

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
Matters of Business of the Board of Aldermen

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2012, 7:00 PM
Aldermanic Chambers

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Board of Aldermen'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 OF THE MEETING

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
William M. Roche	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Thomas F. Taylor	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Sean T. O'Donovan	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Rebekah Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Robert C. Trane	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	
Tony Lafuente	Ward 4 Alderman	Absent	

1. #192476 Call of the Roll.
Roll Call

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

2. #192477 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 20, 2011.
Minutes

RESULT: APPROVED

CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

3. #192478 By Ald. O'Donovan
Order That this Board's Committee on Finance meet with the Administration to formulate a Bond request for new seating/benches at Trum Field.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

4. #192479
Order

By Ald. O'Donovan
That this Board's Committee on Housing and Community Development meet with the Director of SPCD and the Director of Housing to develop an appropriate Senior Housing Ordinance.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

5. #192480
Order

By Ald. O'Donovan
That the Director of SPCD update this Board on initiatives to rectify the lack of economic growth in Magoun Square.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

6. #192481
Order

By Ald. O'Donovan
That the Chief of Police inspect the area behind 1, 3, and 5 Woodbine Street and Somerville Junction Park for illegal drug activity, and conduct directed patrols there without compromising the element of surprise.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

7. #192482
Order

By Ald. Trane, White Jr.
That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services appear before the Committee on Public Health and Safety to provide an update on rodent abatement efforts in the Curtis Street area.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

8. #192483
Order

By Ald. Heuston, Taylor
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on the Somerville Avenue reconstruction project and the City's acceptance of it, including the restrictions the City is under regarding traffic, parking and streetscape changes because the project is incomplete and still under State jurisdiction.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

9. #192484 Order By Ald. Heuston
That the Director of SPCD provide this Board with the status of the lots on South Street and plans for an alternate location for an off leash dog park in Ward 2.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

10. #192485 Order By Ald. Heuston
That the Director of SPCD update this Board on planned bridge repairs by Mass DOT and plans for alerting the public, diverting traffic and providing assistance for access to affected businesses.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

11. #192486 Order By Ald. Heuston
That the Chief Assessor appear before this Board to provide specific details and responses to citizens' concerns regarding recent tax bills, including increased land values in particular areas of the city.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

12. #192487 Order By Ald. Connolly, Gewirtz, Trane
That the Commissioner of Public Works advise the appropriate utility company to repair/replace the streetlamps at the locations listed within.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

13. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. #192488 Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting as a Committee of the Whole, Committee Report on January 18, 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

14. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. #192489 Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting as a Committee of the Whole Committee Report on January 19, 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

15. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS & TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEES

- A. #192490 Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting in Joint Session Committee Report with the Committee on Traffic and Parking on January 17, 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #192491 Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting in Joint Session Committee Report with the Committee on Legislative Matters on January 17, 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

16. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. #192492 Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on January 17, 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

17. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. #192493 Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on Committee Report January 23, 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #192494 Order By Ald. Sullivan
That the Chief of Police consider funding a second detective, or a civilian, position in the Forensic Unit.

RESULT: APPROVED

- C. #192495 Order By Ald. Lafuente
That the Chief of Police examine the following locations for surveillance cameras: Bailey Road and Temple Road, Bailey Road and Shore Drive, the stairs at the top of Ten Hills Road.

RESULT: APPROVED

- D. #192496 Order
By Ald. Roche
That the Commissioner of Public Works (Lines and Lights) analyze the streetlights on Bailey and Temple Roads, under Route 93, and report the findings to the Committee on Public Health and Safety.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

- E. #192497 Order
By Ald. White Jr.
That the City Clerk contact the State Delegation to request that DCR clear and clean the area along the river bank, from the corner of Route 28 and Shore Drive to the boat house.

RESULT: APPROVED

18. PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

- A. #192498 Report of the Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works, meeting on Committee Report January 24, 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #190068 Order
By Ald. Connolly, Gewirtz
That the Commissioner of Public Works Notify the Appropriate Utility to Repair the Streetlamps at at Morrison and Newberne Aves., 256 Morrison Ave., 22 Winslow Ave., Ciampa Manor, and College and Park Aves.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- C. #191944 Order
By Ald. Heuston
That the Commissioner of Public Works report back to this Board on the completion of the Somerville Avenue MA Highway project and the timeframe for accepting the street from the State.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- D. #192404 Resolution
By Ald. Connolly, Desmond, Sullivan, White Jr.
That this Board requests that a representative of NStar appear before this Board, ASAP, to discuss the recent series of power outages in East Somerville and to propose a corrective action program to ensure consistent power throughout the winter months.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- E. #192405 Resolution By Ald. Sullivan, Connolly, Desmond, White Jr.
That this Board requests that a representative from NStar appear at the first meeting of this Board's Public Works and Utilities Committee in 2012 to explain the consistent power outages in East Somerville.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- F. #192499 Order By Ald. Trane
That the City Solicitor review the Department of Telecommunications and Cable regulations to determine what rights the city may have in dealing with utility companies and what protections are afforded to utility companies, specifically Verizon.

RESULT: APPROVED

- G. #192500 Resolution By Ald. O'Donovan
That the Administration re-file the SPOFF program with this Board.

RESULT: APPROVED

- H. #192501 Order By Ald. Connolly
That the City Solicitor investigate the legality of Verizon charging a low voltage fee and passing that fee on to its subscribers.

RESULT: APPROVED

19. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

- A. #192502 Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on January 17, Committee Report 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #192192 Officer's Communication Director of Traffic and Parking responding to various Board Orders.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- C. #192503 Order By Ald. Trane
That the Director of Traffic and Parking perform a cost benefit analysis on the proposal to increase visitor passes from 48 to 72 hours and report the findings to the Committee on Traffic and Parking.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

- D. #192504 Order By Ald. Trane
That the Chief of Police conduct sting operations on non-licensed cabs and report the results to the Committee on Traffic and Parking.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

20. #192505 Mayor's Request Requesting this Board approve a change in the polling location for Ward 6 Precinct 1 to the Kennedy School.

RESULT: APPROVED

21. #192506 Mayor's Request Requesting approval of two Amended and Restated Easement Agreements for Assembly Square.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

22. #192507 Mayor's Request Requesting approval of an Amendment to the Assembly Square Layout and Alteration Order adopted by this Board in January, 2010.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

23. #192508 Mayor's Request Requesting acceptance of a \$100,000 Federal Realty Investment Trust gift to the SomerPromise Program.

RESULT: APPROVED

Ald. Trane recused.

24. #192509 Mayor's Request Requesting the appointment of Todd Easton to the Recreation and Youth Commission.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

25. #192510 Director of Traffic and Parking responding to various Board Orders.
Officer's
Communication

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

NEW BUSINESS

26. #192511 Renewing Drainlayer's License, J.P. Vara Company.
License/Permit

RESULT: APPROVED

27. #192512 Renewing Flammables License, Union Gulf Service, 231 Washington St.,
License/Permit 18,600 gallons.

RESULT: APPROVED

28. #192513 Renewing Flammables License, BBC Auto Repair, 483 Somerville Ave.,
License/Permit 7,420 gallons.

RESULT: APPROVED

29. #192514 Renewing Flammables License, Good Gas Somerville, 343-345 Medford St.,
License/Permit 20,500 gallons.

RESULT: APPROVED

30. #192515 Renewing Garage License, Executive Auto Body, 30 Medford St., 13 autos
License/Permit in.

RESULT: APPROVED

31. #192516 Renewing Garage License, U Call We Haul, 9R Sherman St., 10 autos out.
License/Permit

RESULT: APPROVED

32. #192517 Renewing Garage License, Somerville Gas, 73 Summer St., 2 autos in, 10
License/Permit out.

RESULT: APPROVED

33. #192518 Renewing Garage License, Chris's Auto Service, 371 Highland Ave., 3 autos
License/Permit in, 10 out.

RESULT: APPROVED

34. #192519 License/Permit Renewing Garage License, Union Gulf Service, 231 Washington St., 4 autos in, 4 out.

RESULT: APPROVED

35. #192520 License/Permit Renewing Garage License, American Auto Gallery, 682 Mystic Ave., 3 autos in, 7 out.

RESULT: APPROVED

36. #192521 License/Permit Renewing Garage License, Good Gas Somerville, 343-345 Medford St., 2 autos in, 5 out.

RESULT: APPROVED

37. #192522 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class II, Mass Auto Brokers Inc., 631 Somerville Ave., 7 autos in, 2 out.

RESULT: APPROVED

38. #192523 Public Communication NStar Electric responding to #192310 re: street lights, double poles, power outages, and other items.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

39. #192524 Public Communication Environment Massachusetts requesting support of a bill to raise the cap on the state's net-metering program, to support solar energy.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

FOLLOWUP: Environment and Energy Special Committee

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

40. #192525 Order By Ald. Sullivan, Taylor, White Jr., Connolly, Desmond, Trane, Heuston That the Director of Traffic and Parking and the city's Traffic Engineer attend the February 1, 2012 Senior Services Committee meeting at Properzi Manor to discuss traffic and pedestrian safety in Union Square.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Senior Services Committee

41. Withdrawn.

42. Withdrawn.

43. #192528 Order By Ald. Trane, Heuston, Sullivan
That the City Solicitor immediately draft a City Ordinance for the licensing of food trucks.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

44. #192529 Order By Ald. Taylor, Desmond
That the Director of Traffic and Parking investigate the number of accidents, with time of day, at the intersection of Summer and Lowell Streets to determine if corrective action is needed.

RESULT: APPROVED

45. #192530 Mayor's Request Requesting a transfer of \$2,400,000 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the Fire Dept. Salaries Acct. to fund the agreement with the IAFF Local 76.

RESULT: APPROVED

46. #192531 Mayor's Request Requesting transfers totalling \$902,425, specified in the attached spreadsheet, to the Fire Dept. Salaries Acct. to fund the agreement with IAFF Local 76.

RESULT: APPROVED

47. #192532 Mayor's Request Requesting the use of \$86,533 in available funds in the Fire Dept. Salaries Acct. to fund the agreement with IAFF Local 76.

RESULT: APPROVED

48. #192533 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a donation of \$5,000 from Deb. D. Ganguly, for the West Branch Library.

RESULT: APPROVED

49. #192534 Mayor's Request Requesting acceptance of a donation of \$527.99 from Jeffrey L. Fullerton to the Public Library.

RESULT: APPROVED

50. #192535 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, American Auto Gallery, 682 Mystic Ave., 2 autos in, 20 out.

RESULT: APPROVED

51. #192536 License/Permit Renewing Garage License, Doucette Auto Service, 325 Alewife Brook Pkwy, 2 autos in, 6 out.

RESULT: APPROVED

LATE ITEMS

52. #192537 Order By Ald. Sullivan, Roche, White Jr., Connolly, Taylor, Desmond That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the light on the traffic island directly in front of 252 Medford Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

53. #192538 Resolution By Ald. Sullivan, Roche, White Jr., Connolly, Taylor, Desmond That this Board requests that the MA Highway Dept. repair the potholes on the bridge at McGrath Highway and Medford Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

54. #192539 Order By Ald. Desmond, Roche, Gewirtz, and the Entire Board That the Director of Communications appear before this Board's Committee on Information Technology to explain why Comcast charges residents much more for its service than in other surrounding communities and to provide suggestions on if and how Somerville's rates could be lowered.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Information Technology Committee

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Submitted by John J. Long, City Clerk