



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## City Council

### Meeting Minutes

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Thursday, January 26, 2023

7:00 PM

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*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 Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. The City Council entered into recess at 7:23 PM and returned at 7:27 PM. The City Council entered into recess at 8:57 PM and returned at 9:07 PM.

- 1.1. Roll Call                      Call of the Roll.  
(ID # [23-0156](#))

**RESULT:      PLACED ON FILE**

- 1.2. Remembrances              Remembrances.  
(ID # [23-0151](#))

Councilors Wilson, Clingan and the entire Council requested a moment of silence in memory of William J. Driscoll.  
President Ewen-Campen requested a moment of silence in memory of Joan Lavacchia.

**RESULT:      APPROVED**

- 1.3. Minutes                      Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 8, 2022.  
(ID # [23-0124](#))

**RESULT:      APPROVED**

#### 2. CITATIONS

#### 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location (ID # [23-0114](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 33 feet of conduit in Morrison Avenue, from Utility Pole 238/24A to a point of pickup at 195 Morrison Avenue.

Jacqui Duffy, representing Eversource, explained the reason for the request. There being no further comment, the public hearing was closed. Councilor Strezo asked what utility company owned the poles referenced in tonight's agenda item 4.13 and 4.14 and Ms. Duffy responded by saying that Eversource will send a representative out tomorrow to look at the poles and report back.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

#### 4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [23-0127](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen  
That this City Council invites Somerville resident David Gibbs to speak about the youth mental health crisis in the city.

President Ewen-Campen sponsored Mr. Gibbs to address the Council. Mr. Gibbs spoke about his son's recent suicide and noted that many young people are struggling with emotional problems, drug abuse, etc. He spoke about some of the contributing factors, including poverty and guns. Mr. Gibbs went on to say that there's a need to provide good jobs, re-imagine mental health services, and use revenue to help the most vulnerable. With \$19.6 billion in annual gun sales, the death pandemic due to guns increases each year. He believes that gun control is the best method to prevent suicide and that the 2nd amendment needs to be rewritten. He feels that people should collectively give up guns and work to make them illegal while trying to find creative ways to stop the flow of guns locally. Mr. Gibbs closed his address by saying that America's gun policy is insane and that there's no NARCAN for a bullet.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 4.2. Order (ID # [23-0128](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Wilson  
That the Director of Engineering build an ADA-compliant sidewalk bump-out around the large tree on Walnut Street, just south of Summit Avenue.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld assumed the Chair.

Councilor Ewen-Campen spoke about the difficulty being experienced by some pedestrians when walking in various parts of the city, including at this location. Councilor Wilson would like the city to address this as soon as possible.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 4.3. Order  
(ID # [23-0129](#))
- By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Kelly  
That the Director of Engineering expand the traffic island at Spring and Atherton Streets to remove the slip lane, and connect the green space to the west side of Spring Street.
- Councilor Pineda Neufeld assumed the Chair.  
Councilor Ewen-Campen spoke about creating a small parklet at this location.  
(Councilor Ewen-Campen returned to the Chair.)  
**RESULT: APPROVED**
- 4.4. Order  
(ID # [23-0131](#))
- By Councilor Kelly  
That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Environmental Health Coordinator update this Council on the SMART box program and other rodent control measures.
- RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Rodent Issues Special Committee
- 4.5. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0130](#))
- By Councilor Kelly  
That the Participatory Budgeting Working Group update this Council on the status of the participatory budgeting process.
- Councilor Kelly sponsored 2 of the 11 members of the working group participatory budget team to address the Council. Katelin Firth and Eric Willisson gave a presentation explaining what participatory budgeting (PB) is, its project criteria, how it works, the purpose of the working group, as well as the group's goals and values. They spoke about spreading the word by reaching out to those not typically engaged, canvassing, using mailers and flyers, in-person events, coordinating with schools, ads, city socials, newsletters, and community meetings. Mr. Willisson spoke about the proposal development phase, proposal scoring and the voting process. The group would like to attain 100 ideas and at least 3000 votes and would like Council members to help spread the word by canvassing the city. Councilor Wilson asked about safeguards that will be implemented and Mr. Willisson addressed those concerns. Council Pineda Neufeld asked about outreach during the fall festival season in the city and Ms. Firth replied that the group will be making efforts to meet people where they are. Councilor Gomez Mouakad noted that the city is coming into election season and said it takes time for people to build trust, so she's not sure about the effectiveness of the canvassing process. She urged the Ms. Firth and Mr. Willisson to work with the PTA's to reach out to residents. Councilor Kelly commented that it's critical that councilors participate. The plan is for this process to kick off in October, although it won't be fully complete. Additional information may be found on the city's website at: [www.somervillema.gov/pb](http://www.somervillema.gov/pb).  
**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 4.6. Order  
(ID # [23-0136](#))
- By Councilor Clingan  
That the Commissioner of Public Works fill the pothole on Ten Hills Road, near Governor Winthrop Road.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 4.7. Order  
(ID # [23-0137](#))
- By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Kelly and Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Director of Communications provide this Council with an accounting of how the cable franchise fees have been expended over the past five years.
- Councilor Clingan spoke about the fees received by the city and he would like an accounting of how the funds were expended.
- RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 4.8. Order  
(ID # [23-0157](#))
- By Councilor Clingan  
That the Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works hold a public hearing regarding the cable franchise agreements at its February 13, 2023 meeting.
- RESULT: WITHDRAWN**
- 4.9. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0138](#))
- By Councilor Clingan and Councilor Strezo  
That the Administration provide an update on contract negotiations with local cable providers at the February 13, 2023 meeting of this Council's Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works.
- Councilor Clingan noted that negotiations are currently being held and he would like an update, making it clear that this is about transparency. Councilor Wilson commented that it's important that the city get the best deal that it can, adding that he's not a fan of exclusivity. Director Sahni noted that city staff would be at the public hearing and he suggested that the item be referred to the Finance Committee.
- RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

- 4.10. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0139](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Strezo, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Scott and Councilor Wilson
- Recognizing January 27, 2023 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- Councilor Pineda Neufeld spoke on the measure saying that antisemitism is on the rise in the United States and Councilor Strezo commented that it's terrifying to realize how deeply entrenched antisemitism is. Councilor Burnley commented about a larger conversation about what happened during the Holocaust.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 4.11. Order  
(ID # [23-0140](#))
- By Councilor Strezo
- That the Chief of Police report to this Council, in writing, the number of drink-spiking incidents reported in the past two years.
- Councilor Strezo noted that this is the second request and she would like the data as soon as possible. Councilor McLaughlin suggested that a copy be sent to the Police Department's data analyst.
- RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Housing and Community Development Committee
- 4.12. Order  
(ID # [23-0141](#))
- By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Pineda Neufeld
- That the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Director of Health and Human Services, and the Director of Libraries work with the School Department to discuss creating a Somerville restaurant surplus supply program, in collaboration with the Teen Center.
- Councilor Strezo noted that this an opportunity to have a conversation about food waste and utilizing methods to increase food security.
- RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Housing and Community Development Committee
- 4.13. Order  
(ID # [23-0142](#))
- By Councilor Strezo and Councilor McLaughlin
- That the Commissioner of Public Works immediately remove the wires hanging from the pole and tied to the porch railing at 9 Pearl Street Place, and report to this Council who owns the pole.
- RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

- 4.14. Order  
(ID # [23-0143](#))
- By Councilor Strezo  
That the Commissioner of Public Works immediately remove the wires wrapped around a telephone pole and in the street in front of 19 Church Street, and report to this Council who owns the pole.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Public Utilities and Public Works Committee
- 4.15. Order  
(ID # [23-0144](#))
- By Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Wilson  
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide an update on issues with the High School Field House track flooring material and bleachers.
- Councilor Gomez Mouakad reported that there is a problem with the floor.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION  
**FOLLOWUP:** School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee
- 4.16. Order  
(ID # [23-0145](#))
- By Councilor Gomez Mouakad  
That the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management explain the selections of surface materials for school parks and playgrounds.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION  
**FOLLOWUP:** School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee
- 4.17. Order  
(ID # [23-0146](#))
- By Councilor Gomez Mouakad  
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide an update on the status of the Cummings School, and the potential for future occupancies and uses.
- Councilor Gomez Mouakad noted that services are being created but the infrastructure is not being updated.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION  
**FOLLOWUP:** School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

- 4.18. Order  
(ID # [23-0147](#))
- By Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Wilson
- That the Director of Economic Development provide an update on Use and Occupancy agreements for all Armory tenants, and explain how extensions are being coordinated with the Master Plan process.
- Councilor Gomez Mouakad noted that of this morning, the Armory does have a use and occupancy agreement. She related that she met with various departments in the city about executing a plan for the arts, and it appears that nothing is being done to address that.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 4.19. Order  
(ID # [23-0148](#))
- By Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Ewen-Campen
- That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide updates on any capital projects or improvements planned for the Armory building as part of the Master Plan process.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 4.20. Order  
(ID # [23-0149](#))
- By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
- That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on current and future maintenance plans for the Armory building.
- 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 # [23-0135](#))
- Report of the Special Committee on Charter Review, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on January 25, 2023.
- Councilor Scott presented the Committee Report and said that the first 5 recommendations in the balance of power section were reviewed. There were a variety of opinions regarding the Chief Administrative Officer position, and that was left in committee for further discussion.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.A.2. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0168](#))
- By Councilor Scott
- Supporting the recommended language by the Charter Review Committee to maintain the Mayor-Council system of governance.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
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- 6.A.3. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0169](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin  
Supporting the recommended language by the Charter Review Committee to retain the current City Council structure.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 6.A.4. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0170](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
Supporting the recommended language by the Charter Review Committee to retain a two-year City Council term.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 6.A.5. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0171](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the proposed Charter be revised to change the language to a two-year mayoral term, and to revise the proposed vacancy process to align with that change.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report  
(ID # [23-0134](#))
- Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on January 24, 2023.

Councilor Wilson presented the Committee Report and highlighted the \$4.5 million street reconstruction item, touching upon how street/sidewalk selections are made. A thorough presentation was provided by Director of Engineering Brian Postlewaite. Another in-depth discussion involved the payment of unpaid invoice in the DPW.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 6.B.2. Resolution  
(ID # [22-1798](#))
- By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson  
That the Administration update this Council on efforts to use District Improvement Financing to capture new tax growth, specifically for new affordable housing.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [22-2060](#))
- Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$358 using available funds in the Human Resources Professional & Technical Services Account for pre-employment placement exams and drug screens.

**RESULT: APPROVED**



- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [22-2061](#)) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$3,012.03 using available funds in the Human Resources Professional & Technical Services Account for May 2021 Employee Assistance Program.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.B.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [22-2062](#)) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$4,950 using available funds in the Human Resources Arbitration Services Account for FY 2022 arbitration services.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.B.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [22-2083](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$75,000 from the Bike Share Stabilization Fund for a Blue Bike Station at Boynton Yards at 101 South Street.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Gomez Mouakad
- 6.B.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0016](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$100,000 from the Encore Artist and Cultural Support Stabilization Fund to support Local Cultural Council grants to artists, organizations, and schools.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Gomez Mouakad
- 6.B.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0017](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$3,332 using available funds in the Office of Sustainability and Environment Ordinary Maintenance Professional and Technical Services Account for preventative maintenance of solar arrays.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
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- 6.B.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0035](#)) Requesting approval to extend a contract with the Community Action Agency of Somerville for an additional four months to 2/29/2023 for housing search and stabilization services.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.B.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0037](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$5,000 from the Office of Sustainability and Environment Ordinary Maintenance Account to the Office of Sustainability and Environment Personal Services Account to reallocate approved funding for interns to the appropriate budget line.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.B.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0043](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$1,050 gift with no new match required, from Tufts University Technology Support Center to the Council on Aging to reduce the cost of a luncheon for older adults.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.B.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0044](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$796.67 using available funds in the City Clerk Office Supplies Account for various supplies.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.B.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0046](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$95,474.26 using available funds in various Department of Public Works Ordinary Maintenance Accounts for various services.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.B.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0049](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$4,545,827 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for streets and sidewalk reconstruction.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Gomez Mouakad

6.C. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on January 17, 2023.  
(ID # [23-0132](#))

Councilor Davis presented the Committee Report and spoke about a change in traffic enforcement, 3 Home Rule Petitions, and the Short-Term Rental Registry. Councilor Burnley spoke about the change to Section 20A, saying that this was brought forth by constituents. President Ewen-Campen commented that this would modernize the way the city handled traffic tickets.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 6.C.2. Order By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Ewen-Campen  
(ID # [22-1056](#)) That the Chief of Police report to this Council, any verified or suspected false reports of gunshots by ShotSpotter.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.C.3. Order By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Ewen-Campen  
(ID # [22-1057](#)) That the Chief of Police report to this Council, any communications between the Police Department and ShotSpotter regarding ambiguous or contested detections.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.C.4. Order By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
(ID # [22-1452](#)) That the City hereby rescinds its adoption of the provisions of Chapter 90, Section 20A½ of the Massachusetts General Laws.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Gomez Mouakad

- 6.C.5. Order By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
(ID # [22-1453](#)) That the City hereby adopts the provisions of Chapter 90, Section 20A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Gomez Mouakad

6.C.6. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [22-2050](#))

Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Chapter 7, Article X of the Code of Ordinances, to add a registry component to the short-term rentals ordinance.

**RESULT:** **ORDINANCE ORDAINED**

**AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Gomez Mouakad

6.C.7. Officer's  
Communication  
(ID # [23-0085](#))

Chief of Police conveying a response to item 22-1056, an order that the Chief of Police report to this Council, any verified or suspected false reports of gunshots by ShotSpotter.

**RESULT:** **WORK COMPLETED**

6.C.8. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0101](#))

Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to require the adoption of Institutional Master Plans.

**RESULT:** **APPROVED**

**AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Gomez Mouakad

6.C.9. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0103](#))

Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

**RESULT:** **APPROVED**

**AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Gomez Mouakad

6.C.10. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0104](#))

Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition further defining the purposes of the Affordable Housing Trust.

**RESULT:** **APPROVED**

**AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Gomez Mouakad

6.C.11. Order  
(ID # [23-0172](#))

By Councilor Davis

That the Council amend the Surveillance Technology Ordinance to clarify that it covers cameras used for automated traffic or parking enforcement.

**RESULT:** **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Legislative Matters Committee

6.D. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-0133](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on January 23, 2023.

Councilor Kelly presented the Committee Report and thanked city staff for submitting written responses to many of the agenda items. There was a discussion about safety protocols for COVID/Flu and increasing vaccinations of residents. Notification to councilors regarding major fires was discussed, as well as plans for engagement and warming centers, homelessness, and safety. Councilor Pineda Neufeld asked about the low number of vaccinations given and Chair Kelly stated that she thinks it's a demand, rather than a supply, issue. Councilor Clingan noted that the city should have a designated person to take charge of the scene at a major fire, exclusive of the Fire Department.

**RESULT:** **APPROVED**

- 6.D.2. Order  
(ID # [22-0058](#))
- By Councilor Kelly and Councilor Scott  
That the Director of Inspectional Services discuss with this Council how to increase reliability and frequency of enforcement of public health violations in the City.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.3. Order  
(ID # [22-0959](#))
- By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Gomez Mouakad  
That the Chief of Police provide this Council with a list of confirmed shootings between April 2018 and April 2022.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.4. Order  
(ID # [22-1055](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis and Councilor Wilson  
That the Chief of Police deliver to this Council, a written report of the Police Department's protocol for addressing encampments of un-housed individuals, including any resources that are offered, and whether those individuals are transported and to where.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.5. Order  
(ID # [22-1307](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Chief of Police provide this Council with a written report on the number of calls for service related to un-housed individuals, the nature of those calls, and the number directed toward or responded to in collaboration with the Somerville Homeless Coalition.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.6. Order  
(ID # [22-1359](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Community Outreach, Help and Recovery (COHR) team work in conjunction with the Homeless Coalition to address homelessness in East Somerville open spaces.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.7. Order  
(ID # [22-1445](#))
- By Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Wilson  
That the Director of Inspectional Services report on the status of the enforcement of Section 11-111 of the Code of Ordinances, regarding Registration and maintenance of vacant property.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.D.8. Order  
(ID # [22-1739](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Director of Housing and the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council regarding repeated requests to provide shelter to homeless residents.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.9. Order  
(ID # [22-1757](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Kelly and Councilor Davis  
That the ARPA Specialist update this Council on the City's plans to use ARPA funding to address chronic homelessness.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.10. Order  
(ID # [22-1761](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Chief of Police work with the Office of Housing Stability to submit a written report answering the questions contained within.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.11. Order  
(ID # [22-1767](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That the Director of Health and Human Services report to this Council on COVID and flu vaccination clinics and strategies to increase opportunities for residents to access vaccines.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.12. Order  
(ID # [22-1932](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Burnley Jr., City Council Organizational Meeting, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson  
That the Chief Fire Engineer inform the appropriate Ward Councilor and Councilors-at-Large, as soon as safely practicable, when a major fire has occurred in their Ward, including the number of residents impacted.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.D.13. Order  
(ID # [22-1933](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott and Councilor Kelly  
That the Director of Emergency Management, the Director of the Office of Housing Stability, the Director of Health and Human Services, the Chief Fire Engineer, and other relevant staff, discuss with this Council the resources and support services provided to residents impacted by a disaster or crisis such as fire or flood.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.D.14.Resolution  
(ID # [22-1934](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott and Councilor Kelly  
That the Mayor designate a central point of contact for providing on-site response for mass displacement events such as fires and floods, and coordinating efforts to assist impacted residents.

**RESULT:** **WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.D.15.Order  
(ID # [22-2123](#))
- By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Kelly and Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Director of Health and Human Services and the Superintendent of Water and Sewer update this Council on the feasibility of partnering with a vendor to conduct COVID-19 wastewater testing.

**RESULT:** **WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.D.16.Order  
(ID # [23-0081](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Board of Health deliver its annual report to this City Council in January, in compliance with Section 6-20 of the Code of Ordinances, with emphasis on the work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

**RESULT:** **WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.D.17.Order  
(ID # [23-0094](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Strezo and Councilor Scott  
That the Director of Health and Human Services share with this Council any plans to encourage or require indoor masking in light of the recent COVID-19 surge.

**RESULT:** **WORK COMPLETED**

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0095](#))
- Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 10.8 Commercial Signs, of the Zoning Ordinances, to permit commercial signs by right.

**RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Land Use Committee

- 7.2. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0111](#))
- Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Ryan Kiracofe to the Community Preservation Committee.

**RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee



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- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0110](#)) Requesting approval of the Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing (UCH-TIF) Zone, Plan, and Form of Agreement for Winter Hill.  
**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0125](#)) Requesting approval to create the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Stabilization Fund.  
**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0109](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$91,211.79 grant with no new match required, from MA Executive Office of Public Safety to the Fire Department for staffing costs.  
**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0119](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only extension to the contract with Barletta Heavy Division, for work on the Somerville Avenue Utilities and Streetscape Improvements project.  
**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0058](#)) Requesting approval to extend the Invoice Cloud contract for credit card processing for over-the-counter and meter transactions.  
**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0155](#)) Requesting that City Councilors submit budget funding priorities by March 29, 2023.  
Discussed with agenda item 7.10. Councilor Wilson asked that a single item be submitted.  
**RESULT:** APPROVED
- 7.9. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-0123](#)) Conveying an update on Participatory Budgeting.  
See agenda item 4.5 (item #23-0130).  
**RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE
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- 7.10. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-0159](#)) Conveying updates to the FY 2023 City Council budget requests and requesting budget priorities for FY 2024.

Councilor Wilson thinks this is an important outcome and he reported that he has met with involved parties to sketch out the process. He plans on holding a Finance Committee of the Whole meeting on March 29th to take up this matter.

**RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [23-0153](#)) Amending Dog Kennel License, RiverDog Daycare, 321 Somerville Ave, expanding to increase capacity to 45 dogs.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 9.2. License (ID # [23-0115](#)) Renewing Outdoor Goods License, 130 Broadway LLC, 130 Broadway.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 9.3. License (ID # [23-0154](#)) Renewing Outdoor Parking License, Star Market, 275 Beacon St.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 9.4. License (ID # [23-0120](#)) Transferring Taxi Medallion License, from Lochmere Taxi Inc to Pierre Michel, Medallion #91.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 9.5. License (ID # [23-0117](#)) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, V.I.N.L. Transportation Inc, Med #65.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 9.6. License (ID # [23-0118](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Pearl Street Auto Sales, 182 Pearl St.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 9.7. Public Event  
(ID # [23-0116](#)) Zachary Chang-Otanez applying for a Public Event License for Engineers Without Borders 6K Run on April 23 from 12pm to 5:30pm (raindate April 30).

**RESULT:** APPROVED

## 10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0163](#)) By Councilor Scott, Councilor Kelly and Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Administration provide an update regarding the progress in establishing a Warming Center for un-housed residents.

Councilor McLaughlin thinks that the city should use public spaces as warming spaces to keep people from dying. Director Sahni defined the difference between a warming center and an engagement Center and said that the Administration is looking at various locations and considering using the Armory. Councilor Kelly asked that this item be sent to committee.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

**FOLLOWUP:** Public Health and Public Safety Committee

- 10.2. Resolution  
(ID # [23-0164](#)) By Councilor Scott, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Gomez Mouakad  
Urging the Mayor to move forward without further delay on the Purchasing Parity Study.

Councilor Scott reported that the Purchasing Department has been working on this but it has been put on hold since the Supreme Court is holding hearings on affirmative action. Councilor Scott noted that this study was requested 4 years ago and now it's stopped. He went on to say that that it's up to the mayor to decide if this study should go forward and she will be meeting with the Purchasing and Economic Development Departments tomorrow. Councilor Burnley commented that the city is often at a loss to provide data on contracts and purchasing and he would like to have transparency. Liaison Singh provided an update and said the Administration shares the goal of the Council for women and minority contracts, adding that ARPA funds have been set aside for this.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

- 10.3. Order  
(ID # [23-0166](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Wilson, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Davis, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Clingan
- That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on the progress toward a Safe Consumption Site and provide a timeline for establishment.
- Councilor Burnley believes that this could be a life saver for the community. By the end of this fiscal year, this site could be operational, and he doesn't want to delay a life saving tool.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
- FOLLOWUP:** Public Health and Public Safety Committee
- 10.4. Order  
(ID # [23-0167](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.
- That the Director of Mobility provide a report on acquiring e-bikes through the city's BlueBike partnership.
- Councilor Burnley commented that the city could pursue democratizing the bike program.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
- FOLLOWUP:** Traffic and Parking Committee
- 10.5. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0074](#))
- Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to authorize the continued employment of Acting Somerville Police Chief Charles J. Femino.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Legislative Matters Committee
- 10.6. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0096](#))
- Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$6,318.46 using available funds in the Information Technology Computer Supplies Account for computer supplies, internet services, and phone services.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 10.7. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0121](#))
- Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for CBA Landscape Architects, for the Henry Hansen Memorial Park design services beyond the three year maximum, to 9/30/2024.
- RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

- 10.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0126](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension for the Weston and Sampson Engineering and Licensed Site Professional contract for Conway park beyond the three year maximum, to 12/31/2023.

**RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

- 10.9. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-0042](#)) Economic Development Director conveying a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and accompanying memorandum on the 90 Washington Street Demonstration Project Plan.

President Ewen-Campen spoke about the Council's formal role in drafting the MOU. The city will create a Community Advisory Committee for this project and Councilor McLaughlin will serve on it. This item is an RFQ (request for qualifications) and he urged all councilors to read it and bring any questions to the attention of the Administration. Director Sahni confirmed that the 5 recommended edits brought forward were incorporated. Councilor Burnley noted that there were many comments regarding this project.

**RESULT:** **PLACED ON FILE**

- 10.10. Public Communication (ID # [23-0152](#)) Somerville Stands Together submitting comments re: Comcast franchise negotiations.

**RESULT:** **PLACED ON FILE**

## 11. LATE ITEMS

- 11.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0084](#)) Requesting the adoption of the Specialized Energy Code, 225 CMR, Sections 22 and 23, including Appendices RC and CC, in their entirety as the minimum energy code for the City.

President Ewen-Campen moved to discharge item #23-0084 from the Committee on Legislative Matters and bring it before the Council. Councilor Davis spoke briefly about the item. Christine Blais, Director of Sustainability and Environment, gave a presentation on the Specialized Energy Code. Councilor Scott said bulk of changes have already been approved by City Council and noted that a change in use would trigger the changes. Residential innovations will have triggers and the specialized stretch code will not change anything.

Councilor Gomez Mouakad said most radical thing we can do for our children is to go along with this.

Councilor Burnley asked what the legislative process looks like going forward. Councilor McLaughlin noted that the code could affect affordable housing with respect to density bonuses. Councilor Wilson asked about EV charging requirements. President Ewen-Campen is eager to vote on this item and get it in place by July. Councilor Gomez Mouakad moved the question. A roll call vote was requested by Councilor Burnley.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**AYE:** City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr., City Councilor At Large Kelly, City Councilor At Large Strezo, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Gomez Mouakad

- 11.2. Communication (ID # [23-0173](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad Conveying a report of the Wage Theft Advisory Committee, meeting on January 17, 2023.

Councilor Gomez Mouakad gave a brief report on the WTAC and noted many of the infractions that are commonplace. The Chair of the Licensing Commission was invited to speak at a WTAC meeting. Councilor Gomez Mouakad reported that a job description will be put forth for support staff and she noted the support received from several unions.

**RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE

11.3. Order  
(ID # [23-0174](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of Planning, Preservation and Zoning provide the Ward 1 City Councilor with all materials pertaining to the proposed Zoning Overhaul, introduced in 2014.

Councilor McLaughlin spoke about this item regarding a zoning overhaul, which took 5 years to get it passed. He is asking for the zoning plan information from 2014 regarding density in a transit hub to aid in the housing situation.

**RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Land Use Committee

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 11:03 PM.