

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts**  
**Matters of Business of the Board of Aldermen**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 24, 2011, 7:00 PM  
Aldermanic Chambers  
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*NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Board of Aldermen'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.*

**OPENING OF THE MEETING**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Absent	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
William M. Roche	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Thomas F. Taylor	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Walter F. Pero	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Sean T. O'Donovan	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Rebekah Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Robert C. Trane	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	

1. #191000 Call of the Roll.  
Roll Call

**RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**

2. #191001 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 24, 2011.  
Minutes

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**CITATIONS**

3. #191002 Citation By Ald. Gewirtz, O'Donovan, and the Entire Board and the Mayor Commending Jennifer Lawrence, who is leaving as Executive Director of Groundwork Somerville after five years of tireless efforts to improve the city's physical environment.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

4. #191003 Grant of Location submitted by NextG Networks Inc., to install about 1,700 ft. of aerial fiber optic cable on Vernon, Bartlett and Robinson Sts., and to install equipment on Pole 299-4 on Robinson St.  
Grant of Location

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Licenses and Permits Committee

**ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

5. #191004 Order By Ald. Taylor  
That the Director of Traffic and Parking determine if a STOP sign should be placed on Summer Street at its intersection with Benton Road.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

6. #191005 Order By Ald. Taylor  
That the Director of SPCD (ISD) update the Ward 3 Alderman on 199 Summer Street, relative to the ordinance pertaining to vacant property.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

7. #191006 Order By Ald. Gewirtz  
That the Commissioner of Public Works report back to this Board on the timeline for the Willow Avenue bump out, at the corner of Willow Avenue and Elm Street, and other traffic improvements on that street.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

8. #191007 Order By Ald. Gewirtz  
That the Commissioner of Public Works report to this Board, his communications with Russell Disposal with respect to their violation of city policy regarding rubbish removal near schools.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

9. #191008 Resolution By Ald. Gewirtz  
That this Board requests that the Administration provide updates as they become available on the reconstruction of the Davis Square busway and community path and make all information available on the city's website for interested residents.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

10. #191009 Resolution By Ald. Gewirtz  
That this Board requests that the Administration update this Board on the streets slated for repaving this spring and the timeline for repaving requests.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

11. #191010 Order By Ald. Heuston That the Commissioner of Public Works pave Ivaloo, Harrison and Hammond Streets, Carter Terrace, Park Place and Properzi Way.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

12. #191011 Order By Ald. Heuston That the City Treasurer inform this Board of residents' complaints about the timeliness of their receipt of excise tax bills, and that if the responsibility for the bills' tardiness lies with the City, that the City make restitution to those residents facing fines because their excise tax bills were not received in a timely manner.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

13. #191012 Order By Ald. Heuston That the Director of Traffic and Parking provide increased enforcement of parking violations on Beacon Street, especially on weekend evenings.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

14. #191013 Order By Ald. Connolly That the Collector of Taxes provide this Board with a list of all outstanding water and/or tax liens in excess of \$10,000, sorted in descending order by the oldest lien and largest amount.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

15. #191014 Order By Ald. Connolly That the Director of SPCD (ISD) and the Director of Health advise this Board of the number, location and status of all abandoned properties reported within the past two years.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**FOLLOWUP:** Public Health and Public Safety Committee

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

16. #190951 Citation By Ald. Taylor, and the Entire Board and the Mayor Commending James Powers, who is retiring after 33 years of dedicated service to the city as a Firefighter.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

17. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. #191015 Report of the Committee on Finance, March 21, 2011.  
Committee Report

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- B. #190591 Requesting an appropriation of \$26,074 from the Capital Projects  
Mayor's Request Stabilization Fund to purchase a vehicle for the Police Dept.

**RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston, Taylor,  
Pero, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Trane  
**ABSENT:** Bruce M. Desmond

- C. #190972 Requesting a transfer of \$60,183.56 from the Computer Equipment Acct. to  
Mayor's Request the IT Capital Outlay Acct. to purchase a centralized storage area network  
appliance.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- D. #190974 Requesting to accept a \$205,854 CLAMP Grant from MassDOT for the  
Mayor's Request Health Dept.'s Transportation Demand Management project to expand  
Walk/Ride Day.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- E. #190975 Requesting acceptance of a \$14,473.50 grant from the MAPC's Regional  
Mayor's Request Bike Parking Program for new bicycle accommodations citywide.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- F. #190976 Requesting to accept a \$2,869 grant from Factory Mutual Insurance  
Mayor's Request Company for the Fire Dept.'s Fire Investigation Unit.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

18. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- A. #191016 Report of the Committee on Land Use meeting in Joint Session with the  
Committee Report Planning Board, March 23, 2011.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

19. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. #191017 Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, March 15, 2011.  
Committee Report

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- B. #190381 Requesting an amendment to the Local Historic District Map to create 3 new  
Mayor's Request Districts (Thurston-Walnut, Pearl, and 9 Brastow) and add 6 properties to  
these Districts, and to add 5 properties to existing Districts (Central-  
Atherton-Spring-Summer (CASS), Florence-Myrtle, Flint, and Prospect Hill)  
(Group D).

**RESULT: ORDINANCE ORDAINED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston, Taylor,  
O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Trane  
**ABSENT:** Bruce M. Desmond, Walter F. Pero

**ORDAINED AS AMENDED:** 75 Florence Street is severed and  
returned to Committee as #191045.

- C. #190570 City Solicitor conveying Home Rule Petition language re: #188396, a  
Officer's proposal to amend the City Charter.  
Communication

**RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**

- D. #191045 Requesting an amendment to the Local Historic District Map to add 1  
Mayor's Request property to the existing Florence-Myrtle District (remaining unapproved  
property from Group D).

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Legislative Matters Committee

20. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. #191018 Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, March 22, 2011.  
Committee Report

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- B. #190072 By Ald. Heuston  
Order That the City Solicitor Draft an Ordinance to Regulate and Require Permits  
for Paving on Residential and Commercial Properties.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- C. #190596 City Solicitor responding to #190451 re: Lowell's paving ordinance, and Officer's submitting a draft paving ordinance. Communication

**RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**

21. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. #191019 Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, March 21, Committee Report 2011.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- B. #191020 By Ald. Heuston Order That the Chief of Police order a directed patrol at 47 Harrison Street to prevent individuals from occupying or otherwise using the premises.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- C. #191021 By Ald. Connolly Order That the Director of SPCD initiate a full NIT evaluation at 47 Harrison Street and report the findings to this Board's Committee on Public Health and Public Safety.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**FOLLOWUP:** Public Health and Public Safety Committee

**COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**

22. #191022 Requesting approval of a revised Home Rule Petition authorizing Harris Park Mayor's Request to be used and/or disposed of for purposes other than a park or playground.

**RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston, Taylor, Pero, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Trane  
**ABSENT:** Bruce M. Desmond

23. #191023 Requesting authorization of the Board of Assessors' use of outside counsel, Mayor's Request Attorney John Lynch, to defend values at the Appellate Tax Board.

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

24. #191024 Requesting acceptance of a \$2,500 grant from the MA Dept. of Public Health Mayor's Request for the Fire Dept.'s Mass Decontamination Unit.

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

25. #191025 Mayor's Request Requesting acceptance of a donation of a clothes dryer valued at \$418.71 for use by the Animal Control Dept.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

26. #191026 Mayor's Communication Requesting the appointment of David Lyons as Constable.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

27. #191027 Mayor's Communication Requesting the re-appointment of Nathaniel Greene as Constable.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

28. #191028 Mayor's Communication Proclaiming the week of April 4-10, 2011, as National Public Health Week.

**RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**

**COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS**

29. #191029 Officer's Communication Assistant City Solicitor providing an opinion re: #190578, proposed amendments to the Responsible Employer Ordinance.

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Legislative Matters Committee

**NEW BUSINESS**

30. #191030 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Shape Up Somerville Road Race, High School Concourse and area streets, Apr 10, 9AM-1PM.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

31. #191031 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Tufts Hillel 5k Road Race for Rwanda, Tufts campus and area streets, Apr 10.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

32. #191032 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Unity Church of God and 5 other Churches, Palm Sunday Donkey Walk, College Ave. from Powderhouse Park to Davis Sq., Apr 17, 8:30AM.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

33. #191033 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Early Childhood Advisory Council's One City One Story Walk and Display, Capuano School Pplayground, Central Hill Park, and sidewalks from the Library to the Growing Center, Apr 30-May 29 with walk on May 7.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

34. #191034 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Mayor's Spring Cleanup Barbeque, Nunziato Field, Apr 30 (raindate May 1).

**RESULT: APPROVED**

35. #191035 License/Permit Public Event Permit, M.O.M.'s 5k Road Race and Banners for Cancer Research, 371 Summer St. and area streets, May 8, 7AM-Noon.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

36. #191036 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Road Runners Gobble Gobble Gobble Road Race, Davis Sq. and area streets, Nov 24, 9AM-Noon.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

37. #191037 License/Permit Sign/Awning Permit, Metro PCS, 20-40 Holland St., 1 sign.

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Licenses and Permits Committee

**SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

38. #191038 Mayor's Request Requesting acceptance of a \$297,400 grant from MassDevelopment for assessment activities at the former Kiley Barrel Site.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

39. #191039 Mayor's Request Requesting acceptance of a \$50,000 grant from the MA Dept. of Environmental Protection for assessment activities at the former Kiley Barrel Site.



**RESULT: APPROVED**

40. #191040 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$25,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Veterans Benefits Acct. for veterans' benefits.

**RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston, Taylor, Pero, O'Donovan, Gewirtz  
**ABSENT:** Bruce M. Desmond, Robert C. Trane

**LATE ITEMS**

41. #191041 Resolution By Ald. White Jr.  
That this Board withdraws the Home Rule Petition (#190641) previously enacted with regards to Harris Park and substitutes the Home Rule Petition enacted this 24th day of March, 2011.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

42. #191042 Order By Ald. Heuston  
That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the potholes on Harrison Street, Webster Avenue, Ivaloo Street and Mondamin Court, and contact the appropriate state agency to inspect the bridge on Webster Avenue and Newton Street and the bridge at Dane Street and repair the lesions which seem to be worsening.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

43. #191043 Resolution By Ald. O'Donovan  
That this Board requests that NSTAR fulfill its commitment to repave the previously completed private ways, Parker Place and Greenville Terrace, including the reconstruction of Bow Street, which NSTAR committed to with regard to the Somerville Avenue project.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

44. #191044 License/Permit Public Event Permit, Muster & Drill Charlestown Militia Exercise, Powderhouse Park, Apr 10, 1-3:30PM.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment

Submitted by John J. Long, City Clerk