



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 9, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation

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NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted and 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 view this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4903992713033911896>.

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [23-0220](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [23-0230](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 12,
(ID # [23-0188](#)) 2023.

2. CITATIONS

- 2.1. Citation By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # [23-0197](#)) Commending Cleanthe Marsh on the auspicious occasion of
her 100th birthday.
- 2.2. Citation By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # [23-0228](#)) Commending Ed DaSilva on the occasion of his retirement
from the Information Technology Department after 33 years of
distinguished service.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location Verizon applying for a Grant of Location to install 92 feet of
(ID # [23-0223](#)) conduit in the intersection of Herbert St and Chester St, from
Utility Pole 8 to 240 Elm St.
- 3.2. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 102 feet
(ID # [23-0224](#)) of conduit in Kent St, from Utility Pole 191/3 to a point of
pickup at 22 Kent St.
- 3.3. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 8 feet of
(ID # [23-0225](#)) conduit in Sawyer Ave, from Utility Pole 307/4 to a point of
pickup at 29 Sawyer Ave.

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order By Councilor Strezo
(ID # [23-0211](#)) That the Commissioner of Public Works immediately remove
or raise above human height, the dangerously low-hanging
wires in front of 102 Line Street and report to this City
Council, the owner of the pole.
- 4.2. Order By Councilor Strezo
(ID # [23-0212](#)) That the Commissioner of Public Works immediately remove
the wires separated and tied to a fence on the property at
Chapel Street and College Avenue and report to this City
Council, the owner of the pole.
- 4.3. Resolution By Councilor Clingan
(ID # [23-0214](#)) Supporting Payment In Lieu of Taxes legislation in
Massachusetts, bills HD.2091 and SD.761.
- 4.4. Order By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
(ID # [23-0215](#)) That the Director of Mobility consider adding speed humps to
Clarendon Avenue to slow down cut-through traffic from
Holland Street to Massachusetts Avenue.
- 4.5. Order By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
(ID # [23-0216](#)) That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss with
this Council, the ending of the federal COVID-19 public health
emergency, its impact on residents, and the city's access to
vaccines, testing and other resources.

- 4.6. Order (ID # [23-0217](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry, the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment, and the Director of Communications and Community Engagement discuss with this Council, opportunities to increase communication and education of residents on the impact of black swallow-wort and how to effectively remove and dispose of it.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CHARTER REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0209](#)) Report of the Special Committee on Charter Review, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on February 8, 2023.
- 6.A.2. Resolution (ID # [23-0235](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
Supporting the recommended language by the Charter Review Committee on adding an access to information provision.

6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0207](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on February 7, 2023.
- 6.B.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0058](#)) Requesting approval to extend the Invoice Cloud contract for credit card processing for over-the-counter and meter transactions.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0096](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$6,318.46 using available funds in the Information Technology Computer Supplies Account for computer supplies, internet services, and phone services.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0109](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$91,211.79 grant with no new match required, from MA Executive Office of Public Safety to the Fire Department for staffing costs.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0119](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only extension to the contract with Barletta Heavy Division, for work on the Somerville Avenue Utilities and Streetscape Improvements project.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0121](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for CBA Landscape Architects, for the Henry Hansen Memorial Park design services beyond the three year maximum, to 9/30/2024.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0125](#)) Requesting approval to create the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Stabilization Fund.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0126](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for the Weston and Sampson Engineering and Licensed Site Professional contract for Conway park beyond the three year maximum, to 12/31/2023.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.C. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0201](#)) Report of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, meeting on February 2, 2023.
- 6.C.2. Order (ID # [22-0273](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Kelly
That the Director of Housing provide the data requested within for inclusionary homes built after 2016, to better understand how the program is addressing housing needs.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.C.3. Order (ID # [22-0290](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss the recruitment and retention of Teen Snow Shoveling Program participants.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.C.4. Order (ID # [22-1683](#)) By Councilor Strezo, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Housing discuss how anticipated increases in utility, heating and water bills will affect affordable housing tenants.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.C.5. Order (ID # [22-1793](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of the Office of Housing Stability discuss the potential impact of the anticipated January 2023 Social Security cost of living increase on affordable housing.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D. LAND USE COMMITTEE
- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0203](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting in Joint Session with the Planning Board on February 2, 2023.
- 6.E. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE
- 6.E.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0191](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on January 31, 2023.
- 6.E.2. Order (ID # [22-0037](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the administration advise the City Council, and provide the language to allow cannabis delivery in the most streamlined way possible.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.3. Order (ID # [22-0047](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Administration re-submit the Report of the Clean and Open Elections Task Force.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.4. Order (ID # [22-0180](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Scott, Councilor Kelly and Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Housing provide a written update on the current status of compliance with the Short-Term Rental Ordinance.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.5. Order (ID # [22-0451](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Scott, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Strezo, Councilor Davis and Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the City Solicitor prepare a revision to the appropriate ordinance so vehicles that are parked in a crosswalk, or blocking a bicycle lane, ADA ramp, bus stop, or sidewalk may be towed as well as ticketed.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0074](#)) Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to authorize the continued employment of Acting Somerville Police Chief Charles J. Femino.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.E.7. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-0086](#)) Conveying the 2022 Surveillance Technology Annual Report.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.8. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-0106](#)) Conveying information regarding item 23-0084, a Mayor's Request requesting the adoption of the Specialized Energy Code.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.9. Order (ID # [23-0172](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Council amend the Surveillance Technology Ordinance to clarify that it covers cameras used for automated traffic or parking enforcement.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.10. Order (ID # [23-0196](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the City Council adopt a change to the Surveillance Technology Ordinance consistent with the discussions in the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on January 31, 2023.
- 6.F. RODENT ISSUES SPECIAL COMMITTEE
- 6.F.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0182](#)) Report of the Special Committee on Rodent Issues, meeting on January 30, 2023.
- 6.F.2. Order (ID # [22-0296](#)) By Councilor Kelly, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Health and Human Services, the Director of Inspectional Services and the Environmental Health Coordinator update this Council on current rodent mitigation plans.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.F.3. Order (ID # [22-0297](#)) By Councilor Kelly
That the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on the replacement of trash bins due to rodent activity.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.F.4. Order
(ID # [22-0346](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Strezo, Councilor Scott and Councilor Kelly
That the Director of Inspectional Services consider a financial relief program for low income residents who are paying out of pocket for increased rodent expenses, including car and home repairs.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.F.5. Order
(ID # [22-2036](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Strezo, Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Kelly
That the Director of Inspectional Services inspect Chuckie Harris Park, the General Insulation building and 161 Broadway for signs of rodent issues and food waste.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.F.6. Order
(ID # [22-2037](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Strezo, Councilor Kelly and Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Inspectional Services bait the sewers along Pennsylvania Avenue and adjacent streets and develop a plan to address rodent issues, in anticipation of planned water pipeline renovation.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.F.7. Order
(ID # [23-0062](#))
- By Councilor Strezo, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development and the Environmental Health Coordinator discuss the feasibility of including neighborhood-specific rat control funding in Community Benefits Agreements.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.F.8. Order
(ID # [23-0063](#))
- By Councilor Strezo, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Scott and Councilor Clingan
That the Environmental Health Coordinator and the Director of Inspectional Services discuss resident reports of cars damaged by rats over the past five years.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.F.9. Order
(ID # [23-0069](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Kelly
That the Environmental Health Coordinator update this Council on any past pilots and any future plans for use of rodent hormonal birth control.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.F.10. Order
(ID # [23-0131](#)) By Councilor Kelly
That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Environmental Health Coordinator update this Council on the SMART box program and other rodent control measures.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.G. SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SPECIAL COMMITTEE**
- 6.G.1. Committee Report
(ID # [23-0192](#)) Report of the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance, meeting in Joint Session with the School Committee Building Maintenance Subcommittee on February 1, 2023.
- 6.G.2. Order
(ID # [22-0186](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Davis, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Kelly
That the Commissioner of Public Works report on all school building deferred maintenance projects completed following the ventilation system assessment, proposed completion dates, and strategies to assess needs for future deferred maintenance projects.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.G.3. Order
(ID # [22-1418](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works report on planned repairs for the East Somerville Community School facade failures.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.G.4. Order
(ID # [22-1715](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management and the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on preventive maintenance plans for all school buildings.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.G.5. Order
(ID # [22-1716](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Chief Information Officer provide an update on ongoing issues with Wi-Fi services for all schools.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.H. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE
- 6.H.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking meeting on
(ID # [23-0205](#)) February 6, 2023.
- 6.H.2. Order
(ID # [22-1830](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Scott and Councilor Davis
That the Director of Mobility present to this Council on where heavy commercial vehicles are restricted per Traffic Regulations Section 7-27 Operation of Heavy Commercial Vehicles.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.H.3. Order
(ID # [22-1832](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Scott and Councilor Kelly
That the Director of Parking, Director of Mobility, and Director of Engineering present to this Council on engagement and consideration of business needs regarding curbside changes.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.H.4. Order
(ID # [22-1834](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Director of Mobility and Director of Engineering present to this Council on documentation of vehicle types, timing and frequency, and turning movements when determining on-street loading zones.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.H.5. Order
(ID # [22-1835](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Director of Mobility provide an update on the businesses surveyed regarding Highland Ave improvements and share the data collected.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.H.6. Order
(ID # [22-1836](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Davis
That the Director of Constituent Services add a 311 Service Request category for reporting parking in bicycle lanes.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.H.7. Order
(ID # [22-1837](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Mobility evaluate cut through traffic on Vernon Street and Trull Street and provide recommendations for traffic calming.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.H.8. Public
Communication
(ID # [22-2080](#)) Green Cab Company, Inc. requesting an increase the taxicab meter rate to \$1.95 for the first 1/8 of a mile, \$0.45 for each additional 1/8 of a mile and waiting time of \$28 per hour.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.H.9. Order
(ID # [22-2118](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Mobility consider installing speed humps on Highland Road, at the intersection with Morrison Avenue.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.H.10. Order
(ID # [23-0093](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Director of Mobility share and discuss with this Council, the plan to use the \$100,000 in funding secured from the state for a traffic study of the intersection of Route 16 and Broadway.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-0187](#)) Requesting approval of the Municipal Election Calendar for 2023.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-0234](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Camera Ticket Enforcement.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-0122](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Calla Taylor to the Urban Forestry Committee.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request
(ID # [23-0180](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$400,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund for the construction of Junction Park.

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- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0179](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$350,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund for the construction of Henry Hansen Park.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0178](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$300,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund to the Elizabeth Peabody House for historic building window restoration.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0177](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$250,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund to the Mystic River Watershed Association to design a shared use community path at Blessing of the Bay Park.
- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0176](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$100,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund for design of a park at 217 Somerville Ave.
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0181](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$15,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund to Mudflat Pottery School, Inc. for a Facade Restoration Study.
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0162](#)) Requesting approval to use available funds in the Health and Human Services Salaries Account in the amount of \$21,982 to fund an additional Case Manager position.
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0198](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Mobility Division for traffic engineering design and related implementation at the intersection of Alewife Brook Parkway and Broadway.
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0190](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$79,500 grant with no new match required, from the MA Executive Office of Public Safety to the Police Department for staffing costs.
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0213](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$75,000 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education to the Health and Human Services SomerPromise Division for LGBTQIA Out-of-School Time Youth Programming.
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0195](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$67,050 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Cultural Council to the Arts Council for unrestricted operational support.
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0186](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$45,406.77 grant with no new match required, from the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) to the Fire Department for maritime related equipment.
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- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0184](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$17,821.96 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for the purchase of ballistic vests, helmets and medical equipment.
- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0185](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$3,348.18 grant with no new match required, from the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) to the Fire Department for the purchase of residential lock boxes.

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0199](#)) City Clerk submitting an amendment to Section 10-63 of the Code of Ordinances to clarify the Surveillance Technology Ordinance regarding parking ticket devices.
- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0113](#)) City Clerk submitting an amendment to Section 13-6.1 of the Code of Ordinances to increase taxicab meter rates.
- 8.3. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0040](#)) City Clerk requesting confirmation of the appointment of F. Kelley Landolphi to the position of Assistant Clerk of Committees.
- 8.4. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0041](#)) City Clerk requesting confirmation of the appointment of Michael Potere to the position of Assistant Clerk of Committees.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [23-0222](#)) New Extended Operating Hours License, Chow N Joy, 626 Somerville Ave, opening Sun-Thurs until 1am and Fri-Sat until 2am for take-out and delivery services.
- 9.2. License (ID # [23-0221](#)) New Extended Operating Hours License, Falafel Place, 1 Main St, opening Mon-Sun until 3am for in-store, take-out, and delivery services.
- 9.3. Public Event (ID # [23-0226](#)) Somerville Community Growing Center applying for a Public Event License for Maple Boil on February 17 and March 11 from 7:30am to 7:30pm (raindate March 12).
- 9.4. Public Event (ID # [23-0227](#)) Bicycle Advisory Committee applying for a Public Event License for Family Bike CPX Ride on May 14 from 8am to 10:30am (raindate May 21).
- 9.5. Public Communication (ID # [23-0229](#)) Chris Dwan submitting comments re: Union Square MBTA stop pedestrian crossing.

- 9.6. Public Communication (ID # [23-0218](#)) Commission for Women submitting comments re: item #23-0075, an Ordinance establishing Paid Leave for Survivors.
- 9.7. Public Communication (ID # [23-0219](#)) Bicycle Advisory Committee submitting comments re: ticketing by 311.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Order (ID # [23-0237](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on efforts to provide warming centers for unhoused individuals during the recent cold spell.
- 10.2. Order (ID # [23-0238](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Inspectional Services provide Smart Boxes throughout East Somerville to address rodent issues.
- 10.3. Order (ID # [23-0239](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility place a large YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS sign at the intersection of Broadway, Lombardi Way and Mt. Vernon Street.
- 10.4. Order (ID # [23-0240](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility prioritize the intersection of Broadway, Lombardi Way and Mt. Vernon Street for traffic calming measures.
- 10.5. Resolution (ID # [23-0241](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Administration update this Council's Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters regarding efforts to hire more firefighters.
- 10.6. Resolution (ID # [23-0242](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Administration inform this Council regarding efforts to update the firefighter hiring process, since the reserve list has been eliminated.
- 10.7. Resolution (ID # [23-0236](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
Commending staff and first responders on their efforts to help residents during the recent extreme cold spell.

11. LATE ITEMS

12. ADJOURNMENT