



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 9, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation

Published November 7, 2023, 12:30PM, Revised November 9, 2023, 3:00PM.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audiovideo recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Register at the following website to listen to this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jwk9gtAjQjm99vgd0dn81w#/registration

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [23-1688](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [23-1689](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting,
(ID # [23-1690](#)) October 12, 2023.

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 47
(ID # [23-1680](#)) feet of conduit in Albion Street, from Utility Pole 3/22 to
a point of pickup at 156 Albion Street.
- 3.2. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
(ID # [23-1681](#)) 147 feet of conduit in Lowell Street, from Utility Pole
215/2 to a point of pickup at the rear of 657 Somerville
Avenue.

- 3.3. Grant of Location (ID # [23-1682](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 160 feet of conduit in the intersection of Broadway and Thurston Street, from Manhole 1922 to a point of pickup at 115 Thurston Street.
- 3.4. Grant of Location (ID # [23-1683](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 10 feet of conduit in Medford Street, from Utility Pole 228/2 to a point of pickup at 22 McGrath Highway.

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Resolution (ID # [23-1662](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Davis Supporting Somerville's application to the Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Program.
- 4.2. Resolution (ID # [23-1664](#)) By Councilor Wilson Commending the actions taken to improve the safety of the municipal fleet.
- 4.3. Order (ID # [23-1665](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen That the Director of Engineering relocate the western curb cut where the Community Path crosses School Street so it simply goes straight.
- 4.4. Order (ID # [23-1667](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen That the Director of Mobility either widen the newly constructed intersection at Benton Road and Summer Street or make Benton Road a one-way street.
- 4.5. Communication (ID # [23-1666](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen Conveying an important upcoming opportunity to support changes to the state plumbing code that will facilitate the creation of gender-neutral single occupancy restrooms.
- 4.6. Order (ID # [23-1677](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad That the Director of Water and Sewer explain the increases in water bills for households with new water meters and consider a forgiveness period for unexpected increases due to inaccuracies in prior metering.

- 4.7. Order (ID # [23-1678](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That the Director of Planning, Preservation and Zoning consider a modification to the Zoning Ordinances in the Neighborhood Residence District to allow full reconstruction of roof line, or larger modifications to roof line, by right for projects that commit to meeting requirements of the new Specialized Stretch Code for Passive House and all electric standards, even when not applicable.
- 4.8. Resolution (ID # [23-1679](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad
That this City Council commit to facilitating and procuring interpretation when sponsoring non-English speaking speakers.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1643](#)) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on November 1, 2023.
- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0439](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Michael Santangelo to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be placed on file.
- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1349](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Courtney Koslow to the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1632](#)) Requesting confirmation of the reappointment of Linda Dubuque as City Treasurer and Collector of Taxes.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1635](#)) Requesting confirmation of the reappointment of Francis J. Golden as Chief Assessor and Chair of the Board of Assessors.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1645](#)) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on November 6, 2023.

- 6.B.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1517](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$32,000 from the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Housing Division Personal Services Account to the Office of Sustainability and Environment Personal Services Account to transfer the clean green program manager position to the Office of Sustainability and Environment.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1550](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$108,226.70 grant with no new match required from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to the Health and Human Services Department to support implementation of the Somerville-Cambridge Shared Public Health Service Initiative.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.4. Public Communication (ID # [23-1552](#)) David Thorpe submitting comments re: Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.B.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1554](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$5,925.42 from the Infrastructure & Asset Management Personal Services Account to the Engineering Personal Services Account to fund an existing position.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1555](#)) Requesting approval to create a Senior Project Manager position in the Department of Infrastructure and Asset Management - Engineering Division.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1585](#)) Requesting authorization to borrow \$5,561,768 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for street and sidewalk reconstruction.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE
- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1642](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on October 30, 2023.
- 6.C.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1590](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to the Code of Ordinances to add Chapter 6 Article VII to restrict and prohibit new building construction and major renovation projects that are not fossil fuel-free.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.D. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1646](#)) Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on November 8, 2023.
- 6.D.2. License (ID # [23-1339](#)) New Garage License, Quick Auto Center, 30 Joy Street, 0 cars inside, 40 cars outside, for charging money to store vehicles, maintaining and operating a tow vehicle, and storing unregistered vehicles, Mon-Fri:8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, and Sun: closed.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be not approved.
- 6.D.3. Grant of Location (ID # [23-1560](#)) Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install 20 feet of conduit in Beacon Street, from Utility Pole 142/25 to a point of pickup at 205 Beacon Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.E. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 6.E.1. Committee Report (ID # [23-1644](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on November 2, 2023.
- 6.E.2. Order (ID # [23-1289](#)) 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.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.3. Order (ID # [23-1367](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works ensure that the new Police sub-station in East Somerville is easily accessible to the public and includes public restrooms.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.4. Order (ID # [23-1370](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Davis
That the Director of Health and Human Services create a homeless worker program, similar to the Roca program, that offers compensated community cleanup and other community service jobs to the un-housed.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.E.5. Order (ID # [23-1372](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on homelessness outreach efforts, including the hiring of four clinicians, case managers and home visitations.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.6. Order (ID # [23-1373](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Scott and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Inspectional Services update this Council on enforcement of the Dark Skies ordinance that restricts light pollution and reduces energy consumption.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**
- 7.1. Withdrawn (ID # [23-1314](#)) Withdrawn.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1659](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to the Code of Ordinances to add Chapter 6 Article VII to restrict and prohibit new building construction and major renovation projects that are not fossil fuel-free.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1655](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$165,687 from the Energy Stabilization Fund to pay for the final phase of the LED conversion project at the Albert F. Argenziano School.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1516](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$56,215.42 from the Bike Share Stabilization Fund for installation and startup cost of a BlueBike station at the 74 Middlesex Avenue Development site.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1661](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$2,502,191 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Parking Meter Receipts Account to reduce the FY 2024 Tax Rate.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1568](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,370,177 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the 90 Washington Demonstration Project Account for additional legal services.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1676](#)) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$500,000 from the FY 2024 Tax Levy to the Capital-Building Improvements Account to fund needed building improvements.

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- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1670](#)) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$384,858 from the FY 2024 Tax Levy to the School Department for unbudgeted expenditures relating to the relocation of Winter Hill Community Innovation School students.
- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1671](#)) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$272,970 from the FY 2024 Tax Levy to the School Department to fund forensic services on the School Department Information Technology (IT) network.
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1674](#)) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$219,697 from the FY 2024 Tax Levy to various Department of Public Works Accounts to fund unbudgeted expenditures related to the Winter Hill Community Innovation School move.
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1673](#)) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$49,974 from the FY 2024 Tax Levy to the School Department School Lunch Revolving Fund for providing meal services to participants in summer programs run by the Parks & Recreation Department.
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1663](#)) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$28,200 to the Department of Public Works Snow Removal Account for the procurement of roadway sensors for snow removal equipment.
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1675](#)) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$8,150 from the FY 2024 Tax Levy to the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Access Salaries Account to correct a budget miscalculation.
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1588](#)) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$2,205 using available funds in the Human Resources Professional and Technical Services Account for employment medical screens.
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1587](#)) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$1,424 using available funds in the Human Resources Professional and Technical Services Account for employment medical screens.
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1591](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$900 using available funds in the Parks and Recreation Transportation Account for Dilboy Field bus transportation.
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- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1672](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$718.51 using available funds in the Mayor's Office Maint Contract-Office Equip Account for additional printing needed for Community Meeting materials.
- 7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1640](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$475 using available funds in the City Clerk's R&M - Software Account for ordinance hosting annual support fee.
- 7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1669](#)) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$375 using available funds in the Mayor's Office Food Supplies and Refreshment Account for dinner for staff for FY 2024 budget hearings.
- 7.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1581](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a Community Compact Best Practices Technical Assistance grant for \$45,000 with no new match required, from the MA Department of Revenue Division of Local Services to the Economic Development Division for the development of a Commercial Tenant Guidebook.
- 7.21. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1553](#)) Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension of five months for Suffolk Construction, for Construction Manager services for the Somerville High School project.
- 7.22. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1586](#)) Requesting approval of a thirty-month extension to the Benefit Strategies, LLC contract for Flexible Spending Account employee benefit administration.
- 7.23. Withdrawn (ID # [23-1570](#)) Withdrawn.
- 7.24. Withdrawn (ID # [23-1637](#)) Withdrawn.
- 8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS**
- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-1652](#)) Chief Assessor requesting to appear at this Council's November 21, 2023 meeting for the Tax Classification Public Hearing and the determination and adoption of tax levy percentages for FY 2024.
- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-1657](#)) Commissioner of Public Works conveying updates regarding ten City Council orders approved at the meeting of September 28, 2023.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [23-1684](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Broadway Motor Cars, 161 Broadway.
- 9.2. License (ID # [23-1685](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 3, Joseph Talewsky & Son Inc, 508-512 Columbia Street.
- 9.3. License (ID # [23-1686](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Real Auto Shop Inc, 463 McGrath Hwy.
- 9.4. License (ID # [23-1687](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, Webster Auto Sales, 61 Prospect Street.
- 9.5. Public Communication (ID # [23-1638](#)) Four residents submitting comments re: item #23-1198, an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to permit the house and triple-decker building types without any conditions.
- 9.6. Public Communication (ID # [23-1639](#)) Jennifer Schultz submitting comments re: item #23-1306, an amendment to the Zoning Map to change the zoning district of 627 Somerville Avenue from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to Mid-Rise 3 (MR3).
- 9.7. Public Communication (ID # [23-1654](#)) Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) submitting comments re: zoning amendments, item #23-1198, item #23-1489, and item #23-1205.
- 9.8. Public Communication (ID # [23-1656](#)) Eight residents submitting comments re: item #23-1305, an amendment to the Zoning Map to change the zoning district of 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street from Mid-Rise 3 (MR3) to Mid-Rise 5 (MR5).
- 9.9. Public Communication (ID # [23-1658](#)) Reverend Philip Michael Mitza submitting comments re: issues on Lower Broadway.
- 9.10. Public Communication (ID # [23-1668](#)) Pat Jehlen submitting comments re: item #23-1198, an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to permit the house and triple-decker building types without any conditions.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1694](#)) Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition authorizing the City of Somerville to regulate rent in residential dwelling units.

- 10.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1660](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,970 using available funds in the Department of Racial and Social Justice Professional and Technical Services Account for transcription services.
- 10.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1508](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$500 using available funds in the Department of Racial and Social Justice Professional and Technical Services Account for transcription services.
- 10.4. Officer's Communication (ID # [23-1692](#)) City Solicitor requesting that this Council convene in Executive Session to discuss property at Matignon pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6).
- 10.5. License (ID # [23-1695](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer License Class 2, United Motors, 188 Broadway.
- 10.6. Public Event (ID # [23-1696](#)) Health and Human Services Department applying for a Public Event License for Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.
- 10.7. Public Communication (ID # [23-1691](#)) 58 residents submitting comments re: traffic calming on Ivaloo, Harrison, Kent, and Morgan Streets.
- 10.8. Public Communication (ID # [23-1693](#)) Luke Miratrix submitting comments re: brick replacement in Davis Square.
- 11. LATE ITEMS**
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**