



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council City Council Organizational Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 6, 2025

5:00 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

Councilor Lance Davis, being the oldest member in age, presided and called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [25-0001](#))

Councilor Mbah arrived at 5:11 PM.

Councilor Strezo arrived 5:15 PM.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

Present

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

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 2.1. Election Election of a President for 2025.
(ID # [25-0002](#))

MOTION: That Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld be elected President of this City Council.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld was nominated by Councilor Wilson, the nomination was seconded by Councilor Ewen-Campen. There being no further nominations, Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to close nominations, the motion was seconded by Councilor Wilson and approved. Councilor Pineda Neufeld was elected as President of the City Council for 2025. City Clerk Kimberly Wells administered the oath of office to Councilor Pineda Neufeld, who then assumed the chair.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

PRESENT: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah, and City Councilor At Large Strezo

2.2. Election
(ID # [25-0003](#))

Election of a Vice President for 2025.

MOTION: That Councilor Lance Davis be elected Vice President of this City Council.

Councilor Davis was nominated by Councilor Ewen-Campen, the nomination was seconded by Councilor Wilson. There being no further nominations, Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to close nominations, the motion was seconded by Councilor McLaughlin and approved. Councilor Davis was elected as Vice President of the City Council for 2025. City Clerk Kimberly Wells administered the oath of office to Councilor Davis.

RESULT: APPROVED

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

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Strezo

3. RECESS FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The City Council recessed at 5:13 PM for the organizational meeting of the School Committee and reconvened at 5:23 PM.

4. ADDRESSES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

4.1. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-0004](#))

School Committee Chair's Address.

Chairperson Ilana Krepchin gave a brief address.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 4.2. Communication President's Address.
(ID # [25-0005](#))

President Judy Pineda Neufeld gave a brief address.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 4.3. Mayor's Mayor's Mid-Term Address.
Communication
(ID # [25-0006](#))

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne delivered the State of the City address.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

5. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 5.1. Order By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # [25-0007](#)) That this City Council adopts for 2025 the Rules of the City Council as approved on May 9, 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 5.2. Order By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
(ID # [25-0008](#)) That this City Council hereby revives all business pending before this Council or its Committees at the end of 2024 and recommits the revived items back to this Council or its proper Committees, as attached.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 5.3. Order By Councilor Wilson
(ID # [25-0009](#)) That the bonds of the City Treasurer and Tax Collector be hereby accepted and approved.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 5.4. Order By Councilor Scott
(ID # [25-0010](#)) That the City Treasurer is hereby authorized to appoint Deputy Tax Collectors.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 5.5. Communication By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
(ID # [25-0011](#)) In her capacity as President, conveying this Council's Standing and Special Committee assignments and Commission appointments for 2025.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

6. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1. Election Drawing of seats.
(ID # [25-0012](#))

Councilors Clingan and Sait conducted the drawing of seats for 2025. The seat assignments are:

1. Councilor Mbah
2. Councilor Wilson
3. Councilor Ewen-Campen
4. Councilor Scott
5. Councilor McLaughlin
6. Councilor Burnley, Jr.
7. Councilor Sait
8. Councilor Strezo
9. Councilor Clingan
10. Councilor Davis
11. Councilor Pineda Neufeld

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

9. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was Adjourned at 6:26 PM.