



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 22, 2023

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 7:07 PM by Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen.

The Council entered into recess at 7:14 PM and reconvened at 7:15 PM.

The Council entered into recess at 8:13 PM and reconvened at 8:25 PM.

The Council entered into recess at 10:03 PM and reconvened at 10:16 PM.

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [23-1100](#))

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

Present: City Councilor At Large Willie Burnley Jr.
City Councilor At Large Charlotte Kelly
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 Beatriz Gomez Mouakad
Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis
Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld

- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [23-1101](#))

Councilor McLaughlin and the entire Council requested a moment of silence in memory of Patricia Walker.

President Ewen-Campen requested a moment of silence in memory of Paul William Bradford.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 25, 2023.
(ID # [23-1102](#))

RESULT: **APPROVED**

2. CITATIONS

- 2.1. Citation By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
(ID # [23-1060](#)) Commending Kathleen Hern on the occasion of her retirement after 37 years of distinguished service as an educator, including 20 years at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld read the Citation and sponsored Wil Mbah to speak. Mr. Mbah thanked Ms. Hern on behalf of the residents and students of Somerville.

RESULT: APPROVED

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Communication By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # [23-1087](#)) In his capacity as President, cancelling this Council's Regular meetings scheduled for July 27 and August 10, 2023.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 5.1. Order By Councilor Wilson
(ID # [23-0922](#)) That the City Solicitor appear in executive session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to update this council on the status of collective bargaining negotiations with all municipal bargaining units.

RESULT: LAI D ON THE TABLE

- 5.2. Order By Councilor Burnley Jr.
(ID # [23-1001](#)) That this Council send back the FY 2024 budget until it incorporates demands of residents, including funding for a new Winter Hill School, housing security, and unarmed alternative emergency response outside of the Police Department.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel
(ID # [23-1079](#)) Matters, meeting on June 20, 2023.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld reported that a promotion in the Fire Department was recommended for approval.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the promotion of David Farino to Fire
(ID # [23-1035](#)) Lieutenant.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on June 5, 2023.
(ID # [23-1041](#))

Councilor Wilson gave a brief summary of all of the Finance Committee meetings that were held to discuss the FY 2024 budget. He thanked all city staff for their cooperation during the budget process.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.C. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting as a Committee of the Whole
(ID # [23-1042](#)) on June 5, 2023.

See item #23-1041.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on June 6, 2023.
(ID # [23-1043](#))

See item #23-1041.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.E. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.E.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on June 7, 2023.
(ID # [23-1044](#))

See item #23-1041.

Councilor Scott moved to sever item 6.E.2 (23-0550). See item #23-1116.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.E.2. Officer's Director of Water and Sewer conveying the FY 2024 Water & Sewer Rate
Communication proposal.
(ID # [23-0550](#))

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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

NAY: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

6.F. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.F.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on June 13, 2023.
(ID # [23-1056](#))

See item #23-1041.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.G. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.G.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on June 14, 2023.
(ID # [23-1077](#))

See item #23-1041.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.H. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.H.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on June 15, 2023.
(ID # [23-1078](#))

See item #23-1041.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.I. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.I.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on June 20, 2023.
(ID # [23-1080](#))

See item #23-1041.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.I.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a transfer of \$50,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Admin Salaries Account to the DPW Snow Removal Account to cover a deficit.
(ID # [23-0845](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.I.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0870](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$150,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Grounds Wages Account to the DPW Admin Motor Gas and Oil Account to fund invoices on hand and May & June expense.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.I.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0872](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$35,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Highway Salary Account to the DPW Admin Professional & Technical Account to cover May & June expenses.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.I.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0873](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$211,370.90 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Highway Wages Account to the DPW Buildings Electricity Account for May & June expenses.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.I.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0875](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$45,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Highway Wages Account to the DPW Snow Removal Account to cover a deficit.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.I.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0964](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$11,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Highway Fence Installation Account to the DPW Buildings Moving Services Account for school related moving services.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.I.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1039](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$188,629.10 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Custodial Salaries Account to the DPW Snow Removal Account to cover a deficit.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J FINANCE COMMITTEE
- 6.J1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1081](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on June 21, 2023.
See item #23-1041.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J2. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0824](#)) City Clerk submitting recommendations for adjustments to certain fees charged by the City Clerk's Office, effective July 1, 2023.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0829](#)) Requesting approval to execute the Second Amendment to the lease agreement with Dana Family Series, LLC, for the Grove Street parking lot, through June 30, 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

- 6.J4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0852](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$550 from the Engineering Personal Services Account to the Infrastructure & Asset Management (IAM) Personal Services Account to fund IAM Somerville Municipal Employees Association (SMEA) staff holiday and longevity pay.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0853](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$25,000 from the Parks and Recreation Professional & Technical Services Account to the Parks & Recreation Salaries & Wages Temp Account for school staff coaching of intramural sports.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0854](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$18,000 from the Parks & Recreation Fields Personal Services Account to the Parks & Recreation Rec/Youth Program Personal Services Account to cover the remainder of the fiscal year for teen spaces.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0857](#)) Requesting revocation of the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F 1/2 of the Massachusetts General Laws, ceasing the Veterans Memorial Ice Rink as an Enterprise Fund, effective fiscal year 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

6.J8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0877](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$3,592.59 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Elevator R&M Account for elevator service.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.J9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0878](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$248,419.50 from the Infrastructure and Asset Management (IAM)-Capital Projects Engineering & Architecture Account to the Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund for continuing building design services.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.J10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0879](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$817,137.42 from the Infrastructure and Asset Management (IAM)-Capital Projects Professional & Technical Account to the Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund for continuing building design services.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.J11. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0880](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$151,252.50 from the Infrastructure and Asset Management (IAM)-Engineering & Architecture Account to the Street Reconstruction Stabilization Fund for continuing street, sidewalk, and pavement condition assessment and design services.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.J12. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0881](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$69,184.64 from the Infrastructure and Asset Management (IAM) Professional & Technical Account to the Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund for continuing asset management program and planning services.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.J13. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0903](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$646.08 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Plumbing R&M Account for asbestos sampling.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J14. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0904](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$248,419.50 from the Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund for continuing building design services.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

- 6.J15. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0906](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$817,137.42 from the Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund for continuing building design services.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

- 6.J16. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0907](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$151,252.50 from the Street Reconstruction Stabilization Fund for continuing street, sidewalk, and pavement condition assessment and design services.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

- 6.J17. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0908](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$69,184.64 from the Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund for continuing asset management program and planning services.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

6.J18. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0924](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$319,923,766 to fund the FY 2024 General Fund Operating Budget.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

6.J19. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0926](#)) Requesting the rescission of \$13,232,471 of authorized but un-issued borrowings.

Director of Capital Projects Rich Raiche explained that these will be addressed as part of larger projects.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.J20. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0927](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$2,383,367 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Rainy Day Stabilization Fund.

Finance Director Bean stated that the city will have in excess of \$7 million in rainy day funds with approval of this item. This will be adjusted as revenue increases.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.J21. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0928](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$2,000,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund.

Finance Director Bean said that the new balance is in area of \$7.7 million and that the city is in negotiations with all unions now.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.J22. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0929](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Compensated Absence Liability Fund.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.J23. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0931](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$4,676,448 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Street Reconstruction and Renovation Stabilization Fund to support the FY 2023 5-Year Capital Investment Plan.

RESULT: APPROVED

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- 6.J24. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0932](#)) Requesting approval of the expenditure limitations for departmental Revolving Funds for FY 2024.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J25. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0934](#)) Requesting the appropriation or reserve of \$3,283,713 in estimated FY 2024 Community Preservation Act (CPA) revenue for CPA projects and expenses.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J26. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0935](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$638,218 to fund the FY 2024 Kennedy School Pool Enterprise Fund budget.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J27. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0936](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$221,481 from the Kennedy School Pool Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings Account to the FY 2024 Kennedy School Pool Enterprise Fund budget.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J28. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0938](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$40,000 from the Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings Account to the FY 2024 Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund budget.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J29. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0939](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,600,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Sewer Stabilization Fund to support the Water-Sewer Capital Investment Plan.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J30. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0941](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$400,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Water Stabilization Fund to support the Water-Sewer Capital Investment Plan.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J31. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0942](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,636,836 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Parks Stabilization Fund to support the FY 2023 5-Year Capital Investment Plan.
RESULT: APPROVED
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- 6.J32. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0943](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$5,890,276 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to support the FY 2023 5-Year Capital Investment Plan.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J33. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0945](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$271,200 to fund the FY 2024 Dilboy Fields Enterprise Fund budget.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J34. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0946](#)) Superintendent of Schools conveying the School Department budget, approved by the School Committee's Finance and Facilities Subcommittee, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on May 16, 2023.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
- 6.J35. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0948](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$33,863,918 to fund the FY 2024 Sewer Enterprise Fund budget.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J36. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0949](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$18,996,902 to fund the FY 2024 Water Enterprise Fund budget.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J37. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0952](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$20,284.55 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Hazardous Waste Removal Account for removal services.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J38. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0953](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,042.75 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Fire Alarm R&M Account for fire extinguisher maintenance services.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J39. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0954](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$800 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Rubbish Removal Account for removal of concrete debris.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J40. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0955](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$2,536.63 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Natural Gas Account for gas in city buildings.
RESULT: APPROVED
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RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J41. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0966](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$259,382 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Energy Stabilization Fund for projects that reduce carbon emissions and energy costs.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J42. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0967](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$500,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Open Space Acquisition Stabilization Fund to acquire new publicly accessible open space.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J43. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0968](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$3,000,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to support flexible rental assistance programs.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J44. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0969](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,500,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J45. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0971](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$170,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Capital Stabilization Fund for additional monies for site preparation, construction, and furnishing of a safe consumption site.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J46. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0973](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$300,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to fund the Emergency Response Stabilization Fund. Finance Director Bean said the parameters of who would disburse the funds haven't been finalized yet.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J47. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0974](#)) Requesting approval to create the Emergency Response Stabilization Fund for maintaining, distributing, and providing food, temporary shelter, and other common necessities of life for residents displaced by public exigency, emergency, or distress, as codified in the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 19.

RESULT: APPROVED

- AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld
- 6.J48. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0975](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$12,800 from the Unemployment Compensation Account to the Recreation/Youth Program Salaries & Wages Temporary Account to provide additional staff support for the displaced Winter Hill Community Innovation School students.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J49. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0980](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$1,750,036 from the Salary Contingency Account-Salaries to the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J50. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0982](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,300,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings Account to the Sewer Capital Stabilization Fund to build reserves for the Water-Sewer Capital Improvement Program.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J51. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0983](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings Account to the Water Stabilization Fund to support the Water-Sewer Capital Investment Plan.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J52. Order (ID # [23-1107](#)) By Councilor Kelly
That line 01-12151 of the Administration - Executive Office Personal Services Account be reduced by \$81,670 in account number 511000, to eliminate the position of Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J53. Resolution (ID # [23-1109](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Administration add \$1.5 million to the FY 2024 budget for an alternative emergency response program.
RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.J54. Resolution (ID # [23-1110](#)) By Councilor Wilson
That the Administration increase funding for line 51-511000 to hire a planner in the Planning, Preservation and Zoning Department.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J55. Resolution (ID # [23-1111](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Administration increase funding by \$86,151 for line 51-511000, for a Planner position dedicated to the City Council and assigned to the City Clerk's Office.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J56. Resolution (ID # [23-1112](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Administration add \$86,594.57 to the Personal Services line in the Economic Development Department to fund a Program Manager for Prevailing Wage, Living Wage, and Wage Theft Ordinance Oversight under a Workforce Development Division.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J57. Resolution (ID # [23-1113](#)) By Councilor Kelly
That the Administration allocate \$57,000 to line 01-19052, the Housing Stability Professional and Technical Services Account 530000 for contracted legal services for tenants.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.J58. Resolution (ID # [23-1114](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Administration allocate all available Free Cash (\$82,715) to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.K. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE
- 6.K.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1051](#)) Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on June 12, 2023.
Councilor Burnley gave the report and noted that a number of applicants did not appear. There was some resident feedback on an item for a flammables license and Councilor Clingan, who had chaired the committee meeting, explained that it was just a transfer of the license and not a change of use.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.K.2. License (ID # [23-0589](#)) Renewing Garage License, Herb Chambers, 259 McGrath Hwy.

	RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u>
6.K.3. License (ID # 23-0593)	Renewing Garage License, Mercedes Benz of Boston, 161 Linwood St.
	RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u>
6.K.4. License (ID # 23-0594)	Renewing Garage License, Mercedes Benz of Boston Commercial Vans, 161 Linwood St.
	RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u>
6.K.5. License (ID # 23-0600)	Renewing Outdoor Parking License, Mercedes Benz of Boston, 161 Linwood St.
	RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u>
6.K.6. License (ID # 23-0752)	New Garage License, Zone Kar, 166 Boston Ave, 2 cars inside, 4 outside for mechanical repairs only, Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:30pm, Sat & Sun closed.
	RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u>
6.K.7. License (ID # 23-0774)	New Billiards and Bowling License, The Public, 563 Broadway, 2 pool tables.
	RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u>
6.K.8. License (ID # 23-0917)	New Garage License, Somerville Auto Center, 193 Somerville Avenue, 18 cars inside only, for autobody work and spray painting, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.
	1) The spray booth must be used at all times for spray painting, and maintained in good condition to prevent paint fumes in the neighborhood. 2) This license allows no overnight exterior parking of vehicles being serviced at this location. 3) The hours of operation for this business are to be strictly observed to prevent disruption in the neighborhood.
	RESULT: <u>APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS</u>
6.K.9. License (ID # 23-0918)	New Used Car Dealer License Class 2, John's Auto Sales, 166 Boston Avenue, 28 cars outside, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.
	RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u>
6.K.10. License (ID # 23-0919)	New Flammables License, John's Auto Sales, 166 Boston Avenue, 7,000 gallons.
	RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u>

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0925](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 2-322 and 2-323 of the Code of Ordinances, to update categories and associated salaries for non-union positions.

President Ewen-Campen commented that his understanding was that grade changes were not going to be made until after the compensation study was completed, and he noted that about 50 had been changed already. Human Resources Director Gill said a few were changed but she didn't have the specifics with her. Councilor Davis pointed out that the changes look like alphabetizing and Director Gill agreed and said that some were title changes and others were to correct clerical errors. Councilor Scott noted that the Chief Assessor had a grade change as did the Director of Parks and Recreation. Councilor Kelly asked why this item couldn't go to committee and President Ewen-Campen explained that if passed tonight, employees would get raise on July 1st, otherwise it would come later. Councilor Scott said this does not affect salaries for all employees. Finance Director Bean said that retroactive payments could be made to July 1 if this item is passed at a later date.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1063](#)) Requesting approval of the First Amendment to Fiber Optic Communications Easement Agreement with TOWARDEX.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1, 7.2, 7.6, and 7.7 and requested that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1069](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$155,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Immigrant Legal Services Stabilization Fund for immigration legal services.

SomerViva Director Maria Teresa Nagel spoke on the items and told the members that last year, an additional \$45,000 was added to the department's budget and it still wasn't enough. She explained that attorneys are at capacity, and this has resulted in some increased costs.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1072](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$200,000 from the Immigrant Legal Services Stabilization Fund for continuing legal services.

See item #23-1069.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1071](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$45,000 from various Ordinance Maintenance Accounts in the Office of Immigrant Affairs to the Immigrant Legal Services Stabilization Fund.
- See item #23-1069.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED**
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1065](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$500,000 grant amendment with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services to the Health and Human Services Department for regional youth substance misuse prevention efforts.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1, 7.2, 7.6, and 7.7 and requested that they be referred to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1088](#)) Requesting authorization to seek funding and enter into related agreements with the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant, appropriate funding, and dedicate 217 Somerville Avenue as open space and recreational use in perpetuity.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1, 7.2, 7.6, and 7.7 and requested that they be referred to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1059](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Michael Switkez to the Biosafety Committee.
- President Ewen-Campen moved to waive the readings of items 7.8 through 7.10 and refer them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1064](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Francine Rogers to the Biosafety Committee.
- President Ewen-Campen moved to waive the readings of items 7.8 through 7.10 and refer them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1075](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Elizabeth Champion to the Condominium Review Board.
- President Ewen-Campen moved to waive the readings of items 7.8 through 7.10 and refer them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee
- 7.11. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-1058](#)) Conveying the appointment of Evelyn Persoff to the Municipal Compensation Advisory Board.
- RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE
- 8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS**
- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-1053](#)) School Committee conveying a resolution regarding the Winter Hill Community Innovation School, approved at the School Committee meeting of June 12, 2023.
- RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE
- 9. NEW BUSINESS**
- 9.1. License (ID # [23-1062](#)) New Garage License, New England Collision Center Inc, 224 Somerville Ave, 10 cars inside, 4 cars outside for mechanical repairs, autobody work, spray painting, and washing vehicles, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, and Sun: closed.
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the reading of item 9.1 and requested that it be referred to the Committee on Licenses and Permits.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Licenses and Permits Committee
- 9.2. License (ID # [23-1061](#)) Renewing Garage License, GE Auto Repair, 631 Somerville Ave.

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| | RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u> |
| 9.3. Public Event
(ID # 23-1066) | Parks and Recreation Department applying for a Public Event License for Family Fun Day on June 24 from 10am to 4:30pm. |
| | RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u> |
| 9.4. Public Event
(ID # 23-1096) | Rob Moir applying for a Public Event License for Climate Action starts with Healthy Soils on July 5 from 1:30pm to 6:30pm (raindate July 7). |
| | RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u> |
| 9.5. Public Event
(ID # 23-1074) | Portuguese-American Civic League applying for a Public Event License for Holy Ghost Fest on July 7, July 8, and July 9 from various start times. |
| | RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u> |
| 9.6. Public Event
(ID # 23-1089) | St Benedict Parish applying for a Public Event License for A mile with Jesus on July 9 from 10:30am to 1pm. |
| | RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u> |
| 9.7. Public Event
(ID # 23-1090) | Aaron Greiner applying for a Public Event License for Perry St BP on July 9 from 11am to 7pm (raindate July 8). |
| | RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u> |
| 9.8. Public Event
(ID # 23-1093) | Mathias Neuber applying for a Public Event License for Electric Ave BP on July 30 from 11am to 6pm. |
| | RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u> |
| 9.9. Public Event
(ID # 23-1097) | Jaclyn Pilch applying for a Public Event License for Spring Hill Terrace BP on August 9 from 4pm to 10pm (raindate August 10). |
| | RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u> |
| 9.10. Public Event
(ID # 23-1098) | Paul Morgan applying for a Public Event License for Family Bike Ride CPX Ride on August 19 from 9:30am to 10:30am (raindate August 20). |
| | RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u> |
| 9.11. Public Event
(ID # 23-1091) | Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Evolution of Hip Hop on August 19 from 2pm to 9:30pm (raindate August 20). |
| | RESULT: <u>APPROVED</u> |
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- 9.12. Public Event
(ID # [23-1094](#)) Trudi Cohen applying for a Public Event License for Brass Band 20th Anniversary Celebration on August 27 from 4pm to 9pm.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.13. Public Event
(ID # [23-1095](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Rock and Roll Yard Sale on September 10 from 7am to 7pm (raindate September 17).
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.14. Public Event
(ID # [23-1092](#)) Mark Chenevert applying for a Public Event License for Belmont St South BP on September 24 from 1:30pm to 6:30pm (raindate October 1).
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.15. Public Event
(ID # [23-1099](#)) Harris Gruman applying for a Public Event License for Honk Festival on October 6, 7, and 8 from various start times.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.16. Public
Communication
(ID # [23-1070](#)) Daniel C. and Lieba R. Savitt requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 113 Prospect Street from Urban Residence (UR) to Neighborhood Residence (NR).
RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
- 9.17. Public
Communication
(ID # [23-1054](#)) Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) conveying the alteration of location of a section of State highway.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
- 9.18. Public
Communication
(ID # [23-1055](#)) Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) conveying the alteration of location of a section of State highway.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
- 9.19. Public
Communication
(ID # [23-1067](#)) Winter Hill Community Innovation School Parent Teacher Association and Adrienne Bruno submitting comments re: the Winter Hill Community Innovation School.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
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- 9.20. Public Communication (ID # [23-1068](#)) Union Square Neighborhood Council and nine residents submitting comments re: item #23-0635, a Zoning Text Amendment to permit variations to build out regulations by special permit in the CC5 District, USQ sub-area.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 9.21. Public Communication (ID # [23-1073](#)) Four residents submitting comments re: item #23-0919, New Flammables License, 166 Boston Avenue.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Communication (ID # [23-1116](#)) By Councilor Scott Conveying information regarding the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Water and Sewer rates.

Councilor Scott pointed out that of 10 positions in the department, 10 are vacant and have been for a year. The positions pay \$51,000 per year, making it difficult to fill the positions. The management of those positions is unacceptable and results in higher rates to taxpayers. Outside contractors are being paid over \$2 million to do the work, costing the taxpayers 4 times as much vs. having the work done in-house. Councilor Scott gave a breakdown of water and sewer costs showing how salary funding is distributed. He also presented a comparison of FY 2023 vs. FY 2024 data showing the number of positions added and cut for both union and non-union. He said that ratepayers are being asked for major increases in rates while conceding that there's nothing that can be done to lower cost by having work done in-house, and the failure to negotiate fair wages just passes on the cost to taxpayers. If rates are not approved, there would be a \$2 million hole in the department, that would hopefully be a driving impetus towards a speedy resolution. Councilor Strezo stated that she won't support these rate increases as they will strain low-income residents. Councilor Gomez Mouakad said that she thought the increases were tied to the Poplar Street Pump Station project.

Finance Director Haynes explained that the department is not intentionally cutting positions, but rather is redistributing manpower and awaiting the wage study to help with hiring to fill the positions. Contract costs are increasing by 20% across the board and without revenue capacity, the city can't respond to emergencies nor provide pristine water and sanitation services. The debt service is scheduled to double next year. Capital Projects Director Raiche said the city is working on a combined sewer system and that the EPA is expected to enforce overflow requirements using a guide of 4% of MHI. That would put the city's rates at quadruple over 10 years. The current increase is intended to forestall being hit with huge increases in a few years. Not increasing rates puts the city in a very bad position next year

and over the next 5 years. President Ewen-Campen asked about the jobs not being listed in the budget and not being filled. Director Haynes replied that the department has a significant amount of lag money and if the positions are filled this year, the budget would cover the cost. The department is working with HR to come up with creative ways to hire and retain employees in the department.

Councilor Clingan asked if the positions could be eliminated in favor of outsourcing the work and Director Gill said all decisions impacting union jobs must be negotiated. In this case, the jobs aren't being cut - the funds are being channeled to another account to pay for getting the work done. Councilor Kelly commented that this seems like a crisis situation and could be considered a move towards privatization. Councilor Scott claimed that a document being shown at this meeting of the sewer department personnel was changed from the time the budget was approved tonight until now and he asked that it be removed from view. Being told that even though the positions are not listed in the budget book and that they do exist on another list, Councilor Davis claims that the city can't hire for a position that's not listed in the budget book. Budget Director Mastrobuoni provided some context on the matter. He explained that the Tuesday through Saturday crew was established a few years ago aspirationally to build out a 2nd crew to perform work that wasn't being done by city employees. The intent has always been to staff up the department to do the work in-house. Councilor McLaughlin said this makes no sense. Rate increases won't eliminate the need for work to be done, but a lot of people can't afford the increases. Councilor Wilson said the rate increase is being held hostage in order to get positions filled. President Ewen-Campen supports the effort being made for leverage but thinks not voting for the rate increases would be irresponsible. Councilor Scott asked Director Gill if changing to outside work was run by the union and she said that since there are no positions listed in the book, there can be no grievance.

Councilor Clingan commented that it looks like city isn't bargaining with the unions in good faith and people will suffer as a result. Councilor Burnley called the question and Councilor Davis opposed the motion to call the question, saying that it's irresponsible to cut off the conversation. Councilor McLaughlin opposed the motion as well and Councilor Burnley withdrew the motion.

Councilor Gomez Mouakad reminded members of the consequences of not investing in the city's infrastructure. President Ewen-Campen asked if the positions could be listed in the book and Director Mastrobuoni said that would not be a problem. Councilor Davis acknowledged that the money will come from taxpayers either way.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 10.2. Resolution (ID # [23-1117](#))
By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration declare the second week of August as de-"RAT"ification week on an annual basis, with a public education campaign that includes events and announcements, and the full use of the city's communication apparatus.
Councilor Clingan spoke about the seriousness of the rat problem and thinks it's important for everyone in the city to work together on this problem.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 10.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1104](#))
Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 7-63 through 7-67 of the Code of Ordinances, the Condominium Conversion Ordinance.
RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee
- 10.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1118](#))
Requesting the appropriation of \$319,923,766 to fund the FY 2024 General Fund Operating Budget.
Budget Director Michael Mastrobuoni addressed the Council on the amended FY 2024 budget memo and explained that the adjustments fall into 3 categories; 1) corrections/adjustments to departmental budgets, 2) actual cuts made to the budget, and 3) reinvestment/salary contingency. The overall changes result in a net increase of \$0.00.
Councilor Gomez Mouakad requested that the Wahe Theft job description be ready by September 4th.
Councilor Davis thanked the Administration for incorporating many of the recommendations submitted by the Council and asked if the additional Planner position is a dedicated position to assist the City Council. Director Mastrobuoni replied that it is another planner for the Planning Department.
Councilor Burnley said that he sees evidence of cooperation in the budget but noted that his request for an alternate response program was not included. Councilor Scott stated that he compiled \$2 million in proposed budget cuts, however, he won't be reviewing them tonight. He stated that he can't, in good conscience, vote for this budget.
RESULT: APPROVED

- AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld
- NAY:** Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- 10.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1105](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$82,715 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 10.6. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-1115](#)) Planning Board conveying recommendations for items #23-0506, #23-0635, and #23-0660.
- RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**
- 10.7. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-1106](#)) Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development conveying information regarding item #23-0506, an amendment to Section 12.2 of the Zoning Ordinances to reflect the recommendations in the 2022 Somerville Linkage Nexus Study.
- RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**
- 10.8. Public Communication (ID # [23-1103](#)) Corey Donahue submitting comments re: Climate Forward carbon emission goals.
- RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**
- 10.9. Public Communication (ID # [23-1108](#)) Three residents submitting comments re: FY 2024 budget.
- RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**
- 11. LATE ITEMS**
- 11.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0506](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 12.2 of the Zoning Ordinances to reflect the recommendations in the 2022 Somerville Linkage Nexus Study.
- Councilor McLaughlin requested that 23-0506 and 23-0660 be discharged from the Committee on Land Use and asked that they be approved tonight. Both are amendments to the Zoning Ordinances. Item #23-0506 deal with

linkage fees and item #23-0660 with Affordable Housing. Councilor Davis asked if the Administration still supports these items. Director Galligani replied that they do support them, as presented. Councilor Davis stated that the fees have been recommended by professionals and he supports both items. Councilor Wilson commented that the linkage fees won't be responsible for any development slowdowns. President Ewen-Campen suggested that anyone interested in affordable housing should read the Nexus study on linkage fees.

RESULT: **ORDINANCE ORDAINED**

AYE: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

11.2. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-0660](#))

Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 8.1, Affordable Housing, of the Zoning Ordinances to remove errant text and amend the dimensional standards.

See item #23-0506.

RESULT: **ORDINANCE ORDAINED**

AYE: City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, 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 Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 10:54 PM.