



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

### Meeting Minutes Dispositions

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**Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

**6:30 PM**

**Virtual**

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This meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by Chair Ewen-Campen at 6:31 pm and adjourned at 7:37 pm on a roll call vote of 5 in favor (Councilors Pineda Neufeld, Clingan, Strezo, McLaughlin, Ewen-Campen), 0 opposed, and 0 absent.

Councilor Clingan joined the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Others present: Charles Breen - Fire Chief, Shumeane Benford - Police Chief, Public Safety Consultant for the Housing Authority - Charles Femino, Madalyn Letellier - Legislative Services Manager.

#### **Roll Call**

Approved

**Present:** Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, Ward Three City Councilor Kristen Strezo and Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld

**Absent:** Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee Meeting of March 5, 2025. [25-0420](#)

Accepted

**Aye:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Three City Councilor Strezo, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

2. Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Eric Saulnier to the position of Fire Captain. [25-0572](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Three City Councilor Strezo and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**Absent:** Ward Four City Councilor Clingan

3. Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Mark Wall to the position [25-0573](#)

of Fire Lieutenant.

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Three City Councilor Strezo and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**Absent:** Ward Four City Councilor Clingan

4. Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Patrick Barry to the position of Fire Lieutenant. [25-0574](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Three City Councilor Strezo and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**Absent:** Ward Four City Councilor Clingan

5. Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Joseph Laudano to the position of Fire Lieutenant. [25-0575](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Three City Councilor Strezo and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**Absent:** Ward Four City Councilor Clingan

6. Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Troy Saulnier to the position of Fire Lieutenant. [25-0577](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Three City Councilor Strezo and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**Absent:** Ward Four City Councilor Clingan

7. Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Eric Collins to the position of Fire Lieutenant. [25-0578](#)

Recommended to be approved

**Aye:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Three City Councilor Strezo and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**Absent:** Ward Four City Councilor Clingan

There was a discussion about the reappointment process before reviewing any candidates. It was clarified that these positions are not considered Civil Service, with appointments made by Chief Femino through the Mayor as special officers. Historically, reappointments were not made annually, but background checks were submitted to the previous mayor's administration. However, after discrepancies were found when Mr. Femino returned as Chief in 2021, it was decided that reappointments would be presented to the committee more regularly moving forward. An indemnification agreement was also established, ensuring that officers are not considered city employees, and that an insurance policy is in place to protect the city from any legal repercussions of their actions.

Councilor McLaughlin raised the issue of approving or rejecting candidates, and Mr. Femino explained that the process is new, involving the Law office and the Somerville Housing Legal Team. He noted that the current officers have been employed for many years and are in good standing. Chair Ewen-Campen asked about the role of the Councilors in the process, and Chief Benford clarified that the Mayor is the legal appointing authority, with the law governing the process.

Regarding complaints about officers, it was explained that complaints would go to the Director of Housing, who would forward them to Mr. Femino for investigation before any disciplinary actions are taken. Chair Ewen-Campen inquired if complaint records could be reviewed in an executive session, and Mr. Femino clarified that, for the officers before the committee, there are no written complaints. Going forward, a process will be implemented to keep records, allowing Councilors to review them prior to reappointments.

Councilor McLaughlin asked if the vote before the committee was impacted by any of these factors. Chair Ewen-Campen and Councilor Clingan agreed that they would like to seek an opinion from the Solicitor's office before proceeding with a vote. All Councilors agreed. Lastly, Councilor Pineda Neufeld asked if the Housing Authority is bound by the Welcoming City ordinance, which prohibits cooperation with ICE. Mr. Femino confirmed that the same policies in place for the Somerville Police Department also apply to Somerville Housing Officers.

8. Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Sean Browne as  
Somerville Housing Authority Police Officer. [25-0404](#)  
Kept in committee
9. Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Michael De Bethencourt as  
Somerville Housing Authority Police Officer. [25-0403](#)  
Kept in committee
10. Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Alfred William Rymill III as  
Somerville Housing Authority Police Officer. [25-0402](#)  
Kept in committee
11. Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Alfred Rymill III as Housing  
Authority Police Officer. [24-1689](#)  
Recommended to be placed on file