



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Dispositions

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**Tuesday, April 21, 2026**

**6:00 PM**

**Virtual**

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[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_X-w3rtn5RoOxSeyodcimUw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X-w3rtn5RoOxSeyodcimUw)

This meeting was held virtually via Zoom and was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Wheeler and adjourned at 8:15 pm with a roll call vote of 5 in favor (Councilors Link, Strezo, Hardt, Scott and Wheeler), none opposed, and none absent.

Also present: Emily Wisdom - Somerville Police Department Director of Finance and Administration, Yasmine Raddassi - Legislative Liaison, Steven Nutter - Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment, Cathy Piantigini - Somerville Public Library Director, Anthony Baum - Arts Program Coordinator, Erica Satin-Hernandez - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Director, Vanessa Boukili - Urban Forestry and Landscape Planner, Denise Taylor - Director of Communications, Roberta Cameron - Preservation Act Manager, Richard Raiche - Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, Charles Breen - Somerville Fire Chief, Shumeane Benford - Somerville Police Chief and Delaney Fisher-Cassiol - Clerk of Committees

## **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 April 7, 2026. **26-0640**

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

## Grants and Acceptances

2. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$125,000 grant that requires a match, from the Department of Energy Resources to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for light retrofitting at Dilboy Field. **26-0601**

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

3. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$30,000 gift from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to the Public Library for library operations. **26-0506**

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 \$300 gift from James and Linda Hyson to the Public Library for materials for the West Branch Library. **26-0507**

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

5. Requesting approval of a five-year extension to the lease with BwB-Square LLC for Nibble Community Kitchen. **26-0512**

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

#### Appropriations

6. Requesting approval to appropriate of \$46,500 from the Street Tree Stabilization Fund for FY 2026 Ash Tree treatments. **26-0513**

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

#### Transfers

7. Requesting approval of a transfer of \$31,800 from the Communications and Community Engagement Salaries Account to the Communications and Community Engagement Professional and Technical Services and Printing and Stationary Accounts for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and program signage. **26-0603**

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

Community Preservation Act Appropriations

8. Requesting the appropriation of \$400,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund for improvements to the Kennedy Schoolyard. **26-0518**

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

9. Requesting approval of a transfer of \$228,000 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Undesignated Fund Balance to the CPA Open Space Reserve. **26-0517**

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

10. Requesting the approval of a time-only contract extension until 5/31/2029 for the Mystic River Watershed Association for the Community Preservation Act FY 2023 grant for design of the Blessing of the Bay Linear Park improvements. **26-0509**

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

Bonds

11. Requesting approval to reduce the borrowing authorization for the Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation Project from \$2,000,000 to \$1,600,000. **26-0519**

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

12. Requesting authorization to borrow \$8,284,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the recurring FY 2026 Water Main Rehabilitation program. **26-0515**

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

13. Requesting authorization to borrow \$2,000,000 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the annual FY 2026 Sewer System Rehabilitation - McGrath Corridor. **26-0516**

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

Fire Department Grant and Gift Acceptances and Transfers

14. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$48,866.25 grant with no new match required, from the Urban Areas Security Initiative to the Fire Department for the purchase of a vehicle for the Fire Department Auxiliary. **26-0524**

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

15. Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$30,380 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for firefighter safety equipment. **26-0523**

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 Department Grant and Gift Acceptances and Transfers

16. Requesting approval of a transfer of \$35,000 from the Police Department Salaries Account to the Police Department Animal Control Salaries Account for an expected deficit. **26-0511**

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 of a transfer of \$325,000 from the Police Department Salaries Account to the Police Department Medical and Dental Services Account for medical procedures for current and retired employees injured in the line of duty. **26-0510**

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 accept and expend a \$231,635 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Police Department for a body-worn camera program. **26-0378**

Tabled

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

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

### Communications

- 19.** Alexandra Thorn and Daniel Wong submitting comments re: item #26-0378, grant for body-worn camera program. **26-0636**

Recommended to be marked work completed

### Referenced Documents:

- Finance - 2026-04-21 Memo (with 26-0378)
- Finance - 2026-04-21 Memo (with 26-0512)
- Finance - 2026-04-21 Memo (with 26-0601)