



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## City Council

### Regular Meeting Agenda

---

Thursday, March 28, 2024

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote  
Participation

---

Published March 26, 2024, 12:30 PM, Revised March 28, 2024, 1:15 PM.

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\\_8xeOG02qQNqIWIJ2oht4Z6g](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8xeOG02qQNqIWIJ2oht4Z6g)

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e. CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance, at 617-625-6600 x2059 or [ada@somervillema.gov](mailto:ada@somervillema.gov).

#### 1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call                      Call of the Roll.  
(ID # [24-0447](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances              Remembrances.  
(ID # [24-0448](#))
- 1.3. Minutes                        Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
(ID # [24-0449](#))                      February 22, 2024.

#### 2. CITATIONS

#### 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location            Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 12  
(ID # [24-0434](#))                      feet of conduit in Alewife Brook Parkway, from Manhole  
12332 at the intersection of Alewife Brook Parkway and  
Broadway.

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

- 4.1. Order (ID # [24-0417](#)) By Councilor Strezo  
That the Executive Director of the Arts Council appear before the Housing and Community Development Committee to present a Porchfest safety plan that addresses pedestrian safety concerns, promotion of street closures, intersection crossing safety and the prevention of aggressive and dangerous driver behavior during the active event hours.
- 4.2. Order (ID # [24-0419](#)) By Councilor Strezo  
That the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment and the Director of Health and Human Services discuss how climate change affects residents over 65 years old and how climate forward programs can address this demographic.
- 4.3. Resolution (ID # [24-0418](#)) By Councilor Strezo  
That the Administration discuss post-pilot plan considerations of the Guaranteed Basic Income pilot program.
- 4.4. Communication (ID # [24-0420](#)) By Councilor Strezo  
Conveying a report of the Children's Cabinet.
- 4.5. Resolution (ID # [24-0428](#)) By Councilor Clingan  
That the Administration provide an update on the Braille embosser purchased in summer 2023, including its current location and the plan to put it to use.
- 4.6. Order (ID # [24-0429](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Director of Inspectional Services update the Ward 1 City Councilor on the recent collapse of a house at 16 Bonair Street.
- 4.7. Order (ID # [24-0430](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Director of Inspectional Services update the Ward 1 City Councilor on the status of any permits issued to contractors associated with 16 Bonair Street.
- 4.8. Order (ID # [24-0431](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Commissioner of Public Works ensure that city trash barrels in Ward 1 are emptied on a regular basis.
- 4.9. Order (ID # [24-0432](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Commissioner of Public Works replace any defective Big Belly trash barrels in Ward 1 with standard trash barrels until they are repaired.

- 4.10. Communication By Councilor McLaughlin  
(ID # [24-0433](#)) Announcing monthly Ward 1 community cleanups on the first Monday of every month, beginning at 5:30 pm at Connexion Church.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on March  
(ID # [24-0395](#)) 19, 2024.
- 6.A.2. Officer's Finance Director conveying FY 2024 Mid-Year Financial  
Communication Report in accordance with Section 2-48 of the Code of  
(ID # [24-0210](#)) Ordinances.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting as a  
(ID # [24-0396](#)) Committee of the Whole on March 19, 2024.
- 6.B.2. Order By Councilor Wilson  
(ID # [24-0178](#)) That this City Council hold a public hearing in the Committee on Finance on the community's Fiscal Year 2025 budget priorities.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.C. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting as a  
(ID # [24-0401](#)) Committee of the Whole on March 26, 2024.
- 6.C.2. Resolution By Councilor Ewen-Campen  
(ID # [24-0459](#)) That this Council conveys its support for Housing Stabilization as outlined in memos and budget priorities submitted by City Councilors.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.3. Resolution By Councilor Wilson  
(ID # [24-0460](#)) That this Council conveys its support in the FY 2025 budget, for homeless services including all approaches listed in councilor memos, and specifically including funding for a permanent brick and mortar location.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.C.4. Resolution (ID # [24-0461](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That all items in the Alternative Emergency Response category be submitted to the Mayor to be included in the FY 2025 budget.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.5. Resolution (ID # [24-0462](#)) By Councilor Scott  
That this Council conveys to the Mayor, the importance of housing affordability, including the creation of an Acquisition Fund, as a Council priority for inclusion in the FY 2025 budget.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.6. Resolution (ID # [24-0463](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen  
That this Council conveys its support for the inclusion of municipal composting in the FY 2025 budget, including all approaches listed in Councilor memos.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.7. Resolution (ID # [24-0464](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Administration include rodent mitigation in the FY 2025 budget as outlined in Councilor memos and resolutions, and increase funding and staffing in the city for rodent mitigation.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.C.8. Resolution (ID # [24-0465](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That this Council conveys its support for providing resources in the FY 2025 budget for medical debt forgiveness, municipal building decarbonization, out of school time programming, and an overdose prevention center, as outlined in Councilor memos for their FY 2025 budget priorities.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

**6.D. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0397](#)) Report of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, meeting on March 20, 2024.

- 6.D.2. Resolution  
(ID # [24-0073](#))
- By Councilor Strezo  
That the Administration, in conjunction with the Housing and Water and Sewer Departments, provide optional, affordable, water utility assessments in low-income housing units and in benevolent landlord and subsidized landlord housing, whereby residents would pay their own water and sewer bills.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.E. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- 6.E.1. Committee Report  
(ID # [24-0399](#))
- Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on March 21, 2024.
- 6.E.2. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [24-0037](#))
- Requesting ordainment of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to amend Article 9: Use Provisions, and the Permitted Uses tables of all zoning districts, to establish a Recreational Camp for Children use within the Recreational Services use category.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.E.3. Public  
Communication  
(ID # [24-0059](#))
- Gregg Donovan requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 321 Washington Street from Fabrication (FAB) to Commercial Industry (CI).  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be not approved.
- 6.E.4. Public  
Communication  
(ID # [24-0112](#))
- Five residents submitting comments re: proposed Zoning Ordinance Climate & Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.E.5. Public  
Communication  
(ID # [23-1306](#))
- Mai Lau, 635 Somerville Avenue LLC, requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 627 Somerville Avenue from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to Mid-Rise 3 (MR3).  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn.

6.F. LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

- 6.F.1. Committee Report  
(ID # [24-0402](#))
- Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, meeting on March 27, 2024.
- 6.F.2. License  
(ID # [24-0156](#))
- New Billiards and Bowling License, Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Drive, for 5 billiard tables and 8 bowling lanes.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.F.3. License (ID # [24-0157](#)) New Extended Operating Hours License, Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Drive, opening Monday-Sunday until 2am for in-store service only.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.F.4. License (ID # [24-0267](#)) New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Ravelo's Auto Sales, 61 Washington St, for 0 vehicles inside and 1 vehicles outside, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.G. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**
- 6.G.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0398](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on March 20, 2024.
- 6.G.2. Order (ID # [24-0149](#)) By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Scott  
That the Director of Health and Human services create an on-call emergency fire response unit to assist in connecting residents with available resources in the event of a displacement or loss of property due to a fire.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.G.3. Order (ID # [24-0168](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Mbah, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Scott  
That the Director of Health and Human Services work with the Administration to allocate funding to secure COVID-19 rapid tests to be distributed at Public Libraries.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.G.4. Order (ID # [24-0172](#)) By Councilor Strezo, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Scott  
That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss the availability of free city-funded COVID tests going forward after temporary relief funds have evaporated, including any plans and/or consideration of potential sources of COVID testing supplies provided through community partners.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.G.5. Order (ID # [24-0177](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen  
That the Administration appear before the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety to update the City Council on the status of the Police Chief search.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.H. PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

6.H.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0394](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Works and Public Utilities, meeting on March 18, 2024.

6.H.2. Resolution (ID # [24-0040](#)) By Councilor Strezo  
That the Administration and the Director of Water and Sewer update this Council, in writing, on the plan to support residents who cannot afford the recent water bill increases.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.H.3. Order (ID # [24-0148](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Clingan  
That the Director of Engineering update this Council on the policy and plans pertaining to repairing leaking gas pipes versus replacing them, and the necessary transition away from gas infrastructure.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.H.4. Order (ID # [24-0151](#)) By Councilor Clingan  
That the Director of Water and Sewer address the use of threatening notifications as part of the water meter replacement project.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

6.I. SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

6.I.1. Committee Report (ID # [24-0400](#)) Report of the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance, meeting on March 25, 2024.

- 6.I.2. Resolution  
(ID # [24-0087](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Clingan  
That the Administration discuss with this Council’s Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance, whether the financial comparisons of various new school building scenarios have taken into consideration projected costs of creating new usages at the current Winter Hill and Brown School sites.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
  
- 6.I.3. Order  
(ID # [24-0117](#))

By Councilor Strezo  
That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management report on leaks at the Benjamin Brown School and any exterior envelope damages in the past six months, and actions being taken to address such leaks and damages including the recently dislodged downspout.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
  
- 6.I.4. Order  
(ID # [24-0338](#))

By Councilor Sait, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Wilson, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Strezo  
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management and the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment update this Council on plans to decarbonize current school buildings and any future school buildings.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
  
- 6.I.5. Resolution  
(ID # [24-0341](#))

By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Administration and the Director of Capital Projects, in conjunction with the Somerville Public Schools, update this Council on the scope and costs involved to renovate the basement of the Edgerly School to reunite the Winter Hill Community Innovation School community under one roof, the relevant state and federal laws triggering required compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the decision-making process around the timeline for proceeding with this work.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.



- 6.I.6. Resolution (ID # [24-0466](#)) By Councilor Davis  
That the Administration provide the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance with regular updates about the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process for the Winter Hill and Brown Schools.  
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0416](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Article 2, Article 3, Article 4, Article 5, Article 8, and Article 10 of the Zoning Ordinances to remove conflicts with the State Building Code.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-0414](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$76,867 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs to the Council on Aging for social, educational and physical wellness programming.

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [24-0415](#)) City Clerk submitting an amendment to the Rules of the City Council to accommodate remote participation and facilitate accessibility.
- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [24-0413](#)) Planning Board conveying recommendations for items #24-0037 and #24-0059.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [24-0435](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, A.P. Flowers & Son LLC.
- 9.2. License (ID # [24-0436](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Garrett Construction Co Inc.
- 9.3. License (ID # [24-0437](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Hydra Tech Inc.
- 9.4. License (ID # [24-0438](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, J. Marchese and Sons Inc.
- 9.5. License (ID # [24-0439](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Tufts Construction Inc.
- 9.6. License (ID # [24-0440](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, United Civil Inc.

- 
- |       |  |  |
|-------|--|--|
| 9.7.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0442</a> )                 | Renewing Garage License, Goodyear Auto Service Center, 1 Bow St.   |
| 9.8.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0441</a> )                 | Renewing Garage License, Sam's Gas and Service, 166 Boston Ave.  |
| 9.9.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0443</a> )                 | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, LaFoi Taxi Inc, Med. #20.   |
| 9.10. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0444</a> )                 | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Renaissance Taxi Service LLC, Med. #50.   |
| 9.11. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0445</a> )                 | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, BAETDA Transportation Services LLC, Med. #51, 77, 93.   |
| 9.12. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0446</a> )                 | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Bostonshuttles.com LLP, Med. #69.   |
| 9.13. | Public<br>Communication<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0421</a> ) | Parent Teacher Associations submitting comments re: Edgerly School.  |
| 9.14. | Public<br>Communication<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0422</a> ) | Ed Vogel submitting comments re: ShotSpotter.  |
| 9.15. | Public<br>Communication<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0423</a> ) | Somerville Stands Together submitting comments re: CHERISH Act.  |
| 9.16. | Public<br>Communication<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0424</a> ) | Eight residents submitting comments re: item 24-0178, for a public hearing held March 19, 2024 in a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Whole. |
| 9.17. | Public<br>Communication<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0425</a> ) | David Leung and Calvin Zhao submitting comments re: affordable housing.  |
| 9.18. | Public<br>Communication<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0426</a> ) | Henry Edward Hardy submitting comments re: public housing.   |
| 9.19. | Public<br>Communication<br>(ID # <a href="#">24-0427</a> ) | Caren Kimball submitting comments re: item 24-0089 a resolution in support of an enduring ceasefire in Gaza.                                       |

**10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

- 10.1. Order (ID # [24-0450](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Director of Parking update this Council on efforts to ticket vehicles with illegal license covers, including how many tickets have been issued for this reason in the last year.
- 10.2. Order (ID # [24-0451](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on the plan to prioritize the deployment of masks and tests to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- 10.3. Order (ID # [24-0453](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Director of the Office of Housing Stability explain to this Council how requirements, paperwork, or means testing will change for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded programs that transition to funding from the city.
- 10.4. Resolution (ID # [24-0452](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Administration explain the process of how residents can receive free prepaid Charlie Cards, what paperwork or requirements they must fulfill before they receive this service, or how much funding was allocated to this program.
- 10.5. Order (ID # [24-0467](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Director of Mobility work with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to preserve the pedestrian footbridge on McGrath Highway as part of the grounding McGrath project.
- 10.6. Order (ID # [24-0468](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Director of Mobility return the TEMPORARY PARKING sign, that serves local businesses, to the corner of Washington and Myrtle Streets.
- 10.7. Order (ID # [24-0469](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Director of Inspectional Services update the Ward 1 Councilor on enforcement of the Dark Skies Ordinance.

- 10.8. Order  
(ID # [24-0470](#))  
By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Clingan  
That the Director of Mobility update this Council on plans to address increased cut-through commuter traffic on Temple Street and Fellsway West on weekday mornings, including any plans to prohibit right turns onto Temple Street and Fellsway West from 7 AM to 9 AM on weekdays.
- 10.9. Order  
(ID # [24-0471](#))  
By Councilor Wilson  
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.
- 10.10. Order  
(ID # [24-0472](#))  
By Councilor Wilson  
That the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on the condition of Conway Field and the displacement of infill that is occurring there during extreme rainfall events, as well as the schedule for regular grooming and maintenance of the City's artificial turf athletic fields.
- 10.11. Mayor's  
Communication  
(ID # [24-0455](#))  
Conveying an update on Police and Fire hiring.
- 10.12. Public Event  
(ID # [24-0473](#))  
Tufts University Engineers Without Borders applying for a Public Event License for Engineers Without Borders 6K on April 7 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM (raindate April 14).
- 10.13. Public  
Communication  
(ID # [24-0454](#))  
Daniela Gontownik submitting comments re: item 24-0089 a resolution in support of an enduring ceasefire in Gaza.
- 10.14. Public  
Communication  
(ID # [24-0456](#))  
Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee submitting comments re: FY 2025 budget.
- 10.15. Public  
Communication  
(ID # [24-0457](#))  
Green & Open Somerville and Earthwise Aware submitting comments re: invasive plant species.
- 10.16. Public  
Communication  
(ID # [24-0458](#))  
RESPOND submitting comments re: item 23-0075, an Ordinance establishing Paid Leave for Survivors.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT