



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 14, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation

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NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, 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.

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [23-1386](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [23-1387](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, July
(ID # [23-1388](#)) 13, 2023.
- 1.4. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting, July 20,
(ID # [23-1389](#)) 2023.
- 1.5. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting, August
(ID # [23-1390](#)) 3, 2023.

2. CITATIONS

- 2.1. Citation By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # [23-1333](#)) Commending John Wilson on the conclusion of his
mind-boggling HBO series, "How To with John Wilson".

- 2.2. Citation By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # [23-1350](#)) Commending Edra Mercer on the auspicious occasion of her 100th birthday.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location Cambridge Network Solutions applying for a Grant of Location to install 63 feet of conduit in Medford Street, from existing Verizon Manhole 26/515 to a point of pickup at 35 Medford Street.
(ID # [23-1335](#))
- 3.2. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 198 feet of conduit in Broadway, from Manhole 1922 located at the intersection of Broadway and Fenwick Street to a point of pickup at 366 Broadway.
(ID # [23-1336](#))
- 3.3. Grant of Location Verizon applying for a Grant of Location to install 429 feet of conduit along Somerville Avenue and Poplar Street, from Manhole 44/252 in Somerville Avenue to Manhole 44/20 located at the intersection of Poplar Street and Linwood Street.
(ID # [23-1337](#))
- 3.4. Grant of Location Verizon applying for a Grant of Location to install 209 feet of conduit in Somerville Avenue, from Manhole 44/42 to existing Extenet handhole located near 345 Somerville Avenue.
(ID # [23-1338](#))

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # [23-1355](#)) That the Director of Engineering re-pave Highland Avenue from Central Street to Walnut Street this year instead of waiting until 2024.
- 4.2. Order By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # [23-1356](#)) That the Directors of Mobility and Director of Engineering install a quick-build two-way protected bicycle facility on School Street, between Highland Avenue and the Community Path.
- 4.3. Resolution By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Scott
(ID # [23-1357](#)) That the Mayor hire a minimum of four Department of Public Works Grounds Division staff to increase maintenance of public spaces and new native planting projects, in advance of the Pollinator Action Plan.

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- 4.4. Order
(ID # [23-1358](#)) By Councilor Clingan and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Economic Development appear before this Council to discuss the current status of the implementation of the Gilman Square Neighborhood Plan.
- 4.5. Order
(ID # [23-1359](#)) By Councilor Clingan and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Capital Projects provide this Council with a printed timeline for the reconstruction of a new Winter Hill Community School.
- 4.6. Order
(ID # [23-1361](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Engineering place speed humps on School Street, between Broadway and Medford Street.
- 4.7. Order
(ID # [23-1362](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Mobility place in-street spring-loaded pedestrian crosswalk signs on Medford Street at Sycamore, Thurston, and Dartmouth Streets.
- 4.8. Resolution
(ID # [23-1360](#)) By Councilor Clingan
That the Administration declare the second week of October as de-"RAT"ification week on an annual basis, with a robust public education campaign that includes events and announcements and the full use of the city's communication apparatus.
- 4.9. Order
(ID # [23-1363](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works raise the low-hanging wires in front of 50 Chandler Street so that they do not get snagged on cars.
- 4.10. Order
(ID # [23-1364](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Planning, Preservation and Zoning discuss the potential for density bonus incentives, such as \$150,000 for homeowners to build affordable housing for rent, or homeownership.
- 4.11. Order
(ID # [23-1366](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Sustainability and Environment discuss the plan for outreach for the online Climate Survey and how residents without computers are brought into the conversation.

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- 4.12. Order
(ID # [23-1385](#)) By Councilor Strezo and Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works take the appropriate measures to repair the broken light fixtures at New Hampshire and Pennsylvania Avenues and file a complaint for Eversource to address the situation.
- 4.13. Resolution
(ID # [23-1365](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Administration discuss the progress of the parking plan within the lease of the Tufts Administration Building (TAB).
- 4.14. Order
(ID # [23-1367](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works ensure that the new Police sub-station in East Somerville is easily accessible to the public and includes public restrooms.
- 4.15. Order
(ID # [23-1368](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works address the overgrowth and trash on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Mt. Vernon Street.
- 4.16. Order
(ID # [23-1369](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works address the graffiti on the sidewalk in front of 75 Washington Street.
- 4.17. Order
(ID # [23-1370](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Health and Human Services create a homeless worker program, similar to the Roca program, that offers compensated community cleanup and other community service jobs to the un-housed.
- 4.18. Order
(ID # [23-1371](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works ensure that the port-a-potties in East Somerville are consistently cleaned.
- 4.19. Order
(ID # [23-1372](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on homelessness outreach efforts, including the hiring of four clinicians, case managers and home visitations.
- 4.20. Order
(ID # [23-1373](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Inspectional Services update this Council on enforcement of the Dark Skies ordinance that restricts light pollution and reduces energy consumption.
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- 4.21. Order (ID # [23-1375](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Engineering consider installing water fountains along the Community Path Extension.
- 4.22. Order (ID # [23-1376](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Engineering consider adding speed humps and other traffic calming measures to Victoria Street to mitigate the impact of cut-through traffic on this residential neighborhood.
- 4.23. Order (ID # [23-1377](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Mobility add additional signage on Victoria Street to reduce speeds.
- 4.24. Resolution (ID # [23-1374](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Administration update this Council on the recipients of the \$10 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocation for the nonprofit funding round.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1321](#)) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on September 6, 2023.
- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1235](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Dennis Lemard to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1237](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Cassie Walston to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1256](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Jeffrey DiGregorio to the position of Police Captain.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1257](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Salvatore Fusco to the position of Police Lieutenant.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1258](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Samir Messaoudi to the position of Police Sergeant.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1259](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Steven Scrugli to the position of Police Sergeant.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1299](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Christopher J. Ward to the position of Deputy Police Chief.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1307](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Jennifer Tsolas to the Condominium Review Board.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE**
- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1379](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on September 12, 2023.
- 6.B.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0779](#)) Requesting approval of a Sidewalk Easement and Maintenance Agreement at 100 Chestnut Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1050](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$48,612.38 grant that requires a match, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the Fire Department for the purchase of high visibility jackets.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1146](#)) Requesting approval to re-purpose \$100,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds awarded to the Parks and Urban Forestry Division for the design of Junction Park, to be used for construction.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1196](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$13,833.64 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Admin Professional and Technical account for FY 2022 Roca services.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1197](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$440 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Repair & Maintenance Vehicles Account for vehicle inspections.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1201](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$97,000 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Open Space Reserve Fund to the Public Space and Urban Forestry Division for renovation of the Brown Schoolyard.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.8. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1202](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$411,776 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Open Space Reserve Fund to the Public Space and Urban Forestry Division for renovation of Henry Hansen Park.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1203](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$98,053 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Historic Preservation Reserve Fund to the Somerville Museum for restoration of the collection storage area.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1207](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from MA Department of Housing and Community Development to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Administration Division for the study of energy efficiency opportunities in affordable housing for low and moderate income households.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1208](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from MA Department of Housing and Community Development to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Administration Division for focus groups and a feasibility study related to the development of a rental registry and energy retrofitting housing.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.12. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1229](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$57,716.11 from the Veterans Department's Ordinary Maintenance - Veterans Benefits account to the Personal Services - Salaries account to fund the Veterans Project Manager position through the end of FY 2024.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.13. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1238](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$16,929.60 using available funds in the Engineering Repairs & Maintenance - Highways Account for Police details.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.14. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1239](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$4,269,990 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the recurring FY 2024 Sewer Improvements program.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.15. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1240](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$6,878,900 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for various sewer improvement projects as part of participation in the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) I/I Local Financial Assistance Program, Phases 9-11.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.16. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1241](#)) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$31.40 using available funds in the Law Department's Ordinary Maintenance Recordings Account for public access to court electronic recordings.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.17. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1255](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$4,980 grant with no new match required, from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to the Fire Department for the purchase of emergency response equipment.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.18. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1261](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$95,000 grant with no new match required, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program 2.0 Planning Grant.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.19. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1264](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$6,285 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Elevator Repair & Maint Account for repairs to the High School elevators.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.20. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1265](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$4,509.75 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Interior Maint Account for asbestos testing.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.21. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1266](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$980 using available funds in the Buildings Fire Alarm Repair & Maint Account for Fire Alarm testing and services.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.C. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1253](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting in Joint Session with the Planning Board on September 7, 2023.

6.D. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1380](#)) Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on September 13, 2023.

6.E. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 6.E.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1378](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on September 11, 2023.

- 6.E.2. Order (ID # [23-0618](#))
By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Health & Human Services work with this Council and community partners to determine if the city has a current PILOT agreement with Mass General Brigham and other healthcare providers, and how mental health services can be a component of such agreements, particularly as part of a mental health gun buyback program.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.3. Resolution (ID # [23-1172](#))
By Councilor Kelly and Councilor McLaughlin
That the Administration update this Council on locations of sharps collection stations and work with the Commissioner of Public Works to install sharps collection stations in all public restrooms.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.4. Resolution (ID # [23-1284](#))
By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Administration update this Council regarding increases in homelessness and the direct responses taken by the city to address those increases.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.5. Communication (ID # [23-1285](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
Conveying numerous locations suitable for temporary and long-term shelter for the homeless population.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.6. Order (ID # [23-1286](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Chief of Police conduct compliance checks on liquor stores.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.7. Order (ID # [23-1290](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Health and Human Services engage Somerville Cares About Prevention to conduct compliance checks on establishments serving liquor to prevent over-serving of alcohol.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.8. Order (ID # [23-1294](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on the progress of Safe Consumption sites.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1351](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$100,000 from the Encore Artist and Cultural Support Stabilization Fund to support Local Cultural Council grants to artists, organizations, and schools.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1348](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$118.44 using available funds in the Department of Infrastructure and Management Office Supplies Account for office supplies.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1349](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Courtney Koslow to the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1354](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for GrayKey Digital Forensics Analysis Tool.
- 7.5. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-1392](#)) Conveying information regarding Somerville's upcoming first-ever Civic Day celebration.

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-1352](#)) City Solicitor requesting that this Council convene in Executive Session to discuss property at Matignon pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6).

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [23-1339](#)) New Garage License, Quick Auto Center, 30 Joy Street, 0 cars inside, 40 cars outside, for charging money to store vehicles, maintaining and operating a tow vehicle, and storing unregistered vehicles, Mon-Fri:8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, and Sun: closed.
- 9.2. License (ID # [23-1340](#)) New Garage License, Ravelo's Auto Service, 61 Washington Street, 3 cars inside, 4 cars outside, for mechanical repairs, autobody work, and charging money to store vehicles, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, and Sun: closed.
- 9.3. License (ID # [23-1324](#)) Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 32 Dearborn Rd.
- 9.4. License (ID # [23-1342](#)) Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 39R Latin Way.
- 9.5. License (ID # [23-1325](#)) Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 40A Latin Way.
- 9.6. License (ID # [23-1347](#)) Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 75 Packard Ave.
- 9.7. License (ID # [23-1326](#)) Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 125 Powder House Blvd.
- 9.8. License (ID # [23-1343](#)) Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 8 Whitfield Road.
- 9.9. Public Event (ID # [23-1327](#)) Haley Suarez applying for a Public Event License for Riverfest on September 16 from 10am to 10pm (raindate September 17).
- 9.10. Public Event (ID # [23-1328](#)) Gil Cayford applying for a Public Event License for Rock in the Park on September 16 from 4pm to 10pm.
- 9.11. Public Event (ID # [23-1345](#)) David Margolin applying for a Public Event License for Highland Rd BP on September 17 from 3pm to 8pm (raindate October 1).

- 9.12. Public Event
(ID # [23-1323](#)) John Long applying for a Public Event License for Chandler St BP on September 23 from 2:30pm to 7:30pm (raindate September 24).
- 9.13. Public Event
(ID # [23-1329](#)) Kelsey Kent applying for a Public Event License for Lexington Ave BP on September 23 from 3pm to 9pm.
- 9.14. Public Event
(ID # [23-1344](#)) Adam Parker applying for a Public Event License for Foundation for Animals: Dog Festival on September 24 from 7am to 5pm.
- 9.15. Public Event
(ID # [23-1330](#)) Communications & Community Engagement Department applying for a Public Event License for Civic Day on September 30 from 8:30am to 6:30pm.
- 9.16. Public Event
(ID # [23-1331](#)) Brandon Wilson applying for a Public Event License for Josephine Ave BP on September 30 from 2pm to 9:30pm (raindate October 1).
- 9.17. Public Event
(ID # [23-1346](#)) Marcy Goldstein-Gelb applying for a Public Event License for Boston-Prichard Ave BP on October 1 from 3pm to 10pm (raindate October 22).
- 9.18. Public Event
(ID # [23-1332](#)) Zachary Baum applying for a Public Event License for Annual Vintage Market on October 8 from 9am to 9pm (raindate October 29).
- 9.19. Public Communication
(ID # [23-1317](#)) Ert Dredge submitting comments re: item #23-1162, a resolution regarding the "Idaho Stop".

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Resolution
(ID # [23-1393](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Administration update the City Council on the status of body cameras for police officers.
- 10.2. Order
(ID # [23-1397](#)) By Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management update this Council on the sewer separation work and any opportunities for prioritizing problematic areas of the city.
- 10.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-1316](#)) Requesting approval to extend and amend a contract with Warner Larson Incorporated for an additional three years, and a revised amount of \$123,683.35, for the redesign and improvements of the Auxiliary Sports Fields at Dilboy Park.

- 10.4. Grant of Location (ID # [23-1391](#)) Eversource applying for an amendment to License BL22-000036, a Grant of Location for 205 Beacon Street.
- 10.5. License (ID # [23-1394](#)) New Drainlayer's License, Form Up Sitework LLC.
- 10.6. Public Event (ID # [23-1395](#)) Kelsey Kent applying for a Public Event License for Lexington Ave BP on September 24 from 4pm to 9pm.

11. LATE ITEMS

12. ADJOURNMENT