



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2026

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 7:05 PM by Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis.

1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [26-0076](#))

RESULT:	<u>PLACED ON FILE</u>
Present:	Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen City Councilor At Large Jon Link Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait City Councilor At Large Ben Wheeler Ward Seven City Councilor Emily Hardt Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis

1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [26-0077](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 25, 2025.
(ID # [26-0078](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

3.1. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install approximately a total
(ID # [26-0033](#)) of 2.7 feet of conduit in Highland Avenue, from an existing Manhole 18944 to an approximate point of pickup at 185 Highland Avenue.

RESULT: APPROVED

3.2. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install approximately a total (ID # [26-0032](#)) of 110 feet of conduit in Jaques Street, from Utility Pole 182/4 to an approximate point of pickup at 146 Jaques Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

4.1. Ordinance By Councilor Davis (ID # [26-0046](#)) Amending Chapter 2, Article III of the Code of Ordinances by adding a new section establishing the time and place of regular meetings of the City Council.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**FOLLOWUP:** Legislative Matters Committee

4.2. Order By Councilor Strezo (ID # [26-0049](#)) That the Director of Housing report to this Council how many new housing units have been approved for development, year-by-year, since adoption of SomerVision 2040, and of those numbers, how many are permanently affordable, and how the department defines affordability.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**FOLLOWUP:** Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

4.3. Order By Councilor Strezo (ID # [26-0050](#)) That the Director of Office of Housing Stability discuss the current status of residents facing displacement and the number of households seeking rental assistance.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**FOLLOWUP:** Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

4.4. Order By Councilor Strezo (ID # [26-0051](#)) That the Director of Parks and Recreation provide an update on upcoming inclusive playground accessibility plans and redesign projects.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**FOLLOWUP:** Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

4.5. Order By Councilor Strezo (ID # [26-0052](#)) That the Commissioner of Public Works and relevant departments discuss the future community use of Founders Rink for 2026 and beyond.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**FOLLOWUP:** Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

4.6. Order
(ID # [26-0059](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility provide an update on the Kensington Connector.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

4.7. Resolution
(ID # [26-0057](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Human Resources and the Chief of Police work with state officials to provide crossing guards on McGrath Highway.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

4.8. Resolution
(ID # [26-0058](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Administration collaborate with East Somerville Main Streets and the Ward 1 City Councilor to promote Eat Out in East to support East Somerville immigrant-owned businesses.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

4.9. Resolution
(ID # [26-0060](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Engineering and the Director of Mobility work to block off the end of Virginia Street and Aldrich Street to through traffic.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

4.10. Resolution
(ID # [26-0061](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Planning, Preservation and Zoning draft an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances for transit-oriented height and density bonuses for additional affordable housing and other enumerated community benefits.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

4.11. Order
(ID # [26-0070](#))

By Councilor Wheeler and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Mobility discuss with this Council the recommendations of the Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee regarding the 25% design documents of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation McGrath Boulevard project.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

4.12. Order
(ID # [26-0068](#)) By Councilor Wheeler
That this Council work with the Administration to clarify understanding of the rules for accessory dwelling units or affordable dwelling units as detailed within.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

4.13. Resolution
(ID # [26-0069](#)) By Councilor Wheeler
That the Administration consider convening issue-specific community meetings for residents to share their perspectives and experiences on long-term issues such as: mobility and transportation, school integration, inclusion, choice and specialization.

RESULT: APPROVED

4.14. Order
(ID # [26-0062](#)) By Councilor Link
That the Chief Assessor provide this Council with an inventory of city-owned parcels as detailed within.

RESULT: APPROVED

4.15. Resolution
(ID # [26-0063](#)) By Councilor Link
That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Engineering explore the feasibility of establishing a teen center at the Cummings School, accessible via School Street, considering current building uses and provide this Council with an analysis on space availability, operational considerations, community impacts, and potential next steps.

RESULT: APPROVED AS AMENDED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee

4.16. Resolution
(ID # [26-0064](#)) By Councilor Link
That the Director of Mobility, install a NO TURN ON RED sign at the intersection of Bow Street and Warren Avenue to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, and report back to this Council on implementation timing.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

4.17. Withdrawn
(ID # [26-0065](#)) Withdrawn.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

4.18. Resolution By Councilor Link
(ID # [26-0066](#)) That the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry develop and report on a standardized green score for public parks and identify appropriate benchmarks and expectations for publicly owned parkland.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Sustainability and Infrastructure Committee

4.19. Resolution By Councilor Link
(ID # [26-0067](#)) That the Administration explore the feasibility of a year with no swag, as detailed within.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Sustainability and Infrastructure Committee

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Order By Councilor Strezo
(ID # [25-1770](#)) That this City Council discuss the safety of the Summer Street bike lane design around or near Putnam Street to Benton Road and how and if additional safety modifications can be made.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

7.1. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to use available funds in the Executive-Administration Salaries account in the amount of \$4,543.04 to fund Executive Liaison - Public, Executive Liaison - Community Partnerships, and Executive Liaison - Legislative positions.
(ID # [26-0041](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

7.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for three months with a new expiration date of 3/31/2026, for Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for design services for the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project.
(ID # [26-0011](#))

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.3. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$200,000 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to the Office of Housing Stability for the continuation of the short term housing bridge pilot program.
(ID # [26-0053](#))

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

7.4. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0045](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$50,000 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to the Health and Human Services Office of Food Access and Healthy Communities for the Somerville Mobile Farmers Market.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0054](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$20,000 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to the Office of Housing Stability for the housing bridge pilot program for seniors.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

7.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0012](#)) Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Ed Bean as City Auditor.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0013](#)) Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Ed Bean as Finance Director.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.8. Withdrawn
(ID # [26-0014](#)) Withdrawn.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0015](#)) Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Anne Gill as Director of Human Resources.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0016](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Kimberly Wells as Chief Administrative Officer.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**FOLLOWUP:** Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

7.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-0017](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of David Goodridge as Chief Information Officer.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0018](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of William Fisher as Director of Emergency Management.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0019](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Denise Taylor as Director of Communications and Community Engagement.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0020](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Karin Carroll as Director of Health and Human Services.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0021](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Ohemeng Kyeremateng as Director of Parks and Recreation.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0022](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Jerome Thomas as Director of Veterans Services.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0023](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Thomas Galligani as Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0024](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of James Plotkin as Municipal Hearing Officer.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0025](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of David Jackson as Tree Warden.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0026](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Steven Ross as City Sealer of Weights and Measures.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.21. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0027](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Chris Roche as Deputy City Sealer of Weights and Measures.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.22. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0073](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Samir Messaoudi to the position of Police Lieutenant.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

7.23. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0074](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Diogo deOliveira to the position of Police Captain.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

7.24. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0028](#)) Requesting that City Councilors submit budget funding priorities by March 26, 2026.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.25. Mayor's Communication (ID # [26-0029](#)) Conveying the temporary appointment of Kevin Klein as Interim Director of Inspectional Services.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

7.26. Mayor's Communication (ID # [26-0030](#)) Conveying the temporary appointment of Neil Viner as Interim Director of Water and Sewer.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

7.27. Mayor's Communication (ID # [26-0031](#)) Conveying an updated End of Term Report at the request of former Mayor Ballantyne.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0042](#))

City Clerk requesting acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 91, relating to the appointment and removal of constables.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0043](#))

City Clerk submitting an amendment to Section 10-20 of the Code of Ordinances to align the constable appointment process with the provisions of the revised City Charter.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

8.3. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0044](#))

City Clerk submitting an amendment to Chapter 2, Article V, Division 1 of the Code of Ordinances to add a review of multiple-member bodies, pursuant to the requirements of the City Charter.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

8.4. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-0047](#))

City Clerk conveying information regarding the City Council's responsibilities pursuant to the 2025 City Charter.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. License (ID # [26-0034](#))

Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Assembly Square Auto Sales, 37 Mystic Avenue.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.2. License (ID # [26-0038](#))

Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Broadway Sunoco, 258 Broadway.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.3. License (ID # [26-0035](#))

Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Gene Automotive, 56 Joy Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.4. License (ID # [26-0037](#))

Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Pat's Enterprises, Inc, 308 McGrath Highway.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.5. License (ID # [26-0036](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Pat's Enterprises, Inc, 182 Washington Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.6. License (ID # [26-0039](#)) New Livery License, DRN Bus Transportation, 40A Memorial Road, operating 1 vehicle.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.7. License (ID # [26-0040](#)) New Second Hand Dealer License, Cambridge Used Bicycles, 378R Somerville Avenue.

RESULT: APPROVED

9.8. Public Communication (ID # [26-0071](#)) Cole Rainey-Slavick submitting comments re: cannabis social consumption.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

9.9. Public Communication (ID # [26-0072](#)) Harriotte Ranvig submitting comments re: Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

9.10. Public Communication (ID # [26-0048](#)) Crystal Huff submitting comments re: surveillance cameras.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

10.1. Order (ID # [26-0082](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Parks and Recreation report on the stock and condition of previously installed playground communication boards that assist nonverbal children in playtime.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

10.2. Order By Councilor Strezo
(ID # [26-0083](#)) That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss the findings from the recent U.S. Surgeon General Advisory on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Parents and its recommendations to better support parents and caregivers.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

10.3. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a transfer of \$103,421 from the Salary Contingency account to various departmental Personal Services accounts to fund a memorandum of agreement with the Somerville Municipal Employees Union, Unit B.
(ID # [26-0088](#))

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

10.4. Public Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee submitting comments re:
Communication McGrath Boulevard.
(ID # [26-0086](#))

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

10.5. Public Margery Williams submitting comments re: ballot question.
Communication
(ID # [26-0087](#))

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:19 PM.