



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 13, 2025

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.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis.

The City Council entered recess at 7:10 PM and returned at 7:13 PM.

The City Council entered recess at 7:39 PM and returned at 7:45 PM.

The City Council entered recess at 9:36 PM and returned at 9:48 PM.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

Councilor McLaughlin arrived at 9:16 PM.

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

1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [25-1693](#))

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [25-1694](#))

Councilor Clingan requested a moment of silence in memory of Maria Angelica Parabello.

RESULT: APPROVED

1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2025.
(ID # [25-1695](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

- 1.4. Minutes (ID # [25-1696](#)) Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 21, 2025.

RESULT: APPROVED

2. CITATIONS

- 2.1. Citation (ID # [25-1691](#)) By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Strezo Commending Fire Lieutenant Danielle O'Hearn for the publication of her book about and work with a first responder dog.

Councilor Wilson read the citation into the record. Councilor Clingan noted that the extra things departments take on make a difference in the community and Councilor Strezo listed several of the awards received by Lieutenant O'Hearn over her years with the city. Lieutenant O'Hearn addressed the Council, thanked the members for the citation and spoke about her work with Millie, the subject of her book "*Millie the Brave: Fire Dog by Day, Heart Healer by Night*" and how Millie has affected so many lives in her work as a therapy dog.

RESULT: APPROVED

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1658](#)) Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 164 feet of conduit and one new vault in Broadway, from an existing Manhole to the new vault at 168 Broadway, continuing to points of pickup at 168, 174, and 176 Broadway.

Dave Flewelling, representing Comcast, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 3.2. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1656](#)) Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 223 feet of conduit and one new vault in Cross Street, from an existing Manhole to the new vault at 5 Cross Street, continuing to points of pickup at 5, 7, and 9 Cross Street.

Dave Flewelling, representing Comcast, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 3.3. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1657](#)) Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 83 feet of conduit in Stickney Avenue, from Utility Pole 2 to a point of pickup at 15 Stickney Avenue.

Dave Flewelling, representing Comcast, spoke in favor of the item and

explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 3.4. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1661](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 48 feet of conduit in Professors Row, from Utility Pole 289/14 to a point of pickup at 124 Professors Row.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 3.5. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1659](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 253 feet of conduit and one new Manhole 32124 in Innerbelt Road and Roland Street, from existing Manhole 24106 to a point of pickup at the Somerville/Boston line.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 3.6. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1660](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 181 feet of conduit and one new Manhole 39136 in Taylor Street, from Mystic Avenue to a point of pickup at 9-15 Taylor Street.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

RESULT: APPROVED

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [25-1637](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management update this Council on how the foundation at the Brown School is monitored, whether mitigation is required to address any concerns, and if so, the details of those mitigation plans.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

- 4.2. Communication (ID # [25-1654](#)) By Councilor Davis
In his capacity as President, conveying this Council's updated Standing and Special Committee assignments and Commission appointments for 2025.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

4.3. Resolution
(ID # [25-1644](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Administration and relevant city departments discuss the cost and work required to get the Founders Rink reopened and functioning.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

4.4. Resolution
(ID # [25-1645](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Administration immediately assign a direct phone number connecting to a city liaison who is designated to answer questions from residents about food insecurity and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits support.

This item was discussed with items #25-1689 and #25-1655.

RESULT: APPROVED

4.5. Resolution
(ID # [25-1688](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Administration, the Director of Mobility and the Director of Health and Human Services, discuss the recent closure of the West Somerville Community Bike Path bordering Cambridge, and present a plan to address this closure.

Councilor Strezo stated that she has been unable to obtain any solid answers regarding this closure. Councilor Hardt commented that the area is hazardous and that there is a lack of signage and she is looking forward to addressing the situation.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

4.6. Resolution
(ID # [25-1689](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Administration take any available steps, including communication strategies such as robocalls, texting and electronic road signs, to reach out to residents about food insecurity due to the increase of poverty in Somerville.

This item was discussed with items #25-1645 and #25-1655.

Councilor Strezo asked about ways to reach out to those experiencing food insecurity. Health and Human Services Director Karin Carroll explained that 311 will route calls to the proper city departments or to the Project Bread hotline at 1-800-645-8333, if after hours.

RESULT: APPROVED

4.7. Communication
(ID # [25-1690](#))

By Councilor Strezo

Conveying concerns regarding the increasing costs to low income pet owners and inviting community members to help solve concerns about pet food insecurity and the cost of veterinary care.

Councilor Strezo thinks that pet ownership is becoming a class barrier and she would like to explore a pilot program in conjunction with Tufts wherein veterinary students might be able to provide medical care for pets in Somerville.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

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

4.8. Resolution
(ID # [25-1655](#))

By Councilor Sait

In support of direct assistance for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients.

This item was discussed with items #25-1645 and #25-1689.

Councilor Sait explained that the resolution is to urge the state to act regarding food insecurity. Director Carroll stated that there are about 10 people available to enroll people into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program and as of last week, benefits have been restored to SNAP cards.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

4.9. Resolution
(ID # [25-1678](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Sait

Requesting that the Administration cooperate with this Council to establish a Water and Sewer Rate Commission to establish water and sewer rates and to oversee abatements, as is common in other Massachusetts cities.

This item was discussed with item #25-1677.

Councilor Ewen-Campen spoke about the water and sewer rate approval process, saying that it comes at the end of the city's fiscal year budget discussions and increases the burden on the City Council. He noted that many municipalities are using appointed water and sewer commissions comprised of people who are familiar with water and sewer operations and who have the time to thoroughly investigate proposals. He isn't sure how this may be accomplished, but he's raising the issue for consideration.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

4.10. Resolution
(ID # [25-1677](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Hardt, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
In support of the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority committing additional resources to stormwater management.

This item was discussed with item #25-1678.

Councilor Ewen-Campen commented that the city is required to produce a plan to remediate raw sewage from overflowing into the Mystic River, and to date, several infrastructure projects have been proposed. The city is required to cover the lion's share of the astronomical cost of these projects and has been informed by staff that taxpayers can expect 15-20% increases

in water and sewer rates for the next 5 years. Councilor Ewen-Campen commented that even if the money was available to complete the projects, the plan isn't good enough to eliminate all the sewage from going into the Mystic River. He feels that the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) needs to get more involved in the planning process and needs to assume a greater share of the cost and the purpose of the resolution is to urge the state to act to that end.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

4.11. Order
(ID # [25-1685](#))

By Councilor Mbah and Councilor Sait

That the Director of Engineering and the Director of Mobility coordinate to install a traffic light at the intersection of Benton Road and Highland Avenue to prevent fatalities.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

4.12. Communication
(ID # [25-1684](#))

By Councilor Mbah

Conveying a report of the Job Creation and Retention Trust Fund.

Councilor Mbah reported on the October 27, 2025, meeting of the Job Creation and Retention Trust Fund saying that two new programs were awarded funding - \$200,000 was awarded to the Somerville Center for Adult Workers and \$200,000 was awarded to the Somerville Community Corporation for construction skill training. Several other programs were extended and others have expired. Councilor Mbah noted that the Health Care Training Program has been completed with 60 participants passing the nursing certification exam.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

4.13. Ordinance
(ID # [25-1686](#))

By Councilor Wilson

Amending Chapter 8, Article III of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to secondhand dealer licenses.

Councilor Wilson explained that this proposal is intended to clarify the language in the current ordinance.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

4.14. Order
(ID # [25-1687](#))

By Councilor Wilson

That the Director of Inspectional Services update this Council on the rodent hormonal birth control program being jointly piloted with the City of Cambridge.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Rodent Issues Special Committee

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- 6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on November 10, 2025.
(ID # [25-1671](#))

Councilor Wilson summarized the actions taken by the committee and noted that item #25-1560 was discharged from committee with no recommendation. Councilor Scott explained that the city missed a step in the past regarding benefit payments and that this is just a bookkeeping adjustment, adding that there is less than \$10,000 in the fund.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to create the Community Benefits Stabilization fund and accept a payment to the fund of \$3,946,742.98 from the community benefit contributions outlined in project development covenants.
(ID # [25-1560](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

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

ABSENT: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin

- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request 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.
(ID # [25-1584](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.4. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$23,109.33 using available funds in various Department of Public Works Accounts for various services.
(ID # [25-1585](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.5. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to create a Housing Assistance Stabilization fund under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B.
(ID # [25-1599](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

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

ABSENT: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin

- 6.A.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1600](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$1,110,000 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development and Police Department for the development of the Union Square Plaza and Streetscape Phase 1.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.B. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1670](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting in Joint Session with the Redevelopment Authority on November 6, 2025.

Councilor McLaughlin asked that the Committee Report be accepted.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 6.B.2. Public Communication (ID # [24-0328](#)) Ten individuals, including five residents, submitting comments re: item 24-0059, a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 321 Washington Street from Fabrication (FAB) to Commercial Industry (CI).

RESULT: **WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1239](#)) Requesting that this City Council schedule a joint public hearing with the Somerville Redevelopment Authority regarding updating the 90 Washington Street Demonstration Project Plan.

RESULT: **WORK COMPLETED**

6.C. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1672](#)) Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on November 12, 2025.

Councilor Burnley reported that Comcast did not have a representative present to discuss the only item on the agenda, therefore, that item will remain in committee.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.D. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1628](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on October 30, 2025.
Councilor McLaughlin asked that the Committee Report be accepted.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.D.2. Order (ID # [25-0064](#))
By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Mbah
That the Chief Fire Engineer and the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council how to ensure Fire Department facilities are well maintained.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.D.3. Order (ID # [25-1180](#))
By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Davis, Councilor Mbah and Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Economic Development and City Clerk discuss with this Council policies regarding outdoor seating and how the city may make it easier and less expensive for small businesses.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.D.4. Order (ID # [25-1340](#))
By Councilor Strezo, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Emergency Management and Mayor inform City Councilors in real time when emergency events are occurring in the city, such as fires or emergency evacuations.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.D.5. Resolution (ID # [25-1353](#))
By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Davis
That the Administration direct all relevant departments, including Health and Human Services, to appear before this City Council to discuss and update on current unhoused outreach efforts.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.D.6. Resolution (ID # [25-1561](#))
By Councilor Davis, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration discuss with this Council the process for removing abandoned items from public spaces.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.D.7. Resolution (ID # [25-1562](#))
By Councilor Davis and Councilor Strezo
That the Administration discuss with this Council whether there is a need to create additional alternative locations for people to store their belongings.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
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- 6.D.8. Resolution (ID # [25-1563](#)) By Councilor Davis and Councilor Strezo
That the Administration provide data on needles found in and around Davis Square, outside of the designated receptacle box, including a breakdown by specific location, and used vs. unused.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.E. SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
- 6.E.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1625](#)) Report of the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance, meeting on October 28, 2025.
Councilor Clingan asked that the Committee Report be accepted.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.E.2. Order (ID # [25-1355](#)) By Councilor Sait
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management update this Council on when the school buildings maintenance project website will be available to the public.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.E.3. Resolution (ID # [25-1356](#)) By Councilor Sait, Councilor Davis, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Scott, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Mbah and Councilor Strezo
That the Administration release the report on the School Department composting pilot program and that the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on any plans to re-introduce composting in the schools.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.E.4. Order (ID # [25-1422](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide information regarding the installation, safety and accessibility of a railing on the concrete stairs between the play structures and the soccer field at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School playground.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.E.5. Resolution (ID # [25-1438](#)) By Councilor Strezo, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration inform this Council of the process, action and communication used to consider acquiring the closed school building privately owned by the Archdiocese of Boston, on Thurston Street, after the Winter Hill Community Innovation School was deemed unsuitable for use.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
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- 6.E.6. Order (ID # [25-1517](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide an update on the condition of the High School building exterior tiles, and efforts to prevent and mitigate future tile failures.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.F. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE
- 6.F.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1623](#)) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on October 27, 2025.
Councilor Sait reported that the committee discussed restrictions concerning autonomous driving and asked that the Committee Report be accepted.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 6.F.2. Resolution (ID # [25-1016](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Mayor disclose to this Council any communication with Waymo or its parent company Google regarding autonomous driving tests within city limits.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.F.3. Order (ID # [25-1017](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
That the City Solicitor provide an opinion on whether this Council can restrict the use of autonomous driving testing within city limits, either through an outright ban or through requirement of a special permit.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.F.4. Order (ID # [25-1018](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
That the City Solicitor provide an opinion on whether an individual within a vehicle or the autonomous vehicle company would be responsible if issued a citation during autonomous driving testing.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.F.5. Resolution (ID # [25-1019](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That this Council consider whether to ban or restrict autonomous vehicle testing locally, if permitted by law.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED
- 6.F.6. Order (ID # [25-1502](#)) By Councilor Clingan and Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Mobility install a solar powered digital YOUR SPEED IS display sign on Shore Drive westbound.
RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.F.7. Order
(ID # [25-1550](#))
- By Councilor Sait
That the Director of Mobility install a speed bump on Ashland Street.

RESULT: **WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.F.8. Order
(ID # [25-1564](#))
- By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Parking place NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER signs on Walnut Street at Sunnyside Avenue.

RESULT: **WORK COMPLETED**

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1652](#))
- Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 2-309.9 and 2-309.10 of the Code of Ordinances to clarify term length and appointment process for the Community Preservation Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

- 7.2. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1649](#))
- Requesting approval of a Pedestrian Access Easement and grant of a Maintenance License for 495 Columbia Street.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1681](#))
- Requesting approval to appropriate \$875,000 from the Community Benefits Stabilization Fund for food security initiatives.

This item was discussed with item #25-1682.

Mayor Ballantyne addressed the Council asking for an investment in the community's well-being about rising food costs and food security, saying that the need is immediate and growing.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

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

ABSENT: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin

- 7.4. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1682](#))
- Requesting approval to appropriate \$100,000 from the Community Benefits Stabilization Fund to support the Senior Taxi Program.

This item was discussed with item #25-1681.

Director Carroll spoke about food security initiatives and noted that a food assessment process is underway to identify where gaps may exist.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

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

ABSENT: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin

7.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1680](#))

Requesting the appropriation of \$407,090 from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings Account to the Water Enterprise Fund Debt Service Account to fund debt service for a Massachusetts Water Resource Authority loan.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1679](#))

Requesting the appropriation of \$403,980 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Debt Service, Interest on Notes/BANS Account for payment of interest for the 90 Washington Street property acquisition.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1620](#))

Requesting approval of a transfer of \$15,500 from various SomerStat Ordinary Maintenance Accounts to the SomerStat Salaries & Wages Temporary Account to fund additional temporary employee time.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.8. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1624](#))

Requesting approval of a transfer of \$729 from the Communications Department Community Outreach Account to the Somerville High School (SHS) Salaries Account for SHS staff participation in the new PK-8 School Building Planning Focus Group Session.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance

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- Committee.
RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1639](#)) Requesting approval to retain McHaffey & Nice, LLC, as outside legal counsel with respect to employment matters relating to immigration status.
Councilor Burnley asked if the current contract expires next year and Assistant City Solicitor Matt Sirigu explained that this is a new contract with different counsel due to the complexities involved.
RESULT: **APPROVED**
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1636](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$109,296 grant, with no new match required, from Executive Office of Public Safety to the Fire Department for staffing costs.
Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1621](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend an \$87,450 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Office of Grants & Research to the Police Department for public safety staffing.
Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1627](#)) Requesting approval to accept the in-kind donation of two K-9 animals to the Police Department for the purpose of providing support to victims and serving as an investigative resource.
Sergeant Devon Schneider appeared before the Council with a Chelsea Police Officer and his K-9 and spoke about the dual-purpose program involving K-9's in a comfort capacity. The city will be receiving two K-9s, one of which will be used as both a comfort canine and a search K-9 possessing electronic detection capabilities. Sergeant Schnieder spoke of cases where K-9s have been used during investigations with their abilities leading to convictions of child abusers.
RESULT: **APPROVED**
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- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1640](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$5,285.77 using available funds in the Police Department Computer Supplies Account for computer supplies.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1622](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,765.28 using available funds in the Police Department Professional and Technical Services Account for case management services.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1646](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,547.55 using available funds in the Police Department Animal Control Professional and Technical Services Account for veterinary services.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1648](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$271 using available funds in the Police Department Badges, Emblems, Trophies Account for educational achievement award bars.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1638](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$125.43 using available funds in the Department of Racial and Social Justice Computer Equipment Account for freight charges.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
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FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee7.18. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1651](#))

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$54 using available funds in the Police Department Badges, Emblems, Trophies Account for a hat badge.

Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.19. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1629](#))

Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Steven Mauras to the position of Fire Deputy Chief.

Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the readings of items 7.19 through 7.25 and refer them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters
Committee

7.20. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1630](#))

Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Marc Ardolino to the position of Fire District Chief.

Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the readings of items 7.19 through 7.25 and refer them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters
Committee

7.21. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1631](#))

Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Jay McKenzie to the position of Fire Captain.

Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the readings of items 7.19 through 7.25 and refer them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters
Committee

7.22. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1632](#))

Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Michael Marino to the position of Fire Captain.

Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the readings of items 7.19 through 7.25 and refer them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.

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- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee
- 7.23. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1633](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Nicholas Halloran to the position of Fire Lieutenant.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the readings of items 7.19 through 7.25 and refer them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee
- 7.24. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1634](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Raymond Busi to the position of Fire Lieutenant.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the readings of items 7.19 through 7.25 and refer them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee
- 7.25. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1635](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Ronald Hampton to the position of Fire Lieutenant.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the readings of items 7.19 through 7.25 and refer them to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee
- 7.26. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1619](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Rona Fischman to the Community Preservation Committee.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED**
- 7.27. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1692](#)) Requesting approval of an exemption for Marco MacElhiney as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(b).
- RESULT:** **APPROVED**
- 7.28. Mayor's Communication (ID # [25-1647](#)) Conveying the appointment of Charles McGonigal and reappointment of Darci Hanna and Cindy Lee to the Municipal Scholarship Committee.
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RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

7.29. Withdrawn
(ID # [25-1626](#))

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

7.30. Withdrawn
(ID # [25-1641](#))

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

7.31. Withdrawn
(ID # [25-1642](#))

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

7.32. Withdrawn
(ID # [25-1643](#))

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

7.33. Withdrawn
(ID # [25-1650](#))

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

7.34. Withdrawn
(ID # [25-1666](#))

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

7.35. Withdrawn
(ID # [25-1667](#))

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

7.36. Withdrawn
(ID # [25-1669](#))

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

8.1. Officer's Communication
(ID # [25-1676](#))

City Clerk submitting an amendment to the Rules of the City Council to align with the provisions of the City Charter.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

- 8.2. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1673](#))

City Clerk conveying Block Party Licenses issued.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 8.3. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1674](#))

Retirement Board notifying this Council of the declaration of Thomas Ross as the 4th member.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 8.4. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1668](#))

Director of Housing conveying the 2024 Housing Needs Assessment and Financial Feasibility Analysis reports.

Kyle Talente of RKG Associates gave a lengthy presentation on this topic.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License
(ID # [25-1662](#))

Renewing Drainlayer's License, JF Excavation Corp.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, and 10.8 through 10.10 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.2. Public Event
(ID # [25-1675](#))

Somerville Friends of Democracy applying for a Public Event License for Dance for Democracy on November 15 and 23 from 10am to 5:30pm (raindate November 16).

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, and 10.8 through 10.10 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.3. Public Event
(ID # [25-1664](#))

Union Square Main Streets applying for a Public Event License for Union Square Holiday Event on December 7 from 11am to 7pm (raindate December 14).

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, and 10.8 through 10.10 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

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- 9.4. Public Event
(ID # [25-1663](#)) BA Events Promotion Inc. applying for a Public Event License for Jingle Bell 5K Run/Walk on December 14 from 7am to 3pm.
- Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, and 10.8 through 10.10 and approve them this evening.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 9.5. Public Communication
(ID # [25-1663](#)) 52 registered voters submitting a petition requesting a public hearing regarding Out of the Blue Community Arts Space at Arts at the Armory, pursuant to Section 2-11 of the City Charter.
- Councilor Burnley sponsored David Jubinsky to address the Council. Mr. Jubinsky spoke of tactics used by the city to harass and evict this art space from the Arts at the Armory building. Councilor Burnley also sponsored John Jay Pielmeier to speak on the item. Mr. Pielmeier expressed his support for this art space and requested that a public hearing be held on the matter. He also asked incoming Mayor Wilson not to evict these tenants, or to at least find them another space. President Davis clarified that although the petition does not mention a public hearing, it is the desire of the signatories to have a public hearing on this matter.
- RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee
- 9.6. Public Communication
(ID # [25-1665](#)) Crystal Huff submitting comments re: food access.
- RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**
- 10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**
- 10.1. Citation
(ID # [25-1713](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
Commending Somerville for Palestine for their pursuit of justice and civic engagement.
- Councilor Burnley spoke about honoring the work put into this city by the people of Somerville and about the fear and frustration felt here after the attack on Israel. He commented that Somerville for Palestine went into our communities to speak to people about their beliefs and created an environment of love out of tragedy. Councilor Burnley sponsored Mia Haddad to speak on the item. Ms. Haddad accepted the citation on behalf of the organization and spoke about seeing the vote results on question 3 saying that it made her feel seen and safe in the city. President Davis informed her that the conversation must remain on the topic of the citation, and not the resolution that was submitted as a supplemental item. Ms. Haddad continued speaking about the atrocities that occurred to Palestinians, saying that lived experiences are real for Palestinians. She then began to mention specific companies by name and President Davis again stopped her and explained the
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- reasons for keeping her remarks on topic. Ms. Haddad then continued about the organizing efforts of her group and expressed her disappointment that they were met with opposition from the City Council, even tonight, and said that companies should be held accountable.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 10.2. Resolution
(ID # [25-1700](#))
By Councilor Burnley Jr.
In support of democratic divestment action regarding Ballot Question 3.
President Davis explained that this item could not be discussed this evening since it was submitted late per the requirements of the Open Meeting Law.
RESULT: LAI D ON THE TABLE
- 10.3. Order
(ID # [25-1701](#))
By Councilor Sait
That the Director of Mobility install a Blue Bike station at Junction Park.
RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee
- 10.4. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1698](#))
Requesting the appropriation of \$100,000 from the Community Benefits Stabilization Fund to the Armory Revolving Fund to prepare the Armory for onboarding and support of tenants.
Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.5 through 7.8, 7.10 through 7.11, 7.13 through 7.18, and 10.4 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 10.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1683](#))
Requesting the appropriation of \$67,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Executive Department Special Items Account for Mayoral transition expenditures.
Councilor Wilson stated that he was informed that he does not have to recuse himself from this item. The item was approved and Councilor Wilson moved for reconsideration. Reconsideration failed.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 10.6. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1706](#))
Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development conveying a summary of Community Benefits Funds.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
- 10.7. License
(ID # [25-1702](#))
New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Union Square Auto Sales, 39 Webster Avenue, 20 vehicles outside, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

10.8. Public Event
(ID # [25-1705](#))

Tufts University Project SHARE applying for a Public Event License for Stride for Strength on November 15 from 9am to 1:30pm.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, and 10.8 through 10.10 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

10.9. Public Event
(ID # [25-1704](#))

Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville applying for a Public Event License for Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville Free Clothing Store on November 22 from 8am to 4pm (raindate November 23).

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, and 10.8 through 10.10 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

10.10. Public Event
(ID # [25-1703](#))

Mayor's Office applying for a Public Event License for Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 4 from 4pm to 8pm (raindates December 8,9,10).

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.1 through 9.4, and 10.8 through 10.10 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 10:34 PM.