



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## City Council

### Regular Meeting Agenda

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Thursday, May 9, 2024

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote  
Participation

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Published May 7, 2024, 1:30 PM, Revised May 9, 2024 12:00 PM.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audiovideo 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 listen to this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_G-Pp0xeqQcuOTq9y2cpN-g](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G-Pp0xeqQcuOTq9y2cpN-g)

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e. CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance, at 617-625-6600 x2059 or [ada@somervillema.gov](mailto:ada@somervillema.gov).

#### 1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call                      Call of the Roll.  
(ID # [24-0675](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances              Remembrances.  
(ID # [24-0676](#))
- 1.3. Minutes                        Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April  
(ID # [24-0677](#))                      11, 2024.
- 1.4. Minutes                        Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April  
(ID # [24-0678](#))                      11, 2024.

#### 2. CITATIONS

#### 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location              Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 7  
(ID # [24-0628](#))                      feet of conduit in Main Street, from Utility Pole 146/5 to  
a point of pickup at 37-39 Main Street.

- 3.2. Grant of Location (ID # [24-0639](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 77 feet of conduit in Clyde Street, from Utility Pole 74/2 to a point of pickup at 13-15 Clyde Street.

#### 4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [24-0662](#)) By Councilor Clingan  
That the Director of Engineering assess the timing of the traffic light at Main Street and Broadway and consider lengthening the cycle time.
- 4.2. Order (ID # [24-0663](#)) By Councilor Clingan  
That the Environmental Health Coordinator appear before the Special Committee on Rodent Issues to present the 2024 Integrated Pest Management Plan.
- 4.3. Order (ID # [24-0664](#)) By Councilor Clingan  
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management address the structural safety and rodent issues with the city-owned building on Skilton Avenue.
- 4.4. Order (ID # [24-0665](#)) By Councilor Clingan  
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management devise and share with this Council a long-term plan for the city-owned building at 10 Skilton Avenue.
- 4.5. Resolution (ID # [24-0667](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Clingan  
In Support of An Act Establishing Protections and Accountability for Transportation Network Companies (TNC) and Delivery Network Companies (DNC) Workers.

#### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

##### 6.A. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0620](#)) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on May 1, 2024.
- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0474](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Charles D. Richardson to the position of Fire Captain.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0625](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on May 7, 2024.
- 6.B.2. Order (ID # [24-0337](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Scott That the Director of Water and Sewer and the Director of Procurement and Contracting Services update this Council on the bidding process for IFB 24-39 (Repairs to Water Main Gate Valves and Appurtenance) and IFB 24-29 (Water Distribution System Maintenance & Repairs) and ensure documentation is updated on the city's website for these bids and the previous versions of these bids (IFB 21-51 and IFB 21-52) when they were previously awarded in 2021.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0564](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$13,800 from the Police Salaries Account to the Police Special Items Rental Buildings Account to pay the remaining East Substation lease payments for FY 2024.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0565](#)) Requesting approval of a Pedestrian Access Sidewalk Easement and Maintenance License at 599 Somerville Avenue.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0572](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$237,468 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Department of Public Works Buildings Interior Building Maintenance Account for repairs to the Dilboy Pool.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0573](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$1,095,000 from various Department of Public Works personal services accounts to the Department of Public Works Buildings Electricity Account to cover a deficit.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0574](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$248,111 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Department of Public Works Buildings Natural Gas Account for the remediation of an expected year end deficit.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0575](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$243,094 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to the Office of Sustainability and Environment, for a residential decarbonization outreach campaign and two-year Energy Advisor position.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0576](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$150,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Facility Renovation and Reconstruction Stabilization Fund for building improvements at 77 Broadway for the East Somerville Police sub-station.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0577](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$2,041,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Facility Renovation and Reconstruction Stabilization Fund for continued renovations to the Edgerly School to accommodate Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School students.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0578](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$2,041,000 from the Facility Renovation and Reconstruction Stabilization Fund for continued renovations to the Edgerly School to accommodate Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School students.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0579](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$400,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Emergency Response Stabilization Fund to provide temporary shelter, food, and other common necessities of life to displaced individuals and families.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0580](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$400,000 from the Emergency Stabilization Fund to support critical emergency shelter services.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

## 6.C. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0624](#)) Report of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, meeting on May 7, 2024.

- 6.C.2. Order  
(ID # [24-0043](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott and Councilor Wilson  
That the Director of Economic Development update this Council on the "Mitigating Commercial Displacement in Somerville" report, released in December 2023, and any action steps taken as a result of the report.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.C.3. Order  
(ID # [24-0047](#))
- By Councilor Mbah  
That the Director of Housing and the Director of the Office of Housing Stability report on the feasibility of fair housing enforcement.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.C.4. Order  
(ID # [24-0152](#))
- By Councilor Clingan  
That the Director of Housing and the Director of the Office of Housing Stability discuss the parameters of qualification used by building owners and managers in selecting lottery winners for awarding lower income units.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D. LAND USE COMMITTEE
- 6.D.1. Committee Report  
(ID # [24-0621](#))
- Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting in Joint Session with the Planning Board on May 2, 2024.
- 6.E. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE
- 6.E.1. Committee Report  
(ID # [24-0619](#))
- Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on April 30, 2024.
- 6.E.2. Mayor's  
Communication  
(ID # [24-0145](#))
- Conveying the 2023 Surveillance Technology Annual Report.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.3. Ordinance  
(ID # [24-0543](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That Section 9-35 of the Code of Ordinances be amended to fulfill quorum requirements for the Wage Theft Advisory Committee.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be placed on file.

6.F. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- 6.F.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits,  
(ID # [24-0626](#)) meeting on May 8, 2024.
- 6.F.2. License New Garage License, Mercedes Benz of Boston, 161  
(ID # [24-0549](#)) Linwood St, 0 vehicles inside, 25 vehicles outside for  
mechanical repairs, auto body work, and spray painting,  
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat:; 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.G. OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

- 6.G.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Open Space, Environment  
(ID # [24-0623](#)) and Energy, meeting on May 6, 2024.

6.H. RULES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.H.1. Committee Report Report of the Special Committee on Rules, meeting on  
(ID # [24-0622](#)) May 6, 2024.
- 6.H.2. Officer's City Clerk submitting an amendment to the Rules of the  
Communication City Council to accommodate remote participation and  
(ID # [24-0415](#)) facilitate accessibility.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved as  
amended.

6.I. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

- 6.I.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting  
(ID # [24-0618](#)) on April 29, 2024.
- 6.I.2. Order By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Scott  
(ID # [24-0339](#)) That the Director of Engineering update this Council on  
any plans to refresh worn and missing pedestrian  
crosswalk pavement markings on South Street, between  
Medford Street and Windsor Street.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work  
completed.
- 6.I.3. Order By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Strezo and  
(ID # [24-0467](#)) Councilor Clingan  
That the Director of Mobility work with the  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation to preserve  
the pedestrian footbridge on McGrath Highway as part of  
the grounding McGrath project.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work  
completed.

- 6.I.4. Order (ID # [24-0468](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Director of Mobility return the TEMPORARY PARKING sign, that serves local businesses, to the corner of Washington and Myrtle Streets.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.I.5. Order (ID # [24-0470](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Clingan  
That the Director of Mobility update this Council on plans to address increased cut-through commuter traffic on Temple Street and Fellsway West on weekday mornings, including any plans to prohibit right turns onto Temple Street and Fellsway West from 7 AM to 9 AM on weekdays.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.I.6. Order (ID # [24-0544](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Mbah, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Davis  
That the Director of Parking update this Council on the timeline for citywide rollout of Safety Sticks, including which areas will be prioritized for enforcement.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0644](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$3,010,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the recurring FY 2024 Building Improvements program.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0655](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$250,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Law Department Legal Services Account for anticipated outside legal counsel invoices.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0668](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$80,000 from the Department of Public Works (DPW) Lights & Lines accounts to the DPW Grounds Professional and Technical account to cover year-end grounds maintenance expenses.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0654](#)) Requesting approval to use available funds in the City Clerk Salaries account in the amount of \$1,913.40 to fund a Legislative Services Manager position.

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- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0669](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend an up to \$60,000 grant with no new match required, from the Low Income Housing Water Assistance Program through the City of Cambridge to the Water and Sewer Department for income eligible ratepayers who are directly billed for their service(s) and who have an arrearage.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0643](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$50,000 grant with no new match required from Home Energy Efficiency Team, Inc. to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for a feasibility study to identify potential locations for geothermal networks.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0666](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$28,000 grant with no new match required, from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for the Recycle Dividend Program.
- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0627](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$32,695 using available funds in the Parks and Recreation Building Rental account for portable invoices.
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0661](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$7,075 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Division Rental Buildings account for portable restroom rental services.
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0660](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$70 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Fleet Division R&M Vehicles account for vehicle inspection invoices.
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0636](#)) Requesting approval of the proposed 2024-2028 Department of Housing and Urban Development 5-Year Consolidated Plan, One Year Action Plan, and Community Participation Plan for Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grant programming.
- 7.12. Mayor's Communication (ID # [24-0657](#)) Proclaiming that the City of Somerville recognizes the month of May, 2024 as Older Americans Month.
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- 7.13. Mayor's Communication (ID # [24-0658](#)) Proclaiming that the City of Somerville recognizes the week of May 5-11, 2024 as Drinking Water Week.
- 7.14. Mayor's Communication (ID # [24-0659](#)) Conveying information related to item #24-0455: an update on Police and Fire hiring.
- 7.15. Mayor's Communication (ID # [24-0674](#)) Conveying an update on the development of a water bill ratepayer assistance program.

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [24-0670](#)) City Clerk requesting confirmation of the appointment of Melissa Ripley to the position of Assistant City Clerk.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [24-0672](#)) New Drainlayer's License, A&D Services Inc.
- 9.2. License (ID # [24-0629](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, New England Construction Managers Inc.
- 9.3. License (ID # [24-0630](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Super Service Today Inc.
- 9.4. License (ID # [24-0631](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, W.L. French Excavating.
- 9.5. License (ID # [24-0635](#)) New Extended Operating Hours License, Papa John's, 622 Somerville Ave, opening Sun-Thur until 1am, Fri-Sat until 2am for takeout and delivery services.
- 9.6. License (ID # [24-0632](#)) Renewing Garage License, K Professional Auto Detailing, 682 Mystic Ave.
- 9.7. License (ID # [24-0633](#)) Renewing Second Hand Dealer's License, Luce Boutique, 56 Union Square.
- 9.8. License (ID # [24-0634](#)) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Yolande Trans., Inc., Med. #15.
- 9.9. Public Event (ID # [24-0671](#)) Abbey Judd applying for a Public Event License for Joy Fest on May 18 from 10am to 8pm (raindate May 19).

- 9.10. Public Event  
(ID # [24-0673](#)) Mass Farmers Market applying for a Public Event License for Davis Square Farmer's Market on every Wednesday May 22 through November 27 from 9:30am to 6:30pm.
- 9.11. Public Communication  
(ID # [24-0641](#)) 14 registered voters requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 136 School Street from Urban Residence (UR) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6), 95 Highland Avenue from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to MR6, and 97, 99-99A, 101-103, and 107 Highland Avenue from Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) to MR6.
- 9.12. Public Communication  
(ID # [24-0642](#)) 14 registered voters requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 228, 230, 232, 234, 236 Pearl Street from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6).
- 9.13. Public Communication  
(ID # [24-0637](#)) Leah and Jeff Byrnes submitting comments re: School budget.
- 9.14. Public Communication  
(ID # [24-0638](#)) Edward Woll submitting comments re: item #24-0583, a resolution in support of An Act Relative to the Future of Clean Heat in the Commonwealth and An Act Establishing a Moratorium on New Gas System Expansion.
- 9.15. Public Communication  
(ID # [24-0640](#)) New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association (NECSEMA) submitting comments re: Nicotine Free Generation.

## 10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Resolution  
(ID # [24-0682](#)) By Councilor Sait, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Wilson  
On actions to promote students and community health and resilience in the era of climate change.
- 10.2. Communication  
(ID # [24-0683](#)) By Councilor Wilson  
Conveying a report of the Police Chief Selection Committee.
- 10.3. Communication  
(ID # [24-0684](#)) By Councilor Wilson  
In his capacity as Chair of the Finance Committee, conveying an outline of the FY 2025 Budget Review process.
- 10.4. License  
(ID # [24-0690](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, The Welch Corp.

- 10.5. License (ID # [24-0691](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Teele Square Auto, 1284 Broadway.
- 10.6. License (ID # [24-0692](#)) New Garage License, BRE-BMR Assembly Innovation I LLC, 122 Assembly Park Drive, 306 vehicles inside, 0 vehicles outside for charging money to store vehicles and operating a tow, operating 7 days a week 24 hours.
- 10.7. Public Event (ID # [24-0689](#)) Reena Freedman applying for a Public Event License for Porchfest on Francesca on May 11 from 11:30am to 2:30pm (raindate May 12).
- 10.8. Public Event (ID # [24-0685](#)) Yi Lam applying for a Public Event License for Cambridge Somerville Asian Festival on May 11 from 12pm to 5pm.
- 10.9. Public Event (ID # [24-0694](#)) Leigh Meunier applying for a Public Event License for Porchfest on Hancock on May 11 from 1pm to 4:30pm (raindate May 12).
- 10.10. Public Event (ID # [24-0688](#)) Roberto Fischer applying for a Public Event License for Porchfest on Beech on May 11 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm (raindate May 12).
- 10.11. Public Event (ID # [24-0686](#)) Jacob Engelstad applying for a Public Event License for Remembering Bill Conrad on May 18 from 1:30pm to 7pm (raindate May 25).
- 10.12. Public Event (ID # [24-0687](#)) Kate Ryan applying for a Public Event License for Brown School Fun Run on May 24 from 8am to 3pm (raindate May 23 and May 31).
- 10.13. Public Communication (ID # [24-0679](#)) 14 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinances to add section 8.4.19, Somernova Innovation Sub-Area.
- 10.14. Public Communication (ID # [24-0680](#)) 15 registered voters requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to include 8 Park Street, 10 Park Street, 504 Somerville Avenue, 7-9 Properzi Way, 15-27 Properzi Way, 29 Properzi Way, 26-32 Park Street, 8-14 Tyler Street, 40 Park Street, 15 Dane Street, 7-9 Tyler Street, 30 Dane Street, 24-28 Dane Street, 460 Somerville Avenue, 444 Somerville Avenue, 440 Somerville Avenue, and 502 Somerville Avenue in the Somernova Innovation Sub-Area.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT