



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council City Council Organizational Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 2, 2026

10:30 AM

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

Present

- City Councilor At Large Jon Link
- City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah
- City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo
- City Councilor At Large Ben Wheeler
- 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 Emily Hardt

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 AM by Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin.

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [26-0001](#))

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

2. CERTIFICATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

- 2.1. Officer's Election Commissioner submitting the results of the City Election held on
Communication November 4, 2025.
(ID # [26-0002](#))

The certified November 4, 2025 election results were accepted. All elected individuals were then sworn in to their respective offices.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 3.1. Election Election of a President for 2026.
(ID # [26-0003](#))

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

Councilor Davis was nominated by Councilor Mbah, 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 Link and approved on a voice vote. Councilor Davis was elected as President of the City Council for 2026. City Clerk Kimberly Wells administered the oath of office to Councilor Davis, who then assumed the chair.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, 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 Hardt

ABSENT: Ward Two City Councilor Scott

3.2. Election
(ID # [26-0004](#))

Election of a Vice President for 2026.

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

Councilor Mbah was nominated by Councilor McLaughlin, the nomination was seconded by Councilor Clingan. There being no further nominations, Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to close nominations, the motion was seconded by Councilor Link and approved on a voice vote. Councilor Mbah was unanimously elected as President of the City Council for 2026. City Clerk Kimberly Wells administered the oath of office to Councilor Mbah.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, 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 Hardt

4. RECESS FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The meeting recessed at 10:50 AM for the organizational meeting of the School Committee and reconvened at 11:01 AM.

5. ADDRESSES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

President Davis shared that the addresses of the City Council President, the School Committee Chair and the Mayor will be delivered during tomorrow evening's inaugural ceremonies at Somerville High School at 6:00 PM.

6. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 6.1. Order By Councilor Davis
(ID # [26-0005](#)) That this City Council adopts for 2026 the Rules of the City Council as approved on December 11, 2025.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.2. Order By Councilor McLaughlin
(ID # [26-0006](#)) That the bonds of the City Treasurer and Tax Collector be hereby accepted and approved.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.3. Order By Councilor Scott
(ID # [26-0007](#)) That the City Treasurer is hereby authorized to appoint Deputy Tax Collectors.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.4. Order By Councilor Clingan
(ID # [26-0010](#)) That this City Council hereby commits pending business in Committees that have been eliminated by the amendments to the Rules of December 11, 2025, to updated standing committees, as attached.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.5. Communication By Councilor Davis
(ID # [26-0008](#)) In his capacity as President, conveying this Council's Standing Committee assignments and Commission appointments for 2026.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. Election Drawing of seats.
(ID # [26-0009](#))

Councilors Hardt and Link conducted the drawing of seats for 2026. The seat assignments are:

1. Councilor Ewen-Campen
2. Councilor Link
3. Councilor Scott
4. Councilor Clingan
5. Councilor Strezo

- 6. Councilor Sait
- 7. Councilor Wheeler
- 8. Councilor Hardt
- 9. Councilor McLaughlin
- 10. Councilor Mbah
- 11. Councilor Davis

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 11:05 AM.