



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## Finance Committee

### Meeting Minutes Dispositions

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**Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

**6:00 PM**

**Virtual**

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This meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by Chair Wheeler at 6:02 pm and adjourned at 8:45 pm on a roll call vote of 5 in favor (Councilors Link, Strezo, Hardt, Scott, Wheeler), 0 absent.

The committee went into recess from 8:29-8:34 pm and returned on a roll call vote of 5 in favor (Councilors Link, Strezo, Hardt, Scott, Wheeler), 0 absent.

Others present: Robert Berretta – Chief Financial Officer, Eric Weisman – Interim Commissioner of Public Works, Brian Postlewaite – Director of Engineering, Yasmine Raddassi – Legislative Liaison, Ashley Speliotis – Director of Council on Aging, James Mucci, Rich Raiche – Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, Nikki Spencer – Acting Director of Health and Human Services, Maya Yoshikawa - Sanitation and Hazardous Materials Program Manager, Christopher Hosman – Director of Somerpromise, Garret Anderson – Energy Manager, Michael Richards, Director of Finance and Administration for Water and Sewer, Ed Bean – Director of Finance, Anoop Malik - Health and Human Services Finance Manager, Cathy Lester Salchert - Special Counsel, Jerome Thomas - Director of Veteran Services, Alan Inacio, Director of Finance and Community of OSPCD, Emily Wisdom, Director of Finance and Administration, James Mucci - Director of Finance for Fire, Madalyn Letellier – Assistant City Clerk, Legislative Services.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** City Councilor At Large Jon Link, City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Emily Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott and City Councilor At Large Ben Wheeler

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of January 20, 2026. [26-0142](#)

Accepted

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of February 10, 2026. [26-0263](#)

Accepted

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**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### Environment-related Grant Requests

3. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$5,000 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. [26-0112](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

4. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$28,000 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for the Recycling Dividends Program. [26-0117](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### Infrastructure-related Contracts and Agreements

5. Requesting approval of a time-only extension until 6/30/2027 for the contract with N. Granese & Sons Inc. for water distribution system maintenance and repair. [26-0133](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

6. Requesting approval of a time-only extension until 6/30/2027 for the contract with EB Rotondi & Sons Inc. for repairs to water main gate valves and appurtenances. [26-0132](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### Sewer-related Bonding

7. Requesting authorization to borrow \$1,530,000 in a bond, and to appropriate [26-0162](#)

the same amount for the annual FY 2026 Sewer System Evaluation and Infiltration/Inflow Assessment.

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### Contracts and Agreements

8. Requesting the appropriation of \$154,136 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation-Settlement of Claims Account to the School Department Legal Settlement Account for an insurance settlement. [26-0166](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### Communications-related

9. Requesting approval of a transfer of \$3,000 from the Communications Department Professional and Technical Services Account to the Somerville Public Schools Professional Salaries Account for consulting services related to the inaugural event. [26-0089](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### HHS-related Appropriations and Grants

10. Requesting approval to appropriate \$324,360 from the Medicinal Marijuana Stabilization Fund for the salary and fringe of four positions related to youth in FY 2027. [26-0172](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

11. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$87,848 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Aging and Independence to the Council on Aging for health, wellness, social, and educational programming. [26-0164](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

### Easements

12. Requesting approval of a Pedestrian Access Sidewalk Easement and Maintenance License at 16-20 Medford Street. [26-0160](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

### Veterans-related

13. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$15,000 grant that requires a match from the Massachusetts General Court and the State Historical Records Advisory Board to the Veterans Services Department for support of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery and the archival digitization project. [26-0113](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

14. Requesting the appropriation of \$306,250 from the Community Preservation Act Historic Preservation Reserve for restoration of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery and veterans monuments. [26-0152](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

### Energy-related Appropriations

15. Requesting approval to appropriate \$299,460 from the Energy Stabilization Fund to replace the lighting at Dilboy Field. [26-0199](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

16. Requesting approval to appropriate \$210,525 from the Energy Stabilization Fund to replace lighting at Trum Field. [26-0197](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

17. Requesting approval to appropriate \$179,349 from the Energy Stabilization Fund for the addition of a solar array to the new roof of 133 Holland Street. [26-0196](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

18. Requesting approval to appropriate \$26,759 from the Energy Stabilization Fund for weatherizing the basement and envelope of 133 Holland Street. [26-0195](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

19. Requesting approval to appropriate \$299,910 from the Energy Stabilization Fund for a heat pump replacement project at 133 Holland Street. [26-0188](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

CPA-related

20. Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$2,000,000 in a bond for financing a portion of the Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation Project, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee. [26-0084](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

21. Requesting the appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Community Preservation Act Open Space Reserve for construction of improvements to the Kennedy Schoolyard. [26-0079](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

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22. Requesting the appropriation of \$124,331 from the Community Preservation Act Fund for improvements to Blessing of the Bay Linear Park. [26-0153](#)
- Recommended to be approved
- Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler
23. Requesting the appropriation of \$480,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Budgeted Reserve to the Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development for continued preservation of 59 Cross Street. [26-0080](#)
- Recommended to be approved
- Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler
24. Requesting the appropriation of \$74,365 from the Community Preservation Act Historic Preservation Reserve to Nicole Bairos for preservation of Buddy's Diner. [26-0081](#)
- Recommended to be approved
- Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler
25. Requesting the appropriation of \$420,566 from the Community Preservation Act Historic Preservation Reserve to the Elizabeth Peabody House for continued restoration of 277 Broadway. [26-0075](#)
- Recommended to be approved
- Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler
26. Requesting the appropriation of \$50,000 from the Community Preservation Act Budgeted Reserve to the Somerville Housing Authority for improvements to the open space at the Mystic River/View developments. [26-0155](#)
- Recommended to be approved
- Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler
27. Requesting the appropriation of \$150,000 from the Community Preservation Act Historic Preservation Reserve to Vida Real Church for exterior restoration of the building at 404 Broadway. [26-0154](#)
- Recommended to be approved
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**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

28. Requesting the approval of a transfer of \$237,250 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Undesignated Fund Balance to the CPA Historic Preservation Reserve. [26-0151](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### Park-related Contracts and Agreements

29. Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension until 12/31/2027 for Crowley Cottrell LLC to complete additional services for re-design and construction administration fees for Junction Park. [26-0085](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### Prior Year Invoices

30. Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$3,342.05 using available funds in various Police Departments Ordinary Maintenance Accounts for various services. [26-0097](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### Police, Fire Department Grant and Gift Acceptances

31. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$43,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for software. [26-0169](#)

Kept in committee

32. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$50,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for target hardening at the Police Department headquarters. [26-0168](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

33. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$618,181.81 grant that requires a match, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Fire Department for the replacement of aging breathing apparatus. [26-0055](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

34. Requesting approval of a transfer of \$6,166.19 from the Fire Department Ordinary Maintenance Other Equipment - Not Capitalized Account to the Fire Department Special Items Grant Match Account to fund the required match for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant. [26-0056](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

35. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$48,000 grant with no new match required, from Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) to the Fire Department for the replacement of security cameras at fire headquarters. [26-0156](#)

Recommended to be not approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt

**Nay:** City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### Claim Settlement

36. Requesting approval for settlement of a claim for \$10,400 pursuant to Section 2-124 of the Code of Ordinances. [26-0167](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** City Councilor At Large Link, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward Two City Councilor Scott and City Councilor At Large Wheeler

#### Grant and Gift Acceptances

37. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$127,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Special Response Team equipment and training. [25-0849](#)

Kept in committee

Appropriations

- 38.** Requesting the appropriation of \$430,965 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Special Education Reserve Fund. [26-0163](#)

Kept in committee

Communications

- 39.** Director of Economic Development conveying the potential use of an Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing Tool (UCH-TIF) to incentivize housing production. [26-0201](#)

Kept in committee

Referenced Documents:

- Finance - 2026-02-24 Memo (with 26-0113)
- Finance - 2026-02-24 Memo (with 26-0167)
- Finance - 2026-02-24 Memo (with 26-0172)
- Finance - 2026-02-24 Amendment (with 26-0055)
- Finance - 2026-02-24 Memo (with 26-0199 and 26-0197)
- Finance - 2026-02-24 Memo (with 26-0188, 26-0195, and 26-0196)