

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 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	Absent	
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. #192591 Call of the Roll.
Roll Call

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

2. #192592 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 26, 2012.
Minutes

RESULT: APPROVED

CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

3. #192593 By Ald. O'Donovan, Desmond, Sullivan, Connolly, White Jr., Heuston,
Order Gewirtz, Trane, Taylor, Lafuente
That this Board's Committee on Public Utilities and Works investigate the repeated power outages around 470 Medford Street and take the necessary steps to ensure that NStar resolves this problem.

RESULT: APPROVED

Ald. Roche recused.

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

4. #192594
Order

By Ald. Taylor
That the Director of SPCD update this Board on the status of its study to protect neighborhoods in RA and RB Districts.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

5. #192595
Order

By Ald. Taylor
That the Commissioner of Public Works resurface Belmont Terrace in the Spring of 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

6. #192596
Order

By Ald. Connolly, Gewirtz
That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the pothole on Lowden Avenue, between Kidder Avenue and Mallet Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

7. #192597
Order

By Ald. Connolly, Desmond, O'Donovan, Sullivan, White Jr.
That the Commissioner of Public Works update the Public Works and Utilities Committee with the status of double poles and street lamps not working.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

8. #192598
Order

By Ald. Connolly
That the Director of Communications appear at the next meeting of the Public Works and Utilities Committee with an update and cost of the cable, internet and telephone providers in Somerville.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

9. #192599
Communication

By Ald. Taylor
In his capacity as a member of the School Committee, conveying a report of the School Committee's activities.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. #192600 Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on February 22, 2012.
Committee Report

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #190546 Requesting approval to enter into a lease agreement with Zipcar Inc. for 14
Mayor's Request City parking spaces for a term of 3 years with two one-year options to renew.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- C. #190738 Requesting authorization to enter into a contract with City Solutions Inc. to
Mayor's Request operate a modular news rack program for 10 years.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- D. #191387 Retirement Board notifying this Board of a vote on a cost of living
Officer's adjustment at its meeting on June 8, 2011.
Communication

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- E. #191972 Requesting an appropriation of \$25,000 from the Capital Projects
Mayor's Request Stabilization Fund for the purchase of 1 License Plate Reader system for the
Police Dept.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston, Taylor,
O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Trane
ABSENT: Bruce M. Desmond, Tony Lafuente

- F. #191973 Requesting an appropriation of \$5,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization
Mayor's Request Fund for the purchase of 1 Laptop for the Police Dept.'s License Plate
Reader System.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston, Taylor,
O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Trane
ABSENT: Bruce M. Desmond, Tony Lafuente

- G. #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: WORK COMPLETED

- H. #192567 Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a \$20,000 grant from the MA Cultural Council for the Arts Council's ArtsUnion program.

RESULT: APPROVED

- I. #192583 Mayor's Request Requesting a transfer of \$931,762 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the School Salaries Acct. to fund salary increases for the settlement of various collective bargaining agreements.

RESULT: APPROVED

- J. #192584 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a \$45,000 grant for FY2013 for the Police-Based Jail Diversion Program Grant for individuals with mental illnesses or emotional disturbances.

RESULT: APPROVED

- K. #192585 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a \$32,000 grant for FY2012 for the Police-Based Jail Diversion Program Grant for individuals with mental illnesses or emotional disturbances.

RESULT: APPROVED

- L. #192601 Order By Ald. Trane
That the Chief of Police, the Chief Assessor and the City Solicitor determine if the Police Dept. has the authority to ticket vehicles with outstanding excise taxes due, and if so, to proceed with such action.

RESULT: APPROVED

11. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

- A. #192602 Committee Report 2012. Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on February 21, Committee Report 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

- B. #192109 Resolution By Ald. Trane, Sullivan
That this Board requests that the Traffic Commission consider extending visitor parking from 48 to 72 hours.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- C. #192273 Green Cab requesting consideration from this Board for a taxi fare increase.
Public
Communication

RESULT: ORDINANCE ORDAINED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Taylor, O'Donovan,
Gewirtz, Trane
ABSENT: Bruce M. Desmond, Maryann M. Heuston, Tony Lafuente

Approved Fare: The first eighth of a mile is \$1.75; additional eighths of a mile are \$0.45.

- D. #192428 By Ald. Roche
Order That the Director of Traffic and Parking consult with the Traffic Engineer to determine the feasibility of Cross Street East being a one way from Broadway to Mystic Avenue.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

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

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

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

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- G. #192603 By Ald. Trane
Order That the Director of Traffic and Parking investigate more efficient ways to lay out cab stands at the Davis Square MBTA stop.

RESULT: APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

12. #192604 Requesting the creation of a Bicycle Stabilization Fund and the acceptance of
Mayor's Request a mitigation payment of \$2,178 from Mudflat Studios, to purchase a bicycle corral.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

13. #192605 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$2,178 from the Bicycle Stabilization Fund to install a bicycle corral at 79-83 Broadway.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

14. #192606 Mayor's Request Requesting the re-appointment of Adrian Botelho as Constable, for a term to expire December 31, 2012.

RESULT: APPROVED

15. #192607 Mayor's Communication Presenting the final draft of the SomerVision Comprehensive Plan.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
Housing and Community Development Committee

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

16. #192608 Officer's Communication Planning Board conveying its recommendation on a proposal to amend the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Districts for Somerville Avenue from Wilson Square to the Cambridge line at Porter Square, White Street, and Elm Street from White Street to Wilson Square, and to amend the Floodplain Overlay District.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

17. #192609 Officer's Communication Planning Board conveying its recommendation on a proposal to amend the Zoning Ordinance to add a definition of pervious area and amend the table of dimensional requirements and footnotes to require a minimum pervious area on lots in certain zoning districts.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
Legislative Matters Committee

18. #192610 Officer's Communication Director of Traffic and Parking responding to #192529 re: accidents at Summer and Lowell Streets.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

19. #192611 Director of Traffic and Parking responding to various Board Orders.
Officer's
Communication

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

FOLLOWUP: Senior Services Committee

NEW BUSINESS

20. #192612 Public Event Permit, Davis Sq. Ministries Palm Sunday Donkey Walk,
License/Permit College Ave. From Powderhouse Park to Davis Sq., Apr 1, 8:30-9:30 AM.

RESULT: APPROVED

21. #192613 Public Event Permit, Davis Sq. Ministries Easter Sunrise Service,
License/Permit Powderhouse Park, Apr 8, 6:30-7:30 AM.

RESULT: APPROVED

22. #192614 Public Event Permit, Union Sq. Farmer's Market, Union Sq. Plaza, Saturdays
License/Permit from Jun 2-Nov 17, 7AM-2PM.

RESULT: APPROVED

23. #192615 Renewing Garage License, NStar Electric and Gas Corp., 181 McGrath
License/Permit Hwy., 20 autos in.

RESULT: APPROVED

24. #192616 Renewing Garage License, Motorsports Inc., 486R Columbia St., 3 autos in,
License/Permit 5 out.

RESULT: APPROVED

25. #192617 Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, A Plus Auto Body, 297
License/Permit Medford St., No autos.

RESULT: APPROVED

26. #192618 Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Pat's Auto Body, 161 Linwood
License/Permit St., 15 autos.

RESULT: APPROVED

27. #192619 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Pat's Auto Body, 308 McGrath Hwy., 12 autos.

RESULT: APPROVED

28. #192620 License/Permit Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Pat's Auto Body, 182 Washington St., 27 autos.

RESULT: APPROVED

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

29. #192621 Order By Ald. Taylor, Heuston
That the Chief Financial Officer appear before this Board's Committee on Finance to present an update on the FY12 budget, especially expenditures.

RESULT: APPROVED

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

30. #192622 Mayor's Request Requesting the approval of the release of an obsolete drain easement in Assembly Square.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

31. #192623 Mayor's Request Requesting the appointment of John O'Connor to the Fire Dept. Reserve List.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments Committee

32. #192624 Officer's Communication Director of Constituent Services responding to #192581 re: 24-26 Sterling St. 311 call data.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

33. #192625 Officer's Communication Assistant City Solicitor responding to #192373 re: guidelines for reporting contractor violations to the State (Fines for Code Violations).

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

LATE ITEMS

34. #192565 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$781,250 for construction of a new park at 15-25 Cross Street and authorization to borrow that amount in a bond.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr., Roche, Heuston, Taylor, O'Donovan, Gewirtz, Trane

ABSENT: Bruce M. Desmond, Tony Lafuente

35. #192566 Mayor's Request Requesting the acceptance of a PARC 19 grant of \$500,000 from the Division of Conservation Services for construction of the park at 15-25 Cross Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

36. #192626 Order By Ald. Trane
That the Chief Information Officer check, clean and secure all IT cables in the Committee Room and ensure that all IT equipment is working properly. (2nd request)

RESULT: APPROVED

37. #192627 Mayor's Request Requesting a transfer of \$55,000 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to fund a non-union wage study.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Submitted by John J. Long, City Clerk