



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 25, 2025

7:00 PM

**City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation**

Published September 23, 2025, 1:15 PM, Revised Published September 25, 2025, 10:15 AM.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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_rsE8ygvARe-p0Z2WBMfvzA

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.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

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| 1.1. | Roll Call
(ID # 25-1505) | Call of the Roll. |
| 1.2. | Remembrances
(ID # 25-1506) | Remembrances. |
| 1.3. | Minutes
(ID # 25-1507) | Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2025. |

2. CITATIONS

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| 2.1. | Citation
(ID # 25-1365) | By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
Commending the Somerville Firefighters for their life saving actions in Summer 2025. |
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3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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| 3.1. | Grant of Location
(ID # 25-1463) | Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 6 feet of conduit in Warwick Street, from Utility Pole 357/2 to a point of pickup at 13 Warwick Street. |
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- 3.2. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1464](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 68 feet of conduit in Cedar Street, from Utility Pole 55/4 to a point of pickup at 33 Cedar Street.
- 3.3. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1465](#)) Verizon New England applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 305 feet of conduit in Somerville Avenue, from existing Manhole 44/42 to a point of pickup at existing Manhole 44/33.
- 3.4. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1466](#)) Verizon New England applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 385 feet of conduit in Bow Street, from existing Manhole 44/32 to a point of pickup at existing Manhole 44/33.

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [25-1455](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Health and Human Services inform this Council which school buildings have menstrual products available and which school buildings have inoperable menstrual product dispensers and when they are scheduled to be replaced.
- 4.2. Order (ID # [25-1456](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council the recent snagging of overhead wires by a semi-truck, that took out the electricity in Ward Seven, and what plans have been put in place to prevent a similar occurrence.
- 4.3. Resolution (ID # [25-1457](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Administration discuss with this Council its recent press release announcement of a Home Rule Petition to expand procurement opportunities for disadvantaged businesses.
- 4.4. Resolution (ID # [25-1491](#)) By Councilor Mbah
In support of public higher education in Massachusetts.
- 4.5. Communication (ID # [25-1492](#)) By Councilor Mbah
Conveying a report of the Affordable Housing Trust.
- 4.6. Communication (ID # [25-1493](#)) By Councilor Mbah
Conveying a report of the Job Creation and Retention Trust.

- 4.7. Order (ID # [25-1498](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Scott
That the Director of Mobility develop and install quick-build safety infrastructure at the intersection of Webster and Prospect Streets.
- 4.8. Order (ID # [25-1499](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Mobility install a pedestrian light signal at the intersection of Vinal Avenue and Highland Avenue.
- 4.9. Order (ID # [25-1500](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Mobility deploy quick-build traffic calming measures on Grant Street until permanent speed humps are installed.
- 4.10. Order (ID # [25-1501](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Mobility deploy quick-build traffic calming measures on Derby Street until permanent speed humps are installed.
- 4.11. Order (ID # [25-1502](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Mobility install a solar powered digital YOUR SPEED IS display sign on Shore Drive westbound.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1503](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on September 23, 2025.
- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1294](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$330 using available funds in the Office of Sustainability and Environment Professional and Technical Services Account for monitoring the Argenziano School solar array.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1295](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$50,000 grant with no new match required, from Commonwealth of MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for a study investigating possible zoning incentives to increase the ability to comply with the Fossil Fuel Free Ordinance.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

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| 6.A.4. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1382) | Requesting approval of the discontinuance of a portion of Sewall Court.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1383) | Requesting approval of the partial termination of the City Utility Easement on Sewall Court.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1384) | Requesting approval to extend and amend a contract with Eastern Bank for an additional year until 8/31/2026, for the banking services of the Treasury Department.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1387) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$545.31 using available funds in the Police Department Equipment Maintenance Account for electronic access door service.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.8. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1400) | Requesting the adoption of an Order of Taking for the acquisition of Lot 3 at 299 Broadway for municipal purposes including parking.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1411) | Requesting authorization to borrow \$4,300,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the design of the Morrison Avenue Linear Storage Sewer Separation project.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1412) | Requesting approval of a transfer of \$350,048 from the Department of Infrastructure and Asset Management (IAM) Ordinary Maintenance Professional & Technical Services Account to the IAM Capital Outlay Professional & Technical Services Account.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1413) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$10,452.22 using available funds in the Department of Infrastructure & Asset Management Ordinary Maintenance Professional & Technical Account for Strategic Asset Management Plan.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |

- 6.A.12. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1414](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$596.25 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Repairs-Comm Equipment, Repairs-Fire Alarm, and Reimbursement of Licenses Accounts.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.13. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1415](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$23.41 using available funds in the Emergency Management Public Safety Supplies Account for public safety supplies.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.14. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1416](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$137.77 using available funds in the Emergency Management Office Supplies Account for office supplies.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.15. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1417](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$71.88 using available funds in the Emergency Management Office Supplies Account for office supplies.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.16. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1433](#)) Requesting approval of temporary and permanent easements over Lot 3 of 299 Broadway in favor of 299 Broadway Property Owner, LLC.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.B. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report
(ID # [25-1477](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on September 18, 2025.
- 6.B.2. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-0200](#)) 15 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance sections 3.1.8c, 3.1.9c, 3.1.10c, 3.1.13k, 3.1.13l, 3.2.12l. and 3.2.12m.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be placed on file.

- 6.B.3. Order
(ID # [25-0246](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Mbah
That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Director of Planning, Preservation and Zoning discuss with this Council, Type IV heavy timber construction now permitted in the 10th edition of Massachusetts State Building Code 780 and potential impacts on inspections, development, and the Zoning Ordinance.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.B.4. Order
(ID # [25-0338](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Planning, Preservation and Zoning provide the Committee on Land Use with an opinion as to whether the City Council may dictate standards and materials used for outdoor bike facilities.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.C. SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report
(ID # [25-1448](#)) Report of the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance, meeting on September 15, 2025.
- 6.C.2. Resolution
(ID # [25-0727](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Administration report to this Council on the cause of the reported chemical imbalance at the Ginny Smithers Pool and the process being used to address the imbalance.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.C.3. Resolution
(ID # [25-0729](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Administration develop a new process to address ongoing maintenance at the Ginny Smithers Pool and report to this Council to describe that process.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.C.4. Order
(ID # [25-1132](#)) By Councilor Sait and Councilor Mbah
That the Director of Parks and Recreation report to this Council on the cause of the chemical spill at the Ginny Smithers Pool and the process to address the cause of the spill and prevent a future occurrence.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.C.5. Resolution
(ID # [25-1231](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Administration submit to the City Council and School Committee, the city's contingency plan in the event of an emergency school closure during the 2025-2026 school year.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.C.6. Mayor's
Communication
(ID # [25-1333](#)) Conveying an update regarding work completed during Summer 2025 on Somerville Public Schools buildings.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1432](#)) Requesting that this Council convene in Executive Session to discuss the proposed settlement of opioid litigation involving the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy case.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1429](#)) Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to raise the maximum amount of fines for violations allowed by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 21D.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1460](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 7 and Section 1-11(b) of the Code of Ordinances to require notification to tenants of parking permit restrictions in transit areas.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1496](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$2,286,090 from the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund to the Police Department Other Lump Sum Payments Account to fund retroactive payments in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement with the Somerville Police Superior Officers Association.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1459](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$100,000 from the Encore Artist and Cultural Support Stabilization Fund to support Local Cultural Council grants to artists, organizations, and schools.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1449](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$240,664.10 from the Transportation Network Company Special Revenue Fund for FY 2026 Vision Zero safety efforts.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1497](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$97,160 from the Salary Contingency Account to various Police Department Personal Services Accounts to fund a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Somerville Police Superior Officers Association.

- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1494](#)) Requesting approval to use available funds in the Law Department Personal Services accounts in the amount of \$6,296.88 to increase the annual salary of the Municipal Hearing Officer.
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1462](#)) Requesting approval to extend and amend a contract with City Hall Systems for an additional two years until 12/17/2027, for online bill payment services.
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1447](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$54,400 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Cultural Council to the Arts Council for the Local Cultural Council grant program.
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1479](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$121,818.23 using available funds in various Department of Public Works Accounts for various services.
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1452](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$527 using available funds in the Parks & Recreation Department Equipment Rental Account for truck rental.
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1419](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$159.96 using available funds in the Parks & Recreation Department Recreation Supplies Account for picnic blankets.
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1453](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$94.75 using available funds in the Parks & Recreation Department Recreation Supplies Account for carbon dioxide tank refill at Dilboy Pool.
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1488](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Richard Lavey Jr. to the position of Police Deputy Chief.
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1480](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Michael R. Perrone to the position of Police Captain.
- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1481](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Rico Isidoro to the position of Police Lieutenant.
- 7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1483](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Marc DiFava to the position of Police Lieutenant.
- 7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1484](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Joseph Teves to the position of Police Sergeant.
- 7.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1485](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Jason Costa to the position of Police Sergeant.

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| 7.21. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1486) | Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Patrick Canty to the position of Police Sergeant. |
| 7.22. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1487) | Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Cassandra Campers to the position of Police Sergeant. |
| 7.23. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1440) | Requesting confirmation of the reappointment of Richard Scanlon to the Board of Assessors. |
| 7.24. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1441) | Requesting confirmation of the reappointment of Michael Flynn to the Board of Assessors. |
| 7.25. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1450) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Nick Pittman to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. |
| 7.26. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1475) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Coralie Cooper to the Planning Board. |
| 7.27. | Withdrawn
(ID # 25-1461) | Withdrawn. |
| 7.28. | Withdrawn
(ID # 25-1476) | Withdrawn. |
| 7.29. | Withdrawn
(ID # 25-1482) | Withdrawn. |

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

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| 8.1. | Officer's
Communication
(ID # 25-1458) | City Clerk conveying Block Party Licenses issued. |
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9. NEW BUSINESS

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| 9.1. | License
(ID # 25-1467) | New Garage License, Roman Auto Repair LLC, 45 Mystic Avenue, 5 Vehicles inside, 4 Vehicles outside, Mon-Fri: 7am-5pm, Sat: 7am-12pm, Sun: closed. |
| 9.2. | Public Event
(ID # 25-1474) | Mobility Division applying for a Public Event License for Western Pearl Street Reconstruction Updated Design Open House on October 4 from 11am to 2:30pm. |
| 9.3. | Public Event
(ID # 25-1473) | Zinnia Smith applying for a Public Event License for Poetry in the Park on October 10 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm (raindate October 17). |
| 9.4. | Public Event
(ID # 25-1469) | Kids Like You and Me applying for a Public Event License for KLYAM Autumnal Music Spectacular on October 18 from 1pm to 8pm (raindate October 19). |

- 9.5. Public Event
(ID # [25-1472](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Monster Mash on October 19 from 11:30am to 8pm (raindate October 26).
- 9.6. Public Event
(ID # [25-1471](#)) Federal Realty Investment Trust applying for a Public Event License for 5th Annual Halloween Family Bike Ride on October 26 from 9am to 4pm (raindate November 2).
- 9.7. Public Event
(ID # [25-1470](#)) Somerville Road Runners applying for a Public Event License for 29th Annual Gobble Gobble Gobble Road Race on November 27 from 6am to 1pm.
- 9.8. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-1468](#)) Katie Pilat submitting comments re: bike lanes.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Order
(ID # [25-1513](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of the Office of Immigrant Affairs discuss with this Council the most critical content to include in an immigrant defense Know Your Rights document and how best to make it available in the preferred languages of residents.
- 10.2. Resolution
(ID # [25-1512](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Mayor allocate funds for a citywide immigrant defense Know Your Rights mailing, and make this document available in Somerville's most prominent languages.
- 10.3. Public Event
(ID # [25-1516](#)) Groundwork Somerville applying for a Public Event License for Harvest Festival on October 4 from 9am to 6pm (raindate October 5).
- 10.4. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-1514](#)) Bill Valletta submitting comments re: item #25-1344, an Order that the Director of Finance provide a comprehensive accounting of all stabilization accounts.
- 10.5. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-1515](#)) Crystal Huff submitting comments re: items #25-1445 and #25-1446, Orders regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and ShotSpotter.

11. ADJOURNMENT