



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote Participation

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NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audiovideo recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Register at the following website to listen to this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uv1b5FriSnmceCMwqmyxJQ

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [25-1771](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [25-1772](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
(ID # [25-1773](#)) October 23, 2025.

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a
(ID # [25-1756](#)) total of 10 feet of conduit in Harvard Street, from Utility
Pole 163/1 to a point of pickup at 25 Atherton Street.
- 3.2. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a
(ID # [25-1752](#)) total of 28 feet of conduit in Indiana Avenue, from
Manhole 8411 to a point of pickup at 8 Indiana Avenue.

- 3.3. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1753](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 37 feet of conduit in Cleveland Street, from Utility Pole 420/4 to a new Handhole next to 11 Harvard Street.
- 3.4. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1754](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 38 feet of conduit in Warwick Street, from Utility Pole 357/3 to a point of pickup at 16 Warwick Street.
- 3.5. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1755](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 47 feet of conduit in Berkeley Street, from Utility Pole 30/3 to a point of pickup at 24 Berkeley Street.
- 3.6. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1757](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 48 feet of conduit in Vernon Street, from Utility Pole 152/9 to a point of pickup at 70 Vernon Street.
- 3.7. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1751](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 52 feet of conduit in Bolton Street, from Utility Pole 378/1 to a point of pickup at 8 Bolton Street.
- 3.8. Grant of Location (ID # [25-1758](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a total of 223 feet of conduit in Broadway, from Manhole 10195 to a point of pickup at 299 Broadway.
- 3.9. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-1735](#)) Chief Assessor presenting proposed FY 2026 Tax Classifications and requesting the adoption of a minimum residential factor for FY 2026 and acceptance of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5C, a residential exemption of 35% of average assessed value for owner-occupied properties.

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Ordinance (ID # [25-1762](#)) By Councilor Davis and Councilor Wilson
That the Code of Ordinances be amended to prohibit the use of tax-payer funds for self-promotion.
- 4.2. Order (ID # [25-1716](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the City Attorney's Office is authorized to respond to the Open Meeting Law complaint by Osnat Hoffman on behalf of the City Council.
- 4.3. Order (ID # [25-1722](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on how snow and ice is removed from different types of surfaces in schoolyards, including any limitations based on surface type.

- 4.4. Resolution (ID # [25-1721](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Administration and the School Department discuss with this Council the budgetary and planning impact of snow days, and how adaptation to climate change may affect future snow day planning.
- 4.5. Communication (ID # [25-1719](#)) By Councilor Davis
In his capacity as President, cancelling the Regular Meeting of this Council scheduled for December 25, 2025.
- 4.6. Resolution (ID # [25-1720](#)) By Councilor Mbah and Councilor Sait
In support of Climate Forward 2024.
- 4.7. Order (ID # [25-1770](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That this City Council discuss the safety of the Summer Street bike lane design around or near Putnam Street to Benton Road and how and if additional safety modifications can be made.
- 4.8. Resolution (ID # [25-1763](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
Supporting the resale of certain city owned property.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 5.1. Resolution (ID # [25-1700](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
In support of democratic divestment action regarding Ballot Question 3.
- 5.2. 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.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1730](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on November 19, 2025.
- 6.A.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-1451](#)) Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management conveying the draft Combined Sewer Overflow Plan.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.A.3. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.4. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.5. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.6. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn.
- 6.A.7. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.8. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.9. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.10. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.11. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1649](#)) Requesting approval of a Pedestrian Access Easement and grant of a Maintenance License for 495 Columbia Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.13. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.14. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.15. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.16. 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.B. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-1729](#)) Report of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, meeting on November 18, 2025.
- 6.B.2. Order (ID # [24-0070](#)) By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson That the Director of Parks and Recreation discuss how inclusive playground accessibility is being considered in future playground plans and redesign projects.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.B.3. Order
(ID # [24-1008](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Economic Development discuss with this Council ways to provide small businesses with financial and technical support when impacted by construction and other emergencies.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.B.4. Order
(ID # [24-1488](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Economic Development appear before this Council's Committee on Housing and Community Development to discuss the immediate plans and short-term response efforts to best support and sustain small businesses, post-COVID.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.C. LAND USE COMMITTEE
- 6.C.1. Committee Report
(ID # [25-1731](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on November 20, 2025.
- 6.C.2. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1594](#)) Requesting approval of the amended 90 Washington Street Demonstration Project Plan.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1595](#)) Requesting approval of an amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement between the City Council and Redevelopment Authority regarding the redevelopment of 90 Washington Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.4. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-1596](#)) Requesting approval of the development objectives for the redevelopment of 90 Washington Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.5. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-1607](#)) Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development conveying a summary of the 90 Washington process review and development objectives.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE
- 6.D.1. Committee Report
(ID # [25-1718](#)) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on November 17, 2025.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1765](#)) Requesting that this Council convene in Executive Session to discuss the potential settlement of a claim against a former employee.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1714](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 12-178 of the Code of Ordinances to remove the prohibition on sourcing neonicotinoid-treated plants.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1728](#)) Requesting approval of a utility easement for NStar Electric Company at 0 Windsor Place (Boynton Yards).
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1737](#)) Requesting approval to accept a gift of real property located at 17 Inner Belt Road (9 New Washington Street) from Ralph C. DeVitto, Jr. and A Bram, Trustee, RCD Foundation.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1742](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$3,057,826 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the Fiscal Year 2026 Street Resurfacing Program.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1743](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$3,000,000 from the Street Reconstruction & Resurfacing Stabilization Fund for the FY 2026 Street Resurfacing Program.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1746](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$250,000 from the Immigrant Legal Services Stabilization Fund for legal services for immigrants and asylum seekers seeking permanent residency.
- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1745](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$250,000 from the Community Benefits Stabilization Fund Account to the Immigrant Legal Services Stabilization Fund Account for legal services for immigrants and asylum seekers seeking permanent residency.
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1732](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$6,750 from the Medicinal Marijuana Stabilization Fund for additional duties related to the Out of School time activities for FY 2026.
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1747](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$205,000 from the Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to the Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund Electricity Account for delinquent electricity bills.

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- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1748](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$225,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund Electricity Account for delinquent electricity bills.
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1744](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$10,643 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund to recompense the fund for unallowable expenses.
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1750](#)) Requesting the appropriation or reserve of \$7,260,181 in estimated FY 2026 Community Preservation Act (CPA) revenue for CPA projects and expenses.
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1736](#)) Requesting authorization to establish a consolidated Gift Account for the Veteran Services Department to accept donations for Veterans Holiday Season uses and veterans in need of financial assistance.
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1697](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$150 from the Office of Immigrant Affairs Neighborhood Improvement Council Account to the Somerville Public Schools Food Services Account for the Latin American and Caribbean Heritage Celebration.
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1734](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$304,954.10 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to the Health and Human Services department for the 2025-2026 Winter Warming Center.
- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1740](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$22,570 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Police Department for mobile data terminals.
- 7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1741](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$370 gift from the Tufts University Softball team to the Health and Human Services Mobile Farmers Market Revolving Fund for market needs.
- 7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1733](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$147.86 using available funds in the Department of Health and Human Services Program Supplies and Materials Account for meeting snacks.
- 7.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1726](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Andrew Patriquin to the position of Fire Captain.
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8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-1509](#)) Condominium Review Board conveying the FY 2023 Annual Report, pursuant to Section 7-70 of the Code of Ordinances.
- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-1699](#)) The Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment conveying Climate Forward 2024.
- 8.3. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-1738](#)) SomerStat Director conveying an update on the Happiness Survey 2025.
- 8.4. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-1764](#)) City Attorney conveying a clarification on the purpose of item #25-1639.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [25-1759](#)) New Drainlayer's License, Elite Construction Management Inc.
- 9.2. License (ID # [25-1761](#)) New Sign/Awning License, 59-61 Bow St LLC, 59-61 Bow Street, 6 Balconies and 12 Bays.
- 9.3. License (ID # [25-1760](#)) New Sign/Awning License, Bakery and Cafe Komugi, 68 Prospect Street, 2 Signs.
- 9.4. Public Communication (ID # [25-1715](#)) Osnat Hoffman submitting an Open Meeting Law complaint against this City Council. Note that the Council may enter executive session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss.
- 9.5. Public Communication (ID # [25-1749](#)) Bill Valletta submitting comments re: item #25-1698, regarding the Armory Revolving Fund.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1781](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$2,400,000 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Parking Meter Receipts Account to reduce the FY 2026 Tax Rate.
- 10.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1739](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$729 from the Communications Department Community Outreach Account to the Somerville Public Schools Professional Salaries Account for staff participation in the PK-8 School Building Planning Focus Group Session.

- 10.3. Public Communication (ID # [25-1774](#)) Davis Square Neighborhood Council submitting comments re: item #25-1539, a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 363 Highland Avenue from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) and from MR4 to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6), and 110 Willow Avenue MR4 to MR6.
- 10.4. Public Communication (ID # [25-1775](#)) Daniel Wong submitting comments re: 90 Washington Street.
- 10.5. Withdrawn (ID # [25-1727](#)) Withdrawn.
- 11. **ADJOURNMENT**