



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## City Council

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

6:00 PM

*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

**Present:** City Councilor At Large Willie Burnley Jr.  
City Councilor At Large Charlotte Kelly  
City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo  
City Councilor At Large Jake Wilson  
Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin  
Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen  
Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan  
Ward Five City Councilor Beatriz Gomez Mouakad  
Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis  
Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld

**Absent:** Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. The City Council entered Executive Session at 6:18 PM and returned at 6:42 PM.

1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.  
(ID # [23-1123](#))

**RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE

1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.  
(ID # [23-1125](#))

**RESULT:** APPROVED

1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting, June 1, 2023.  
(ID # [23-1126](#))

**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 Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**ABSENT:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Five City Councilor Gomez Mouakad, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

**2. CITATIONS**

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

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

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 5.1. Order By Councilor Wilson  
(ID # [23-0922](#)) That the City Solicitor appear in executive session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to update this council on the status of collective bargaining negotiations with all municipal bargaining units.

**RESULT:** **LAID ON THE TABLE**

**6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on June 27, 2023.  
(ID # [23-1121](#))

Chair Wilson summarized the actions taken by the Committee. Councilor Davis inquired about the discussion of the salary ordinance, requesting confirmation that the amendment before the Council appears to contain some changes, but the changes to those salaries happened during the previous budget season, and the ordinance is just catching up. Deputy Director of Human Resources Ellen Collins confirmed that all changes happened in the FY 2020 and FY 2022 budgets, and the ordinance was not updated at that time. These revisions reflect the current FY 2024 budget. Councilor Davis expressed concern about this disconnect.

**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 Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Five City Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**ABSENT:** Ward Two City Councilor Scott

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- 6.A.2. Order  
(ID # [23-0457](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That this City Council discuss data from the FY 2023 budget hearings and assess the budget hearing process for FY 2024.
- RESULT:** **WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0667](#))
- Requesting approval of a multi-year lease agreement for the East Somerville Police Station.
- 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 Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Five City Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld
- ABSENT:** Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- 6.A.4. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0813](#))
- Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$6,781 Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) grant, with no new match required, from the Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for fire prevention education for students.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED**
- 6.A.5. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0814](#))
- Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$2,677 Senior Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) grant, with no new match required, from the Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for fire prevention education for older adults.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED**
- 6.A.6. Ordinance  
(ID # [23-0827](#))
- By Councilor Scott and Councilor Wilson  
Amending Section 2-323 of the Code of Ordinances, Salary Ranges, to provide cost-of-living adjustments for School Committee Members and City Councilors.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
- FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee
- 6.A.7. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-0844](#))
- Requesting authorization to borrow \$6,430,638 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the Assembly Square Fire Station fit-out.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED**
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**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 Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Five City Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**ABSENT:** Ward Two City Councilor Scott

6.A.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0846](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$24,117.07 grant that requires a match, from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Community Safety Initiative to the Police Department for youth violence prevention.

**RESULT:** **APPROVED**

6.A.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0847](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$8,039.02 from the Police Department Personal Services Overtime Account to the Police Department Special Items Grant Match Account to fund the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Community Safety Initiative Shannon Grant match.

**RESULT:** **APPROVED**

6.A.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0925](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 2-322 and 2-323 of the Code of Ordinances, to update categories and associated salaries for non-union positions.

**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 Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Five City Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**ABSENT:** Ward Two City Councilor Scott

6.A.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0947](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$80,000 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund Undesignated Fund to Vida Real for continued restoration of the bell tower at 404 Broadway.

**RESULT:** **APPROVED**

6.A.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-0951](#)) Requesting approval to accept the 2023-2024 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership and Emergency Solutions Grant programs, totaling \$3,321,097.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 6.A.13. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-1063](#)) Requesting approval of the First Amendment to Fiber Optic Communications Easement Agreement with TOWARDEX.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 6.A.14. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-1065](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$500,000 grant amendment with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services to the Health and Human Services Department for regional youth substance misuse prevention efforts.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

- 6.A.15. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-1088](#)) Requesting authorization to seek funding and enter into related agreements with the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant, appropriate funding, and dedicate 217 Somerville Avenue as open space and recreational use in perpetuity.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request  
(ID # [23-1119](#)) Requesting the transfer of \$310,000 from the Health Insurance Account to the Law Department's Damages to Persons and Property Account to fund settlement of John Doe v. City of Somerville & Josh Wairi.

**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 Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**ABSENT:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Five City Councilor Gomez Mouakad, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's  
Communication  
(ID # [23-1120](#)) City Solicitor requesting to appear in Executive Session with attorneys from Brody, Haroon, Perkins & Kesten, LLP, to discuss John Doe v. City of Somerville & Josh Wairi.

President Ewen-Campen noted that if there is not sufficient time for all questions to be answered, it can be laid on the table and taken up at the next regular meeting. Deputy City Solicitor Shapiro advised the Council that this

item requires an Executive Session.

The Council entered Executive Session at 6:18 PM and returned at 6:42 PM. No votes were taken in Executive Session except the vote to adjourn.

**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 Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, Ward Five City Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Ward Six City Councilor Davis, and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

**ABSENT:**       Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

**9.     NEW BUSINESS**

**10.   SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

**11.   LATE ITEMS**

**12.   ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was Adjourned at 6:45 PM.