



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2024

7:00 PM

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the City Council'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.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld.

The City Council entered into recess at 8:12 PM and returned at 8:25 PM.

The City Council entered into recess at 8:57 PM and returned at 9:00 PM.

The City Council entered into recess at 10:06 PM and returned at 10:13 PM.

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [24-1617](#))

Councilor Mbah arrived at 7:19 PM.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

Present: Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin
 Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis
 City Councilor At Large Jake Wilson
 Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait
 Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott
 City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah
 City Councilor At Large Willie Burnley Jr.
 Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan
 City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo
 Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld
 Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen

- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [24-1618](#))

Councilors Strezo and Pineda Neufeld requested a moment of silence in memory of Raymond Joseph.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 10, 2024.
(ID # [24-1619](#))

RESULT: **APPROVED**

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location (ID # [24-1556](#)) Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install approximately 43 feet of conduit in Warren Street, starting from Utility Pole 1 to a point of pickup at 16 Medford Street.

Alan Rugman, representing Comcast, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed. Councilor Scott asked about double poles and said that he has not seen any progress yet. He asked that this item be referred to the Licenses and Permits Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- 3.2. Grant of Location (ID # [24-1554](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install approximately 115 feet of conduit in Medford Street and Warren Street, starting from Utility Pole 228/4 to a point of pickup at 16 Medford Street.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed. Councilor Scott asked that this item be referred to the Licenses and Permits Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- 3.3. Grant of Location (ID # [24-1555](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install approximately 4,098 feet of conduit and three new manholes in McGrath Highway, Washington Street, and Joy Street.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed. Councilor Scott asked that this item be referred to the Licenses and Permits Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- 3.4. Grant of Location (ID # [24-1557](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install approximately 65 feet of conduit in Washington Street, from Utility Pole 358/29 to a point of pickup at 192 Washington Street.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed. Councilor Scott asked that this item be referred to the Licenses and Permits Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- 3.5. Grant of Location (ID # [24-1558](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install approximately 53 feet of conduit in Somerville Avenue, from existing Manhole 28941 to an approximate point of pickup at 557 Somerville Avenue.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed. Councilor Scott asked that this item be referred to the Licenses and Permits Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- 3.6. Grant of Location (ID # [24-1559](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install approximately 122 feet of conduit in Laurel Street and Somerville Avenue, from Utility Pole 199/0 to an approximate point of pickup at a proposed handhole at 515 Somerville Avenue.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed. Councilor Scott asked that this item be referred to the Licenses and Permits Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [24-1591](#)) By Councilor Sait, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide an update on the redesign plan for the Kennedy School front playground.

Councilor Sait sponsored Kat Johnston, a parent of a student at the Kennedy School, and her son, Sawyer to speak. Kat spoke about what is known as “the front lot” at the school, an area used by students for recreation. The planned redesign work has not been performed yet and she asked that the timeline be expedited and that parents receive regular updates. Sawyer told the Council that he and his friends want and deserve a better play space.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

- 4.2. Order (ID # [24-1592](#)) By Councilor Sait and Councilor Mbah
That the Director of Mobility install a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Cedar Street and the Community Path.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee4.3. Resolution
(ID # [24-1611](#))

By Councilor Sait, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Scott, Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Pineda Neufeld

That the Administration, in its capacity as owner and landlord of The Armory, ensure that all tenants of the facility are offered legal leases or licenses.

Councilor Sait repeated her earlier request that the Administration offer legal leases to tenants at the Armory, since without them, some of the tenants are not able to apply for grant funding. She sponsored Stephanie Scherpf, Co-Director and CEO of Arts at the Armory to speak. Ms. Scherpf spoke about the building being taken by eminent domain 3 1/2 years ago and stated that there is no internal governance, nor a plan forthcoming from the city. Several proposals were put forth by the Armory tenants and not accepted by the city. The city has offered 30-day licenses which is unrealistic since tenants need to book some events 2 years in advance. She does not know when a master plan will be put forth, but she stated that if a master plan is not in place by the end of 2024, the tenants will vacate the premises.

Councilor Burnley commented on the lack of support and leadership from the city. Legislative Liaison Kimberley Hutter stated that the Administration is committed to having arts in the city and is moving as fast as it can on this matter and hopes to be able to put something forth in the near future.

Councilor Ewen-Campen stated that the Administration's promises are getting harder to defend and he fears that the public feels that the city is attempting to force Arts at the Armory out of the space. Councilor Scott spoke about the uncertainties facing the tenants at the facility and Councilor Sait noted that her constituents are extremely concerned about the future of Arts at the Armory.

RESULT: APPROVED

4.4. Order
(ID # [24-1593](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld

That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide an update on the condition of the Somerville High School building exterior tiles.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

4.5. Order
(ID # [24-1594](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld

That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide a timeline and update for installation of a new classroom on the third-floor atrium at the Argenziano School.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

- 4.6. Order
(ID # [24-1595](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide a timeline and update on the creation of a production kitchen at the Argenziano School.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

- 4.7. Order
(ID # [24-1596](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide information on the procurement and installation of window blinds for certain classrooms at Somerville High School that have unobstructed views from the hallways and need blinds in order to conduct lockdown procedures.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

- 4.8. Resolution
(ID # [24-1597](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Administration provide an update to this Council on the Citywide Parking and Curb Use report and what recommendations, if any, have been implemented.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

- 4.9. Resolution
(ID # [24-1603](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Mbah
That the Administration work to establish a Language Access Ordinance to codify constituents' right to timely, meaningful, and culturally competent language access services.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld expressed that she wants to get this moving. Councilor Burnley spoke about also having a plain language guide.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

4.10. Resolution
(ID # [24-1604](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

Reaffirming Somerville's commitment as a Sanctuary and Trust Act City for justice, equity, and inclusion.

AMENDMENT:

WHEREAS, The City of Somerville has a proud, longstanding history of welcoming and supporting generations of immigrants, dating back to its original Sanctuary City declaration in 1987, reaffirmed in 2016 **and 2019**, and has continually upheld values of equity, inclusion, and support for all community members; and

WHEREAS, The national political climate remains increasingly hostile toward immigrants and refugees, and the recent return of the former President to the White House brings heightened risks for immigrant communities across the country, including in Somerville; and

WHEREAS, Somerville's guiding document, SomerVision 2040, states that "putting equity at the core of our policies is how we live up to our ideals and ensure our community remains safe, vibrant, and supportive of all," a vision that we uphold with a commitment to protecting our immigrant neighbors and fostering an inclusive environment for everyone; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Somerville City Council hereby reaffirms its commitment as a Sanctuary and Trust Act City, vowing to protect the safety, dignity, and rights of immigrants, migrants, asylum seekers, asylees, and refugees residing in Somerville; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That Somerville pledges continued support and funding for the Office of Immigrant Affairs, empowering it to advocate for and support immigrants, provide resources, and foster a welcoming environment in our community; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That Somerville commits to maintaining and funding the Immigrant Legal Services Stabilization Fund to provide legal representation to residents facing deportation or removal, and to secure legal guidance through this fund as needed for our constituents; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That no city department, including the Somerville Police Department and Somerville Public Schools, will apply for or accept federal funds that require gathering or sharing information regarding the

national origin, immigration, or citizenship status of employees, students, or residents for the purpose of targeting or deportation; Somerville reaffirms its ~~Trust Act~~ **Welcoming Community** Ordinance commitment to non-cooperation with federal immigration enforcement on these matters; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That all city services, benefits, and programs shall remain accessible to all, irrespective of any person's national origin, citizenship, or immigration status, and that the city will continue providing timely and culturally competent language access services to ensure inclusivity across all departments; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That city employees will receive training and resources to uphold equal access to city facilities, services, and programming, building a supportive environment for all residents; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That Somerville will partner with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to secure justice for victims of hate crimes, and with local organizations to support families affected by federal immigration policies, including providing kinship placements for children where appropriate; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the city will strongly advocate for schools, hospitals, places of worship, and courthouses to be recognized as "sensitive locations," safe from federal immigration enforcement actions, to ensure the fair and compassionate administration of justice; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Somerville Police Department reaffirms its commitment to not cooperate with external law enforcement agencies on matters related to immigration detention as set forth in the City of Somerville's Ordinance No. ~~2014-07~~ **2019-14**, ~~Trust Act~~ **Welcoming Community** Ordinance; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Mayor of Somerville will communicate the city's Sanctuary City principles and available resources to all city departments, boards, commissions, and community organizations working with immigrant populations; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That Somerville also invites neighboring cities in Massachusetts to reaffirm their commitment to serving and protecting their immigrant communities, joining in solidarity to safeguard residents' rights and safety; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That if any section of this resolution is declared contrary to federal or state law, the remaining provisions shall remain intact and enforceable to the fullest extent possible; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That regardless of external pressures or challenges faced by sanctuary cities, Somerville remains committed to its values of inclusion, equity, and justice, and will not waver in supporting our immigrant neighbors, who are integral to the strength and diversity of our community.

City Clerk Wells read the resolution into the record. President Pineda Neufeld sponsored the Director of SomerViva, Maria Teresa Nagel, to address the Council on the resolution. Director Nagel stated that Somerville has had a target on its back for being a sanctuary city for years. She said that hard times are coming and it's important for the city to remain true to its values. Councilor Mbah commented that the resolution is intended to protect the most vulnerable among us and Councilor Pineda Neufeld spoke about the uncertainty of what's coming as a result of the recent presidential election.

Councilor Davis offered three amendments as corrections to the resolution, which were approved.

He noted that although the words are powerful, the resolution has no legal standing. He asked that the item be sent to the Legislative Matters Committee where members would explore, in conjunction with the Solicitor's Office, what further actions may be taken. Councilor Clingan encouraged community members to stand together against hateful actions to members of the community and Director Nagel cautioned Council members not to publicize what actions they may take to protect immigrants. Councilor Sait said she felt overwhelmed at the results of last week's presidential election and Councilor Burnley spoke of the fear felt in Somerville and across the country with regards to immigration matters, adding that when confronted by someone who wants to criminalize people, he's happy to be a part of a community that fights to best serve its residents. Councilor McLaughlin commented that this is about making people feel safe and Councilor Wilson stated that being a sanctuary city makes Somerville safer.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

4.11. Order
(ID # [24-1607](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen

That the Director of Mobility re-evaluate and strengthen the NO TRUCKS signage at the corner of Warren Avenue and Bow Street in the aftermath of the 18-wheeler that became seriously stuck and blocked traffic on November 10-11, 2024.

Councilor Ewen-Campen commented that this has been a problem area for trucks.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee4.12. Order
(ID # [24-1609](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Engineering update this Council on the timeline to straighten the community path crossing of School Street.

Councilor Ewen-Campen noted there is a 90 degree turn at this location, and he would like to explore possible solutions. He submitted this item to track this matter.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

4.13. Order
(ID # [24-1610](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Mobility install bicycle traffic lights and appropriate YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS signage at the intersection of Somerville Avenue and Park Street.

Councilor Ewen-Campen referenced a recent accident where a cyclist collided with a pedestrian.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

4.14. Resolution
(ID # [24-1608](#))

By Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

That the Administration provide this Council with a comprehensive status update of all Veterans Monuments affected by the construction and renovations around the High School complex.

Councilor Mbah explained the reason for submitting this resolution. He sponsored veterans George McLane, Bob Hardy and Steven Hanson. They noted that the monuments have been in storage and are deteriorating, and that some monuments have been removed, even after the city claimed that they would not be. They asked that the monuments be restored and put back on display to honor veterans. Mr. Hardy noted that the Spanish American monument had been restored at a cost of \$50,000 and that the Vietnam memorial was moved from Union Square, and that the cobblestones and canons are missing. Several other monuments were damaged, as well. Mr. Hanson stated that he's appalled at the length of time it has taken to get this matter resolved. Martha Costa also spoke on the matter and noted the significance of these memorials, especially to veterans. She said that Somerville should be ashamed of itself for letting this happen. Thomas Lane spoke about former Mayor Curtatone telling veterans that they would get their monuments back, saying that he believes that those words were a fabrication. Ellen Sullivan, a member of the Veterans Commission on Monuments also spoke saying that veterans are being disrespected.

Councilor McLaughlin noted that patience is not a virtue when it comes to government, and he thinks that it's time to push this conversation to a resolution. Councilor Clingan expressed his frustration that the Administration was not present to give an update on this matter and Liaison Hutter commented that staff is working on securing the proper equipment to move the monuments to Boynton Yards. Councilor Strezo asked Liaison Hutter if the Administration could at least place signs where the monuments used to be, detailing a plan of when the monuments will be reinstalled.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CHARTER REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-1586](#)) Report of the Special Committee on Charter Review, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on October 29, 2024.

See item #24-1605.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.2. Resolution (ID # [24-0061](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin That the Administration update this City Council on the status of Charter reform.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.B. CHARTER REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-1605](#)) Report of the Special Committee on Charter Review, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on November 13, 2024.

Councilor Scott summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that a call was made for volunteers who are interested in working with the Administration on a final form of the charter, and for the selection of three members of the City Council to represent the Council in the charter negotiations.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.C. OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Withdrawn (ID # [24-1589](#)) Withdrawn.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

6.D. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-1590](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on November 12, 2024.

Councilor McLaughlin summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that among the items discussed were implementing the recommendations in the Police Staffing and Operations report, the wild turkey population, programs and services being offered to the un-housed in the city, the widespread and open drug use in Davis Square, increased trash and needle pickup in and around Davis Square, the installation or replacement of needle disposal receptacles in Seven Hills Park, open substance use in Seven Hills Park, an overdose prevention center, the planned warming center at the Cummings School, ADA compliance for the second floor of 165 Broadway, and separating members of the public during counter-protests.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.D.2. Order (ID # [24-0471](#)) By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Scott, Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Mbah

That the Director of Racial and Social Justice update this Council on the promised road map from the consultant for implementing the recommendations in the report on Police Staffing and Operations delivered in November.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.D.3. Resolution (ID # [24-0478](#))

By Councilor Strezo
That the Administration convene the appropriate departments to discuss the monitoring efforts of the wild turkey population within Somerville and the surrounding regions.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.D.4. Resolution (ID # [24-1199](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Administration discuss with this Council, the programs and services being offered to the un-housed population in Davis Square.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.D.5. Resolution (ID # [24-1200](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Administration discuss with this Council, its policies and plans to address the widespread and open drug use in Davis Square.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.D.6. Resolution
(ID # [24-1201](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Strezo
That the Administration greatly increase the trash and needle pickup in and around Davis Square, including Seven Hills Park and the Community Path.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.7. Resolution
(ID # [24-1204](#))
- By Councilor Davis, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Administration install or replace needle disposal receptacles in Seven Hills Park and other areas with secure, appropriately designed equipment.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.8. Resolution
(ID # [24-1206](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That the Administration update the Ward Six Councilor in writing on efforts to address open substance use in Seven Hills Park and other areas.
- AMENDED:** That the Administration update ~~the Ward Six Councilor~~ this City Council in writing on efforts to address open substance use in Seven Hills Park and other areas.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.9. Resolution
(ID # [24-1207](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That the Administration update this City Council on efforts to open an Overdose Prevention Center.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.10. Order
(ID # [24-1209](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on the establishment of an Overdose Prevention Center, including a timeline for implementation.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.11. Order
(ID # [24-1299](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Wilson, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Sait, Councilor Mbah and Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on interdepartmental efforts to establish a Warming Center at the Cummings School and the repairs needed to accomplish this.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.12. Order
(ID # [24-1326](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Strezo
That the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator take the necessary measures to ensure ADA compliance for the second floor of 165 Broadway for the purposes of expanding youth services.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED6.D.13. Order
(ID # [24-1413](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

That the Director of Inspectional Services submit a written report of outstanding 311 requests submitted for the Edgerly School building and provide an update to this Council with a plan to ensure that staff and students have safe and appropriate facilities.

This item was severed from the committee report and returned to the Public Health and Public Safety Committee because the disposition was incorrect.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

6.D.14. Order
(ID # [24-1414](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Sait

That the Chief of Police update this Council on how the Police Department will ensure members of the public remain separated during counter-protests.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED6.E. PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE6.E.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-1587](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works, meeting on October 30, 2024.

Councilor Clingan summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that among the items discussed were the reinstallation of a memorial bench at the Brown School, big belly trash barrels, the Internet Task Force 2019 Report and a Feasibility Study on Municipal Broadband, reporting of downed and dangling utility lines, removal of asbestos shingling, removing used needles, dealing with discarded furniture, proper waste handling and issues regarding Alston Street and Chester Avenue - including rodent activity, falling limbs, graffiti, prioritize Alston Street for a potential Neighborways project, enforcement of parking permit laws and determining ownership of parcels.

RESULT: APPROVED6.E.2. Order
(ID # [24-0039](#))

By Councilor Strezo

That the Commissioner of Public Works re-install the bench, previously donated and installed in honor of longstanding Brown School principal Marilyn Haggerty, on the Brown School grounds.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.E.3. Order
(ID # [24-0977](#))
- By Councilor Clingan
That the Commissioner of Public Works install big belly trash barrels at the intersection of Meacham and Moreland Streets.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.4. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1088](#))
- 76 registered voters submitting a petition for a public hearing on the Somerville Internet Task Force 2019 Report and a Feasibility Study on Municipal Broadband, pursuant to Section 8 of the City Charter.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.5. Order
(ID # [24-1202](#))
- By Councilor Clingan and Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works create a process for residents to report downed and dangling utility lines.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.6. Order
(ID # [24-1203](#))
- By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Inspectional Services inspect any exterior finishing down to the wood to ensure there is no asbestos shingling present before granting building permits.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.7. Resolution
(ID # [24-1205](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That the Administration allocate additional resources to proactively clean up used needles and other potentially hazardous items in Seven Hills Park and other areas.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.8. Grant of Location
(ID # [24-1240](#))
- Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install a new hip guy and anchor at Utility Pole 291/11 in Prospect Street.
- RESULT: WITHDRAWN**
- 6.E.9. Order
(ID # [24-1268](#))
- By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Communications discuss the communication plan to address move-in/move-out related discarded furniture, including items left on sidewalks blocking pedestrian pathways and restricting public way accessibility.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
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- 6.E.10. Order
(ID # [24-1272](#))
- By Councilor Mbah
That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Commissioner of Public Works appear before this Council to discuss the problems of local restaurants complying with the requirements of proper waste handling and contracting for city waste collection.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.11. Order
(ID # [24-1418](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Chief Assessor determine the ownership of open space parcels along McGrath Highway, behind Alston Street and Chester Avenue to determining who is responsible for maintenance.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.12. Order
(ID # [24-1419](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Inspectional Services inspect open space parcels along McGrath Highway, behind Alston Street and Chester Avenue for rodent activity and bait accordingly.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.13. Order
(ID # [24-1420](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works clean the open space parcels along McGrath Highway, behind Alston Street and Chester Avenue of trash and debris.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.14. Order
(ID # [24-1421](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Parking install a NO THROUGH STREET sign on Alston Street by the Cross Street intersection.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.15. Order
(ID # [24-1422](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Tree Warden inspect the trees behind Chester Avenue and address falling limbs.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.16. Order
(ID # [24-1423](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Inspectional Services address graffiti on Alston Street and ensure the property owners are maintaining their properties.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
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6.E.17. Order
(ID # [24-1424](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility place a sided bump on Alston Street.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.E.18. Order
(ID # [24-1425](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility prioritize Alston Street for a potential Neighborways project.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.E.19. Order
(ID # [24-1426](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Parking enforce parking permit laws on Alston Street.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.F. SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

6.F.1. Committee Report
(ID # [24-1585](#))

Report of the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance, meeting on October 28, 2024.

Councilor Davis summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that among the items discussed were rat infiltrations in school buildings, use restrictions at Reavis Field, PA systems at multiple Somerville Public School buildings, repairs to damaged play equipment, repairs of the elevators at the Winter Hill and Edgerly Schools, the Ginny Smithers Sanders Pool and re-introducing composting in the schools.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.F.2. Order
(ID # [24-1285](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on efforts to eliminate rat infiltration in school buildings.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.F.3. Order
(ID # [24-1286](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss use restrictions in place for Somerville Public School athletic teams at Reavis field.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.F.4. Order
(ID # [24-1287](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update about the functionality of public address, or PA, systems at multiple Somerville Public School buildings.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.F.5. Order
(ID # [24-1288](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on repairs to damaged play structures at the Capuano Early Education Center schoolyard.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.F.6. Order
(ID # [24-1289](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on the reliability and repairs of the elevator(s) at the Winter Hill and Edgerly Schools.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.F.7. Order
(ID # [24-1301](#))
- By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Sait
That the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on plans to minimize the timing impacts of future closures of the Ginny Smithers Sanders Pool for periodic maintenance.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.F.8. Order
(ID # [24-1548](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That the Commissioner of Public Works work with the Superintendent of Schools to present a plan to re-introduce composting in the schools.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.F.9. Order
(ID # [24-1549](#))
- By Councilor Davis
That the Director of Parks and Recreation ensure that all information relating to the schedule for, including any closures of, the Ginny Smithers pool be communicated to pool users and updated on the Parks and Recreation and general city websites.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.G. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE
- 6.G.1. Committee Report
(ID # [24-1588](#))
- Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on November 4, 2024.
- Councilor Sait summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that among the items discussed were the current timeline for the Highland Avenue Redesign Project, raised sidewalks, the placement of speed bumps and other traffic calming measures, speed limit signage, and update the signage on the community path to include NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES, and installing bike parking next to Neighborhood Produce.
- RESULT: APPROVED**

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- 6.G.2. Order
(ID # [24-1399](#))
- By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Davis
That the Director of Mobility update this Council on the current timeline for the Highland Avenue Redesign Project.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.G.3. Order
(ID # [24-1265](#))
- By Councilor Sait
That the Director of Mobility and the Director of Engineering explore how to make the raised sidewalk located at the intersection of Broadway and Boston Avenue safer.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.G.4. Order
(ID # [24-1266](#))
- By Councilor Sait
That the Director of Mobility install a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Boston and Kidder Avenues.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.G.5. Order
(ID # [24-1294](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility place speed bumps and other traffic calming measures along Bonair Street by the Edgerly School.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.G.6. Order
(ID # [24-1394](#))
- By Councilor Sait, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Mobility install speed limit signage, and update the signage to NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES and include scooters and mopeds, along the Community Path and at all its various entrances.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.G.7. Order
(ID # [24-1416](#))
- By Councilor Sait, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Davis
That the Director of Mobility work with the Ward 5 Councilor on installing bike parking next to Neighborhood Produce after the Broadway at Boston Avenue intersection work is completed.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**
- 7.1. Mayor's Request
(ID # [24-1544](#))
- Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Articles 6, 9, and 10 of the Zoning Ordinance to establish a new Research & Development zoning district.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
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FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1606](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$2,400,000 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Parking Meter Receipts Account to reduce the FY 2025 Tax Rate.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1573](#)) Requesting approval of the use of available funds in the amount of \$60,000 from the Department of Public Works Highway Wages Account to fund the Lets Get Working Program.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1550](#)) Requesting the transfer of \$5,425 from the Human Resources Professional & Technical Services Account to the Law Professional & Technical Services Account for invoices for the physician on the Medical Panel Review Board.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1545](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension of three years for PMA, LLC for Owner's Project Manager services for the Somerville High School project.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1546](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for Suffolk Construction, for Construction Manager services for the Somerville High School project.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

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- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1547](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, Inc. for design services for the Somerville High School project.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1562](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$38,803.02 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Natural Gas Account for natural gas delivery services.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1569](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$35,917.36 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Electricity Account for solar generation services.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1566](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$7,539.86 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Electricity Account for solar generation services.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1543](#)) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$5,730 using available funds in the Law Department's Legal Services Account for outside legal counsel services.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
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- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1571](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$2,682 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Rental Equipment Account for equipment rental services.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1572](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$2,569.52 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings HVAC R&M Account for HVAC repair services.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1570](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,710 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Sanitation Benches & Barrels Account for Big Belly containers.
- Councilor Wilson moved to waive the readings of items 7.2 through 7.14 and refer them to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1600](#)) Requesting approval of an exemption for Elyse Best as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(d).
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1601](#)) Requesting approval of an exemption for Ingrid Schneider as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(d).
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1563](#)) Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Alan Bishop as Constable.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 7.18. Mayor's Communication (ID # [24-1614](#)) Conveying an update on water and sewer rate restructuring.
- RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
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FOLLOWUP: Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [24-1446](#)) Fair Housing Commission conveying the FY 2023 Annual Report pursuant to Section 17-7 of the Code of Ordinances.

Councilor Burnley noted that a complaint has been filed regarding family structure, pursuant to the recently updated Ordinances.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [24-1551](#)) Chief Assessor requesting to appear at this Council's November 26, 2024 meeting for the Tax Classification Public Hearing and the determination and adoption of tax levy percentages for FY 2025.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 8.3. Officer's Communication (ID # [24-1552](#)) Director of Sustainability and Environment conveying an overview of the Commonwealth's Clean Energy Goals, Electric Sector Modernization Plan, demand growth in Somerville, and capital projects underway or planned.
- Director Christine Blais spoke about reducing the city's carbon emissions and Jason Wright, a Community Relations Specialist from Eversource, presented a high level overview of a plan to create a sustainable future and spoke about clean energy laws, net zero emissions, a clean energy future, adding new electrical infrastructure, increased electrical demand, EV transportation, heating/cooling, new clean energy hubs, step load increases, siting substations, current and planned electrical system projects, and underground cable modernization.

Councilor McLaughlin noted that the work is necessary but will have an impact on the community during construction. Councilor Mbah questioned if the presented metrics include the industrial sites in the city and Mr. Wright said that it is all encompassing. Juan Martinez, Manager of System Planning at Eversource, explained what data was used to produce the plan.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Open Space, Environment and Energy Committee

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [24-1560](#)) New Flammables License, 74M Property Owner, LLC, 74 Middlesex Avenue, storing 6,870 gallons.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- 9.2. License (ID # [24-1581](#)) New Sign/Awning License, JMC/STM/TGCI Union Square I LLC, 346 Somerville Avenue, 2 signs.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.2 through 9.11 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.3. License (ID # [24-1561](#)) Transferring Taxi Medallion License, from Cinema Taxi to Jean B. Victor for Medallion #85.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.2 through 9.11 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.4. License (ID # [24-1564](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Broadway Motor Cars, 161 Broadway.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.2 through 9.11 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.5. License (ID # [24-1582](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 3 License, Nissenbaum Auto Parts Inc, 480 Columbia Street.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.2 through 9.11 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.6. License (ID # [24-1583](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 3 License, Nissenbaum Auto Parts Inc, 0 Windsor Street.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.2 through 9.11 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.7. License (ID # [24-1616](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Real Auto Shop, Inc., 463 McGrath Highway.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.2 through 9.11 and approve them this evening.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.8. License (ID # [24-1615](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Webster Auto Sales, 61 Prospect Street.
Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.2 through 9.11 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.9. Public Event
(ID # [24-1565](#))

Kinsey Scales applying for a Public Event License for Kinsey Scales Fall Concert on November 17 from 12pm to 3pm (raindate November 24).

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.2 through 9.11 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.10. Public Event
(ID # [24-1567](#))

BA Event Promotions applying for a Public Event License for Jingle Bell 5K Run/Walk on December 15 from 6am to 1:30pm.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.2 through 9.11 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.11. Public Event
(ID # [24-1568](#))

Somerville Museum applying for a Public Event License for Jan 1 Flag Raising Ceremony on January 1 from 8am to 2:30pm.

Councilor Burnley moved to waive the readings of items 9.2 through 9.11 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.12. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1584](#))

Horace-Ward LLC, Bealm Realty, LLC, Delhi Properties, LLC, and Delhi Properties ll, LLC requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 11 Horace Street, 5-7, 9, 13, and 15 Ward Street, and 15 and 21 South Street from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6).

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

9.13. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1575](#))

34 individuals submitting comments re: ceasefire.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

9.14. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1576](#))

Oisín King submitting comments re: leaf blowers.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

9.15. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1577](#))

Greentown Labs submitting comments re: items #24-0680 and #24-0679, a Zoning Map and Zoning Text amendment to create the Somernova Innovation Sub-Area.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

- 9.16. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1578](#))

Mary Burke submitting comments re: towing.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 9.17. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1579](#))

Veterans of Foreign Wars 529 and Disabled American Veterans 27 submitting comments re: Veterans memorials and monuments.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Citation
(ID # [24-1628](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr.
Commending Dagmara Wozniak for her Olympic success and continued fencing legacy.

Councilor Burnley spoke about resident Dagmara Wozniak, a 3-time Olympian and bronze medalist on the US Olympic Team and presented her with the Citation. Ms. Wozniak, who served as a team captain for the US fencing team at the recent Paris Olympics, thanked the Council for this honor and said that she has just been hired as the new coach for the US Olympic Fencing Team.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 10.2. Order
(ID # [24-1624](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Human Resources address the actions the Administration has taken to adopt the recommendations of RESPOND, per item #24-0458, to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Councilor Burnley commented that it's important to pass this ordinance.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

- 10.3. Order
(ID # [24-1625](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Human Resources update this Council on efforts to establish an expanded municipal Paid Family and Medical Leave policy, based on the Commonwealth's program.

Councilor Burnley noted that there have been several conversations about this topic and it's time to get an update.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

- 10.4. Order
(ID # [24-1630](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Mbah and Councilor Sait
That the Director of Racial and Social Justice ensure that the Commission for Persons with Disabilities has an assigned note taker.
- Councilor Burnley commented that the commission has requested several times that a note taker be provided. Councilor Clingan would like some clarification of which boards and commissions have liaisons and what those liaisons are responsible for.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee
- 10.5. Resolution
(ID # [24-1626](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
To keep Massachusetts Healthy Incentives Program (HIP).
- Councilor Burnley explained the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), saying that hundreds of families in the community take advantage of it for nutritional needs. He noted that the state plans on reducing the amount of reimbursement to participants. He sponsored Rebecca Miller to speak, who commented that the program also supports local farmers and local economies. In Somerville, in September 2024, over 300 families used HIP benefits. She said that farmers will lose income by this reduction, and she urged the Council to approve this resolution and to advocate for increased HIP funding.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- 10.6. Resolution
(ID # [24-1627](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Sait, Councilor Mbah and Councilor Wilson
In support of local social workers.
- Councilor Burnley spoke about supporting workers and unions and sponsored a member of SEIU Local 509 to speak on the item. Ms. Kenyari Ratliffe-Hocine, a social worker, stated that about 25% of the cases her office sees are for clients in Somerville. She spoke about the mistreatment experienced by her fellow employees at the hands of the upper management at their facility, resulting in employees leaving the office. She also spoke about safety concerns, disciplinary actions, and not being paid for overtime work. Ms. Ratliffe-Hocine noted that the Cambridge-Burlington Area office passed a vote of no confidence against their Director on October 15th, 2024. She asked the Council for its support to have the CEO placed on administrative leave.
- Councilor Clingan noted the difficult work performed by social workers, often under difficult conditions and Councilor Scott noted how extraordinary it is for a group of state workers to call out, by name, the actions of a person

-
- in a supervisory position.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 10.7. Communication (ID # [24-1636](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen
Conveying that the Administration is hosting a community meeting regarding the Cummings School Overnight Warming Center on Monday November 18 at 6:00pm in the Somerville High School cafeteria.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
- 10.8. Communication (ID # [24-1638](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen
In his capacity as President, cancelling the Regular Meeting of this Council scheduled for December 26, 2024.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
- 10.9. Order (ID # [24-1637](#)) By Councilor Scott
That the Director of Water and Sewer appear before this Council to discuss recent extended outages in Ward 2 and mitigation plans for future work.
RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee
- 10.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1622](#)) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$34,000 from the FY 2025 Property Tax Levy to the Department of Public Works Buildings, Rental Buildings Account for the rental of Porta Potties for the Warming Center.
Public Works Commissioner Jill Lathan stated that the porta-potties will actually be a heated bathroom located in a trailer.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 10.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1623](#)) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$30,000 from the FY 2025 Property Tax Levy to the Health & Human Services, Professional & Technical Service Account for the procurement of additional security services for the Warming Center.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 10.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1602](#)) Requesting approval of an exemption for Murshid Buwembo as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(d).
RESULT: APPROVED
- 10.13. Public Communication (ID # [24-1629](#)) Amy White submitting comments re: biking infrastructure.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
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10.14. Withdrawn
(ID # [24-1331](#))

Withdrawn.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

10.15. Withdrawn
(ID # [24-1371](#))

Withdrawn.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 10:51 PM.