

City of Somerville, Massachusetts City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 24, 2025 7:00 PM City Council Chamber and Remote Participation

Published April 22, 2025, 1:00 PM, Revised Published April 24, 2025, 12:30 PM.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audiovideo recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Register at the following website to listen to this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN uKNAaZtHTPWRNHbJJZPEnw

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll. (ID # **25-0840**)

1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.

(ID # <u>25-0841</u>)

1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 27, 2025.

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

4.1. Order By Councilor Sait

(ID # <u>25-0839</u>) That the Director of Mobility update the traffic signal equipment at the intersection of Rogers Avenue and Boston Avenue.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Order By Councilor McLaughlin

> That the City Solicitor appear before this City Council to (ID # 25-0742)

> > discuss the proposed Charter currently in the Mayor's

office and update this Council on its progress.

5.2. Home Rule By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor McLaughlin and

Petition Councilor Davis

(ID # **25-0774**) Proposing a Home Rule Petition to establish a charter for

the City of Somerville.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

EQUITY, GENDER, FAMILIES AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS COMMITTEE 6.A.

6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors,

Families and Vulnerable Populations, meeting on April (ID # **25-0820**)

16, 2025.

6.A.2. Order By Councilor Strezo

> That the Director of Human Resources, Director of (ID # **25-0463**)

> > Parking, Director of Mobility and Chief of Police

respond to the recent incidents of four children being hit by cars in the past few months on their paths to school. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work

completed.

6.A.3. Order By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Mbah

> (ID # **25-0464**) That the Chief of Police report on the current number of

> > regularly staffed crossing guards throughout the city and the total number of crossing guard positions currently

available.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work

completed.

6.B. LAND USE COMMITTEE

Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting in Joint 6.B.1. Committee Report Session with the Planning Board on April 17, 2025.

(ID # **25-0825**)

6.C. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

6.C.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting

on April 15, 2025. (ID # <u>25-0782</u>)

6.C.2. Order (ID # <u>24-1686</u>)	By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott That the City Solicitor confirm whether an LGBTQ Legal Services Stabilization Fund can be created to pay fees associated with gendered document changes and potential court sealing of records associated with such documents. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation.
6.C.3. Order (ID # <u>25-0066</u>)	By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Scott and Councilor Sait That this Council discuss proposed amendments to the Tree Preservation Ordinance, as outlined in item #24-0493. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
6.C.4. Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0257</u>)	Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 2-304 through 2-310 of the Code of Ordinances to update the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved as amended.
6.C.5. Communication (ID # <u>25-0270</u>)	By Councilor Burnley Jr. Conveying the cost of changes to identity documents, in support of item #24-1686. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation.
6.C.6. Public Communication (ID # <u>25-0336</u>)	Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition submitting comments re: item #24-1686, creation of an LGBTQ Legal Services Stabilization Fund. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation.
6.C.7. Order (ID # <u>25-0379</u>)	By Councilor Scott, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Sait That the Director of Inspectional Services enforce Section 11-111 of the Code of Ordinances - Registration and maintenance of vacant property, in light of the recent collapse of 316 Somerville Avenue. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation.
6.C.8. Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0452</u>)	Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Hudl Focus cameras. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be placed on file.

6.C.9. Mayor's Request (ID # **25-0483**)

Requesting the acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64G, Section 3D(a), to authorize the city to impose a community impact fee of 3% of the total amount of rent upon each transfer of occupancy of "Professionally-managed units".

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.C.10. Mayor's Request (ID # 25-0484)

Requesting the acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64G, Section 3D(b), to authorize the city to impose the community impact allowed under Chapter 3D(a) of G.L. c. 64G, on each transfer of occupancy of a short-term rental unit in a two- or three-family dwelling, that includes the operator's primary residence.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.C.11. Mayor's Request (ID # **25-0752**)

Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology

Impact Report for Hudl Focus cameras.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be placed on file.

6.D. SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

6.D.1. Committee Report Report of the Special Committee on School Building (ID # 25-0779) Facilities and Maintenance, meeting on April 14, 2025.

6.D.2. Order

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld

(ID # <u>25-0233</u>)

That the Commissioner of Public Works work with relevant city staff to develop a prioritization and tracking system of 311 requests to maintain optimal school building conditions and proactively address potential concerns.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.D.3. Order

By Councilor Strezo

(ID # **25-0466**)

That the Director of Parks and Recreation report on the process by which Ginny Smithers Pool patrons are promptly notified of pool cancellations or schedule changes, including any modifications that could be made to that process in light of the March 2025 temporary pool closure.

RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work

completed.

6.D.4. Order By Councilor Pineda Neufeld That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an (ID # <u>25-0602</u>) update and timeline for repairs to damaged play structures at the Capuano Early Education Center schoolyard. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed. 6.D.5. Order By Councilor Pineda Neufeld That the Commissioner of Public Works plant natural (ID # 25-0603) turf in the muddy greenspace area at the Capuano Early Education Center in advance of the May 3 Family Fun Day celebration for the Capuano's 20th anniversary. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed. 6.D.6. Order By Councilor Sait, Councilor Wilson and Councilor (ID # <u>25-0642</u>) McLaughlin That the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on the continued closure of Ginny Smithers Sanders Pool and address the lack of communication with users of the pool. RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

7.	COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR	
7.1.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0781</u>)	Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to authorize the City of Somerville to employ automated enforcement of certain traffic violations.
7.2.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0524</u>)	Requesting approval to create the Chestnut Street Multimodal Safety Stabilization Fund and accept a payment of \$99,127 from the developer of 100 Chestnut Street to implement multimodal safety and access improvements.
7.3.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0651</u>)	Requesting the appropriation of \$1,468,693 from the Community Preservation Act Affordable Housing Reserve to the Affordable Housing Trust.
7.4.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0652</u>)	Requesting the appropriation of \$300,000 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund to the CPA Open Space Land Acquisition Fund.

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7.5.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0399</u>)	Requesting the appropriation of \$100,000 from the Community Preservation Act Budgeted Reserve and Open Space Reserve for improvements to Dilboy Auxiliary Fields.
7.6.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0398</u>)	Requesting the transfer of \$55,631 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Undesignated Fund Balance to the CPA Open Space Reserve.
7.7.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0683</u>)	Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$61,301.89 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for replacement of cameras.
7.8.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0674</u>)	Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$35,300 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for upgrades to the Emergency Operation Center.
7.9.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0823</u>)	Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$8,149.84 grant with no new match required from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for the purchase of firefighting gear for new recruits.
7.10.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0686</u>)	Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$12,430.19 using available funds in the Police Department In Service Training, Professional & Technical Services, Repairs to Radio Alarm, and Public Safety Supplies accounts.
7.11.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0833</u>)	Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Kerrey Kahn to the position of Firefighter.
7.12.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0834</u>)	Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Steven Flythe to the position of Firefighter.
7.13.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0838</u>)	Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Hudl Focus cameras.
7.14.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0831</u>)	Requesting approval of an exemption for Selam Woldemariam as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(d).
7.15.	Mayor's Request (ID # <u>25-0832</u>)	Requesting approval of an exemption for Erin McGovern as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(d).

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(ID # 25-0792)

Conveying the updated 2024 Surveillance Technology 7.16. Mayor's Annual Report. Communication (ID # 25-0837) 7.17. Mayor's Proclaiming April 2025 to be Arab American Heritage Month. Communication (ID # **25-0822**) 8. **COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS** 8.1. Officer's City Solicitor requesting approval to retain Verrill Dana, LLP, as outside legal counsel with respect to Combined Communication Sewer Overflow Control matters. (ID # **25-0824**) 8.2. Officer's Council on Aging Director conveying a presentation regarding the Somerville Senior Community Survey, Communication (ID # **25-0750**) with the UMass Boston Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging. 8.3. Officer's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Director conveying Communication an update on the obligation and current status of ARPA (ID # 25-0784) funds. 8.4. Officer's Planning Board conveying recommendations for items Communication #25-0269, #25-0129, #25-1460, #25-0128, and (ID # <u>25-0829</u>) #25-0131. 9. **NEW BUSINESS** 9.1. License New Drainlayer's License, RJV Construction Corporation. (ID # **25-0786**) 9.2. License Renewing Drainlayer's License, Alfa Excavation Inc. (ID # 25-0787) 9.3. Renewing Drainlayer's License, M.T. Mayo Corp. License (ID # **25-0788**) 9.4. Renewing Drainlayer's License, Super Service Today Inc. License (ID # 25-0789) 9.5. License Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, Pepi's Pizzeria, 516B Medford St. (ID # **25-0790**) 9.6. Renewing Flammables License, Aris Auto Inc., 3 Craigie License (ID # 25-0791) St. 9.7. License Renewing Flammables License, Boston Closet Company,

229 Lowell St.

9.8.	License (ID # <u>25-0793</u>)	Renewing Flammables License, Broadway Gulf, 212 Broadway.
9.9.	License (ID # <u>25-0794</u>)	Renewing Flammables License, Building 2 Owner LLC, 808 Windsor St.
9.10.	License (ID # <u>25-0795</u>)	Renewing Flammables License, U-Haul of Boston, 151 Linwood St.
9.11.	License (ID # <u>25-0796</u>)	Renewing Flammables License, U-Haul Company of Boston, 600 Mystic Valley Pkwy.
9.12.	License (ID # <u>25-0797</u>)	Renewing Flammables License, Union Gulf Service LLC, 231 Washington St.
9.13.	License (ID # <u>25-0798</u>)	Renewing Flammables License, Valvoline Instant Oil Change AB0001, 182 Washington St.
9.14.	License (ID # <u>25-0799</u>)	Renewing Garage License, Arco Tire Auto Service Repair LLC, 18 Clarendon Ave.
9.15.	License (ID # <u>25-0800</u>)	Renewing Garage License, Four Wheels Auto, 83A Albion St.
9.16.	License (ID # <u>25-0801</u>)	Renewing Garage License, Gene Automotive Repair, 56 Joy St.
9.17.	License (ID # <u>25-0802</u>)	Renewing Garage License, K Professional Auto Detailing, 682 Mystic Ave.
9.18.	License (ID # <u>25-0803</u>)	Renewing Garage License, Sam's Gas and Service, 166 Boston Ave.
9.19.	License (ID # <u>25-0804</u>)	Renewing Garage License, Somerville Auto Center, 193 Somerville Ave.
9.20.	License (ID # <u>25-0805</u>)	Renewing Garage License, Valvoline Instant Oil Change AB0001, 182 Washington St.
9.21.	License (ID # <u>25-0806</u>)	Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Country Club Transportation Inc, Med. #3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,46.
9.22.	License (ID # <u>25-0811</u>)	Renewing Taxi Medallion License, God's Blessing Cab Inc, Med. #60.
9.23.	License (ID # <u>25-0809</u>)	Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Green and Yellow TNC of Somerville, Med. #27,33,34,35,36,37,38,53,54,67,68.
9.24.	License (ID # <u>25-0812</u>)	Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Honey Cab Inc, Med. #82.

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9.25.	License (ID # <u>25-0807</u>)	Renewing Taxi Medallion License, LaFoi Taxi Inc, Med. #20.
9.26.	License (ID # <u>25-0808</u>)	Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Lochmere Taxi Inc, Med. #21,22,23,24,25,26,91.
9.27.	License (ID # <u>25-0810</u>)	Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Mount Pleasant Taxi Inc, Med. #28,30,31,32,39,40,41,42,43.
9.28.	Public Event (ID # <u>25-0817</u>)	Friends of the Community Growing Center applying for a Public Event License for Somerville Community Growing Center 2025 Event Calendar from April through December for various times.
9.29.	Public Event (ID # <u>25-0818</u>)	Communications and Community Engagement Department applying for a Public Event License for Slice of the City Series on various dates between May 1-21 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.
9.30.	Public Event (ID # <u>25-0819</u>)	Mobility Division applying for a Public Event License for Western Pearl Street Reconstruction Concept Design Open House on May 7 from 4:30pm to 8:30pm (raindate May 8).
9.31.	Public Event (ID # <u>25-0814</u>)	Mass Farmers Markets applying for a Public Event License for Davis Square Farmer's Market on every Wednesday from May 21 through November 26 from 10am to 7pm.
9.32.	Public Event (ID # <u>25-0815</u>)	Somerville Sports Club applying for a Public Event License for Somerville Sports Club Annual Holy Spirit Feast on May 25 from 9:30am to 1:30pm.
9.33.	Public Event (ID # <u>25-0816</u>)	Somerville Museum applying for a Public Event License for Som250 - Revolutionary Tours on May 25-27 from 8:00am to 4:30pm.
9.34.	Public Communication (ID # <u>25-0827</u>)	Four residents submitting comments re: Founders Memorial Skating Rink.
9.35.	Public Communication (ID # <u>25-0828</u>)	Daniel Brenner submitting comments re: Benton Road.
9.36.	Public Communication (ID # <u>25-0830</u>)	Jenn Harrington submitting comments re: salaries.

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9.37. Public Tufts Advancing Civic Thought In Our Nation (ACTION) submitting comments re: STEM Advocacy. (ID # 25-0835)

9.38. Public Communication (ID # 25-0843)

480 individuals submitting comments re: Israel.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

10.1. Resolution By Councilor Wilson
(ID # <u>25-0851</u>) By Councilor Wilson
Declaring April 21 to April 27, 2025, to be Greek Spirit
Week.

10.2. License New Drainlayer's License, Garrick Santo Landscape. (ID # 25-0844)

10.3. Public Event Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for (ID # <u>25-0845</u>) Porchfest on May 10 from 10:30am to 7pm (raindate May 11).

10.4. Public 284 individuals submitting comments re: Israel. Communication (ID # 25-0847)

11. ADJOURNMENT