

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
Matters of Business of the City Council

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

March 26, 2020, 7:00 PM
Meeting by Remote Participation

NOTICE

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this meeting of the City Council will be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audio-video 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 (SCAT).

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live:
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3327942827106064907>.

OPENING CEREMONIES

1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
(ID # 22824)

2. Remembrances Remembrances.
(ID # 22825)

3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting,
(ID # 22826) February 25, 2020.

CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

4. Resolution By City Councilor Mbah
(ID # 22804) That this Council urges Governor Baker to enact a single-payer health insurance system during this pandemic to reduce the bureaucracy for Covid-19 testing and treatment, and to make such testing and treatment free to those without health insurance.

5. Resolution By City Councilor Mbah
(ID # 22805) That, in the event of a shelter in place order, this Council urges Governor Baker to activate all means necessary to support residents, such as no rent payments, no evictions, no tickets, and no loan repayments, until the order is lifted.

6. Resolution (ID # 22806) By City Councilor Mbah
That this Council urges the President of the United States to take over certain factories to make masks and other equipment, such as ventilators, that are currently in limited supply.
7. Resolution (ID # 22807) By City Councilor Mbah
That the Mayor mandate that grocery stores allocate special hours for seniors and vulnerable populations during this pandemic and implement 6-foot social distancing guidelines.
8. Resolution (ID # 22808) By City Councilor Mbah
That the Administration update this Council on the City's disaster preparedness assessment for emergencies during this pandemic and how this reduces our first responders' workforce.
9. Resolution (ID # 22809) By City Councilor Mbah
That this Council supports Senator Ron Wyden's bill to delay Real ID for a year due to the coronavirus outbreak.
10. Resolution (ID # 22810) By City Councilor Mbah
That this Council calls on landlords and real estate agents to avoid showing occupied units to avoid the spread of coronavirus.
11. Resolution (ID # 22811) By City Councilor Mbah
That the Administration provide financial relief to small businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
12. Resolution (ID # 22812) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott
That this Council calls on the State and Federal government to enact a coronavirus relief response that is equitable in its approach to housing, work, financial assistance, voting rights, and incarcerated people.
13. Resolution (ID # 22813) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Administration create a task force to begin mid-to long-term logistical planning for a possible reduced workforce, in case this State of Emergency continues for an extended period.

- 14. Resolution (ID # 22814) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
That this Council collaborate with the Administration to create a one-page coronavirus information sheet that can be physically delivered to every resident and small business owner, containing public health information, emergency resources, and instructions on where to get more information.

- 15. Resolution (ID # 22815) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Administration coordinate with local charitable organizations to create a centralized fund to provide direct support to front line workers, residents, and local businesses most in need.

- 16. Order (ID # 22816) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Niedergang
That the Director SPCD consider temporarily "pedestrianizing" several streets across the City to allow people out for daily walks to more effectively maintain safe physical distances.

- 17. Resolution (ID # 22817) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
That the Administration work directly with private landlords to cease all activities that require landlords, inspectors, or assessors to enter apartments for the duration of the crisis, to cease any threat of eviction or utility shut offs, and to freeze rent payments.

- 18. Order (ID # 22818) By City Councilor Niedergang, Ewen-Campen
That the Director of SPCD, the Commissioner of Public Works, and the Director of Parks and Recreation consider turning some or all Neighborways into modified pedestrian-only areas (allowing cars only for residents and their essential visitors), to relieve the current congestion on the Community Path and some sidewalks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 19. Resolution 209284 By City Councilor Scott
Supporting House Resolution 702, The People's Justice Guarantee.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

20. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 22803) Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on March 25, 2020.

- B. Mayor's Request 209829 Requesting the transfer of \$60,000 within the Inspectional Services Department, from its Salaries Account to its Professional and Technical Services Account, to continue using contract health inspectors for required food service inspections.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- C. Mayor's Request 209831 Requesting acceptance of a \$250,000 annual payment from Wynn MA LLC in accordance with its Surrounding Community Agreement.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- D. Mayor's Request 209832 Requesting acceptance of a \$208,734 grant that requires a match, from MA DOT to SPCD's Mobility Division to expand the Blue Bike program.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- E. Mayor's Request 209833 Requesting acceptance of a \$59,151.53 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for the purchase of a security camera system to enhance physical security at Police Headquarters.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- F. Mayor's Request 209834 Requesting approval to create the 259 McGrath Highway Stabilization Fund and accept a payment to the Fund of \$3,500 from Divine Signs for tree replacement and signage.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- G. Mayor's Request 209835 Requesting approval to create the 378 Highland Ave Stabilization Fund and accept a payment to the Fund of \$3,000 from C. Poutahidis for the establishment of a parklet.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- H. Mayor's Request 209836 Requesting approval to create the Small Business Assistance Stabilization Fund and accept a payment to the Fund of \$150,000 from Wynn MA LLC to develop initiatives so local businesses can take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Encore Casino.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- I. Mayor's Request 209837 Requesting approval to create the Water Transportation/Riverway Public Safety Stabilization Fund and accept a payment to the Fund of \$150,000 from Wynn MA LLC for the purpose of funding improvements to facilitate water transportation.
RECOMMENDED: Approved
- J. Mayor's Request 209918 Requesting a transfer of \$155,000 from the Public Schools Ordinary Maintenance Account to the city's Information Technology Ordinary Maintenance Account.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

21. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 22802) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on March 24, 2020.

- B. Communication 209635 By City Councilor Davis Conveying a request from the Cambridge Health Alliance to appear before the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety to discuss the Healthy Somerville Initiatives and the conversion of the Somerville Hospital's emergency room to urgent care. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- C. Resolution 209807 By City Councilor Mbah That the Administration mandate that all public gathering places, including institutions, have hand sanitizers available at entrances to limit the spread of coronavirus. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- D. Communication 209921 By City Councilor Hirsch Submitting a compilation of residents' questions regarding coronavirus. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 22. Mayor's Request (ID # 22779) Requesting acceptance of a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from the MA Dept of Health to the Health and Human Services Department for COVID-19 public health emergency responses.

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

NEW BUSINESS

- 23. License/Permit (ID # 22784) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Barletta Heavy Division.

- 24. License/Permit (ID # 22790) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Suffolk Engineering.

- 25. License/Permit (ID # 22791) Renewing Drainlayer's License, CM Conway Construction.

- 26. License/Permit (ID # 22792) Renewing Drainlayer's License, GLX Constructors.

- 27. License/Permit (ID # 22819) Renewing Drainlayer's License, EB Rotondi and Sons.

28. License/Permit (ID # 22820) Renewing Drainlayer's License, McGue Excavating.
29. License/Permit (ID # 22822) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Galway Excavation.
30. License/Permit (ID # 22786) Renewing Flammables License, Dewire Family Trust, 387 Washington St.
31. License/Permit (ID # 22785) Renewing Flammables License, BBS Services, 45 Broadway.
32. License/Permit (ID # 22821) Renewing Flammables License, DW Propco JK LLC, 0 Dawes Street.
33. License/Permit (ID # 22781) Renewing Garage License, Broadway Brake, 45 Broadway.
34. License/Permit (ID # 22782) Renewing Garage License, Drain Doctor, 612 Broadway.
35. License/Permit (ID # 22783) Renewing Garage License, DW Propco JK LLC, 0 Dawes Street.
36. License/Permit (ID # 22795) Renewing Garage License, Dewire Family Trust, 387 Washington St.
37. License/Permit (ID # 22796) Renewing Garage License, Dewire Family Trust, 381 Washington St.
38. License/Permit (ID # 22797) Renewing Garage License, Dewire Family Trust, 141 Beacon St.
39. License/Permit (ID # 22798) Renewing Garage License, Dino's Auto Center, 308 McGrath.
40. License/Permit (ID # 22799) Renewing Garage License, William Doucette Auto Sales, 325 Alewife Brook Pkwy.
41. License/Permit (ID # 22800) Renewing Garage License, Brazil Auto Repair, 621 Somerville Ave.
42. License/Permit (ID # 22801) Renewing Garage License, FW Russell and Sons Disposal, 120 McGrath Hwy.
43. License/Permit (ID # 22793) Renewing Outdoor Parking License, Pat's Towing, 160 McGrath Hwy.

- 44. License/Permit (ID # 22794) Renewing Outdoor Parking License, FW Russell and Sons Disposal, 120 McGrath Hwy.
- 45. License/Permit (ID # 22788) Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, Oath Craft Pizza, 278 Elm Street.
- 46. License/Permit (ID # 22789) Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, Mr. B's, 142 Cross St.
- 47. License/Permit (ID # 22780) Renewing Mobile Food Vendor License, Wizard Catering.
- 48. License/Permit (ID # 22787) New Extended Hours License, Dunkin Donuts, 282 Somerville Avenue, for 24/7 operation for in-store and take-out service only.
- 49. Public Communication (ID # 22827) Tufts University submitting its Spring 2020 University Accountability report.
- 50. Public Communication (ID # 22828) Harvard University submitting its Spring 2020 University Accountability report.

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 51. Order (ID # 22830) By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Director of SPCD discuss highlighting equity for seniors in SomerVision 2040 in the areas discussed in the attached document.
- 52. Resolution (ID # 22831) By City Councilor Hirsch
That the Administration update this Council on planning underway to provide housing for people who are likely to be exposed to the Covid-19 virus and need isolation, or are recovering from the virus and don't need a hospital setting.
- 53. Resolution (ID # 22832) By City Councilor Hirsch
That the Administration update this Council on contingency staffing plans in case a large number of front-line employees are unable to work due to illness or self-isolation.

54. Resolution (ID # 22833) By City Councilor Hirsch
That the Administration update this Council on any efforts to ensure that city trash and recycling contractors are protected from coronavirus exposure and supported if exposed.
55. Mayor's Request (ID # 22829) Requesting the acceptance of the First Amendment to the Sanitary Sewer Easement Agreement with the City of Cambridge for work in Medford Street.
56. Mayor's Request (ID # 22823) Requesting acceptance of a second \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Health to the Health and Human Services Department for COVID 19 expenses.
57. License/Permit (ID # 22834) Small Wireless Facility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell equipment on an existing pole at 44 Crescent Street.
58. License/Permit (ID # 22835) Small Wireless Facility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell equipment on an existing pole at 61 Concord Avenue.
59. License/Permit (ID # 22836) Small Wireless Facility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell equipment on an existing pole at 17 Otis Street.
60. License/Permit (ID # 22837) Small Wireless Facility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell equipment on an existing pole at 12 Dartmouth Street.
61. License/Permit (ID # 22838) Small Wireless Facility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell equipment on an existing pole at 75 Heath Street.
62. License/Permit (ID # 22839) Small Wireless Facility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell equipment on an existing pole at 17 Aldrich Street.
63. License/Permit (ID # 22840) Small Wireless Facility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell equipment on an existing pole at 9 Austin Street.

LATE ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT