure ADA compliance for the second floor of 165 Broadway for the purposes of expanding youth services.
- Councilor McLaughlin sponsored Stan Pollack, from Teen Empowerment, to speak. Mr. Pollack spoke about youth problems in the city during the 1970's and what was done at that time to reduce youth crime in the city. In 2004, the city had to deal with oxycontin use and teen suicide. He stated that it's important to work on youth values and that having space for a teen center would be beneficial to everyone. He is anxious to open the old Broadway fire station and share it with the city to benefit as many youths as

possible. He urged the City Council to work on getting the facility updated. Director of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Neha Singh said that the Racial and Social Justice Department is working on an ADA task force, so she will check in and get an answer to the Council on the Administration's thoughts. Councilor McLaughlin moved to sever this item #24-1326 from the committee report and send it back to committee. The motion was approved.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

6.F. SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.F.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-1344](#)) Report of the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance, meeting on September 25, 2024.

Councilor Davis summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the committee discussed the status of meetings with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) regarding the Brown and Winter Hill Schools. Councilor Davis spoke about his frustration about the lack of progress on the school buildings matter. There was also a lengthy discussion about an impasse about the use of Reavis Field - an issue that Councilor Davis noted should not have been before the committee. Councilor Davis moved that item #24-0466 be severed from the committee report and sent back to committee. The motion was approved.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.F.2. Resolution (ID # [24-0466](#))

By Councilor Davis

That the Administration provide the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance with regular updates about the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process for the Winter Hill and Brown Schools.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

- 6.F.3. Order (ID # [24-1284](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Ewen-Campen

That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide an update on the Construction Advisory Group for the planned construction project to replace the Winter Hill and Brown schools.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.G. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

- 6.G.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-1338](#)) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on September 16, 2024.

Councilor Sait summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported

that the committee discussed traffic signals in Davis Square, service reliability with the Union Square (D-line) branch of the Green Line, the intersection of Meacham and Fremont Streets, and various mobility signage, speed humps, and illegal license covers.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.G.2. Order
(ID # [24-0450](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr.

That the Director of Parking update this Council on efforts to ticket vehicles with illegal license covers, including how many tickets have been issued for this reason in the last year.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.G.3. Order
(ID # [24-0972](#))

By Councilor Clingan

That the Director of Mobility install speed humps on Moreland Street from Main Street to Mystic Avenue.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.G.4. Order
(ID # [24-0973](#))

By Councilor Clingan

That the Director of Mobility install speed humps on Meacham Street from Edgar Avenue to Fremont Street.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.G.5. Order
(ID # [24-0974](#))

By Councilor Clingan

That the Director of Mobility install additional signage to address illegal turns up Moreland Street to access East Albion Street from Mystic Avenue.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.G.6. Order
(ID # [24-0975](#))

By Councilor Clingan

That the Director of Mobility install solar powered YOUR SPEED IS signs on Moreland Street between Main Street and Meacham Street.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.G.7. Order
(ID # [24-0976](#))

By Councilor Clingan

That the Director of Mobility install new, more visible STOP signs at the intersections of Meacham and Moreland Streets and Meacham and Fremont Streets to address drivers failing to stop.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.G.8. Order
(ID # [24-1004](#))

By Councilor Clingan

That the Director of Mobility change the intersection of Meacham and Fremont Streets to a 4 WAY STOP.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED6.G.9. Resolution
(ID # [24-1058](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration and this Council work with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to address long-standing issues with service reliability with the Union Square (D-line) branch of the Green Line.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED6.G.10.Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1062](#))

Jarred Johnson submitting comments re: Green Line Extension.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED6.G.11.Resolution
(ID # [24-1208](#))

By Councilor Davis
That the Administration update the Ward Six Councilor on the process for monitoring and adjusting traffic signals in Davis Square.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**7.1. Mayor's Request
(ID # [24-1375](#))

Requesting approval of an Open Space Access Easement at 5 Middlesex Avenue and Harold Cohen Way.

Director Galligani stated that the city will be getting a temporary easement (for a couple of years at the least and perhaps for as long as 5 years) and that the property owner will maintain the space. The easement is needed in order for the development team to finish the open space area. Councilor Scott confirmed that this is a privately owned public space (POPS) and he questioned the hours of operation since this does not comply with city's ordinance regarding park operating hours. Councilor Wilson would like to see the operating hours revisited.

Councilor Davis asked that this item be tabled until the hours issue is resolved. Director Galligani pointed out that by tabling the item, the project would be delayed for a couple of weeks. City Clerk Wells informed the Council that this item cannot be amended, so a new item would have to be submitted if the operating hours are to be changed.

RESULT: LAI D ON THE TABLE7.2. Mayor's Request
(ID # [24-1337](#))

Requesting approval to appropriate \$141,300 from the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund to the E911 Personal Services Other Lump Sum Benefits Account to fund a collective bargaining agreement with SEIU/Local 888 E911 Call Taker/Dispatcher's Union.

Matthew Sirigu, Assistant City Solicitor/Labor Counsel, explained this appropriation is to fund back pay in the contract.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1332](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$100,000 from the Encore Artist and Cultural Support Stabilization Fund to support Local Cultural Council grants to artists, organizations, and schools.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3, 7.4 and 7.6 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.4. 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.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3, 7.4 and 7.6 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1336](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$46,170 from the Salary Contingency account to various E911 Personal Services accounts to fund a collective bargaining settlement with SEIU/Local 888, E911 Call Taker/Dispatcher Union.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 7.6. 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.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3, 7.4 and 7.6 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

-
- 7.7. 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 Recycling Services.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3, 7.4 and 7.6 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.8. 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.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3, 7.4 and 7.6 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1381](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$15 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Highway Rubbish Removal Account for disposal of break out material.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.3, 7.4 and 7.6 through 7.9 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1370](#)) Requesting approval of an exemption for Peter George as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(b).
- Director Singh said that staff was not available to speak to these items. City Clerk Wells explained that the disclosures are required to permit Parks and Recreation Department staff to work for the School Department in part-time roles.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1369](#)) Requesting approval of an exemption for Marco Osoy as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(b).
- Director Singh said that staff was not available to speak to these items. City Clerk Wells explained that the disclosures are required to permit Parks and Recreation Department staff to work for the School Department in part-time roles.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1368](#)) Requesting approval of an exemption for Johnathan Tsirigotis as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(b).
-

Director Singh said that staff was not available to speak to these items. City Clerk Wells explained that the disclosures are required to permit Parks and Recreation Department staff to work for the School Department in part-time roles.

RESULT: APPROVED

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [24-1330](#)) City Solicitor responding to item #24-1290, an order requesting an opinion regarding spot zoning.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [24-1402](#)) New Drainlayer's License, Commonwealth Construction & Utilities.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.2. License (ID # [24-1345](#)) New Drainlayer's License, TID Trenchless LLC.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.3. License (ID # [24-1403](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Bassco Excavating.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.4. License (ID # [24-1346](#)) New Sign / Awning License, Ravelo's Auto Service, 61 Washington Street, 4 signs.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.5. License (ID # [24-1347](#)) Renewing Garage License, Broadway Gulf Inc., 212 Broadway.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25

and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.6. License
(ID # [24-1348](#))

Renewing Garage License, New England Collision Center Inc., 224 Somerville Avenue.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.7. License
(ID # [24-1350](#))

Renewing Lodging House License, Alpha Phi, 14 Sawyer Avenue.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.8. License
(ID # [24-1349](#))

Renewing Lodging House License, Kappa Alpha, 25 Whitfield Road.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.9. License
(ID # [24-1351](#))

Renewing Lodging House License, Theta Chi, 100 Packard Avenue.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.10. License
(ID # [24-1352](#))

Renewing Lodging House License, Zeta Beta Tau, 126 Packard Avenue.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.11. License
(ID # [24-1353](#))

Renewing Second Hand Dealer License, Great Eastern Vintage, 236 Pearl Street.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.12. License
(ID # [24-1357](#))

Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Auto Plus LLC, 229 Lowell Street.

-
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.13. License
(ID # [24-1358](#))
Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Broadway Gulf, Inc., 212 Broadway.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.14. License
(ID # [24-1355](#))
Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 1 License, Mercedes Benz of Boston, 259 McGrath Highway.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.15. License
(ID # [24-1356](#))
Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 1 License, Mercedes Benz of Boston Commercial Vans, 161 Linwood Street.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.16. License
(ID # [24-1354](#))
Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 1 License, Smart Center Boston, 257 McGrath Highway.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.17. License
(ID # [24-1404](#))
Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Teele Square Auto, 1284 Broadway.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.18. Small Wireless Facility
(ID # [24-1359](#))
Crown Castle Fiber LLC applying for a Small Wireless Facility License for facilities on an existing pole at 76 School Street.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
-

-
- 9.19. Small Wireless Facility
(ID # [24-1360](#))
- Crown Castle Fiber LLC applying for a Small Wireless Facility License for facilities on an existing pole at 6 Main Street.
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.20. Public Event
(ID # [24-1363](#))
- Odd Numbered Records applying for a Public Event License for oDD nUMBERED rECORDS Concert Series on September 29 and October 6 from 2pm to 6pm (raindate October 13).
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.21. Public Event
(ID # [24-1364](#))
- Harris Gruman applying for a Public Event License for HONK! Festival on October 4, 5, and 6 for various start and end times.
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.22. Public Event
(ID # [24-1393](#))
- Tadhg Pearson applying for a Public Event License for Munroe Play Street on October 4, 11, 18, 25, and 31 from 2:30pm to 8:30pm.
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.23. Public Event
(ID # [24-1365](#))
- Bow Market applying for a Public Event License for Curated Vintage Market on October 13 from 9am to 9pm (raindate November 3).
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.24. Public Event
(ID # [24-1366](#))
- Jeremy Blackowicz applying for a Public Event License for Kingston Street BP on October 19 from 12pm to 9pm (raindate October 20).
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.25. Public Event
(ID # [24-1362](#))
- Racial and Social Justice applying for a Public Event License for Somerville Annual Domestic Violence Vigil on October 30 from 5pm to 7:30pm (raindate October 31).
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.25
-

and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.26. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1367](#))

Charles DeCecca requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 501 Mystic Valley Parkway from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to Urban Residence (UR).

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

- 9.27. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1389](#))

Brian Kim and Nancy Iappini submitting comments re: Davis Square.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 9.28. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1390](#))

Ellen Jacobs and Chris Devers submitting comments re: Library closures.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 9.29. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1391](#))

300 individuals submitting comments re: ceasefire.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Citation
(ID # [24-1427](#))

By Councilor Strezo
Commending Jay Colbert on the auspicious occasion of his retirement after over 36 years of distinguished service to the Fire Department.

Councilor Strezo spoke about Lt. Colbert's 36 year career with the Somerville Fire Department and his leadership positions in various firefighting organizations.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 10.2. Order
(ID # [24-1411](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development review the Gilman Square Urban Study and update this Council before the end of FY 2025 about the feasibility of pursuing that model.

Discussed with item #24-1412.

Councilor Burnley spoke about the vibrancy in the Gilman Square neighborhood and about making the space meet community goals. He

believes that parties should be relying on the Neighborhood Council for their knowledge of the area and because it's important to have community led development. He sponsored Matthew Carlino and Stani Iordanova to speak. Ms. Iordanova gave some background information on the Gilman Square Neighborhood Association and stated that several proposals were put forth for consideration that embody accessibility to the MBTA, centralized green and civic space, and affordable housing. Mr. Carlino spoke about 40 designs being done for the site and that he's hoping enough disposition has happened at the Homan's site for the City Council to remove it from the disposition study. Ha also asked that the process begin to remove the Mobil station in the square.

Councilor Clingan commented that it's important to recognize what the neighborhood wants, and Councilor McLaughlin commented that he's happy that neighborhood councils are embracing growth.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

10.3. Order
(ID # [24-1412](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan and Councilor Ewen-Campen That the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development begin the process of engaging with the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council on their long-term plans to develop Gilman Square and update this Council before the end of FY 2025 on how the Administration plans to produce community-driven development.

See item #24-1411.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

10.4. Order
(ID # [24-1413](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

That the Director of Inspectional Services submit a written report of outstanding 311 requests submitted for the Edgerly School building and provide an update to this Council with a plan to ensure that staff and students have safe and appropriate facilities.

Councilor Burnley spoke about broken windows, broken elevators and unacceptable conditions at the school and he wants to get a full list of 311 requests submitted for the facility. Councilor Davis requested that the report be submitted well in advance of the next School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee meeting. Councilor Clingan noted that parents are reaching out to the School Committee about conditions at the school and he asked that Constituent Services flag 311 requests submitted by staff so that those can be addressed as soon as possible. He added that it's hard for him to address issues if he's not aware of them and he suggested that concerns be emailed to Ward Councilor and to him. Councilor

McLaughlin thinks that problems persist at this facility. Councilor Mbah commented that he wants to know the response time after calling 311. President Ewen-Campen commented that he hears about this quite a bit and said that the problems with building are stark. He noted that the elevator problem was caused by Eversource, who is trying to fix the problem.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

10.5. Order
(ID # [24-1414](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Sait

That the Chief of Police update this Council on how the Police Department will ensure members of the public remain separated during counter-protests.

Councilor Burnley spoke about incidents that could have been handled better and Councilor McLaughlin spoke about the feelings of lawlessness in the city. He mentioned the matter of having police vs. private security at the library, saying that it wasn't the consensus of the City Council to have police there. He also mentioned requests for having police at Seven Hills Park and the Mystic View Apartments being voted down. He stated that people are confused about what laws get applied in this city since some seem to be elevated over others.

Councilor Burnley said police were not the solution at the incident in question because they didn't do what they should have done. Councilor Pineda Neufeld commented that directives to the Police Department from the Administration matter. Councilor Davis stated that no Councilor who was member of the Public Health and Public Safety Committee suggested that police should not be in Seven Hills Park and Councilor McLaughlin clarified that it was contained in a letter read by Councilor Scott at a previous meeting. He went on to say that the law applies to everybody, but it feels like both the public and the City Council are unsure what laws should be enforced. Councilor Clingan added that it's also confusing to the police.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

10.6. Order
(ID # [24-1415](#))

By Councilor Sait and Councilor Pineda Neufeld

That the Director of Parks and Recreation provide this Council with the list of youth program offerings, their cap and their enrollment data in 2023 and 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Open Space, Environment and Energy Committee

10.7. Order
(ID # [24-1416](#))

By Councilor Sait, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Davis

That the Director of Mobility work with the Ward 5 Councilor on installing bike parking next to Neighborhood Produce after the Broadway at Boston Avenue intersection work is completed.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

10.8. Order
(ID # [24-1418](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Chief Assessor determine the ownership of open space parcels along McGrath Highway, behind Alston Street and Chester Avenue to determining who is responsible for maintenance.

Councilor McLaughlin dubbed these parcels ‘no man’s land’ and said that nobody wants to claim responsibility for them.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

10.9. Order
(ID # [24-1419](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of Inspectional Services inspect open space parcels along McGrath Highway, behind Alston Street and Chester Avenue for rodent activity and bait accordingly.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

10.10. Order
(ID # [24-1420](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Commissioner of Public Works clean the open space parcels along McGrath Highway, behind Alston Street and Chester Avenue of trash and debris.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

10.11. Order
(ID # [24-1421](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of Parking install a NO THROUGH STREET sign on Alston Street by the Cross Street intersection.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

10.12. Order
(ID # [24-1422](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Tree Warden inspect the trees behind Chester Avenue and address falling limbs.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

10.13. Order
(ID # [24-1423](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of Inspectional Services address graffiti on Alston Street and ensure the property owners are maintaining their properties.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

10.14. Order
(ID # [24-1424](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility place a sided bump on Alston Street.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

10.15. Order
(ID # [24-1425](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility prioritize Alston Street for a potential Neighborways project.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

10.16. Order
(ID # [24-1426](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Parking enforce parking permit laws on Alston Street.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

10.17. Mayor's Request
(ID # [24-1373](#))

Requesting approval of an exemption for James McEwen as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(b).

Director Singh said that staff was not available to speak to these items. City Clerk Wells explained that the disclosures are required to permit Parks and Recreation Department staff to work for the School Department in part-time roles.

RESULT: APPROVED

10.18. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1408](#))

Kristin Anderson and David White submitting comments re: Alewife Brook.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10.19. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1409](#))

3 individuals submitting comments re: ceasefire.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10.20. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1428](#))

Christopher Rosol submitting comments re: cyclist safety.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 9:26 PM.