



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 8, 2026

7:00 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

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis.

The City Council entered recess at 7:27 PM and returned at 7:35 PM.

The City Council entered recess at 9:04 PM and returned at 9:13 PM.

- 1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # [26-1490](#))

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

Present: Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen
City Councilor At Large Jon Link
Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott
Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan
City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo
Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait
City Councilor At Large Ben Wheeler
Ward Seven City Councilor Emily Hardt
Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin
City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah
Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis

- 1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # [26-1491](#))

Councilor McLaughlin and the entire Council requested a moment of silence in memory of Theresa Hussey-Rogers.
Councilor Clingan requested a moment of silence in memory of Keith Michael Mannix.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 27, 2026.
(ID # [26-1492](#))

RESULT: **APPROVED**

2. CITATIONS

- 2.1. Citation
(ID # [26-1481](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Davis
Commending Nancy Paz for her work with Latino families in the community.
- Discussed with items #26-1482, #26-1483, #26-1493, #26-1471.
Councilor Ewen-Campen recognized each citation recipient, highlighting their contributions and service to the Latino community. Each recipient expressed appreciation to the City Council for the recognition and its continued support of the city's immigrant community.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 2.2. Citation
(ID # [26-1482](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Davis
Commending Alejandra Bañuelos for her work with Latino families in the community.

Discussed with items #26-1481, #26-1483, #26-1493, #26-1471

RESULT: APPROVED

- 2.3. Citation
(ID # [26-1483](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Davis
Commending Maritza Perdomo for her work with Latino families in the community.

Discussed with items #26-1481, #26-1482.

RESULT: APPROVED

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location
(ID # [26-1459](#)) Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install 187 feet of conduit in Sycamore Street and Broadway and one new sidewalk vault, from the existing Comcast Manhole at the intersection of Sycamore Street and Broadway, passing through the proposed sidewalk vault, continuing to points of pickup at 382 Broadway and 386 Broadway.

Dave Flewelling, representing Comcast, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed. Councilor Link noted that a curb cut is detailed in the plans and Mr. Flewelling replied that it would receive a temporary patch followed by a concrete restoration.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 3.2. Grant of Location (ID # [26-1456](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 346 feet of conduit in Newton Street, from the existing Manhole 4115, passing through the existing Manhole 4123 to a point of pickup at existing Manhole 31223 next to 24 Webster Avenue.

Councilor Scott recused himself from consideration of the item.

Michael Katz, an abutter, inquired whether Eversource would coordinate work on a neighboring property to minimize disruptions in the area. He also requested clarification regarding the anticipated project schedule, duration of construction, and how abutters would maintain access to their homes and driveways throughout the project.

No representative from Eversource was present to address the questions or provide additional information. With no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- 3.3. Grant of Location (ID # [26-1457](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 15 feet of conduit in Fellsway West Street, from existing Manhole 1897 to a point of pickup at the demarcation line next to 49 Fellsway West.

Emmy McSweeney, representing Eversource, informed the Council that Eversource would like to withdraw this item.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

- 3.4. Grant of Location (ID # [26-1458](#)) Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 266 feet of conduit in School Street, from existing Manhole 29855, passing through existing Manholes 13425 and 13085 to a point of pickup at 93 Highland Avenue.

Emmy McSweeney, representing Eversource, spoke in favor of the item and explained the purpose of the request. There being no further speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

RESULT: APPROVED

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Ordinance (ID # [26-1476](#)) By Councilor Sait
That Section 12-111.1 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as detailed herein to protect private significant trees during construction.

Councilor Sait explained that, under this ordinance, tree protection would be extended to all significant trees on private property.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

-
- 4.2. Resolution
(ID # [26-1474](#))
- By Councilor Sait and Councilor Mbah
That the Director of Inspectional Services clarify the permitting process for heat pump systems.
- Councilor Sait expressed concerns regarding the complexity of Somerville's permitting process and noted that certain requirements may be outdated. She reported having discussed these concerns with staff from the Inspectional Services Department, who will review the existing process and identify opportunities for updates and improvements.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: Sustainability and Infrastructure Committee
- 4.3. Resolution
(ID # [26-1475](#))
- By Councilor Sait, Councilor Link and Councilor Wheeler
That Chief of Police provide an update to this Council regarding the Municipal Road Safety Grant Program.
- Councilor Sait requested a detailed breakdown of how the grant funds are allocated and expended prior to consideration of any future acceptance of the grant.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee
- 4.4. Ordinance
(ID # [26-1501](#))
- By Councilor Link, Councilor Hardt and Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Short-Term Rental Ordinance be amended as detailed within.
- Councilor Link explained that the proposed amendment to the ordinance is intended to encourage the return of certain short-term rental properties to the long-term rental market while strengthening the City's ability to enforce the ordinance.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee
- 4.5. Resolution
(ID # [26-1498](#))
- By Councilor Link, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Scott
That the Director of Mobility add more secure bicycle parking at the Argenziano School.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED**
- 4.6. Resolution
(ID # [26-1499](#))
- By Councilor Link
That the Commissioner of Public Works, in consideration of children with sensory sensitivities, utilize electric leaf blowers when doing maintenance on school grounds during school hours.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee
- 4.7. Resolution
(ID # [26-1500](#))
- By Councilor Link and Councilor McLaughlin
In support of meeting spaces for Alcoholics Anonymous.
-

Councilor Link emphasized the importance of ensuring the availability of community meeting spaces. Councilor McLaughlin expressed concern regarding the loss of meeting space at the Ralph and Jenny Center, noting that he had previously understood the space would remain available following the City's assumption of control of the property. He requested clarification regarding the City's plans for the building.

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Amanda Nagim-Williams explained that three groups had previously utilized the Ralph and Jenny Center for meetings, two of which have since been relocated to alternative spaces. She stated that the City has prioritized securing a suitable meeting location for the remaining group.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

- 4.8. Resolution
(ID # [26-1467](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Hardt and Councilor Link
That the Director of Planning submit a plain-language explanation and fact sheet for each proposed zoning amendment, to be attached directly to the corresponding zoning amendment item.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 4.9. Resolution
(ID # [26-1493](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Davis
Recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and the contributions of Somerville's Hispanic, Latin American, and Caribbean communities.

Discussed with items #26-1481, #26-1482, #26-1483, #26-1471.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 4.10. Resolution
(ID # [26-1468](#))

By Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works repair all broken and inoperable plumbing, appliances and privacy treatments of the Winter Hill Innovation School bathrooms and provide regular work timelines in writing, detailing when work will be initiated to when work is anticipated to be fully completed.

Discussed with item #26-1469.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee

- 4.11. Resolution
(ID # [26-1469](#))

By Councilor Strezo
That the Commissioner of Public Works immediately repair the urinal fixture, otherwise known as 'The Blaster', at the Winter Hill Innovation School and present written updated work timelines on a regular basis until the urinal fixture is entirely repaired.

Discussed with item #26-1468.

Councilor Strezo read a letter from a fourth-grade student outlining several longstanding restroom maintenance issues that have reportedly remained unresolved for years.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee

4.12. Resolution
(ID # [26-1473](#))

By Councilor Wheeler, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Link
That the Director of Inspectional Services Division simplify and clarify the permitting process for small-scale residential repairs and alterations that do not change a building's structure or use.

Councilor Wheeler expressed concerns regarding the complexity of the City's permitting process, particularly the requirement to obtain permits for minor home repairs. He noted that the Inspectional Services Department will review the existing process and explore the possibility of developing a simplified application, similar to the short-form permit application used by the City of Boston.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

4.13. Resolution
(ID # [26-1494](#))

By Councilor Hardt, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wheeler
Urging Governor Healey to end the Massachusetts Department of Correction's 287(g) Agreement.

Councilor Hardt expressed concern regarding the number of detentions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), stating that detentions have reached an all-time high this year. She provided an overview of the federal 287(g) program, which allows participating state and local law enforcement agencies to collaborate with ICE on immigration enforcement, including the transfer of certain incarcerated individuals to federal immigration custody upon completion of their sentences.

Councilor Hardt sponsored Somerville resident and attorney Kristen Laselle to speak on the item. Ms. Laselle expressed concerns that ICE exploits 287(g) agreements in ways that create risks for local communities.

Councilor Wheeler discussed the potential benefits of the PROTECT Act and acknowledged ongoing discussions regarding 287(g) agreements. He noted differing perspectives among those involved in these discussions, with some advocating for the termination of such agreements and others expressing concern that ending them could result in more adverse consequences.

RESULT: APPROVED4.14. Resolution
(ID # [26-1496](#))

By Councilor Hardt, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wheeler Expressing deep appreciation to the Somerville firefighters, firefighters from neighboring communities, and all first responders for ensuring the safe evacuation of every resident from the Teele Square fire and for successfully containing the fire to one side of the building.

Councilor Hardt addressed the recent fire in Teele Square and commended the Fire Department and first responders for their efforts in containing the fire and safely evacuating all occupants from the building. She also reported that three businesses affected by the fire have since resumed operations.

RESULT: APPROVED4.15. Resolution
(ID # [26-1495](#))

By Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Hardt, Councilor Link, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wheeler In support of Head Start and Early Head Start and the vital role their programs play in the City of Somerville.

Councilor Ewen-Campen briefly highlighted the work and importance of the Head Start program and sponsored David Gibbs, Executive Director of Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS), to address the Council. Mr. Gibbs discussed federal actions aimed at reducing or eliminating funding for the Head Start program.

RESULT: APPROVED4.16. Communication
(ID # [26-1454](#))

By Councilor Davis
In his capacity as President, conveying this Council's updated Standing Committee assignments and Commission appointments for 2026.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE**6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on October 6, 2026.
(ID # [26-1507](#))

Councilor Wheeler presented the committee report, noting that the committee recommended approval of a prior-year invoice payment, two

funding transfers, three grants, a time-only contract extension, and authorization to borrow funds for the purchase of two fire trucks.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.A.2. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1340](#))

Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$169,000 grant with no new match required, from Urban Areas Security Initiative to the Department of Public Works for equipment to strengthen school security systems.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.A.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1391](#))

Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension until 2/15/2027 for Utile Inc to complete any outstanding task related to our up zoning and five year zoning review efforts.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.A.4. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1392](#))

Requesting the transfer of \$22,596.24 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Historic Preservation Debt Service account to the CPA Historic Preservation Reserve.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.A.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1393](#))

Requesting the transfer of \$153,987 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Community Housing Debt Service account to the CPA Community Housing Reserve.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.A.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1396](#))

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$10,224.39 using available funds in the Office of Housing Stability Ordinary Maintenance Account for legal services.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.A.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1397](#))

Requesting authorization to borrow \$2,082,498 in a bond, and to appropriate \$2,082,498 for the purchases of an Aerial Ladder Truck and a Rescue Truck for the Fire Department.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

ABSENT: Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- 6.A.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1412](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$57,925 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Department of Mental Health to the Police Department to fund the operation of the jail/arrest diversion program for Fiscal Year 2027.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 6.A.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1413](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$297,679 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Department of Mental Health to the Police Department for operational funding for the Metro Boston Crisis Intervention Training and Technical Assistance Center.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

6.B. HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EQUITY COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [26-1502](#)) Report of the Committee on Housing, Community Development and Equity, meeting on September 30, 2026.

Councilor Strezo presented the committee report, highlighting discussions regarding the availability of community meeting spaces, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator position, concerns related to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities' access to information, and potential meeting space at St. James Church. She also reported that the committee approved the Urban Development One-Year Action Plan.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 6.B.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0688](#)) Requesting approval of the 2026-2027 Housing and Urban Development One Year Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grant programs.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

- 6.B.3. Resolution (ID # [26-0821](#)) By Councilor Mbah and Councilor Hardt That the Administration, the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, the Director of Health and Human Services, and the Director of the Office of Housing Stability, engage with leadership of Saint James Church to explore opportunities for partnership between the city and the church to activate underutilized space for community-serving purposes.

RESULT: **WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.B.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0870](#)) Requesting approval of the 2026-2027 Housing and Urban Development One Year Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.C. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report (ID # [26-1504](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on October 1, 2026.

Councilor Ewen-Campen presented the committee report, noting that the committee met in joint session with the Planning Board and conducted five public hearings. He reported that much of the public interest and participation centered on the proposed regulations for backyard cottages. He further explained that, under state law, the City cannot impose restrictions on backyard cottages that are more stringent than those applicable to the primary structure on the property.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [26-1503](#)) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting on September 30, 2026.

Councilor McLaughlin presented the committee report, noting that the committee discussed the potential purchase of trash barrels equipped with latches. He also reported that a scheduled discussion regarding the warming center was postponed due to City staff responding to the fire in Teele Square.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.D.2. Resolution (ID # [26-0708](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Wheeler and Councilor Hardt That the Commissioner of Public Works invest in trash barrels with latches to address rodent issues.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.D.3. Public Communication (ID # [26-0914](#)) Christopher Rosol submitting comments re: off leash dogs.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.E. SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.E.1. Committee Report (ID # [26-1506](#)) Report of the School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee, meeting on October 6, 2026.

Councilor Link presented the committee report, highlighting discussions regarding snow removal procedures at schools, temperature control concerns at the Kennedy School, changes at the Argenziano School, and issues involving exterior tiles at the high school. The committee also received an update on the progress of the new Winter Hill School project.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.E.2. Order (ID # [26-0710](#))

By Councilor Davis

That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management update this Council and the School Committee about safety improvements to security cameras, enclosed schoolyard fencing, balconies, and other infrastructure at the Argenziano School.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.E.3. Order (ID # [26-0841](#))

By Councilor Link and Councilor McLaughlin

That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on the improvements made to the temperature in the Edgerly Education Center Cafetorium and kitchen following the installation of the air conditioning unit.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.E.4. Resolution (ID # [26-0842](#))

By Councilor Link and Councilor Sait

That the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry consider snow clearing requirements to maintain inclusive winter use when selecting turf materials for the new Kennedy School inclusive playground.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.F. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

- 6.F.1. Committee Report (ID # [26-1505](#)) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on October 5, 2026.

Councilor Sait reported that the committee discussed the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) network redesign, NO TURN ON RED at certain intersections, safety improvements at various intersections, traffic calming measures in Prospect Hill, and community path safety. The committee also received an update on the Lowell and School Street crosswalks.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.F.2. Order
(ID # [26-0137](#))
- By Councilor Sait
That the Director of Engineering provide an update on the construction of the Lowell Street and School Street crosswalks facing the Green Line stations.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 6.F.3. Resolution
(ID # [26-0138](#))
- By Councilor Sait
That the Director of Mobility add additional signage helping users of the Community Path get through Maxwell's Green to the Community Path and add clear signage directing users to the ramp and stairs on Lowell Street.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 6.F.4. Resolution
(ID # [26-1112](#))
- By Councilor Link, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Mbah
Calling for traffic calming measures in the Prospect Hill neighborhood.

RESULT: **WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.F.5. Public
Communication
(ID # [26-1183](#))
- Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee submitting comments re: bus network redesign.

RESULT: **WORK COMPLETED**

- 6.F.6. Resolution
(ID # [26-1426](#))
- By Councilor Sait
That the Director of Mobility take the steps necessary to make the intersection of Vernon Street and Partridge Avenue safer.

RESULT: **WORK COMPLETED**

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1487](#))
- Requesting authorization to borrow \$3,143,557 in a bond, and to appropriate the same amount for additional costs of design, construction, and equipping of the Poplar Street Pump Station.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading and refer this item to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

-
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1489](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$384,000 from the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund to the Police Department - Other Lump Sum Payment Account to fund a collective bargaining agreement with the Somerville Police Superior Officers Association.
- Chief Administrative Officer Kim Wells explained that the funds would be used to cover retroactive financial obligations associated with the collective bargaining agreement.
- Councilor Link questioned why stabilization funds were being utilized rather than funding from two recently approved Police Department grants. Ms. Wells clarified that stabilization funds consist of resources from prior fiscal years and may be used to address obligations incurred during those periods, whereas newly allocated funding is intended to support expenses in the current and future fiscal years.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED**
- AYE:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1463](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$107,636 from the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund to the Department of Public Works School Custodians Other Lump-Sum Benefits Account to fund a collective bargaining agreement with the Service Employees International Union Chapter 3 - School Custodians.
- Discussed with item #26-1464.
- Chief Administrative Officer Kim Wells explained that the funds will be used to satisfy retroactive components of the collective bargaining agreement.
- RESULT:** **APPROVED**
- AYE:** Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1486](#)) Requesting authorization to reduce the borrowing appropriation of \$89,332,819 for the Poplar Street Project by \$2,097,667.05.
-

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading and refer this item to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.5. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1488](#))

Requesting the appropriation of \$308,504 from the Salary Contingency account to various departmental Personal Services accounts to fund a collective bargaining agreement with the Somerville Municipal Employees Union, Unit A.

Chief Administrative Officer Kim Wells explained that the funds will be used as stated above.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.6. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1472](#))

Requesting approval to appropriate \$100,000 from the Racial and Social Justice Fund to implement the 2026 Community Grant Cycle.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading and refer this item to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.7. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1464](#))

Requesting the appropriation of \$59,307 from the Salary Contingency Salaries account to various Department of Public Works School Custodians Personal Services Account to fund a collective bargaining agreement with the Service Employees International Union Chapter 3 - School Custodians.

Discussed with item #26-1463.

RESULT: APPROVED

7.8. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1414](#))

Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$35,000 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Department of Mental Health to the Police Department for overtime/backfill to support officers and supervisors in obtaining/maintaining Crisis Intervention Team Training certification.

Councilor Wheeler moved to waive the reading and refer this item to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1465](#))

Requesting approval to enter into a lease agreement with the Center for the Arts at the Armory to provide commercial arts space at the Somerville Armory Building, 191 Highland Avenue.

Property and Tenant Relations Manager Josh McCorkle spoke on the item and asked for approval this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

- 7.10. Mayor's
Communication
(ID # [26-1471](#))

Proclaiming that September 15 through October 15, 2026 to be Latin American Caribbean Heritage Month.

Discussed with items #26-1481, #26-1482, #26-1483, #26-1493.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

- 7.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # [26-1455](#))

Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Christopher Gaeta to the Board of Assessors.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

- 8.1. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [26-1485](#))

City Clerk submitting an amendment to Chapter 1 of the Code of Ordinances to add a periodic review of the Code of Ordinances, pursuant to the requirements of the City Charter.

Legislative and Policy Analyst Brendan Salisbury explained that this ordinance is required in order to review the Code of Ordinances.

RESULT: **ORDINANCE ORDAINED**

AYE: Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Link, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Wheeler, Ward Seven City Councilor Hardt, Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, City Councilor At Large Mbah, and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

- 8.2. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [26-1484](#))

City Council Legislative and Policy Analyst conveying information on the upcoming periodic review of the Code of Ordinances.

Legislative and Policy Analyst Brendan Salisbury presented an overview of

the City's planned 2027 recodification of the Code of Ordinances, which has not undergone a comprehensive revision since 1963. He explained that the initiative aims to modernize and reorganize the Code by removing outdated provisions, standardizing legislative language, improving its overall structure, and identifying ordinances requiring substantive updates. Proposed recommendations will be submitted to the City Council for consideration, with public hearings and deliberations to take place prior to the adoption of any final changes.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

- 8.3. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [26-1470](#))

Commissioner of Elections conveying the Municipal Special Election Calendar for 2026-2027.

Elections Director Nicholas Salerno explained that due to the requirements of the city charter and state statute, the earliest preliminary election date would be Tuesday, February 2, 2027, and the earliest final election date would be Wednesday, March 24, 2027.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

- 8.4. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [26-1453](#))

Fair Housing Commission conveying the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report pursuant to Section 17-7 of the Code of Ordinances.

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

FOLLOWUP: Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee

- 8.5. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [26-1466](#))

City Clerk conveying Block Party Licenses issued.

RESULT: **PLACED ON FILE**

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License
(ID # [26-1460](#))

New Drainlayer's License, New England Construction Managers.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.3 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 9.2. License
(ID # [26-1461](#))

New Sign/Awning License, Assembly Connect, 355 Artisan Way, 8 Signs.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.3 and

approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

9.3. Public Event
(ID # [26-1462](#))

Mayor's Office applying for a Public Event License for All City Fall Clean Up 2026 on November 7 from 9am to 1pm.

Councilor Hardt moved to waive the reading of items 9.1 through 9.3 and approve them this evening.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

9.4. Public
Communication
(ID # [26-1480](#))

Boynton Yards LandCo LLC and Windsor Place Owner LLC requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend section 8.4.12.e.ii.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

9.5. Public
Communication
(ID # [26-1478](#))

Barbara Phillips submitting comments re: Warming Center.

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

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

9.6. Public
Communication
(ID # [26-1479](#))

Digital Fourth submitting comments re: body-worn cameras.

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

FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

10.1. Public Event
(ID # [26-1521](#))

Wilks Productions Consultancy applying for a Public Event License for Gurk McGurk Back To School Cops and Cars Car Show on October 18 from 9:30am to 2:30pm (raindate October 25).

RESULT: **APPROVED**

10.2. Public Event
(ID # [26-1513](#))

Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for Somerstreets: Monster Mash on October 18 from 10am to 7pm (raindate October 25).

RESULT: **APPROVED**

-
- 10.3. Public Communication (ID # [26-1508](#)) Commission for Persons with Disabilities submitting comments re: item #26-0825, that the Administration submit a written report to this Council regarding the timeline and process for staffing the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator role and update this Council on the plan to process ADA complaints and accessibility coordination when this position is vacant.
- RESULT:** **PLACED ON FILE**
- 10.4. Public Communication (ID # [26-1509](#)) 36 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.12 Backyard Cottage.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the reading of items 10.4 through 10.7 and refer them to the Land Use Committee with a copy to the Planning Board.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
- 10.5. Public Communication (ID # [26-1510](#)) 36 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.12 Backyard Cottage.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the reading of items 10.4 through 10.7 and refer them to the Land Use Committee with a copy to the Planning Board.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
- 10.6. Public Communication (ID # [26-1511](#)) 36 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Zoning Ordinance Section 15.7.2.d Zoning Board of Appeals Board Rules.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the reading of items 10.4 through 10.7 and refer them to the Land Use Committee with a copy to the Planning Board.
- RESULT:** **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
- 10.7. Public Communication (ID # [26-1512](#)) 36 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Zoning Ordinance Section 12.1.2 regarding affordable dwelling units.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to waive the reading of items 10.4 through 10.7 and refer them to the Land Use Committee with a copy to the Planning Board.
-

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 10:28 PM