

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
Matters of Business of the Board of Aldermen

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 22, 2011, 7:00 PM
Aldermanic Chambers

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Board of Aldermen'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 OF THE MEETING

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
William M. Roche	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Thomas F. Taylor	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Walter F. Pero	Ward Four Alderman	Absent	
Sean T. O'Donovan	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Rebekah Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Robert C. Trane	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	

- #192229 Call of the Roll.
Roll Call

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- #192230 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, October 27, 2011.
Minutes

RESULT: APPROVED

CITATIONS

- #192231 Citation
By Ald. O'Donovan, and the Entire Board and the Mayor
Commending Edward Reddin, who is retiring after more than 35 years of
dedicated service as a Police Officer.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

- #192232 Citation
By Ald. The Entire Board, and the Mayor
Commending Peter St. Clair, Thomas Salemme, Vincent McLaughlin, Leslie
Rentel, Robert Doherty, and James Powers, all retiring after dedicated careers
as Firefighters.

RESULT: APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 5. #192233 Chief Assessor's Classification Hearing Report regarding adoption of Tax Officer's Request Levy Percentages for FY2012, including adoption of a minimum residential factor, a residential exemption, and an additional statutory exemption of up to 100%.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Connolly, Desmond, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston, Taylor, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Trane
ABSENT: Walter F. Pero

Three motions were approved by Roll Call as above:
1. That this Board adopts a minimum residential factor of 86.3556, the legal minimum for the City of Somerville for FY2012.
2. That this Board accepts the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5c approving a residential exemption of 30% of average assessed value for owner occupied properties for FY2012.
3. That this Board accepts the provisions of Section 4 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986 and votes an additional statutory exemption of up to 100% for FY2012.

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 6. #192234 Resolution By Ald. Gewirtz That this Board requests that Congressman Capuano, or a representative from his office, appear before this Board to discuss the nation's fiscal situation and the specific impacts of proposed federal cuts on Somerville in the coming year, and that the Governor and the State Delegation be invited to attend.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 7. #192235 Order By Ald. Gewirtz That the Commissioner of Public Works advise this Board of the timeline for delivering single stream recycling totes to medium to large condo buildings.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Environment and Energy Special Committee

- 8. #192236 Order By Ald. Gewirtz That the Director of Traffic and Parking inform this Board of the feasibility of painting a STOP LINE at the intersection of Park and College Avenues.

RESULT: APPROVED

9. #192237 Order By Ald. Gewirtz That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Traffic and Parking coordinate with the organizers of Midnight Madness in Davis Square to resolve any parking or traffic issues in advance.

RESULT: APPROVED

10. #192238 Order By Ald. Gewirtz That the Commissioner of Public Works install a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Chester and Dover Streets.

RESULT: APPROVED

11. #192239 Order By Ald. Gewirtz That the Director of Communications send a citywide Connect-CTY message informing residents of their remedy if they received extra single stream recycling totes.

RESULT: APPROVED

12. #192240 Order By Ald. Gewirtz That the Commissioner of Public Works provide comments on the placement of the new crosswalk at Meacham Road and Orchard Street, as there may be a safety issue.

RESULT: APPROVED

13. #192241 Order By Ald. Gewirtz That the Commissioner of Public Works contact NStar to repair the street lamp at 79 Willow Avenue.

RESULT: APPROVED

14. #192242 Resolution By Ald. Gewirtz That this Board requests that the Administration coordinate efforts with NStar to inventory the non-operating lights in West Somerville and make them operational as quickly as possible.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

15. #192243 Order By Ald. White Jr., Sullivan, Taylor, Connolly, Desmond That the Chief of Police, Superintendent of Inspectional Services, Director of Public Health and City Environmental Officer appear before the Committee on Public Health and Safety to address issues pertaining to the recent Oxford Street crystal meth lab incident.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

16. #192244 Order
By Ald. White Jr.
That the Chief Fire Engineer appear before the Committee on Public Health and Safety to discuss implementing the Fire Dept. study recommendations.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

17. #192245 Order
By Ald. White Jr.
That the Director of Finance appear before the Finance Committee to discuss the impact upon the City's budget from the City's notice to terminate the lease for the waste transfer facility.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

18. #192246 Order
By Ald. Heuston
That the Director of SPCD inform this Board of plans for the two city owned lots on South Street, including whether the city has contracted to have work done there, and if so, what that work is.

RESULT: APPROVED

19. #192247 Order
By Ald. Heuston
That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the curb and sidewalk panel at 7 Dickinson Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

20. #192248 Order
By Ald. Heuston
That the Commissioner of Public Works trim the tree at 7 Dickinson Street and inform the Ward 2 Alderman on ways to alleviate the damage to private property and the safety hazard caused by its berries.

RESULT: APPROVED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

21. #192171 Citation
Commending Captain John Keane, Lt. Steven Ortolani, and Firefighters Michael Powers, Christopher Clark, Francis Sharpe, and John Donovan, each given the Thomas Chetham Award as Firefighter of the Year by American Legion Post 19.

RESULT: APPROVED

22. #192172 Citation Commending Officers Alan Monaco and Steve St. Hilaire, each given the Alexander McQuestion Award as Police Officer of the Year by American Legion Post 19.

RESULT: APPROVED

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

23. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

- A. #192249 Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments, meeting on Committee Report November 22, 2011.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #192138 Mayor's Request Requesting the appointment of George Born to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term to expire May 15, 2015.

RESULT: APPROVED

- C. #192139 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Eric Parkes to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term to expire May 15, 2015.

RESULT: APPROVED

- D. #192140 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Derek Snare to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term to expire May 15, 2015.

RESULT: APPROVED

- E. #192141 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Tom DeYoung to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term to expire May 15, 2015.

RESULT: APPROVED

24. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. #192250 Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on November 17, Committee Report 2011.

RESULT: APPROVED

25. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- A. #192251 Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on November 16, Committee Report 2011.

RESULT: APPROVED AS AMENDED

AMENDED: #192148 returned to the Licenses and Permits Committee.

- B. #191742 Order By Ald. Heuston That the City Clerk investigate whether mobile food vendors are prohibited from operating at specific locations, and if so, to provide a list of locations to the Committee on Licenses and Permits.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- C. #192087 License/Permit Sign/Awning Permit, Sally O'Brien's, 335 Somerville Ave., one awning.

RESULT: APPROVED

- D. #192148 License/Permit New Fortune Teller License, Stacey Mitchell dba Astrology by Nina, 511 Medford St.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- E. #192222 License/Permit New Extended Operating Hours License, Target Corp., 180 Somerville Ave., Opening "Black Friday," Nov 25, from 12 AM to 11 PM.

RESULT: APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

CONDITION: Approved for November 25, 2011, from 1AM to 11PM with the following condition: There must be TWO Police Details on site between 1AM and 5AM or the store may not open for business.

- F. #192252 Order By Ald. Heuston That the City Solicitor draft an ordinance regulating mobile food vendors.

RESULT: APPROVED

26. YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

- A. #192253 Committee Report Report of the Committee on Youth Services, meeting on November 16, 2011.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #192254 Resolution By Ald. Sullivan, Desmond, Connolly That this Board Committee on Youth Services supports Groundwork Somerville's use of the city controlled lot at 100 South Street for Green Team endeavors.

RESULT: APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

27. #192255 Mayor's Request Requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to establish minimum pervious area requirements on lots in certain zoning districts.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

Also referred to the Planning Board.

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

28. #192256 Mayor's Request Requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance amending Zoning Districts for the areas consisting of Somerville Avenue from Wilson Square to the Somerville-Cambridge line at Porter Square, White Street, and Elm Street from White Street to Wilson Square, and amending the Floodplain Overlay District.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

Also referred to the Planning Board.

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

29. #192257 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$1,892,036 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation – Parking Meter Receipts Acct. to reduce the FY2012 tax levy.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Connolly, Desmond, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston, Taylor, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Trane

ABSENT: Walter F. Pero

30. #192258 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$100,000 from the Overlay Surplus declared by the Board of Assessors, to reduce the FY2012 tax levy.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Connolly, Desmond, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston, Taylor, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Trane

ABSENT: Walter F. Pero

31. #192259 Mayor's Request Requesting a transfer of \$20,000 in the Public Health Dept., from the Salaries Acct. to the Professional and Technical Services Acct., to fund the Healthy Dining Initiative Consultant.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

32. #192260 Mayor's Request Requesting a transfer of \$1,000 in the Public Health Dept., from the Salaries Acct. to the Professional and Technical Services Acct., to support the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

33. #192261 Mayor's Request Requesting the authorization of a Consolidated Gift Account for the Council on Aging.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

NEW BUSINESS

34. #192262 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Davis Sq. Midnight Madness Zipcar Tent, Davis Sq. Statue Park, Dec 1, 4PM-Midnight.

RESULT: APPROVED

35. #192263 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Union Sq. Winter Craft Market, Union Sq. Plaza, Dec 3, 9AM-6PM.

RESULT: APPROVED

36. #192264 License/Permit Public Event Permit, College Ave United Methodist Church Connexion Christmas, Davis Sq. Statue Park, Dec 24, 4-5PM.

RESULT: APPROVED

37. #192265 License/Permit New Drainlayer License, JNJ Sacca Inc.

RESULT: APPROVED

38. #192266 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Broadway Auto Sales, 525 Broadway, 11 autos out.

RESULT: APPROVED

39. #192267 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, 429 Corp., 109-111 Prospect St., 5 autos.

RESULT: APPROVED

40. #192268 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Union Gulf Service, 231 Washington St., 6 autos.

RESULT: APPROVED

41. #192269 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Hillside Jaguar, 45 Mystic Ave., 10 autos.

RESULT: APPROVED

42. #192270 License/Permit Renewing Outdoor Seating License, Au Bon Pain, 118 Holland St., 34 tables, 68 seats.

RESULT: APPROVED

43. #192271 License/Permit Sign/Awning Permit, Ola Cafe, 112 Broadway, awning.

RESULT: APPROVED

44. #192272 License/Permit New Outdoor Parking License, George Dilboy Post 529 VFW, 371 Summer St., 30 autos.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

45. #192273 Public Communication Green Cab requesting consideration from this Board for a taxi fare increase.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

46. #192274 Green Cab requesting consideration from this Board and its Committees on Public Legislative Matters and Traffic and Parking for ways to facilitate taxi Communication medallion financing.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee
Traffic and Parking Committee

47. #192275 631 Somerville petitioners communicating their support for the proposed Public local hiring ordinance. Communication

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

48. #192276 Report of the Caucus of the 2012 Board of Aldermen, meeting on November Committee Report 22, 2011.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

49. #192277 By Ald. Gewirtz Communication Rescheduling to Tuesday, December 20, the Board meeting that had been previously scheduled for Thursday, December 22.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

50. #192278 By Ald. Roche Order That the City Clerk send a communication to Senator Patricia Jehlen and Representative Timothy Toomey, inquiring as to the status of the sound barrier along Route 93 and the Nunnery Grounds area.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

51. #192279 By Ald. Sullivan Resolution That this Board requests that NStar and National Grid create a policy to notify the Mayor's Office, Communications Dept., Constituent Services Dept. and all affected Aldermen of scheduled outages, ensuring that a repeat of the November 16 incident, where only residents were notified, is not repeated.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

52. #192280
Order
- By Ald. Sullivan, White Jr., Connolly, Desmond, Pero
That the Chief of Police appear before this Board’s Committee on Public Health and Safety to address the recent house break-ins in the Ten Hills neighborhood.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

53. #192281
Order
- By Ald. Sullivan, White Jr., Connolly, Desmond, Taylor, Heuston
That the Director of Traffic and Parking and the city’s Traffic Engineer appear before this Board’s Committee on Senior Services to address pedestrian safety concerns in Union Square.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Senior Services Committee

54. #192282
Order
- By Ald. Sullivan
That the Water Superintendent explain to this Board the policy for a non-working residential water transponder and the homeowner’s responsibility.

RESULT: APPROVED

LATE ITEMS

55. #192283
Order
- By Ald. Connolly
That the Director of Traffic and Parking post NO PARKING 6AM–6PM SATURDAY 11/26 on the City Hall Concourse, the Central Library parking lot (adjacent to the Brune Field House) and Highland Avenue from the Field House driveway to the City Hall Concourse, for the Annual SHS Craft Fair.

RESULT: APPROVED

56. #192284
Order
- By Ald. Connolly
That the Commissioner of Public Works install saw horse barriers at the entrance and exit of the City Hall Concourse and Brune Field House prior to 6AM Saturday 11/26, and supply 24 dozen orange traffic cones for crafters unloading into the Field House early Saturday morning.

RESULT: APPROVED

57. #192285
Resolution
- By Ald. Desmond, O’Donovan, Connolly, Gewirtz, and the Entire Board
That this Board supports an MBTA Red Line mitigation plan for Davis Square, to include discount advertising and a “Shop in Somerville” advertising campaign.

RESULT: APPROVED

58. #192286 Amending Garage License, Valvoline Instant Oil Change, 182 Washington
License/Permit St., requesting to operate Sundays, 10AM-4PM.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Submitted by John J. Long, City Clerk