



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 13, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation

Published July 11, 2023, 1:30 PM, Revised July 13, 2023 12:30 PM.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, 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/j/85481597494>.

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [23-1173](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [23-1174](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 8,
(ID # [23-1175](#)) 2023.

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
(ID # [23-1132](#)) 158 feet of conduit in Washington Street, from Utility
Pole 358/18 to Manhole 15060 near the intersection of
Knowlton Street, Tufts Street, and Washington Street.

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Withdrawn Withdrawn.
(ID # [23-1128](#))
- 4.2. Resolution By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # [23-1162](#)) That the Chief of Police adopt a policy of de-prioritizing enforcement against cyclists who treat red lights as stop signs when it is safe to do so (the “Idaho Stop”) in recognition of the compelling United States Department of Transportation data supporting this practice.
- 4.3. Resolution By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # [23-1164](#)) That the Administration immediately begin the design and community outreach process for the redesign of Highland Avenue from McGrath Highway to Central Street, which is the highest priority route on the Bike Network Plan that is under municipal control.
- 4.4. Order By Councilor McLaughlin
(ID # [23-1168](#)) That the Chief of Police and the Commissioner of Public Works address the dumping of trash, and the overgrowth of state properties near Maine Terrace, close to Interstate-93.
- 4.5. Order By Councilor McLaughlin
(ID # [23-1170](#)) That the Commissioner of Public Works address the overgrowth along McGrath Highway that is impeding pedestrian use.
- 4.6. Order By Councilor McLaughlin
(ID # [23-1171](#)) That the Commissioner of Public Works address the trash around 165 Broadway.
- 4.7. Resolution By Councilor McLaughlin
(ID # [23-1169](#)) That the Administration consider working with the Commonwealth to utilize vacant, vegetated state lands close to Interstate-93 that are currently blighted, for open space and pollution mitigation.
- 4.8. Resolution By Councilor McLaughlin
(ID # [23-1166](#)) That this City Council declares Somerville a Purple Heart Community and recognizes August 7 annually as Purple Heart Day.

- 4.9. Resolution (ID # [23-1172](#)) By Councilor Kelly and Councilor McLaughlin
That the Administration update this Council on locations of sharps collection stations and work with the Commissioner of Public Works to install sharps collection stations in all public restrooms.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 5.1. Order (ID # [23-0922](#)) By Councilor Wilson
That the City Solicitor appear in executive session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to update this council on the status of collective bargaining negotiations with all municipal bargaining units.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1140](#)) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on July 10, 2023.
- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1059](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Michael Switkez to the Biosafety Committee.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1064](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Francine Rogers to the Biosafety Committee.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1075](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Elizabeth Champion to the Condominium Review Board.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.B. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1159](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on July 12, 2023.
- 6.B.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1104](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 7-63 through 7-67 of the Code of Ordinances, the Condominium Conversion Ordinance.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved as amended.

6.C. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1142](#)) Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on July 12, 2023.

- 6.C.2. License (ID # [23-0582](#)) Renewing Garage License, Dewire Family Trust, 141 Beacon St.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.3. License (ID # [23-1062](#)) New Garage License, New England Collision Center Inc, 224 Somerville Ave, 10 cars inside, 4 cars outside for mechanical repairs, autobody work, spray painting, and washing vehicles, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, and Sun: closed.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved with conditions.

6.D. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1148](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on July 10, 2023.
- 6.D.2. Order (ID # [22-0367](#)) By Councilor Kelly and Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That this Council discuss the unmet public health needs that have been identified by Somerville's non-profits and service providers.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D.3. Order (ID # [23-0608](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Clingan
That the Chief of Police provide this Council with a report containing the information requested within for all incidents where a firearm was discharged since January 1, 2018.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D.4. Order (ID # [23-0616](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Davis
That the Chief of Police and the Director of Communications and Community Engagement discuss with this Council the viability of establishing a gun buyback event, focused on those who may be a danger to themselves, including strategic outreach involving community partners in the healthcare industry.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.D.5. Resolution
(ID # [23-0796](#)) By Councilor Kelly, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Davis and Councilor McLaughlin
That the Administration update this Council on the progress and timeline for establishing a safe consumption site.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D.6. Order
(ID # [23-0912](#)) By Councilor Kelly
That the Chief of Police halt the use of unmarked patrol vehicles for all traffic enforcement.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D.7. Order
(ID # [23-0913](#)) By Councilor Kelly
That the Chief of Police and the Director of Mobility report to this Council on the methodology used for pedestrian and cyclist stops made by Police Department officers.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D.8. Resolution
(ID # [23-0921](#)) By Councilor Scott
Urging the Mayor to fill the two vacancies on the Biosafety Committee and restore it to a functional body.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.E. SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.E.1. Committee Report
(ID # [23-1138](#)) Report of the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance, meeting on June 28, 2023.
- 6.E.2. Resolution
(ID # [23-0972](#)) By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration expedite the planning, design and construction of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School to ensure the re-opening of said school as soon as possible.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.3. Order
(ID # [23-0984](#))

By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management and the Commissioner of Public Works present to this City Council, the building failures that took place in the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and a plan for assessing those failures.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.4. Order
(ID # [23-0985](#))

By Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management dedicate full time staff and/or create new position(s) to the planning, design and construction process for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and the Benjamin Brown School and include this position in the FY 2024 budget.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.5. Order
(ID # [23-0987](#))

By Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management explain what Request for Proposals (RFP) will be necessary for consultant services for planning and architectural services for any future school building programming and planning, and expedite those RFPs.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.6. Resolution
(ID # [23-0989](#))

By Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration create a permanent staff position for a Superintendent of School Buildings within the Department of Public Works to oversee all maintenance, repairs and assessments of school buildings, and include this position in the FY 2024 Budget.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.7. Resolution (ID # [23-0990](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration evaluate the need to create permanent staff positions within the Department of Public Works for school buildings that address the highest needs of our school buildings including, but not limited to: mechanical systems, plumbing systems, fire alarm and electrical systems and exterior envelope and structural systems.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.8. Resolution (ID # [23-0991](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration include in the FY 2024 budget, \$150,000 for an exterior envelope consultant to assess ongoing leaks in school buildings.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0779](#)) Requesting approval of a Sidewalk Easement and Maintenance Agreement at 100 Chestnut Street.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1156](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$119,032.68 from the Parks Stabilization Fund for additional construction services for Reavis Field at the High School.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1127](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend an additional \$300,000, with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Infectious Disease & Laboratory Sciences to the Health and Human Services Department for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing.

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [23-1129](#)) Renewing Billiards and Bowling License, Diesel Cafe, 257 Elm St.
- 9.2. License (ID # [23-1158](#)) New Drainlayer's License, GVC Construction Inc.
- 9.3. License (ID # [23-1150](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Galway Excavation LLC.

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| 9.4. | License
(ID # 23-1130) | Renewing Drainlayer's License, L.V.M.J. Corporation. |
| 9.5. | License
(ID # 23-1131) | Renewing Drainlayer's License, Tascon Corporation. |
| 9.6. | License
(ID # 23-1152) | Renewing Drainlayer's License, W.L. French Excavating. |
| 9.7. | License
(ID # 23-1137) | New Sign/Awning License, Gong Cha, 418 Highland Ave, replacing 1 awning cover. |
| 9.8. | Withdrawn
(ID # 23-1154) | Withdrawn. |
| 9.9. | Public Event
(ID # 23-1153) | Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica Music in the Park on July 14 from 5pm to 9pm (raindate July 20). |
| 9.10. | Public Event
(ID # 23-1151) | Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for ArtBeat: Pulse on July 15 from 8am to 11pm (raindate July 16). |
| 9.11. | Public Event
(ID # 23-1161) | Dalbir Singh applying for a Public Event License for Shabeel on July 15 from 8am to 7pm (raindate July 22). |
| 9.12. | Public Event
(ID # 23-1133) | Yessenia Lopez applying for a Public Event License for St Benedict Feast Day on July 16 from 8am to 12:30pm. |
| 9.13. | Public Event
(ID # 23-1157) | Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Anbdu on July 29 from 3pm to 9:30pm (raindate July 30). |
| 9.14. | Public Event
(ID # 23-1134) | Richard Lawson applying for a Public Event License for Glendale Ave BP on August 12 from 11am to 6:30pm (raindate August 13). |
| 9.15. | Public Event
(ID # 23-1135) | Cortney Kirk applying for a Public Event License for Spring St BP on August 13 from 11:30am to 4:30pm (raindate August 20). |
| 9.16. | Public Event
(ID # 23-1136) | Anthony Leccese applying for a Public Event License for Procession for S.S. Comas & Damian on September 10 from 2:30pm to 6:30pm (raindate September 17). |
| 9.17. | Public Event
(ID # 23-1155) | Megan Smith applying for a Public Event License for Adrian St/Joseph St BP on September 16 from 12pm to 6pm (raindate September 17). |

- 9.18. Public Event
(ID # [23-1167](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for SomerStreets: Strike up the Bands on September 17 from 12pm to 8pm.
- 9.19. Public Event
(ID # [23-1163](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for What the Fluff? on September 23 from 12pm to 9pm (raindate September 24).
- 9.20. Public Event
(ID # [23-1165](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Ignite Festival on September 30 from 2pm to 11pm (raindate October 1).

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Order
(ID # [23-1183](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Director of Water and Sewer and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management explain what maintenance will be required for the new Poplar Street Pump Station and Spring Hill Sewer Separation Project, and how these maintenance requirements will be staffed to ensure their proper upkeep.
- 10.2. Order
(ID # [23-1184](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management report on recent air conditioning failures in City Hall and what repairs have been or will be completed to address those issues.
- 10.3. Resolution
(ID # [23-1185](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That this Council and the Administration, resolve to support all programs to ensure that all youth reach their full potential and to eliminate all academic gaps between our white students and our students of color, starting at the early stages of development.
- 10.4. Resolution
(ID # [23-1186](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Administration utilize city and community space for cooling centers this summer for homeless community members while we await long term warming and cooling centers.
- 10.5. Order
(ID # [23-1187](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Commissioner of Public Works appear before this Council to discuss what actions have and can be taken to ensure that trash and recycling barrels do not obstruct sidewalks after pick-up.
- 10.6. Withdrawn
(ID # [23-0697](#)) Withdrawn.

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- 10.7. Withdrawn (ID # [23-1124](#)) Withdrawn.
- 10.8. Public Event (ID # [23-1182](#)) Emma Garfinkel applying for a Public Event License for Pomi's at the Park on July 15 from 8am to 2pm.
- 10.9. Public Event (ID # [23-1176](#)) Noah Pestana applying for a Public Event License for OnPoint Improv on July 23 and July 30 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm (raindates July 26 and August 2).
- 10.10. Public Event (ID # [23-1180](#)) Rob Moir applying for a Public Event License for Climate Action Table on July 25 from 1:30pm to 5:30pm (raindate July 26).
- 10.11. Public Event (ID # [23-1179](#)) Hannah O'Brien applying for a Public Event License for Pan Mass Challenge X SmartBear on August 3 from 2:45pm to 5:15pm (raindate August 8).
- 10.12. Public Event (ID # [23-1181](#)) Council on Aging applying for a Public Event License for Mayor Ballantyne's Senior Picnic on August 8 from 8:30am to 2pm (raindate August 9).
- 10.13. Public Communication (ID # [23-1178](#)) Aaron Kaplowitz submitting comments re: item #23-1162, a resolution regarding the "Idaho Stop".

11. LATE ITEMS**12. ADJOURNMENT**