

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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

NOTICE

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone’s Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this meeting of the City Council will be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Register at the following website to view this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7452069109734289164>.

OPENING CEREMONIES

1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # 23525)

2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # 23526)

3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting, August 5, 2020, and the Regular Meeting, August 27, 2020.
(ID # 23527)

CITATIONS

4. Citation By City Councilor McLaughlin
(ID # 23530) Commending Annie Connor, who is resigning after 4 years of dedicated service as the Mayor's liaison to this Council.

5. Citation By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne,
(ID # 23532) McLaughlin, and the Mayor
 Commending Ann Cassesso for celebrating 50 years--and counting--of dedicated service to the Somerville Public Library.

6. Citation By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne,
(ID # 23533) McLaughlin, and the Mayor
 Commending Wendy Wood as she retires after 40 years of dedicated service to the Somerville Public Library.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. Grant of Location (ID # 23497) Submitted by Eversource to install 180 feet of conduit in Somerville Ave from manhole #8652 to a point of pickup at 258 Somerville Ave.
8. Grant of Location (ID # 23498) Submitted by TC Systems to install 295 feet of conduit from utility pole 68/4 at the intersection of Church St and Somerville Ave, through two new handholes in Somerville Ave, and ending at a proposed Extenet handhole near 411 Somerville Ave at Quincy St.
9. Grant of Location (ID # 23495) Submitted by Comcast to install 32 feet of conduit in Alpine St from utility pole 7/2 to a point of pickup at 13 Alpine St.
10. Grant of Location (ID # 23496) Submitted by Comcast to install a total of 294 feet of conduit, starting from utility pole 316/8, traveling 17 feet to a proposed manhole at the intersection of South and Earle Sts, then continuing 182 feet to another proposed manhole in Earle St, then splitting with 18 feet going to property on Earle St and 77 feet going to the rear of 101 South St.
11. Grant of Location (ID # 23489) Submitted by Extenet to install 374 feet of conduit in Great River Road, from manhole #29469 to a proposed handhole, then continuing to a small wireless facility near 479 Canal St.
12. Grant of Location (ID # 23490) Submitted by Extenet to install 103 feet of conduit in Somerville Ave from manhole #20650 to a proposed handhole, then continuing to a small wireless facility near 411 Somerville Ave at Quincy St.
13. Grant of Location (ID # 23491) Submitted by Extenet to install 94 feet of conduit in Broadway from manhole #2633 to a proposed handhole, then continuing to a small wireless facility at the intersection of Broadway and Boston Ave.
14. Grant of Location (ID # 23492) Submitted by Extenet to install 86 feet of conduit in Broadway from manhole #2569 to a proposed handole, then continuing to a small wireless facility near 497 Broadway.
15. Grant of Location (ID # 23493) Submitted by Extenet to install 102 feet of conduit in Broadway from manhole #2572 to a proposed handhole, then continuing to a small wireless facility near 546 Broadway.

16. Grant of Location (ID # 23494) Submitted by Extenet to install 38 feet of conduit in Revolution Dr from manhole #26211 to a proposed handhole, then continuing to a small wireless facility near 75 Mystic Ave.

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

17. Resolution (ID # 23506) By City Councilor Ballantyne Supporting Tufts University students and Tufts Labor Coalition (TLC) in their advocacy efforts promoting a healthy and supportive working environment for Tufts Dining workers during COVID19 Pandemic..
18. Order (ID # 23507) By City Councilor Ballantyne That the Director of Finance, the Director of Parking and the Director of SPCD discuss scaling parking permit fees with automobile size and efficiency.
19. Order (ID # 23508) By City Councilor Ballantyne That all Department Heads share their FY21 missions and goals and FY20 achievements at this Council's next meeting on October 8, 2020.
20. Order (ID # 23509) By City Councilor Ballantyne That the Director of Finance and the Budget Director discuss ways to improve the user experience for OpenGov.
21. Order (ID # 23510) By City Councilor Ballantyne That the Director of SPCD update this Council on the Missatuck/Mystic River bike and pedestrian bridge project.
22. Order (ID # 23511) By City Councilor Ballantyne That the Director of Finance and the Director of SPCD discuss potential appropriations for requests from Somerville Cares (see attachment), restaurants and bars, arts and cultural organizations, and other groups.
23. Order (ID # 23512) By City Councilor Ballantyne That the Director of SPCD provide an update on the goal data for SomerVision 2030 by this Council's next meeting on October 8, 2020.
24. Order (ID # 23523) By City Councilor Ballantyne That the Director of SPCD inspect the trees along Broadway from Veterans Cemetery to Route 16, and replace the dead and dying trees.

25. Order (ID # 23520) By City Councilor Niedergang, Mbah That the Director of Sustainability and Environment and the Commissioner of Public Works report to this Council on assertions that most plastic is no longer being recycled and that it costs more to process as recycling than as trash, and report whether updated guidance should be provided to residents.
26. Resolution (ID # 23521) By City Councilor Niedergang That this Council and the Administration consider the policy recommendations conveyed in the Somerville Cares Fund update report of August 25, 2020, attached.
27. Communication (ID # 23522) By City Councilor Niedergang Reporting on the Traffic Commission's activities from May to September, 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

28. Resolution 210586 By City Councilor McLaughlin That the Mayor update this Council, in Executive Session, on alleged suspicious activity in the DPW Fleet yard in March of 2020.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

29. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 23517) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on September 17, 2020.
- B. Mayor's Request 204904 Requesting the re-appointment of John DeLuca as Director of Water & Sewer.
RECOMMENDED: Placed on File
- C. Mayor's Request 204921 Requesting the re-appointment of Candace Cooper as Director of Personnel.
RECOMMENDED: Placed on File
- D. Mayor's Request 204922 Requesting the appointment of Rachel Taylor as Animal Control Officer.
RECOMMENDED: Withdrawn
- E. Mayor's Request 207402 Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of John DeLuca as Director of Water & Sewer.
RECOMMENDED: Placed on File
- F. Mayor's Request 207408 Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Edward Bean as Finance Director.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- G. Mayor's Request 207412 Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Candace Cooper as Director of Personnel.

- RECOMMENDED: Placed on File
- H. Mayor's Request 209494 Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Edward Bean as Finance Director.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
 - I. Mayor's Request 209495 Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Edward Bean as Auditor.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
 - J. Mayor's Request 209497 Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of John DeLuca as Director of Water & Sewer.
RECOMMENDED: Placed on File
 - K. Mayor's Request 209515 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Rachel Taylor as Animal Control Officer.
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
 - L. Mayor's Request 209516 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Julie Coen as Animal Control Officer.
RECOMMENDED: Placed on File
 - M. Mayor's Request 209519 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Nancy Salamoun as Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission.
RECOMMENDED: Not Approved.
 - N. Mayor's Request 210145 Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Joseph P. Lynch, Jr., to the Licensing Commission.
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
 - O. Mayor's Request 210348 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of April Kuehnhoff to the position of Trustee for the Board of Library Trustees.
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
 - P. Mayor's Request 210491 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Kerri Connolly to the Memorialization Committee.
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
 - Q. Mayor's Request 210492 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Sara Marx to the Memorialization Committee.
RECOMMENDED: Approved.

30. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 23515) Report of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, meeting on September 16, 2020.
- B. Order 209565 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Davis, Clingan That the Director of SPCD help ensure the effectiveness of the Tenant Notification Act via a citywide mailer, and by ensuring that the Director of 311 and the Director of Inspectional Services inform all city employees of the enforcement of this policy.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- C. Order (ID # 23541) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the City Solicitor provide the Committee on Housing and Community Development with an opinion on whether the Tenant Notification Act could lead to a fine, indefinitely, following a first offense.
- D. Resolution (ID # 23542) By City Councilor Strezo
That the Administration commit to setting goals for contracting with minority and women-owned businesses.

31. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 23514) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on September 15, 2020.
- B. Ordinance 210185 By City Councilor Niedergang
Proposing an amendment to the zoning map to change 56 Murdock Street from the Neighborhood Residence to the Urban Residence district.
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
- C. Mayor's Request 210597 Submitted by Acting Mayor McLaughlin, requesting approval of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to the standards of Subsection 9.2.4.d for Cannabis Retail Sales uses.
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
- D. Order (ID # 23486) By City Councilor Niedergang
That the City Solicitor provide an opinion on whether issues of tenancy, affordable housing, and displacement can be a factor on a decision of a zoning change proposal.

32. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 23516) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on September 17, 2020.
- B. Mayor's Request 204278 Requesting the replacement of Ordinance 7-28 with a new Demolition Review Ordinance. with relevant updates to Ordinance 1-11 for violations.
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
- C. Officer's Communication 209020 Historic Preservation Planner responding to #204278 with a presentation regarding the draft Demolition Review Ordinance.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed.
- D. Mayor's Request 209740 Requesting approval of an ordinance authorizing participation in the MA Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program.

RECOMMENDED: Approved.

33. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 23519) Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on September 23, 2020.

- B. Resolution 210484 By City Councilor White Jr. That the Administration work with this Council for a smooth transition of outdoor seating permits when they reach the Council for renewal beyond November 1. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- C. Public Communication 210497 11 citizens submitting comments re: Tufts plans to re-open its campus in the fall. RECOMMENDED: Placed on File

- D. License/Permit 210504 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 136 Curtis St. RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.

- E. License/Permit 210505 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 176 Curtis St. RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.

- F. License/Permit 210506 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 90-92-94 Curtis St. RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.

- G. License/Permit 210507 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 12 Dearborn Rd. RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.

- H. License/Permit 210508 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 32 Dearborn Rd. RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.

- I. License/Permit 210509 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 98 Packard Ave. RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.

- J. License/Permit 210510 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 125 Powderhouse Blvd. RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.

- K. License/Permit 210511 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 8 Professors Row. RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.

- L. License/Permit 210512 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 14 Professors Row. RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.

- M. License/Permit 210513 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 28 Professors Row. RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.

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- N. License/Permit 210514 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 92 Professors Row.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - O. License/Permit 210515 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 106 Professors Row.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - P. License/Permit 210516 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 56-64 Professors Row.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - Q. License/Permit 210517 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 13 Sawyer Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - R. License/Permit 210518 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 37 Sawyer Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - S. License/Permit 210519 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 45 Sawyer Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - T. License/Permit 210520 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 9-11 Sunset Rd.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - U. License/Permit 210521 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 101 Talbot Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - V. License/Permit 210522 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 13-15 Talbot Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - W. License/Permit 210523 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 8 Whitfield Rd.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - X. License/Permit 210524 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 21 Whitfield Rd.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - Y. License/Permit 210525 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 15 Whitfield Rd.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - Z. License/Permit 210526 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 100 Talbot Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - AA. License/Permit 210527 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 45 Talbot Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - AB. License/Permit 210528 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 40A-F Latin Way.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
 - AC. License/Permit 210529 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 73 Powderhouse Blvd.

- RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AD. License/Permit 210530 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 29 Latin Way.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AE. License/Permit 210531 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 43 Latin Way.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AF. License/Permit 210532 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 39R Latin Way.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AG. License/Permit 210533 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 75-85 Packard Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AH. License/Permit 210534 Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 123 Packard Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AI. License/Permit 210535 Renewing Lodging House License, Walnut Hill Properties Theta Chi, 100 Packard Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AJ. License/Permit 210536 Renewing Lodging House License, Walnut Hill Properties Alpha Phi, 14 Sawyer Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AK. License/Permit 210537 Renewing Lodging House License, Walnut Hill Properties Alpha Omicron Pi, 25 Whitfield Rd.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AL. License/Permit 210538 Renewing Lodging House License, Walnut Hill Properties Zeta Beta Tau, 126 Packard Ave.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AM. License/Permit 210539 Renewing Lodging House License, Alpha Tau Omega, 134 Professors Row.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AN. License/Permit 210540 Renewing Lodging House License, Delta Tau Delta, 98 Professors Row.
RECOMMENDED: Approved with Conditions.
- AO. Order (ID # 23544) By City Councilor White Jr.
That through December 31, 2021, any business with a license from the Licensing Commission for outdoor food and/or beverage service for outdoor seating shall not require further authorization from this Council pursuant to Ordinance 12-14.

34. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 23513) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on September 14, 2020, as a Committee of the Whole.

35. RODENT ISSUES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 23518) Report of the Special Committee on Rodent Issues, meeting on September 23, 2020.

- B. Order 209799 By City Councilor Hirsch, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.
That the Director of Inspectional Services explain the procedures for monitoring problem properties for rodent activity, as compared to waiting until more complaints are filed.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- C. Order 210113 By City Councilor Hirsch, Mbah
That the Director of Health and Human Services explain how the pandemic and related closures may be affecting rodent activity or any planned eradication strategies.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- D. Order 210250 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.
That this Council's Special Committee on Rodent Issues discuss ways for renters to address rodent issues at their residences without fear of retribution from their landlords.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 36. Mayor's Request (ID # 23440) Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$6,086,250 in a bond for the remediation and renovation of Conway Park.

- 37. Mayor's Request (ID # 23371) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$151,162.15 using available funds in the DPW Building and Grounds budget.

- 38. Mayor's Request (ID # 23372) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$90,120.49 using available funds in the DPW Highway budget.

- 39. Mayor's Request (ID # 23358) Requesting approval to pay a variety of prior year invoices totaling \$17,214.11 using available funds in the DPW Administration budget.

- 40. Mayor's Request (ID # 23373) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$4,409.91 using available funds in the DPW Fleet budget.

41. Mayor's Request (ID # 23505) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice for \$220 using available funds in the Inspectional Services Department's Staff Development Account for staff training.
42. Mayor's Request (ID # 23466) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$96 using available funds in the Health and Human Services Professional & Technical Account for interpreter services.
43. Mayor's Request (ID # 23467) Requesting acceptance of a \$46,800 grant with no new match required, from Metropolitan Area Planning Council to the Health and Human Services Department to reduce transportation barriers to food access.
44. Mayor's Request (ID # 23354) Requesting acceptance of a \$37,315 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Mental Health to the Police Department for the Jail Diversion Program.
45. Mayor's Request (ID # 23485) Requesting acceptance of a \$5,000 grant with no new match required, from the MA Emergency Management Agency to the Fire Department for emergency management equipment.
46. Mayor's Request (ID # 23500) Requesting approval to enter into a power purchase agreement with Solect Energy Development for a solar system at the East Somerville Community School.
47. Mayor's Request (ID # 23501) Requesting approval to enter into a power purchase agreement with Solect Energy Development for a solar system at the High School.
48. Mayor's Request (ID # 23502) Requesting approval of an easement to Solect Energy Development for installation, maintenance, and operation of a roof-top solar energy system at the East Somerville Community School.
49. Mayor's Request (ID # 23503) Requesting approval of an easement to Solect Energy Development for installation, maintenance, and operation of a roof-top solar energy system at the High School.
50. Mayor's Request (ID # 23488) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for the 2017 street resurfacing contract with D&R General Contracting Inc.
51. Mayor's Request (ID # 23487) Requesting approval of the 2020-2021 HUD One Year Action Plan, for CDBG, HOME, and ESG programming.

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 52. Officer's Communication (ID # 23479) City Solicitor seeking approval of the settlement of a pending claim for \$249,713.69, for damages to the City Hall Annex in 2018.
- 53. Officer's Communication (ID # 23535) Urban Forestry Committee conveying a statement on the planned remediation of Conway Park.

NEW BUSINESS

- 54. License/Permit (ID # 23499) Renewing Drainlayer's License, CJ Doherty.
- 55. License/Permit (ID # 23484) Renewing Garage License, Mass Inspection, 712 Mystic Ave.
- 56. License/Permit (ID # 23536) Renewing Garage License, ONF Auto Body, 627 Somerville Ave.
- 57. License/Permit (ID # 23504) New Garage License, Nick's Foreign Car Center LLC, 64 Webster Ave, 3 vehicles inside, 5 outside, for mechanical repairs only, operating Mon-Fri 7:30AM-6PM, Sat-Sun Closed.
- 58. License/Permit (ID # 23528) Small Wireless Facility License, Extenet Systems attaching small cell equipment on a replacement pole at the intersection of Langmaid Avenue and Broadway.
- 59. License/Permit (ID # 23529) Small Wireless Facility License, Extenet Systems attaching small cell equipment on a replacement pole at the intersection of Vermont and Pennsylvania Avenues.
- 60. License/Permit (ID # 23531) Small Wireless Facility License, Extenet Systems attaching small cell equipment on a replacement pole at the intersection of Pinckney and Pearl Streets.
- 61. Public Communication (ID # 23534) Tufts President responding to #210606 re: Tufts' Covid-19 testing program.

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 62. Communication (ID # 23538) By City Councilor Rossetti Report of the High School Building Committee meeting of September 14, 2020.

63. Communication (ID # 23545) By City Councilor McLaughlin
Reporting on the September 21, 2020 School Department
Town Hall Meeting.
64. Order (ID # 23539) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of SPCD update this Council on the
citywide parking study that began last year.
65. Resolution (ID # 23540) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Administration update this Council on the
recommendations of the Internet Access Task Force that
was convened in 2018, and what the city is doing to
ensure that everyone has reliable access to the internet.
66. Mayor's Request (ID # 23543) Requesting acceptance of an \$8,529 grant with no new
match required, from the Secretary of State's CARES
Act funding to the Elections Department for the purchase
of 10 ballot boxes for mail-in voting.

LATE ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT