



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 8, 2025

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote Participation

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NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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.

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [25-0928](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [25-0929](#))
- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April
(ID # [25-0930](#)) 10, 2025.

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
(ID # [25-0877](#)) approximately 46 feet of conduit in Cross Street East,
from Utility Pole 588/2 to an existing Manhole 20716.
- 3.2. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
(ID # [25-0878](#)) approximately 49 feet of conduit in Prospect Street, from
existing Manhole 23058 to a point of pickup at 110
Prospect Street.

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Resolution (ID # [25-0908](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
In support of Head Start.
- 4.2. Order (ID # [25-0917](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry discuss with this Council, opportunities to create a dog park in West Somerville.
- 4.3. Resolution (ID # [25-0906](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Mayor create and make public specific plans that outline the full scope of the work necessary at the Cummings School, including capacity, time, and cost, to host Somerville Public School students in the event of an emergency, and provide regular updates to this Council on such plans until completed.
- 4.4. Resolution (ID # [25-0916](#)) By Councilor Clingan
Recognizing May as Hyperemesis Gravidarum Awareness Month and May 15 as Hyperemesis Gravidarum Awareness Day.
- 4.5. Order (ID # [25-0918](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Director of Mobility update this Council on when the Highland Avenue redesign community process will begin.
- 4.6. Order (ID # [25-0923](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Inspectional Services appear before this Council to discuss recent changes to business permitting in relation to "risk categorization" and the impact they may have on businesses.
- 4.7. Order (ID # [25-0924](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility replace the flex posts by the bus and bike lane on Washington Street, near the East Somerville Green Line station.
- 4.8. Order (ID # [25-0925](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility place a YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS sign on Garfield Street at the intersection of Broadway.
- 4.9. Order (ID # [25-0927](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Parking consider adding additional handicapped parking spots on Washington Street by the Cobble Hill senior center.

- 4.10. Resolution By Councilor McLaughlin
(ID # [25-0926](#)) That the Mayor include \$266,000 in the FY 2026 budget to continue funding Food For Free services.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Confirmation of
(ID # [25-0869](#)) Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on April 30, 2025.
- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Primrose
(ID # [25-0654](#)) Chareka to the Human Rights Commission.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Suelin
(ID # [25-0655](#)) Chen to the Human Rights Commission.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.4. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Paola
(ID # [25-0657](#)) Mendez to the Human Rights Commission.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.5. Mayor's Request Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Martin
(ID # [25-0732](#)) Pavlinic to the Urban Design Commission.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on May 6,
(ID # [25-0931](#)) 2025.
- 6.B.2. Mayor's Request Requesting the transfer of \$55,631 from the Community
(ID # [25-0398](#)) Preservation Act (CPA) Undesignated Fund Balance to the CPA Open Space Reserve.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.3. Mayor's Request Requesting the appropriation of \$100,000 from the
(ID # [25-0399](#)) Community Preservation Act Budgeted Reserve and Open Space Reserve for improvements to Dilboy Auxiliary Fields.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a Deed, Maintenance License,
(ID # [25-0523](#)) and Maintenance Easement for 808 Windsor Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.B.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0524](#)) Requesting approval to create the Chestnut Street Multimodal Safety Stabilization Fund and accept a payment of \$99,127 from the developer of 100 Chestnut Street to implement multimodal safety and access improvements.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0651](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,468,693 from the Community Preservation Act Affordable Housing Reserve to the Affordable Housing Trust.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0652](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$300,000 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund to the CPA Open Space Land Acquisition Fund.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.8. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0674](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$35,300 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for upgrades to the Emergency Operation Center.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0683](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$61,301.89 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for replacement of cameras.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0686](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$12,430.19 using available funds in the Police Department In Service Training, Professional & Technical Services, Repairs to Radio Alarm, and Public Safety Supplies accounts.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.B.11. Order
(ID # [25-0745](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Ewen-Campen That the Chief Assessor and the City Treasurer discuss with this Council the issue of residents not receiving initial motor vehicle excise tax bills, resulting in demand fees.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.B.12. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0824](#)) City Solicitor requesting approval to retain Verrill Dana, LLP, as outside legal counsel with respect to Combined Sewer Overflow Control matters.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.C. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-0890](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on May 1, 2025.
- 6.C.2. Public Communication (ID # [24-1584](#)) Horace-Ward LLC, Bealm Realty, LLC, Delhi Properties, LLC, and Delhi Properties II, LLC requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 11 Horace Street, 5-7, 9, 13, and 15 Ward Street, and 15 and 21 South Street from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6).
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation.
- 6.C.3. Public Communication (ID # [25-0269](#)) John Fragione and Agostino Feola, Trustees of Frala Realty Trust, requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street from Mid-Rise 3 (MR3) to Mid-Rise 4 (MR4).
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.D. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-0865](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on April 29, 2025.
- 6.D.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0566](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Chapter 12, Article VI of the Code of Ordinances to modify the Tree Preservation Ordinance.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved as amended.
- 6.D.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0781](#)) Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to authorize the City of Somerville to employ automated enforcement of certain traffic violations.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.D.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0838](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Hudl Focus cameras.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.E. RODENT ISSUES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- 6.E.1. Committee Report Report of the Special Committee on Rodent Issues,
(ID # [25-0868](#)) meeting on April 30, 2025.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Article 8 of
(ID # [25-0907](#)) the Zoning Ordinance to update Flood Insurance Rate
Map (FIRM) references.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of a lease agreement at 50 Tufts
(ID # [25-0919](#)) Street.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to amend the purpose of the Street
(ID # [25-0892](#)) Tree Stabilization Fund to align with the Tree
Preservation Ordinance.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$450,000 from the
(ID # [25-0874](#)) Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund for the
replacement of the Brown School Boiler.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$350,000 from the
(ID # [25-0875](#)) Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund to replace the
Department of Public Works Water Department Boiler
System.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$228,000 from the
(ID # [25-0857](#)) Medicinal Marijuana Stabilization Fund for the salary
and fringe of three positions related to youth-serving
staff in FY 2026.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$45,000 from the
(ID # [25-0836](#)) Street Tree Stabilization Fund for FY 2025 Ash tree
treatments.
- 7.8. Mayor's Request Requesting the appropriation of \$200,000 from the
(ID # [25-0855](#)) Community Preservation Act Fund Open Space Reserve
for the design of the Kennedy Schoolyard.
- 7.9. Mayor's Request Requesting the appropriation of \$151,502 from the
(ID # [25-0922](#)) Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Law
Department, Legal Services Account for additional
outside legal counsel services.

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- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0862](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$600,000 from various Department of Public Works Personal Services Accounts to various Department of Public Works Ordinary Maintenance Accounts to fund projected budget shortfalls.
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0861](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$400,000 from the Department of Public Works Highway Wages Account to the Snow Removal Account.
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0873](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$363,000 from the Department of Public Works Grounds Wages Account to the Snow Removal Account.
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0854](#)) Requesting the transfer of \$200,000 from the Community Preservation Act Undesignated Fund Balance to the Open Space Reserve.
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0666](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$5,777 from the Police Overtime Account to the Police Grant Match Account for the FY 2025 Shannon Grant match requirement.
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0846](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$274,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) training.
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0849](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$127,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Special Response Team equipment and training.
- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0813](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$122,681.25 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Community First Partnership to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for an Energy Advisor and outreach materials.
- 7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0848](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$38,500 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Special Response Team equipment.

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- 7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0860](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$36,000 grant with no new match required, from Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.
- 7.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0852](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$30,000 grant that requires a match, from the RIZE Massachusetts Foundation to the Health and Human Services Department for public health vending machines.
- 7.21. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0902](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$11,400 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for fire education for school students and senior residents.
- 7.22. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0664](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,137.70 using available funds in the Department of Public Works R&M Parks and Playgrounds Account for irrigation services.
- 7.23. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0662](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$583.03 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Fleet Motor Parts and Accessories Account for the purchase of vehicle parts.
- 7.24. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0665](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$504 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Administration Police Details Account for police detail services.
- 7.25. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0663](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$270 using available funds in the Department of Public Works R&M Vehicles Account for vehicle inspections.
- 7.26. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0850](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$90 using available funds in the Police Department Professional and Technical Services Account for case management for workers' compensation.
- 7.27. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0863](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$8.87 using available funds in the Police Department Professional and Technical Services Account for managed care services for workers' compensation.
- 7.28. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0899](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Eli Kim to the position of Police Lieutenant.
- 7.29. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0900](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Dylan Lambert to the position of Police Sergeant.
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- 7.30. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0901](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Alba Solis to the Affordable Housing Trust.
- 7.31. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0856](#)) Requesting approval of an exemption for Tara Murphy Beardsley as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(b).
- 7.32. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0866](#)) Requesting approval of an exemption for Keegan Bliss as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A, Section 20(b).
- 7.33. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0864](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Pole Cameras.
- 7.34. Mayor's Communication (ID # [25-0867](#)) Proclaiming that the week of May 11 through May 18, 2025 is Taiwanese American Heritage Week.

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0896](#)) City Clerk conveying Block Party Licenses issued.
- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0921](#)) Planning Board conveying recommendations for items #25-0200, #25-0457, and #25-0590.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [25-0879](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, GVC Construction, Inc.
- 9.2. License (ID # [25-0880](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Umbro & Sons Construction Corp.
- 9.3. License (ID # [25-0881](#)) Renewing Flammables License, 74M Property Owner, LLC, 74 Middlesex Avenue.
- 9.4. License (ID # [25-0882](#)) Renewing Flammables License, BBS Services, 45 Broadway.
- 9.5. License (ID # [25-0883](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Cumberland Farms #2469, 701 Somerville Avenue.
- 9.6. License (ID # [25-0884](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Sam's Gas & Service, 166 Boston Avenue.
- 9.7. License (ID # [25-0885](#)) Renewing Flammables License, The Home Depot #2667, 75 Mystic Avenue.

- 9.8. Small Wireless Facility (ID # [25-0886](#)) Crown Castle Fiber LLC applying for a Small Wireless Facility License for facilities on an existing pole at 53 Boston Street.
- 9.9. Public Event (ID # [25-0889](#)) Wandering Fusion Festival applying for a Public Event License for Wandering Fusion Festival on June 6 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.
- 9.10. Public Event (ID # [25-0888](#)) Sophia Li applying for a Public Event License for DIS Midsummer Picnic on June 21 from 11am to 1:30pm (raindate June 22)
- 9.11. Public Event (ID # [25-0887](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Big Gay Dance Party on June 21 from 2pm to 9pm (raindate June 22).
- 9.12. Public Communication (ID # [25-0893](#)) Tori Antonino submitting comments re: 375 Harold Cohen Way.
- 9.13. Public Communication (ID # [25-0894](#)) 16 residents submitting comments re: item #25-0200, a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Sections 3.1.8c, 3.1.9c, 3.1.10c, 3.1.13k, 3.1.13l, 3.2.12l. and 3.2.12m.
- 9.14. Public Communication (ID # [25-0895](#)) 625 individuals submitting comments re: Israel.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Order (ID # [25-0905](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the city hereby adopts Chapter 329 of the Acts of 1987, An Act Increasing Local Control Over The Annual School Budget.
- 10.2. Resolution (ID # [25-0933](#)) By Councilor Davis
That the Administration work with Somerville Public Schools and the Commissioner of Public Works to effectively budget for and fund current equipment maintenance costs, including but not limited to air compressors and ovens, at the High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, and develop plans to include CTE equipment maintenance needs in future budgeting and funding cycles.

- 10.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0944](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$170,000 from the Salary Contingency account to various Police Department Personal Services accounts to fund a collective bargaining agreement with the Somerville Police Employees Association.
- 10.4. License (ID # [25-0938](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, DOG Excavation.
- 10.5. License (ID # [25-0939](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Mass Earthworks & Demolition.
- 10.6. License (ID # [25-0940](#)) Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, Alfredo's Italian Kitchen, 288 Broadway.
- 10.7. License (ID # [25-0941](#)) Renewing Flammables License, DW Propco JK, LLC, 0 Dawes Street.
- 10.8. License (ID # [25-0942](#)) Renewing Flammables License, Good Gas Somerville, 343 Medford Street.
- 10.9. License (ID # [25-0943](#)) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, BAETDA Transportation Services LLC, Med. #51,73,77,87,93.
- 10.10. Public Event (ID # [25-0947](#)) Mobility Division applying for a Public Event License for Western Pearl Street Reconstruction Concept Design Open House on May 13 from 4pm to 8pm (raindate May 14).
- 10.11. Public Event (ID # [25-0945](#)) Brown School Parent Teacher Association applying for a Public Event License for Brown School Fun Run on May 23 from 8am to 3pm.
- 10.12. Public Event (ID # [25-0946](#)) Health & Human Services Department applying for a Public Event License for Pride Flag Raising on June 5 from 5pm to 6:30pm.
- 10.13. Public Communication (ID # [25-0934](#)) Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) conveying the alteration of location of a section of State highway.
- 10.14. Public Communication (ID # [25-0935](#)) Alison Ellis submitting comments re: mayoral term.
- 10.15. Public Communication (ID # [25-0936](#)) Steven Kubel submitting comments re: Israel.

11. ADJOURNMENT