

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts**  
**Matters of Business of the City Council**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 11, 2021, 7:00 PM  
 Meeting by Remote Participation  
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*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.*

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Wilfred N. Mbah	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Kristen Strezo	City Councilor at Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One City Councilor	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two City Councilor	Present	
Ben Ewen-Campen	Ward Three City Councilor	Present	
Jesse Clingan	Ward Four City Councilor	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five City Councilor	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six City Councilor	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven City Councilor	Present	

1. Roll Call                      Call of the Roll.  
 211385  
 (ID:24319)                      **RESULT:            PLACED ON FILE**
  
2. Remembrances              Remembrances.  
 211386  
 (ID:24320)                      Councilor Ewen-Campen sponsored a moment of silence for former Alderman Tom Taylor on the sixth anniversary of his passing.  
**RESULT:            APPROVED**
  
3. Minutes                        Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 11, 2021.  
 211387  
 (ID:24321)                      **RESULT:            APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:**                      Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

**CITATIONS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>4. Grant of Location 211388 (ID:24303)</p> | <p>Submitted by Eversource to relocate Utility pole 291/3 in Prospect Street 30 feet southwest, closer to the Prospect Street bridge.</p> <hr/> <p>Councilor Scott recused himself from this item. The President opened the public hearing. Jaqueline Duffy from Eversource stated the purpose of the request. There being no other speakers, the President closed the public hearing.</p> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [10 TO 0]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>               Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne<br/> <b>RECUSED:</b>         Scott</p>  |
| <p>5. Grant of Location 211389 (ID:24304)</p> | <p>Submitted by Eversource to relocate Utility pole 61/1 in Allen Street 20 feet south, to the southern edge of Charlestown Street.</p> <hr/> <p>The President opened the public hearing. Jaqueline Duffy from Eversource stated the purpose of the request. There being no other speakers, the President closed the public hearing.</p> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>               Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p>  |
| <p>6. Grant of Location 211390 (ID:24305)</p> | <p>Submitted by TC Systems to install 465 feet of conduit in Grand Union Boulevard from a FRIT Manhole located at the intersection of Foley Street and Grand Union Boulevard to a proposed Handhole near the intersection of Canal Street and Grand Union Boulevard.</p> <hr/> <p>The President opened the public hearing. Adam Heller, representing TC Systems, stated the purpose of the request. There being no other speakers, the President closed the public hearing. Mr. Heller said the project should take about 2 days and a representative will be on-site in the event that pedestrian traffic needs to be re-routed.</p> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>               Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| <p>7. Grant of Location 211391 (ID:24306)</p> | <p>Submitted by TC Systems to install 480 feet of conduit in Foley Street and Great River Road from a FRIT Manhole across from 460 Foley Street to a proposed Handhole at the rear of 449 Canal Street.</p> <hr/> <p>The President opened the public hearing. Adam Heller, representing TC Systems, stated the purpose of the request. There being no other speakers, the President closed the public hearing. Mr. Heller said the project should take about 2 days and a representative will be on-site in the event that pedestrian traffic needs to be re-routed.</p> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>               Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p>  |

**ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

8. Order 211392 (ID:24302) By City Councilor Strezo That the City's Chief Assessor provide a list of all non-profits that have Community Benefit Agreements and/or Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreements, including their property sizes.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**FOLLOWUP:** Housing and Community Development Committee

9. Resolution 211393 (ID:24317) By City Councilor Clingan, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Ballantyne, Strezo, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr. Supporting the enactment of Payment In Lieu of Taxes Legislation (HD3207 and SD2129).

Councilor Clingan briefly described the resolution and said the legislation has been filed at the Statehouse. He sponsored Marianne Walles, who explained that the legislation puts the power back in the hands of communities rather than non-profits. She asked the Council to endorse the legislation, which was originally filed by the MMA. Councilor Rossetti suggested that a copy be sent to the MMA. President McLaughlin said that the City Solicitor's Office has drafted a home rule petition in this regard, but state adoption would be preferable.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

10. Order 211394 (ID:24313) By City Councilor Niedergang, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Davis, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr. That the Mayor, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, Commissioner of Public Works, and Director of Health and Human Services respond to the attached questions regarding ventilation and school-building readiness from public school parents.

Councilor Niedergang said the Council has oversight of school buildings and he would like a number of questions answered about mixed mode ventilation and the Honeywell contract for HVAC systems, to name a few.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**FOLLOWUP:** Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

11. Order 211395 (ID:24314) By City Councilor Niedergang, Ballantyne, Davis, White Jr., Ewen-Campen, Scott, Mbah  
That the Mayor, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, and Commissioner of Public Works respond to the attached questions regarding the management and oversight of school buildings that have been raised by public school parents.

Councilor Niedergang explained why he wanted to discuss the management and oversight of school buildings. Councilor Davis recalled the roofing incident at the Brown School last year and the Administration’s explanation for not knowing how serious the situation may have been. He asked that this item be sent to the Finance Committee to discuss a centralized management system. Councilor Scott stated that far too much power is in the hands of the executive branch and the Council needs to exercise its oversight authority.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

12. Order 211396 (ID:24315) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Scott, Davis, Mbah  
That the Chief of Police inform this Council in writing how a resident may seek to expunge or seal a police report or record made by the Police Department.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

13. Order 211397 (ID:24316) By City Councilor Mbah  
That the Director of Engineering install a crosswalk at Woods Avenue and Route 16.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**FOLLOWUP:** Traffic and Parking Committee

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

14. Communication 211354 (ID:24256) By City Councilor Mbah  
Updating this Council on the Racial and Social Justice Director hiring process.

Councilor Mbah reported that an offer has been presented to a candidate.  
**RESULT:** LAID ON THE TABLE  
**FOLLOWUP:** City Council

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**15. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>A. Committee Report<br/>211398<br/>(ID:24299)</p> | <p>Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on March 2, 2021.</p> <hr/> <p>President McLaughlin recused himself from this item and Councilor Rossetti assumed the Chair and presented the report. Four candidates were recommended as Reserve Police Officers. If they are approved tonight, the reserve list will be exhausted and all of the vacancies resulting from retirements will have been filled.</p> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [10 TO 0]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>             Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne<br/> <b>RECUSED:</b>        McLaughlin</p> |
| <p>B. Mayor's Request<br/>210572<br/>(ID:23119)</p>  | <p>Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Jamey Thompson to the position of Reserve Police Officer.</p> <hr/> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [10 TO 0]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>             Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne<br/> <b>RECUSED:</b>        McLaughlin</p>   |
| <p>C. Mayor's Request<br/>210574<br/>(ID:23121)</p>  | <p>Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Kelsey Malloy-Ripley to the position of Reserve Police Officer.</p> <hr/> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [10 TO 0]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>             Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne<br/> <b>RECUSED:</b>        McLaughlin</p>   |
| <p>D. Mayor's Request<br/>210575<br/>(ID:23122)</p>  | <p>Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Kevin Henriquez to the position of Reserve Police Officer.</p> <hr/> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [10 TO 0]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>             Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne<br/> <b>RECUSED:</b>        McLaughlin</p>  |
| <p>E. Mayor's Request<br/>210579<br/>(ID:23126)</p>  | <p>Requesting confirmation of the appointment of William Wood to the position of Reserve Police Officer.</p> <hr/> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [10 TO 0]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>             Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne<br/> <b>RECUSED:</b>        McLaughlin</p>   |

F.	Mayor's Request 211029 (ID:23859)	Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Callen Scott to the Urban Forestry Committee.
		<b>RESULT:</b> <b>WITHDRAWN. [10 TO 0]</b> <b>AYES:</b> Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne <b>RECUSED:</b> McLaughlin

16. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A.	Committee Report 211399 (ID:24301)	Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on March 9, 2021.
		President McLaughlin re-assumed the Chair. Councilor Scott presented the report and spoke about free cash appropriations, fund transfers, grants, pro bono services, FY22 budget priorities, and the addition of 3 positions in the Mobility Division. <b>RESULT:</b> <b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b> <b>AYES:</b> Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

B.	Mayor's Request 211011 (ID:23861)	Requesting acceptance of a \$25,495.51 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to the Fire Department for the purchase of thermal imaging cameras.
		<b>RESULT:</b> <b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b> <b>AYES:</b> Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

C.	Resolution 211255 (ID:24149)	By City Councilor Niedergang, Mbah, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Ewen-Campen, White Jr. That the Mayor dedicate resources as a supplementary FY21 budget request and in the FY22 budget to create a Department of Transportation with at least three new, additional full-time staff including a senior position empowered to coordinate this work across departments - a Chief of Streets.
		<b>RESULT:</b> <b>WORK COMPLETED</b>

D.	Mayor's Request 211365 (ID:24251)	Requesting an appropriation of \$2,200,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Water and Sewer Stabilization Fund.
		<b>RESULT:</b> <b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b> <b>AYES:</b> Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- E. Officer's Communication 211368 (ID:24233) City Solicitor requesting approval to retain the pro bono services of Todd & Weld as outside counsel to advise the city with respect to the establishment of safe consumption sites.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- F. Mayor's Request 211374 (ID:24280) Requesting a transfer of \$50,000 from the SPCD Planning and Zoning Personal Services Account to the SPCD Mobility Ordinary Maintenance Account for a mid-year professional services request.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- G. Mayor's Request 211375 (ID:24281) Requesting to establish a Senior Planner position in the SPCD Mobility Division at an annual salary of \$88,434 (NU7) and transfer \$10,237 from the SPCD Economic Development Personal Services Account to the SPCD Mobility Personal Services Account to fund this position from May 15 to June 30, 2021.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- H. Mayor's Request 211376 (ID:24283) Requesting to establish a Senior Planner position in the SPCD Mobility Division at an annual salary of \$88,434 (NU7) and transfer \$10,237 from the SPCD Housing Personal Services Account to the SPCD Mobility Personal Services Account to fund this position from May 15 to June 30, 2021.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- I. Mayor's Request 211377 (ID:24284) Requesting to establish an Outreach Coordinator position in the SPCD Mobility Division at an annual salary of \$62,424 (NU11) and transfer \$7,266 from the SPCD Planning and Zoning Personal Services Account to the SPCD Mobility Personal Services Account to fund this position from May 15 to June 30, 2021.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- J. Officer's Communication 211379 (ID:24282) Director of SPCD submitting information regarding mid-year transfers to establish new positions and new projects in the Mobility Division.
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>AYES:</b>   | Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |

17. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 211400 (ID:24300) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on March 2, 2021.
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|--|---|
| Councilor Ewen-Campen presented the report and spoke briefly about zoning amendments, rooftop mechanicals and parking minimums outside of transit areas. |   |
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>AYES:</b>   | Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |

18. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 211401 (ID:24298) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on March 1, 2021.
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|---|---|
| Councilor Davis presented the report. Councilor Rossetti asked if he had received an answer to the question she asked during the committee meeting. Legislative Liaison Lauren Racaniello asked for clarity on her request and Councilor Rossetti explained that she wanted to have data on student populations from October 2019 to October 2020. Ms. Racaniello said that the information would come from the School Department and said she will follow up with them. Councilor Rossetti expressed her displeasure that the answer was not available as she had requested. |   |
| <b>RESULT:</b>  | <b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>AYES:</b>  | Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |

- B. Order 209798 (ID:22727) By City Councilor Hirsch, McLaughlin That the Director of Health and Human Services appear before this Council with an update on measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus and to support anyone who may become infected.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
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- C. Resolution 209930 (ID:22804) By City Councilor Mbah That this Council urges Governor Baker to enact a single-payer health insurance system during this pandemic to reduce the bureaucracy for Covid-19 testing and treatment, and to make such testing and treatment free to those without health insurance.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
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- D. Resolution 209934 (ID:22808) By City Councilor Mbah That the Administration update this Council on the City’s disaster preparedness assessment for emergencies during this pandemic and how this reduces our first responders' workforce.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- E. Resolution 209940 (ID:22814) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott That this Council collaborate with the Administration to create a one-page coronavirus information sheet that can be physically delivered to every resident and small business owner, containing public health information, emergency resources, and instructions on where to get more information.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- F. Resolution 209977 (ID:22831) By City Councilor Hirsch, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah That the Administration update this Council on planning underway to provide housing for people who are likely to be exposed to the Covid-19 virus and need isolation, or are recovering from the virus and don't need a hospital setting.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- G. Resolution 209979 (ID:22833) By City Councilor Hirsch, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah That the Administration update this Council on any efforts to ensure that city trash and recycling contractors are protected from coronavirus exposure and supported if exposed.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- H. Order 209999 (ID:22870) By City Councilor Mbah, Niedergang, Ballantyne, Clingan That the Chief of Police and the Chief Fire Engineer appear before this Council’s Committee on Public Health and Public Safety with an update on their plans to keep first responders safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- I. Order 210112 (ID:22970) By City Councilor Clingan That the Director of Health and Human Services collaborate with the appropriate state agencies for the support, specialized services, medical supplies and personal protective equipment necessary for residents with complex medical needs to stay in their homes during this COVID-19 crisis.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- J. Resolution 210126 (ID:22982) By City Councilor Mbah, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Niedergang That the Mayor consider increasing the minimum age for mandatory wearing of face masks to children over 5 years of age.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- K. Order 210134 (ID:22986) By City Councilor Strezo, Ballantyne  
That the Director of Communications create signage to post citywide reminding the public of the penalties and public health risks associated with COVID-19 for littering used masks, gloves and wipes.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- L. Resolution 210460 (ID:23333) By City Councilor Davis, Ballantyne, Rossetti, Scott  
That the Administration and the Traffic Commission cease all dedicated Tufts shuttle stops and remove all associated signage in Ward 6, particularly in Davis Square, without delay.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- M. Resolution 211402 (ID:24288) By City Councilor Rossetti  
That the Administration explain, before this Council's next meeting, how transportation will be provided to all Public School students relocated to different buildings.

**RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

**COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**

19. Mayor's Request 211403 (ID:24295) Requesting the re-appropriation of \$87,114 in CPA funding from the Somerville Museum's Collection Care Project to its Elevator ADA Accessibility Project.

Councilor White recused himself from this item. Councilor Scott moved for approval.

**RESULT: APPROVED. [10 TO 0]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**RECUSED:** White Jr.

20. Mayor's Request 211404 (ID:24231) Requesting approval to pay a Fiscal Year 2019 prior year invoice totaling \$188 using available funds in the Treasury Department Ordinary Maintenance Account for a September 25, 2018 invoice for laser jet printer servicing.

Councilor Scott moved for approval.

**RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

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21. Mayor's Request 211405 (ID:24120) Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$74,400 from the MA Office of Public Safety for Police Department staffing.
- President McLaughlin recused himself from this item and Councilor Rossetti assumed the Chair. Councilor Scott moved for approval.
- RESULT:** APPROVED. [10 TO 0]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**RECUSED:** McLaughlin
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22. Mayor's Request 211406 (ID:24077) Requesting acceptance of a \$18,816.47 grant with no new match required from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for the Critical Infrastructure Monitoring System camera network upgrades.
- President McLaughlin re-assumed the Chair. Councilor Ewen-Campen asked if this item changes anything in the surveillance policy and Legislative Liaison Lauren Racaniello said that this would fall within the policy. Councilor Scott moved for approval.
- RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
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23. Mayor's Request 211407 (ID:24252) Requesting acceptance of a \$7,680 grant with no new match required, from the MA Executive Office of Public Safety to the Fire Department to provide fire safety education to school students.
- Councilor Scott moved to waive the readings of items 23, 24, and 26, and approve them.
- RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
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24. Mayor's Request 211408 (ID:24253) Requesting acceptance of a \$3,019 grant with no new match required from the MA Executive Office of Public Safety to the Fire Department for senior fire prevention and safety.
- RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
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| <p>25. Mayor's Request<br/>211409<br/>(ID:24292)</p>   | <p>Requesting approval to extend the contract for John Risko through 3/31/2022 and add \$12,500 for lead abatement inspection services.</p>   |
| <p>SPCD Finance Director Alan Inacio explained why this extension is being requested and said that the \$12,500 would be paid for through grant funding. Russell Koty, Program Manager of Residential Energy Efficiency, spoke about the city's efforts to inform residents about the program.</p> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>               Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p>  |   |
| <p>26. Mayor's Request<br/>211410<br/>(ID:24293)</p>   | <p>Requesting approval to extend the contract for the development of the Butterfly Pollinator Garden at the Morse Kelley Playground for an additional three years.</p>                        |
| <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>               Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p>   |   |
| <p>27. Mayor's Request<br/>211411<br/>(ID:24291)</p>   | <p>Requesting approval of a time only contract extension for Symmes Maini and McKee Associates for an additional three years for the Central Hill Design and Construction Administration.</p> |
| <p>SPCD Finance Director Alan Inacio explained that this extension is being requested because a portion of the Central Hill project has been delayed due to extenuating circumstances. Councilor Rossetti asked about any new parking plans for staff and visitors, and Senior Planner Cortney Kirk replied that any changes in parking will be part of the planning for the 1895 building and City Hall renovation.</p> <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>APPROVED. [10 TO 1]</b><br/> <b>AYES:</b>               Mbah, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne<br/> <b>NAYS:</b>               Rossetti</p> |   |
| <p>28. Mayor's Request<br/>211412<br/>(ID:24273)</p>   | <p>Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Kimberly Sheridan to the Commission for Women.</p>   |
| <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/> <b>FOLLOWUP:</b>       Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p>  |   |
| <p>29. Mayor's Request<br/>211413<br/>(ID:24274)</p>   | <p>Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Arlen Weiner to the Commission for Women.</p>  |
| <p><b>RESULT:</b>           <b>REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/> <b>FOLLOWUP:</b>       Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee</p>  |   |

30. Mayor's Request 211414 (ID:24289) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Murphy Langevin to the Urban Forestry Committee.

**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

31. Mayor's Request 211415 (ID:24294) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Rose White to the Community Preservation Act Committee.

**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

**COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS**

32. Officer's Communication 211416 (ID:24297) City Solicitor requesting to retain outside counsel to determine how best to pursue the prompt access of Covid19 vaccinations to disadvantaged residents.

City Solicitor Frank Wright stated that the legal services would be provided to the city pro bono. Councilor Rossetti noted that 'pro bono' isn't stated in this request, and offered an amendment to include that term.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AS AMENDED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**AMENDED:** Insert "pro bono" before "outside counsel" to clarify that the services to be rendered are pro bono services.

33. Officer's Communication 211417 (ID:24290) City Solicitor responding to #211232 with an amendment to Ordinances 10-1 and 10-1.1, to eliminate specified levels of patrol and superior officers in the Police Department.

**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Legislative Matters Committee

34. Officer's Communication 211418 (ID:24296) City Clerk requesting approval to release twelve sets of Executive Session minutes as described within.

President McLaughlin explained that he would like Councilors to independently review the minutes and contact him if they would like to make any amendments to them.

**RESULT:** LAID ON THE TABLE  
**FOLLOWUP:** City Council

**NEW BUSINESS**

35. License/Permit 211419 (ID:24312) Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Mystic Auto Sales, 712 Mystic Ave.
- Councilor White moved to waive the readings of items 35 to 40 and approve them.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
36. License/Permit 211420 (ID:24307) Small Wireless Facility License, Verizon attaching small wireless facilities on an existing pole at 2 Belmont Street.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
37. License/Permit 211421 (ID:24308) Small Wireless Facility License, Verizon attaching small wireless facilities on an existing pole at 15 Ivaloo Street.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
38. License/Permit 211422 (ID:24309) Small Wireless Facility License, Verizon attaching small wireless facilities on an existing pole at 40 Marion Street.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
39. License/Permit 211423 (ID:24310) Small Wireless Facility License, Verizon attaching small wireless facilities on an existing pole at 42 Bow Street.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
40. License/Permit 211424 (ID:24311) Small Wireless Facility License, Verizon attaching small wireless facilities on an existing pole at 53 Concord Avenue.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

41. Public Communication 211425 (ID:24323) Matthew Shannon submitting a petition to revoke the Junk Dealer License held by Tosh Enterprises LLC.
- |                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b> |
| <b>FOLLOWUP:</b> | Licenses and Permits Committee     |

**SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

42. Order 211426 (ID:24324) By City Councilor Niedergang, Scott  
That the Director of SPCD discuss with this Council the changes that are being considered, or could be considered, in MBTA bus routes to better serve bus riders following the opening of 5 new Green Line stations this year.

Councilor Niedergang said he would meet with MBTA officials to discuss this item.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
<b>FOLLOWUP:</b>	Traffic and Parking Committee

43. Order 211427 (ID:24326) By City Councilor Scott  
That the Director of Personnel provide this Council with a list of current full-time vacancies broken down by union and non-union positions, and that the Administration address this Council as to the reason for the high number of vacancies.

Councilor Scott commented that there are presently more than 40 vacant union positions in the city, and he is concerned about the backlog in filling them and other non-union vacancies.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
<b>FOLLOWUP:</b>	Finance Committee

44. Order 211428 (ID:24327) By City Councilor McLaughlin, Clingan  
That the Chief of Police appear before this Council’s Committee on Public Health and Public Safety to discuss the policy on drug possession arrests for the past 5 years.

President McLaughlin explained that he wants to learn the city’s current policy regarding drug possession.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
<b>FOLLOWUP:</b>	Public Health and Public Safety Committee

45. Resolution 211429 (ID:24328) By City Councilor McLaughlin, Clingan, Strezo, Davis, Mbah That the Mayor allocate funding for two dual diagnosis and social work clinical outreach positions in the Community Outreach Help and Recovery Department in the FY22 budget.
- President McLaughlin explained the importance of these positions.  
**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
46. Order 211430 (ID:24329) By City Councilor McLaughlin, Clingan, Strezo, Ballantyne That the Director of the Community Outreach Help and Recovery Department be fully integrated into Police leadership decisions to ensure a behavioral health perspective is considered in all policy decisions.
- President McLaughlin explained the importance of including this Department in policy matters.  
**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**FOLLOWUP:** Public Health and Public Safety Committee
47. Order 211431 (ID:24330) By City Councilor McLaughlin That the Commissioner of Public Works remove the graffiti on Maine Avenue along I-93, and repair any damaged fencing that separates the neighborhood from the highway.
- RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
48. Order 211432 (ID:24331) By City Councilor McLaughlin, Davis, Mbah, Strezo, Clingan That the City Solicitor and the Director of SPCD perform a nexus study to determine the viability of a home rule petition requiring developers who receive special permits to make contributions to mitigate pollution.
- President McLaughlin said he doesn't want open or civic space next to highways because of the health hazards presented. He would rather waive the public space requirement at these locations and collect in lieu payments to mitigate air pollution. He doesn't want to wait for the state to act, and he noted that this approach has been approved by the City Solicitor.  
**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**FOLLOWUP:** Land Use Committee



49. Ordinance 211433 (ID:24332) By City Councilor McLaughlin, Davis, Mbah, Strezo, Clingan Requesting amendments to the Zoning Ordinance as contained within.
- Also referred to the Planning Board.  
President McLaughlin said he submitted this item in coordination with the Planning Department.  
**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Land Use Committee
50. Order 211434 (ID:24333) By City Councilor Strezo That the Director of SPCD and the Director of Communications discuss with this Council’s Committee on Housing and Community Development creating and marketing an app that promotes and incentivizes frequenting Somerville’s small businesses.
- Councilor Strezo said that the Ball Square Business Association brought this item forward.  
**RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**FOLLOWUP:** Housing and Community Development Committee
51. License/Permit 211435 (ID:24335) New Drainlayer's License, M. DiStasio Excavation Contractors.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
52. Public Communication 211436 (ID:24334) Tufts responding to #211341 and #211342 re: student housing.
- RESULT: PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne  
**FOLLOWUP:** Housing and Community Development Committee

**LATE ITEMS**

53. Order 211437 (ID:24337) By City Councilor Davis That #211372 be discharged from the Committee on Legislative Matters with the intent that the Council consider it at this meeting.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

54. Order 211438 (ID:24336) By City Councilor White Jr., Mbah That the Director of Water and Sewer and any other appropriate City departments timely and appropriately notify residents whenever water service will be interrupted.

Councilor White related some constituents' experiences with water service disruptions and asked that 311 be advised when water service is interrupted so they can answer residents' inquiries.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

55. Mayor's Request 211372 (ID:24267) Requesting approval of the attached 2021 Local Election Calendar.

Election Commissioner Nick Salerno said that no changes in time-frame, pandemic-related or otherwise, were made in this year's calendar. Councilor White commented that the window for submitting signatures is narrow and Mr. Salerno responded that the state and his peers agree that 5 weeks is ample. Councilor White suggested adding another 2 weeks for the benefit of novice candidates. Mr. Salerno replied that the calendar could be adjusted, and he suggested adding it to the front of the cycle. Councilor Niedergang supported the extension, but didn't want it to interfere with the scheduled election dates or the Jewish Holy Days. Councilor Ballantyne asked that the period not be extended into June, which is the city's budget season. Councilor White moved to extend the submission deadline to June 23. President McLaughlin spoke in opposition, saying 5 weeks is ample. The motion failed 6-5, with Councilors Ballantyne, Davis, Strezo, Clingan, Rossetti and McLaughlin opposed. The calendar was then approved as submitted.

**RESULT:** APPROVED. [10 TO 1]

**AYES:** Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

**NAYS:** White Jr.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was Adjourned at 9:05 PM.