



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 25, 2024

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 7:00 PM by Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. The City Council entered recess at 9:06 PM and returned at 9:24 PM. The City Council entered recess at 9:46 PM and returned at 10:02 PM.

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [24-0113](#))

Councilor Scott joined at 7:05PM

Councilor Mbah joined at 7:25PM

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

Present:

Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin

Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis

City Councilor At Large Jake Wilson

Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait

Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott

City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah

City Councilor At Large Willie Burnley Jr.

Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan

City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo

Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld

Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen

- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [24-0114](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 14, 2023.
(ID # [24-0115](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [24-0070](#)) By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson That the Director of Parks and Recreation discuss how inclusive playground accessibility is being considered in future playground plans and redesign projects.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 4.2. Order (ID # [24-0071](#)) By Councilor Strezo That the Director of Planning, Preservation and Zoning discuss the potential for density bonus incentives, such as \$150,000 for homeowners to build affordable housing for rent or homeownership.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.3. Order
(ID # [24-0072](#))

By Councilor Strezo, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott and Councilor Wilson

That the Director of Health and Human Services provide an update on the communication efforts and rollout of the Warming Center, including the plan to inform Armory tenants, and the plan for security and client assistance.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.4. Order
(ID # [24-0075](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Director of Office of Housing Stability appear before the Housing and Community Development Committee to discuss the current status of residents facing displacement and the number of households seeking rental assistance.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.5. Order
(ID # [24-0076](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development discuss the maintenance plan for the Armory building.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.6. Resolution
(ID # [24-0073](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Administration, in conjunction with the Housing and Water and Sewer Departments, provide optional, affordable, water utility assessments in low-income housing units and in benevolent landlord and subsidized landlord housing, whereby residents would pay their own water and sewer bills.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.7. Resolution
(ID # [24-0074](#))

By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

That the Administration provide an update on plans for Universal Basic Income/Guaranteed Basic Income implementation and roll out.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.8. Order
(ID # [24-0085](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen

That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this City Council how the sidewalk clearing pilot program is working this winter.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.9. Order
(ID # [24-0088](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Wilson

That the Director of Engineering install robust, permanent pedestrian crossing signage at the intersection of Vinal and Highland Avenues, given the importance of this crosswalk for High School students and many others.

Councilor Strezo noted that vehicles traverse that intersection and are illegally making left turns.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.10. Resolution
(ID # [24-0086](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen

That the Administration explain the issues that are preventing Reavis Field from opening and how the process may be expedited.

President Ewen-Campen informed the Council that there are code issues with the field. Councilor Davis commented that there may be other reasons, as well, and he reported that the height of one wall at the field does not meet code. Councilor Wilson noted that this is an urgent matter, as the youth sporting season is approaching.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: Open Space, Environment and Energy Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.11. Resolution
(ID # [24-0087](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Clingan
That the Administration discuss with this Council's Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance, whether the financial comparisons of various new school building scenarios have taken into consideration projected costs of creating new usages at the current Winter Hill and Brown School sites.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.12. Resolution
(ID # [24-0089](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen
In support of an enduring ceasefire in Gaza.

AMENDMENT:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Somerville City Council affirms the right of all Palestinian civilians and Israeli civilians to live in peace; and be it **RESOLVED**, That the Somerville City Council supports an enduring ceasefire **and/or any means to support long-lasting peace**, the provision of life-saving humanitarian aid in Gaza, and the release of all hostages, ~~detainees and political prisoners on all sides~~; and be it **RESOLVED**, That the Somerville City Council recognizes Israel's right to defend itself within the bounds of international law, and condemns the terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7th; **FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Somerville City Council condemns antisemitic, anti-Palestinian, **anti-Israeli**, anti-Arab, Islamophobic, and all xenophobic rhetoric and attacks; and be it, **FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Somerville City Council urges the Biden Administration, Senate and Congress to work towards an enduring ceasefire, humanitarian aid, and the release of all hostages, ~~detainees and political prisoners~~; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to each member of our federal delegation and to President Biden, urging them to use their position to enact a sustained ceasefire.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld assumed the Chair.

Councilor Ewen-Campen spoke on the Resolution saying that the ongoing military campaign has killed tens of thousands people, and continues to do so, adding that a ceasefire is a cessation of fighting and is the first step in working towards a lasting peace. He said the City Council has tools to advocate to legislative bodies above it and, since he feels that this is a deep concern of many in Somerville, he asked that the Resolution be sent to elected officials in our own government asking them to do everything in their power to change U.S. policy. He noted that some have told him that they find this Resolution painful, offensive, and divisive. He ended his comments by repeating a phrase he heard at an interfaith vigil last night: “A life lost is a whole world lost and a life saved is a whole world saved.”

Councilor Ewen-Campen sponsored Alain Jehlen and Jamal Halawa to address the Council. Mr. Halawa, a Palestinian, related a story of persecution perpetrated upon his family by the Israelis . He said the current war has killed 25,000 Palestinians in the last 100 days in Gaza. He noted the anti-Palestinian harassment and graffiti in Somerville and claimed that Israel is blocking aid from reaching the people in Gaza. He urged the Council to pass the Resolution. Alain Jehlen, a Jew, spoke of his father being in a concentration camp. He said it makes him furious that Israel’s actions in the war is not to protect its people. If Israel’s Jews are to be safe, they need to recognize the rights of the Palestinians. He urged the Council to pass this Resolution, adding that thousands of people are dying and that the United States could stop the war.

Councilor Burnley said that this Resolution represents a spark of hope. He said that Israel has had Gaza under siege for years. He stated that ceasefire means reproductive justice and ending this one-sided massacre. He added that 30% of people believe that Israel is committing genocide. He said that the actions of our government show that Palestinian lives don’t matter. He sponsored Jake Margolin to address the Council. Mr. Margolin, a Jew, said he supports this Resolution, adding that Jews are all safer if there is agreement that every life is important. The death and destruction happening now fails to keep Jews safe. He went on to say that our taxes are funding this war, so it is our place to speak out. He urged the Council to pass this Resolution. Councilor Burnley also sponsored Carina Kurban to address the Council. Ms. Kurban spoke about her family, who is from Lebanon, and said that her grandfather grew up in Gaza and was displaced by the Israelis. Her father grew up in Beirut and lived through Israeli bombings and she said that Israel is again bombing in Lebanon. She spoke of personally being detained and deported from Palestine by the Israeli army when she went there to do research for her thesis. She urged the Council to pass this Resolution.

Councilor Sait commented that she hears the pain and suffering of her constituents. She asked what our silence says about us and then sponsored Ivan Abarca to address the Council. Mr. Abarca spoke about the citation presented to him recently by the City Council and he spoke about growing up in Mexico and his time as a Mexican Diplomat to various areas, including Israel. He told those present that he lived and studied in Israel and that he is here to speak in favor of innocent Palestinians and to save human life. He has worked to promote peace and said voting in favor of a ceasefire is a balanced solution and if it saves only one life, it will go a long way. He told councilors that voting in favor of this Resolution only makes them more human.

President Pineda Neufeld sponsored Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz to address the Council. Rabbi Eliana urged the Council not to vote in favor of this Resolution. She is an Israeli who lived through two terrorist attacks. She came to Somerville because she believes that immigrants can build a life here. She is not opposed to a ceasefire but this Resolution makes her feel unwelcomed here, adding that she is experiencing hate in the city. She noted that Israeli people are also being killed. Rabbi Eliana commented that Somerville should be a sanctuary for all people living here and she is hoping that Somerville might effect change for the people here in this city. She said that no matter the vote on this tonight, we've already lost.

Councilor Strezo sponsored Marya Axner to speak. Ms. Axner said that the whole thing is a setup arranged by power hungry groups and that Somerville needs to figure out how to overcome its divisions. She is in favor of a ceasefire on all sides and said that blaming one side or the other will not work. Antisemitism seeks to blame Jews for everything that goes wrong. She would like the Resolution to say that Palestinians also need a homeland.

President Pineda Neufeld sponsored Sam Gechter to speak. Mr. Gechter said that he's afraid that by speaking he's putting a target on his face. He said that some people are free to speak and also free to intimidate. He said that we should learn from each other and he asked the Council to vote no on this Resolution. Mr. Gechter noted the lack of acknowledgment of the actions of Hamas and the deaths of Israelis and he pointed out that a ceasefire was in effect on October 7th when Hamas perpetrated this atrocity. Palestinians suffer under Hamas and things have gotten worse, in spite of many ceasefires. He noted Hamas's declaration to commit genocide of the Jews and said that a call for a ceasefire without calling for the removal of Hamas is a call for the destruction of the Jewish state.

Councilor Strezo sponsored Heddy Stern to speak. She is a descendent of holocaust survivors and spoke of the atrocities done by Hamas on October 7th. She claimed that this Resolution misquotes elected officials, adding that its language is problematic and that there are options available. She offered an alternative to not vote on this Resolution today and not to pass this particular Resolution.

Councilor Davis said he wants people to stop dying. He is profoundly sad and disappointed that this is being discussed, as the only thing it accomplishes is to deepen the division in the city. He said that this Resolution has caused pain in the city and that there were other ways to do this. He doesn't think there's a good way forward with this Resolution. He commented that he received in excess of 1,300 emails on this item. Councilor Davis noted that the City Council has limited power and this item impacted some of the councilors' other meetings. He asked if there's a way to move forward tonight without a yes or no vote on the item, adding that the actions of this Council aren't going to change any minds on a national scale.

Councilor McLaughlin said he could feel the tension in the room and he's hoping that this doesn't follow the path of some other communities. He fears the anger that's building up inside of people on all sides of the issue. Councilor Strezo said this is a chance to look into each other's eyes and see the humanity. She said that her concerns with this Resolution is the divisiveness it could potentially cause. She commented how Jews in the city are fearful for their families' safety. Councilor Clingan said he doesn't like being forced to choose a side and if a vote is taken, he will abstain by leaving the chamber during the vote. Councilor Wilson said that he ran for office to deal with local issues. He said he will support the Resolution to vote for peace and against hate. Councilor Scott noted some past Resolutions brought before the Council that dealt with national and

international issues. Councilor Mbah said that he will be supporting the Resolution because it focuses on the sanctity of human life.

Councilor Ewen-Campen stated his desire to vote on this Resolution this evening. He said that he knew that this would be a difficult experience and he did his absolute best to put forth something that people could agree with. He said he was referring to the mass detention of people being tortured when he mentioned “detainees.” He would have no opposition to including Israeli language as well as language condemning the attacks by Hamas. Councilor Davis feels that the way the Council does business is through its committees and moving this forward tonight is contrary to that practice. He asked Councilor Ewen-Campen to reconsider his desire to vote on the item tonight. Councilor Ewen-Campen stated his personal conviction to vote on the item tonight.

The item was laid on the table for a period of time while language changes were being discussed. The item was then removed from the table and put before the Council.

Councilor Ewen-Campen said that some amendments were made to the original Resolution. Councilor Burnley would like to remove the “and/or” and change it to “and.” Councilor Davis commented that the changes were based on comments received from constituents and acknowledges some of the sentiments expressed. Councilor McLaughlin supports the amended version. The amendments were approved on a unanimous roll call vote of 11 in favor.

Councilor Strezo proposed a dismantling of Hamas in support of a lasting peace and Councilor Ewen-Campen opposed that amendment. Councilor Strezo proposed an amendment “*That the City Council demands a dismantling of Hamas as part of a cease fire and for lasting peace and a dismantling of the Netanyahu Administration.*” Councilor Ewen-Campen opposed that amendment. Councilor Strezo stated that she thinks her amendment would help with the feeling of isolation that some feel. Councilor Clingan said he doesn’t know what “dismantling” means and this amendment just muddies the waters and Councilor McLaughlin said this highlights just how absurd this is getting. Councilor Davis has concerns about approving this amendment. Councilor Strezo asked councilors to support her amendment. The amendment was defeated on a roll call vote of 5 in favor (McLaughlin, Wilson, Clingan, Strezo, Pineda Neufeld), 6 opposed (Davis, Sait, Scott, Mbah, Burnley, Ewen-Campen) and none absent.

Finally, a vote on the Resolution, as amended, was taken. The item passed on a roll call vote of 9 in favor (McLaughlin, Davis, Wilson, Sait, Scott, Mbah, Burnley, Clingan, Ewen-Campen), 2 opposed (Strezo, Pineda Neufeld) and none absent.

Councilor Ewen-Campen assumed the Chair.

RESULT: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

NAY: City Councilor At Large Strezo, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

- 4.13. Order
(ID # [24-0090](#))
- By Councilor Sait, Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Economic Development take the steps described within, relative to the Armory building.
- Councilor Sait requested that this item be tabled for discussion at the next Council meeting.
- RESULT:** **LAID ON THE TABLE**
- 4.14. Order
(ID # [24-0091](#))
- By Councilor Mbah and Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry report to this Council’s Committee on Open Space, Environment and Energy on the status of the parks and open spaces that have been completed or are under construction and planning as part of redevelopment projects.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Open Space, Environment and Energy Committee
- AYE:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
- 4.15. Communication
(ID # [24-0092](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Ewen-Campen
In her capacity as Chair of the Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee, conveying new guidelines for discussion, for interviewing applicants in committee.
- Councilor Pineda Neufeld explained the changes being proposed, saying that feedback has been received indicating that appearing before the committee is intimidating. With that in mind, these changes are meant to invite participation of the public and to allow the committee to focus its time on adjudicatory boards. Those boards are: Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Condominium Review Board, Election Commission, Licensing Commission, Planning Board, Redevelopment Authority, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Candidates for civil service positions will continue to be referred to the committee. Councilor Pineda Neufeld is seeking to gauge the feeling of Council members. President Ewen-Campen referenced the guidelines that were put in place in 2017 and said that this proposal will correct some of the mistakes that were made in the previous (2017) procedure. Councilor Wilson said it can be intimidating to appear before a committee and removing the interview step will make it easier to secure candidates for positions. Councilor Davis stated that he thinks that constables should also appear before the committee.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.16. Order
 (ID # [24-0093](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
 That the Director of Inspectional Services update the Ward 1 Councilor regarding any fines associated with 24-28 Broadway, the former Taco Loco site, due to repeated cleanliness and business violations within the last two years.

Councilor McLaughlin spoke of multiple repeated problems at various locations and he would like an accounting of the actions taken by the city.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee
AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.17. Order
 (ID # [24-0094](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
 That the Director of Inspectional Services update the Ward 1 Councilor regarding any fines associated with 112 Broadway, formerly the East End Grill, for any violations within the last ten years.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee
AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.18. Order
(ID # [24-0095](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of Inspectional Services update the Ward 1 Councilor regarding any fines associated with 176-182 Broadway, formerly Patsy's Pastries, in the last ten years.

Councilor McLaughlin noted that the sidewalk at this address has not been shoveled and that a death occurred there.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.19. Order
(ID # [24-0096](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of Inspectional Services inspect 112 Broadway, 176-182 Broadway, and 24-28 Broadway for violations and report the findings to the Ward 1 City Councilor.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.20. Order
(ID # [24-0097](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of Inspectional Services address trash and other violations by the Rent-A-Center on Broadway.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.21. Order
(ID # [24-0098](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Tree Warden inspect and trim the tree at 11 Melvin Street.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.22. Order
(ID # [24-0099](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Tree Warden trim the tree at 11 Illinois Avenue.

Councilor McLaughlin moved to waive the readings of items 4.22 through 4.28 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.23. Order
(ID # [24-0100](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Parking address the low-hanging traffic sign on Washington Street, by Oliveria's Steakhouse and the BlueBike Station, that makes it difficult for pedestrians to pass.

Councilor McLaughlin moved to waive the readings of items 4.22 through 4.28 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.24. Order
(ID # [24-0101](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works inspect the many uneven sidewalks on the north side of Broadway in East Somerville, commonly known as the State streets.

Councilor McLaughlin moved to waive the readings of items 4.22 through 4.28 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.25. Order
(ID # [24-0102](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works address the uneven sidewalk in front of 11 Illinois Avenue.

Councilor McLaughlin moved to waive the readings of items 4.22 through 4.28 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.26. Order
(ID # [24-0103](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Water and Sewer clean the sewer at the intersection of Gilman and Cross Streets.

Councilor McLaughlin moved to waive the readings of items 4.22 through

4.28 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.27. Order
(ID # [24-0104](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Commissioner of Public Works work with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) to address the piles of trash under Interstate-93, by the Stop and Shop.

Councilor McLaughlin moved to waive the readings of items 4.22 through 4.28 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

4.28. Order
(ID # [24-0105](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of Engineering inspect the traffic signal at Foley Street and Middlesex Avenue to ensure the timing is functioning correctly.

Councilor McLaughlin moved to waive the readings of items 4.22 through 4.28 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on January 23, 2024.
(ID # [24-0077](#))

Councilor Wilson summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that among the items recommended for approval were 8 items for payment of prior invoices, 13 items for acceptance and/or expenditure of gifts or grants, 3 items for time only extensions of contracts, and 1 appropriation.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$2,833.59 using available funds in the Human Resources Department Professional & Technical Services Account for investigative services.
(ID # [23-1757](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,175.32 using available funds in the Parks and Recreation Professional & Technical Services Account for online payment services.
(ID # [23-1772](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

- 6.A.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1776](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$37,500 grant with no new match required, from the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) to the Fire Department for maritime related training and equipment.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

- 6.A.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1777](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$15,000 grant with no new match required, from New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) to the Arts Council for training and funding for a public art project.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

- 6.A.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1803](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$13,190.05 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Moving Services Account for moving of furniture and equipment.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

- 6.A.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1828](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension of eight months with Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, Inc. for design services for the Somerville High School project.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- AYE:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
- ABSENT:** City Councilor At Large Mbah
- 6.A.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1829](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension of eight months for PMA, LLC for Owner's Project Manager services for the Somerville High School project.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- AYE:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
- ABSENT:** City Councilor At Large Mbah
- 6.A.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1840](#)) Requesting acceptance of, and approval to expend, a \$48,529.99 grant with no new match required, from the Boston's Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for installation of access controls, card entry access, and indoor fencing.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- AYE:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
- ABSENT:** City Councilor At Large Mbah
- 6.A.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1846](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$135,000 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Administration and Finance for the implementation of a records management system.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1847](#))

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$16,041.33 using available funds in the Department of Infrastructure & Asset Management Professional & Technical Services Account for the Asset Management Program.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.12. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1848](#))

Requesting approval to accept a \$5,000 gift from the Cummings Foundation for the Basic Income Pilot.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.13. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1852](#))

Requesting acceptance of, and approval to expend, a \$75,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Special Response Team expenditures and overtime.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.14.Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1864](#)) Requesting approval of a grant of easement and maintenance agreement for US Union Square D2.1 Owner LLC for 10 Prospect Street and Somerville Avenue.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

RECUSED: Ward Two City Councilor Scott

6.A.15.Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1875](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$420 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Fire Alarm R&M Account for alarm monitoring.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.16.Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1876](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1632.31 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Roofing R&M Account for roof repairs.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.17.Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1877](#))

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$325 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Towing Account for towing services.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.18.Mayor's Request
(ID # [24-0010](#))

Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$122,627 grant with no new match required, from Mass General Hospital/Cambridge Health Alliance to the Health and Human Services Department for recruitment and training of Community Health Workers.

RESULT: **WITHDRAWN**

6.A.19.Mayor's Request
(ID # [24-0011](#))

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$28.75 using available funds in the Human Resources Department Wellness Account for an employee Weight Watchers wellness benefit.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

- 6.A.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0012](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only extension to the contract with WSP, Inc. for design work on the Somerville Avenue Utilities and Streetscape Improvements project.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- AYE:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
- ABSENT:** City Councilor At Large Mbah
- 6.A.21. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0013](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$3,000 grant with no new match required, from Somerville Cambridge Elder Services to the Council on Aging for senior transportation.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- AYE:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
- ABSENT:** City Councilor At Large Mbah
- 6.A.22. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0014](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$76,867 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs to the Council on Aging for social, educational and physical wellness programming.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- AYE:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
- ABSENT:** City Councilor At Large Mbah
- 6.A.23. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0015](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$3,600 grant with no new match required, from Massachusetts Councils on Aging to the Council on Aging for the Somerville Memory Cafe.

RESULT: **APPROVED**
AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.24.Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0035](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$91,211.79 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Fire Department for staffing costs.

RESULT: **APPROVED**
AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.25.Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0036](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$53,200 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Cultural Council to the Arts Council for the Local Cultural Council grant program.

RESULT: **APPROVED**
AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

6.A.26.Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0045](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$260,836.34 from the GLX Developer Contribution Fund Account for procuring an owners project representative for the 100 Chestnut Pedestrian Bridge.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: City Councilor At Large Mbah

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0053](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,405,962 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund Community Housing Reserve to the Affordable Housing Trust.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1 through 7.9 and 10.6 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0055](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$426,925 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund to the Mystic River Watershed Association for improvements to the Blessing of the Bay Linear Park.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1 through 7.9 and 10.6 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0054](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$35,000 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund Open Space Reserve to the Public Space & Urban Forestry Division for design of the Kennedy Schoolyard.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1 through 7.9 and 10.6 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0056](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$25,000 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund Historic Preservation Reserve to Vida Real for a condition assessment of the building at 404 Broadway.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1 through 7.9 and 10.6 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0052](#)) Requesting the transfer of \$75,605 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund Undesignated Fund Balance to the Community Housing Reserve.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1 through 7.9 and 10.6 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0080](#)) Requesting approval of an extension and amendment to the contract with Symmes Maini and McKee Associates for an additional three years to 2/28/2027, and a revised amount of \$978,649, for Central Hill design and construction administration.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1 through 7.9 and 10.6 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0038](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only extension until 12/31/2024 for the contract with Warner Larson Landscape Architects, to complete additional design services and punch list work at the Healey Schoolyard and Athletic Field.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1 through 7.9 and 10.6 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0067](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only extension until 1/1/2026 for the contract with Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners for design services on the Building Master Plan.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1 through 7.9 and 10.6 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0057](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only extension of three years for the contract with Vida Real for restoration of the bell tower at 404 Broadway.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1 through 7.9 and 10.6 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0084](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Austin Brower to the Board of Elections Commissioners.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [24-0109](#)) New Lodging House License, Tufts University, 29 Sawyer Ave, 27 residents.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, as well as item 10.11 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 9.2. License (ID # [24-0108](#)) Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 56 Professors Row.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, as well as item 10.11 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 9.3. License (ID # [24-0110](#)) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Raymy Inc, #59.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, as well as item 10.11 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

9.4. License
(ID # [24-0111](#))

Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Intercar, 39 Webster Ave.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, as well as item 10.11 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

9.5. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-0112](#))

Five residents submitting comments re: proposed Zoning Ordinance Climate & Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

9.6. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-0068](#))

Julie Corwin submitting comments re: Green Line Extension.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

9.7. Public Communication (ID # [24-0069](#))

Dan Seaman submitting comments re: Little Free Library on Cedar Street.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

9.8. Public Communication (ID # [24-0082](#))

Peter Heald submitting comments re: facial recognition technology.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

10.1. Order
(ID # [24-0106](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Davis, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Sait, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment work with this Council and Green and Open Somerville to develop a job description for an Invasive Species position to spearhead outreach, education, and citywide invasive plant species removal and to allocate funding for such a position in the FY 2025 budget.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Open Space, Environment and Energy Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezio, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

10.2. Order
(ID # [24-0107](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Economic Development update this Council on efforts taken to inform relevant business owners about the newly implemented closed captioning ordinance.

Councilor Burnley commented that he is eager to know what steps the city has taken with regard to this ordinance.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezio, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

10.3. Order
(ID # [24-0116](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the City Solicitor appear before the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters to discuss the scope and role of the Committee in confirming various appointments.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

10.4. Order
(ID # [24-0117](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management report on leaks at the Benjamin Brown School and any exterior envelope damages in the past six months, and actions being taken to address such leaks and damages including the recently dislodged downspout.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

10.5. Order
(ID # [24-0118](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management report on leaks at the Arts at the Armory Building and any exterior envelope damages in the past six months, and actions being taken to address such leaks and damages including the recently dislodged downspout.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 10.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0079](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$30,000 grant with no new match required, from MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to the Economic Development Division for the implementation of a green jobs training program for nontraditional students.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.1 through 7.9 and 10.6 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 10.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0119](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Jason Mackey to the Human Rights Commission.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- AYE:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
- 10.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0120](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Martin Polignone to the Human Rights Commission.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- AYE:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen
- 10.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0121](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Elyse Best to the Human Rights Commission.
- Councilor Pineda Neufeld moved to waive the readings of items 10.9 and 10.10 and approve them tonight.
- RESULT:** APPROVED

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

10.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # [24-0122](#))

Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Mallory Carroll to the Commission for Women.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld moved to waive the readings of items 10.9 and 10.10 and approve them tonight.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

10.11. License
(ID # [24-0123](#))

New Drainlayer's License, D'Alessandro Corp.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, as well as item 10.11 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

10.12. License
(ID # [24-0124](#))

New Garage License, John's Auto Sales Inc, 181 Somerville Ave, for 2 vehicles inside and 22 vehicles outside for mechanical repairs only, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: Closed.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- 10.13. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-0083](#))

Meriwether Buruss submitting comments re: ceasefire.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

- 10.14. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-0125](#))

Eleven individuals, including five residents, submitting comments re: item 24-0089 a resolution in support of an enduring ceasefire in Gaza.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

11. LATE ITEMS

- 11.1. Zoning Ordinance
(ID # [23-1625](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld

Amending Section 7.2.7 of the Zoning Ordinances to add Shared Workspace & Arts Education to Table 7.2.7 Permitted Uses.

Councilor McLaughlin noted that this is a basic change of use. Councilor Pineda Neufeld explained that the commercial spaces at the location have been vacant and a new clay works business has located there. This change of use will allow that business to operate there. A public hearing on the item was previously held.

RESULT: **ORDINANCE ORDAINED**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

11.2. Communication
(ID # [24-0131](#))

By Councilor Wilson
Conveying that the Finance chair will provide an update on the City Council’s shared budget priorities process for FY 2025 at the next City Council meeting on February 8.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

AYE: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 10:46 PM on a Roll Call vote of 9 in favor (McLaughlin, Davis, Sait, Mbah, Burnley, Clingan, Strezo, Pineda Neufeld, Ewen-Campen), 1 opposed (Wilson), 1 absent (Scott).