



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 11, 2026

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 7:09 PM by Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis.

The City Council entered recess at 7:48 PM and returned at 7:51 PM.

The City Council entered recess at 8:27 PM and returned at 8:43 PM.

1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.

(ID # [26-1037](#))

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

Present: Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen
City Councilor At Large Jon Link
Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott
Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan
City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo
Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait
City Councilor At Large Ben Wheeler
Ward Seven City Councilor Emily Hardt
Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin
City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah
Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis

1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.

(ID # [26-1038](#))

Councilor Clingan requested a moment of silence in memory of Michael L. Chiapperini, Jr.

Councilor Clingan and the entire Council requested a moment of silence in memory of former DPW Commissioner Steven MacEachern.

RESULT: APPROVED

1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2026.

(ID # [26-1039](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

- 1.4. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 20, 2026.
(ID # [26-1040](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

2. CITATIONS

- 2.1. Citation By Councilor Hardt
(ID # [26-1004](#)) Commending Mary Jeka on the auspicious occasion of her retirement.

Councilor Hardt read the citation into the record recognizing Ms. Jenka's 20+ years of service to Tufts University.

RESULT: APPROVED

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 31 feet of conduit in
(ID # [26-0980](#)) Richardson Street, from Utility Pole 296/1 to a point of pickup at 0 Richardson Street.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed and tabled until later in the meeting to afford people the opportunity to be heard. The item was later removed from the table and placed before the Council where it was referred to the Licenses and Permits Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- 3.2. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 641 feet of conduit in
(ID # [26-0981](#)) Somerville Avenue and Prospect Street, and one new Manhole 31333, from existing Manhole 27921 and from existing Manhole 25406 to a point of pickup at 51 Prospect Street.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. Mr. Luke Smith attempted to speak on the item, but experienced technical difficulties, therefore, the item was laid on the table until the technical problem could be resolved.

There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed and tabled until later in the meeting to afford people the opportunity to be heard. The item was later removed from the table and placed before the Council where it was referred to the Licenses and Permits Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Resolution (ID # [26-0972](#)) By Councilor Sait, Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Mbah That the Administration address the ongoing public health and safety concerns at the Broadway Salvation Army site.

Councilor Sait stated that the Broadway Salvation Army site has become an overnight gathering area, creating noise and safety issues. Additionally, the theft of goods intended for the store are being stolen.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

- 4.2. Order (ID # [26-0979](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Hardt, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wheeler That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on recent changes for Requests For Proposals for youth programming grants, particularly grants that impact Teen Empowerment directly.

This item was discussed with item #26-0978.

Councilor McLaughlin spoke about a potential \$300,000 loss in funding to Teen Empowerment (TE) because of recent changes made to the Request for Proposals for youth programming grants. Because of this change, TE may not qualify for some grants, resulting in a 75% reduction in its funding. Councilor McLaughlin stated that he has spoken with the City's Administration about this and he feels that a solution may be available, however, he noted that time is of the essence to keep the program funded. Councilor McLaughlin sponsored 3 individuals to speak on the item.

Abrigal Forrester, Chief Executive Officer of Teen Empowerment, spoke about the work TE performs, saying that we're at a crossroad and critical point in our society and he stressed the importance of needing a space for young people to grow. Aliya Ewing, Somerville Program Director, urged the councilors to continue to fund a full program for TE. She referenced a 2024 report that was commissioned by the city's HHS Department that listed 10 recommendations to achieve the goal of assisting the city's youth and noted that TE meets 9 of those recommendations but lacks the physical community space to support the program. Ms. Ewing said that the work of TE is prevention and that their work is critical to the well-being of the city's youth and needs to continue. Kieran Tipton, Youth Organizer, spoke about the impact TE had on his life and the lives of other participants in the program by providing opportunities for work experience, furthering education goals, making connections to peers, civic engagement, and so much more.

Councilors Link and Clingan commented that they were caught off guard by this process change and want to resolve the matter. Councilor McLaughlin

pointed out that the funds are still there, but the process to access those funds has changed and that change is affecting TE now.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 4.3. Order
(ID # [26-1007](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Mbah

That the Director of Veterans Services update this City Council on the status of any veterans memorials currently in storage, as well as the status of the Central Hill Memorial Plaza.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 4.4. Resolution
(ID # [26-0978](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

Recognizing Teen Empowerment for providing over 20 years of service to young people in the Somerville.

This item was discussed with item #26-0979.

Councilor McLaughlin spoke about the work of Teen Empowerment and the effect that it has had on the lives of young people in Somerville over the past 21 years by empowering teens and teaching them to become leaders in the community.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 4.5. Resolution
(ID # [26-1012](#))

By Councilor Hardt

That the Chief of Police increase traffic enforcement in Teele Square, especially focusing on the lights and crosswalks between Broadway and Holland Street, and especially in the morning when students and families are walking to school.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

- 4.6. Resolution
(ID # [26-1020](#))

By Councilor Hardt

That the Director of Mobility prioritize Curtis Street for pedestrian safety improvements, including traffic calming measures and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible crosswalk in the vicinity of Sunset Road.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 4.7. Resolution
(ID # [26-1021](#))

By Councilor Hardt

That the Director of Mobility install additional signage and the Chief of Police increase enforcement to ensure compliance with the one-way traffic direction on Whitfield Road.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

- 4.8. Resolution (ID # [26-1022](#)) By Councilor Hardt
Recognizing and expressing appreciation to the Department of Public Works, the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, and the Inspectional Services Department for their work in addressing rodent issues at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee
- 4.9. Resolution (ID # [26-1018](#)) By Councilor Hardt and Councilor Mbah
That the Chief of Police report to this Council on the response to the recent upsurge in drug use and other drug-related activity in public spaces in and around Davis Square, including in Hodgkins-Curtin park.
- Councilor Hardt reported that she has received numerous reports of drug use expanding into a wider area of Davis Square and Hodgkins-Curtin park. Councilor Mbah commented that this is a serious problem that needs to be addressed and that the city’s policies need to be reviewed.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee
- 4.10. Resolution (ID # [26-1019](#)) By Councilor Wheeler, Councilor Hardt and Councilor Sait
That the Director of Parking discuss with this Council the possibility of administering a parking permit type intended for vehicle owners with driveways, at a lower price than standard residential parking permits, which would allow only daytime and evening street parking but not overnight street parking, and which would not be usable during street cleaning or snow emergencies.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee
- 4.11. Ordinance (ID # [26-1023](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Wheeler, Councilor Mbah and Councilor Link
That Chapter 2, Article VIII, Division 1 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as detailed within.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen spoke saying that nobody was prepared for the violence and destruction taking place in Gaza and Palestine by Israel’s actions which are supported by United States. He believes that the U.S. support of Israel in its actions against Gaza and Palestine is a “profound moral stain on our country” that has caused divisions here in this community. He noted that Somerville voters approved a ballot question to not use public funds to support companies that profit from these horrific acts and this proposed ordinance is an attempt to do what the voters asked for, in a legal and practical manner, not only in Gaza and Palestine, but anyplace

where serious violations of international humanitarian law are taking place.

Councilor Wheeler explained that his intention is to codify Somerville's long-standing values saying that all people are welcome in Somerville and there should never be a policy that suggests any group of people are less welcome here because of who they are or what they believe. He commented that this proposed amendment does not call for a boycott of Israel at large or any country, people or society and represents the divide between the City Council's legislative power and the Mayor's Executive power.

Councilor Mbah spoke in favor of the item and sponsored 2 speakers in favor and Councilor Strezo spoke against the item as written, pointing out that the ballot question was presented as a non-binding advisory. She sponsored 2 speakers who were against this item.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

4.12. Order
(ID # [26-1024](#))

By Councilor Scott, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Wheeler, Councilor Sait and Councilor Link

That this Council schedule a Public Hearing regarding construction parking permits and the impact of current enforcement policy on neighborhood residents.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

4.13. Order
(ID # [26-1025](#))

By Councilor Scott

That the City Attorney advise this Council on the Mayor's compliance with Section 6-4 of the Somerville Charter as it relates to the submission of the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, particularly "the school budget, as adopted by the school committee".

Councilor Scott reported that he spoke to the Law Department about this matter and has received a response. He would like that response to be attached to this item, making it accessible to the public.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

4.14. Order
(ID # [26-1026](#))

By Councilor Scott

That the City Clerk inform this Council as to the final status of item #25-0905, a unanimous vote in favor of adopting Chapter 329 of the Acts of 1987 on May 22, 2025.

Councilor Scott reported that he has received an email response and he would like that response to be attached to this item, making it accessible to the public. He requested that the item be referred to the Finance Committee

to discuss the confusion surrounding how the item (25-0905) traversed through its legislative stages.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

4.15. Order
(ID # [26-1027](#))

By Councilor Scott

That the City Clerk provide the procedure followed upon a Mayoral veto of any measure approved by this Council.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

4.16. Communication
(ID # [26-1028](#))

By Councilor Scott

Conveying the Ward 2 Councilor's opposition to placing armed police officers in Somerville schools.

Councilor Scott reported that he logged into a School Committee meeting and after an hour long wait, he was not welcomed into the public comment process, therefore, he decided to make his comments tonight. President Davis interrupted Councilor Scott and explained that he was ruling this item out of order as it is a School Committee matter.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

4.17. Order
(ID # [26-1030](#))

By Councilor Link

That the Commissioner of Public Works or the Director of Mobility provide an update to this Council on the policies in place to ensure pedestrian safety when closing sidewalks on both sides of a street, the criteria used to determine when such closures are necessary, and the process for notifying residents and businesses about upcoming sidewalk closures as well as the timeline for reopening.

RESULT: APPROVED

4.18. Order
(ID # [26-1032](#))

By Councilor Link and Councilor Wheeler

That the Director of Procurement and Contracting Services provide this City Council with a report of all artificial intelligence vendors and services for which the city currently has contracts or ongoing payment obligations.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 4.19. Resolution (ID # [26-1031](#)) By Councilor Link, Councilor Scott and Councilor Ewen-Campen That the Director of Mobility and the Director of Engineering discuss changing Hawkins Street into a two-way street for bikes, considering it is already being used by families as part of a safer route to school, allowing parents and children to bypass the dangerous and unprotected intersection of Somerville Avenue and Washington Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 4.20. Resolution (ID # [26-1029](#)) By Councilor Link and Councilor Ewen-Campen In support of House Bill 3587 and Senate Bill 2334, an Act to grow and maintain space in cities and towns for the creative economy.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 4.21. Order (ID # [26-1013](#)) By Councilor Davis That this City Council appoints Rodrigo Badaro, Bea Gomez-Mouakad, Marianne Walles, Martin Sanchez, Yesenia Alfaro, and Marcy Goldstein-Gelb to the Wage Theft Advisory Committee.

Councilor Scott assumed the Chair.

Councilor Davis noted that this item has to be sent to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointment and Personnel Matters for approval and to determine the length of individual terms.

Councilor Davis assumed the Chair.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 5.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0915](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$15,015 from the Salary Contingency Account to the Police Department Personal Services Salary Account to fund a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Somerville Police Superior Officers Association.

Assistant City Solicitor/Labor Counsel Matthew Sirigu explained that the appropriation will fund the Fiscal Year 2025 Cost of Living Adjustment in this contract. Highlights of the contract include an increase in the detail rate, creation of a detail revolving fund, an accelerated vacation schedule and an amendment to the body-worn camera language that applied only to Superior Officers. Councilor Ewen-Campen explained that although he is satisfied with the body-worn camera policy, he doesn't think this is the right time to implement it given the financial situation the city is presently in. Councilor Scott asked if the city ever attempted a claw back of a provision in any contract and Counsel Sirigu stated that he is not aware of any during his tenure with the city. Councilor Scott stated that he doesn't think it's

appropriate to approve this item tonight since it includes amended language regarding body-worn cameras. Councilor Clingan inquired if particular language could be removed from a contract by the city and Counsel Sirigu said that unilaterally stripping language from contracts would expose the city to significant risk. Councilor Clingan expressed his support for approving this item tonight. Councilor McLaughlin also supported the item and moved to approve it. The motion was passed on a roll call vote.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezio, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

NAY: Ward Two City Councilor Scott

5.2. Resolution
(ID # [26-0944](#))

By Councilor Scott

That the Chief of Police provide documentation in writing regarding the circumstances surrounding cyclist traffic enforcement in Union Square on the morning of May 28.

Councilor Scott stated that he has received a response regarding this matter and he would like that response attached to this item and referred to the Public Health and Public Safety Committee to be placed on file (with the attachment).

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

7.1. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0988](#))

Requesting approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Water & Sewer Rates.

Richard Raiche, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management and Michael Richards, Director of Finance and Administration for Infrastructure and Asset Management and for Water and Sewer, presented a slide deck explaining the reason for this request.

Somerville's water and sewer systems are facing mounting operational, financial, and infrastructure pressures driven primarily by the age of the underground network and the scale of required capital investment. Much of the city's water and sewer piping dates back more than a century, creating heightened risks of failures, service disruptions, and escalating maintenance

costs. Rising material prices further strain the system's long-term sustainability. Operationally, Fiscal Year 2026 activity highlights the intensity of system demands. Water operations responded to 35 emergency issues, completed 219 non-emergency maintenance tasks, and conducted extensive water quality monitoring, including monthly water samples and annual lead sampling. Sewer operations handled more than 260 311/Q-Alert requests, 46 sewer backups, 63 sinkhole investigations, and cleaned 5,420 feet of sewer lines.

Staffing challenges persist across both field and administrative functions, with multiple vacancies in critical operational roles, including Water & Sewer Operations leadership, working foremen, and equipment operators. Administrative staffing has improved with several recent hires, though key analytical positions remain open.

The Capital Investment Plan (CIP) is the primary driver of future rate increases. With 90% of pipes over 50 years old and 70% over 100 years old, the city must undertake extensive rehabilitation and replacement to meet regulatory requirements, reduce flooding, mitigate combine sewer overflows, and prevent system failures. Capital projects and associated debt service now dominate long-term financial planning. To stabilize finances and avoid future rate shocks, the city proposes 15% water and sewer rate increases in FY27, with sewer rates continuing at 15% annually through Fiscal Year 2029. These increases are lower than previously projected due to stronger-than-expected cash receipts in Fiscal Year 2025 through Fiscal Year 2026. The strategy builds reserves to cash-fund major capital projects beginning in Fiscal Year 2029 and maintain required debt-service-to-revenue ratios. Customer impacts vary by usage, with an average single-family home seeing an annual increase of approximately \$413 under the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 rates. Commercial customers will experience proportional increases based on meter size and consumption tiers.

Overall, the proposal underscores that aging infrastructure and the scale of upcoming capital projects make sustained rate adjustments unavoidable. The city's goal is to stabilize rates, maintain service reliability, and ensure long-term financial and operational resilience.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

NAY: City Councilor At Large Strezio, and City Councilor At Large Mbah

- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0957](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$2,500,000 from the Facility Construction and Renovation Stabilization Fund for replacement of the Department of Public Works building roof at 1 Franey Road.

Discussed with items #26-0958, #26-0959, #26-0960, #26-09654.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

ABSENT: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0958](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$2,000,000 from the Facility Construction and Renovation Stabilization Fund for replacement of the West Somerville Neighborhood School roof.

Discussed with items #26-0957, #26-0959, #26-0960, #26-0964.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

ABSENT: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0959](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$900,000 from the Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund to convert existing space at the Healey School into five functional classrooms.

Discussed with items #26-0957, #26-0958, #26-0960, #26-0964

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

ABSENT: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0960](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$500,000 from the Facility Construction and Renovation Stabilization Fund to replace the boilers at the Argenziano School.

Discussed with items #26-0957, #26-0958, #26-0959, #26-0964.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

ABSENT: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1017](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$196,086 from the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund to various departmental Other Lump Sum Payment Accounts to fund a collective bargaining agreement with Somerville Municipal Employees Union, Unit D.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.6 to 7.13 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1001](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$144,235 from the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Stabilization Fund to support various projects related to opioid initiatives.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.6 to 7.13 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1014](#)) Requesting approval to repurpose and appropriate \$45,000 from the COVID-19 Stabilization fund to continue the Playworks Program at the Winter Hill Community School for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.6 to 7.13 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1015](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate and transfer \$1,000,000 from the Community Benefits Stabilization Fund to the Housing Assistance Stabilization Fund for housing assistance.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.6 to 7.13 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0951](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$39,633,688 to fund the Fiscal Year 2027 Sewer Enterprise Fund budget.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.6 to 7.13 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0952](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$24,672,499 to fund the Fiscal Year 2027 Water Enterprise Fund budget.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.6 to 7.13 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0962](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$16,000,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings Account to the Sewer Capital Stabilization Fund.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.6 to 7.13 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0965](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$7,150,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Street Reconstruction and Renovation Stabilization Fund to support the 5-Year Capital Investment Plan.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.6 to 7.13 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0964](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$6,600,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Facility Renovation and Reconstruction Stabilization Fund to support the 5-Year Capital Investment Plan.
- Discussed with items #26-0957, #26-0958, #26-0959, #26-0960. Director Reich explained that this appropriation will fund the four high priority projects referenced here. Bids have been sent out for two of the items (#26-0957 and #26-0959) and work will commence shortly. The remaining two items (#26-0958 and #06-0960) are bid ready.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0963](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$2,000,000 from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings Account to the Water Capital Stabilization Fund.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0967](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,200,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0966](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1016](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$549,399 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Traffic Safety Stabilization Fund for traffic safety improvements.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

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- 7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1010](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$360,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Judgments & Settlements Account for settlement payments relative to the lease between BRE-BMR, Middlesex LLC and the City of Somerville for the Assembly Square Fire Station at 45 Middlesex Avenue.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1008](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Compensated Absence Liability Fund.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.21. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1009](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$18,850 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Judgments & Settlements Account for closing costs relative to the purchase of the Assembly Square Fire Station Condominium Unit at 45 Middlesex Avenue.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.22. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0961](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$1,676,728 from the Salary Contingency Account-Salaries to the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.23. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0877](#)) Requesting approval to increase the Somertime Revolving Account Expenditure Limit for Fiscal Year 2026.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.24. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0949](#)) Requesting approval to increase the Special Event Revolving Fund Expenditure Limit for FY 2026.
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- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.25. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0977](#)) Requesting approval to execute the Fifth Amendment to the lease agreement with Dana Family Series, LLC, for the Grove Street parking lot, through June 30, 2027.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.26. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0998](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$41,257.05 using available funds in various Department of Public Works accounts for various services.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.27. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0868](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$2,500 using available funds in the Parks & Recreation Department Professional Services Account for removal and storage of floating docks at the Blessing of the Bay boathouse.
- Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the readings of items 7.15 to 7.27 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.28. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1002](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Efecan Yigitpasa to the position of Police Officer.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- 7.29. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1003](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Joshua Nardelli to the position of Police Officer.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- 7.30. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0878](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for the Smart Tree Inventory.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee
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- 7.31. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0999](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Body Worn Cameras.
- Discussed with item #26-1000.
John Hillman, Public Safety for All Project Manager shared some background information on the body-worn camera issue saying that the city and unions agreed to a policy for their use in 2021 and then refined the policy in 2023. President Davis explained that it's this item and item #26-1000 that will determine if and how body-worn cameras may be used, noting that any approved policy may not violate the terms of the recently ratified Somerville Police Superior Officers Association agreement.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee
- 7.32. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1000](#)) Requesting approval of the Technology-Specific Surveillance Use Policy for Body Worn Cameras.
- Discussed with item #26-0999.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee
- 7.33. Mayor's Communication (ID # [26-0936](#)) Conveying the updated 2025 Surveillance Technology Annual Report.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee
- 7.34. Mayor's Communication (ID # [26-1033](#)) Conveying an update regarding item #26-0825, a Resolution that the Administration submit a written report to this Council regarding the timeline and process for staffing the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator role and update this Council on the plan to process ADA complaints and accessibility coordination when this position is vacant.
- RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee
- 7.35. Mayor's Communication (ID # [26-1035](#)) Conveying information regarding changes in positions in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.
- RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
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8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0973](#)) Director of Communications & Community Engagement conveying the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Accessibility Compliance update for city website and digital assets.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-1036](#)) City Clerk conveying Block Party Licenses issued.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 8.3. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-1034](#)) Chief of Police conveying information regarding item #26-0378, a request of the Mayor for acceptance of a grant for a body-worn camera program.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [26-0982](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Galway Excavation LLC.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.2. License (ID # [26-0983](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Genesis Utilities Corporation.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.3. License (ID # [26-0984](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Mass Earthworks & Demolition.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.4. License (ID # [26-0985](#)) Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, Dunkin, 504 Broadway.

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- Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.5. License
(ID # [26-0986](#))
Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, McDonalds, 14 McGrath Highway.
Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.6. License
(ID # [26-0987](#))
Renewing Flammables License, Pearl Street Auto Sales, 182 Pearl Street.
Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.7. License
(ID # [26-0989](#))
Renewing Flammables License, Winter Hill Yacht Club, 500 Artisan Way.
Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.8. License
(ID # [26-0990](#))
Renewing Garage License, BRE-BMR Assembly Innovation I LLC, 122 Assembly Park Drive.
Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.9. License
(ID # [26-0991](#))
Renewing Garage License, John's Auto Sales, Inc., 181 Somerville Avenue.
Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.10. License
(ID # [26-0992](#))
Renewing Garage License, Pearl Street Auto Sales, 182 Pearl Street.
Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
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- 9.11. License
(ID # [26-0993](#))
- Renewing Outdoor Parking License, DM Collision Center LLC, 30 Joy Street.
- Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.12. License
(ID # [26-0994](#))
- Renewing Taxi Medallion License, V.I.N.L. Transportation, Inc., Med. #65.
- Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.13. License
(ID # [26-0995](#))
- Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Pearl Street Auto Sales, 182 Pearl Street.
- Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 to 9.13 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.14. Public Event
(ID # [26-0997](#))
- St. Benedict Parish applying for a Public Event License for A mile with Jesus on July 5 from 9:30 AM to 12 PM.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 9.15. Public Event
(ID # [26-0996](#))
- Horizons Trio applying for a Public Event License for Elation: An Exploration Through Music on July 21 from 6 PM to 7:30 PM (rain date July 27).
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 9.16. Public
Communication
(ID # [26-1006](#))
- 89 registered voters submitting a petition requesting a public hearing regarding Police Body-Worn Cameras, pursuant to Section 2-11 of the City Charter.
- Councilor Scott sponsored Derrick Rice to speak on the item. Mr. Rice commented that a public hearing, alone, would not satisfy his, and some others', expectations of what a true, broad and diverse conversation would look like regarding this issue. He noted that since the Council discussed this topic many times in Executive Session, it's difficult to know where our elected officials stand on the issue. He commented that it would be in the public interest for the Administration to be on the record with their timeline. President Davis stated that the use of body-worn cameras will not be implemented unless and until a surveillance technology impact report is approved and a technology specific use policy is adopted.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee
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- 9.17. Public Communication (ID # [26-1005](#)) Four residents submitting comments re: police presence in schools.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Citation (ID # [26-1042](#)) By Councilor Davis
Commending Alex Epstein on his commitment and activism to safe streets.

The citation was read into the record and President Davis noted that Mr. Epstein was not present to receive it. Mayor Wilson spoke about Mr. Epstein's passion and expertise for keeping people safe and wished him well in the next chapter of his life. Recognized to address the Council by President Davis, Mr. Chris Dewan listed many of the committees that Mr. Epstein served on in the city and said that he will be missed.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 10.2. Citation (ID # [26-1046](#)) By Councilor Mbah
Commending Jane Gardner on the auspicious occasion of her retirement.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 10.3. Citation (ID # [26-1047](#)) By Councilor Mbah
Commending Kimberly Baker on the auspicious occasion of her retirement.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 10.4. Order (ID # [26-1053](#)) By Councilor Sait, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Hardt, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wheeler
That the Director of Engineering and the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on Highland Ave temporary paving.

President Davis recused himself from this item and Councilor Mbah assumed the Chair.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

- 10.5. Resolution (ID # [26-1041](#)) By Councilor Wheeler
In support of rent control negotiations between the Keep Massachusetts Home campaign and Massachusetts developers.

Councilor Davis assumed the Chair.

Councilor Wheeler asked that this item be approved and that a copy be sent

to the city's state delegation.

RESULT: APPROVED

10.6. License
(ID # [26-1043](#))

New Sign/Awning License, Parlor Bird, 151 Cedar Street, 1 Sign.

RESULT: APPROVED

10.7. Public Event
(ID # [26-1045](#))

Office of Immigrant Affairs applying for a Public Event License for Portugal Day Flag Raising Ceremony on June 13 from 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 10.7 and 10.8 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

10.8. Public Event
(ID # [26-1044](#))

Groundwork Somerville applying for a Public Event License for Love in Bloom on June 20 from 12pm to 8:30pm.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the readings of items 10.7 and 10.8 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

10.9. Public
Communication
(ID # [26-1050](#))

Aaron Drasner submitting comments re: item #26-1023, that Chapter 2, Article VIII, Division 1 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as detailed within.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10.10. Public
Communication
(ID # [26-1049](#))

Jonah Abrams and Zachariah Trinagli submitting comments re: Davis Square.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10.11. Public
Communication
(ID # [26-1048](#))

Three residents submitting comments re: police presence in schools.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 11:51 PM.