

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2020, 7:00 PM
 Meeting by Remote Participation

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.

OPENING CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Wilfred N. Mbah	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Kristen Strezo	City Councilor at Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One City Councilor	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two City Councilor	Present	
Ben Ewen-Campen	Ward Three City Councilor	Present	
Jesse Clingan	Ward Four City Councilor	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five City Councilor	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six City Councilor	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven City Councilor	Present	

1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
 210171
 (ID:23050) **RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**

2. Remembrances Remembrances.
 210172
 (ID:23051) Councilor Ballantyne sponsored a moment of silence for 25 residents who have died from COVID-19, and for George Floyd.
RESULT: APPROVED

3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 28, 2020.
 210173
 (ID:23052) **RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 4. Grant of Location 210174 (ID:23046)

Submitted by Eversource to install 452 feet of conduit in Washington St from manhole 15059 at the intersection of Washington and Franklin Sts, to a point of pickup at 130 Washington St. (Interim approval granted.)

The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Jackie Duffy described the work to be completed. Councilor McLaughlin noted this project has been approved and is very important to the community. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until June 5, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP: City Council

- 5. Grant of Location 210175 (ID:23047)

Submitted by Eversource to install a total of 804 feet of conduit as follows: Starting from manhole 25391 at the intersection of Prospect St and Webster Ave and running 363 feet to manhole 4118 on Webster Ave, then 276 feet to a new manhole 30846 on Columbia St, and then another 165 feet to manhole 26723 on Windsor Pl.

The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Jackie Duffy described the work to be completed. Councilor Scott noted there will be an online neighborhood meeting on June 6, 2020 at 2 p.m. to review a master plan special permit and proposal from the developer. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until June 5, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP: City Council

- 6. Grant of Location 210176 (ID:23048)

Submitted by Eversource to install a total of 207 feet of conduit in Earle St, with 69 feet running from manhole 26730 in Earle St to a point of pickup at the rear of 153 South St, and 138 feet running from that same manhole to a point of pickup at the intersection of Earle St and Windsor Pl.

The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Jackie Duffy described the work to be completed. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until June 5, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP: City Council

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7. Grant of Location 210177 (ID:23027) Submitted by Eversource to install 70 feet of conduit in Irving St, from pole 178/8 to a point of pickup at 39 Irving St.
- The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Jackie Duffy described the work to be completed. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until June 5, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.
- RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE**
FOLLOWUP: City Council
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8. Grant of Location 210178 (ID:23026) Submitted by Eversource to install 25 feet of conduit in Broadway, from Manhole 12854 to a point of pickup at 112 Broadway.
- The President opened the public hearing. Eversource representative Jackie Duffy described the work to be completed. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until June 5, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.
- RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE**
FOLLOWUP: City Council
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9. Grant of Location 210179 (ID:23028) Submitted by Level 3 Communications to install 22 feet of conduit in Holland St from existing Level 3 manhole #0515-3107 to a new handhole, then continuing another 43 feet from that handhole to existing manhole #8247 near 37 Holland St.
- Councilor White recused.
- The President opened the public hearing. Axis Engineering representative Shelly Cullen described the work to be completed. Councilor Davis asked how it relates to the 403 Highland Avenue petition and how it will take place. Mr. Cullen responded there are 8 electric manholes between this petition and the 403 Highland Avenue petition. Level 3 Communications will be leasing the conduit and connecting their network to the two locations. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until June 5, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.
- RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE**
FOLLOWUP: City Council
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10. Grant of Location 210180 (ID:23029) Submitted by Level 3 Communications to install 15 feet of conduit in Highland Ave from manhole #8237 to a new handhole, then another 5 feet of conduit from that handhole to a point of pickup at 403 Highland Ave.
- Councilor White recused.
- The President opened the public hearing. For discussion of this item, see #210179. With no other speakers, the President kept the public hearing open until June 5, 2020, so anyone who could not connect remotely would have an opportunity to testify.
- RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE**
FOLLOWUP: City Council
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ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

11. Resolution 210181 (ID:23035) By City Councilor Mbah, White Jr., Clingan, Ballantyne, Rossetti, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Strezo, Davis, Niedergang, McLaughlin Supporting a National Day of Mourning and Prayer on Flag Day, June 14.

Councilor Mbah discussed the violence this country is experiencing and requested the Council support a National Day of Mourning & Prayer on June 14, 2020. Councilor White recommended the public read a Boston Globe editorial on the need for such a day.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

12. Resolution 210182 (ID:23032) By City Councilor Strezo That the Postmaster provide any contingency plans to be implemented in the event of a forced shut-down or suspension of service due to a lack of funding or the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilor Strezo reported that seniors in the community are concerned about the lack of funding for the US Post Office and would like to know of any plan if funding is lost.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

13. Communication 210183 (ID:23033) By City Councilor Strezo Reporting on the Affordable Housing Trust meeting of May 14, 2020.

Councilor Strezo provided the Council with a summary of commitments from January to April 2020. She directed viewers to #210217, which has funding details. Rental assistance programs at the Homeless Coalition, the Community Action Agency of Somerville, and the Just A Start Corporation have seen an increase in applications. The Office of Housing Stability is overwhelmed by the number of people seeking assistance. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it very difficult for applicants, but once they're approved, they will receive a \$3,000 grant to help pay their rent. The data shows increasing need.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

14. Communication By City Councilor Rossetti
210184 Reporting on the High School Building Committee meeting of May 18, 2020.
(ID:23036)

Councilor Rossetti noted about \$1 Million remains for the project. COVID-19 expenses (\$193,000) will be reimbursed by the CARES Act. On May 18, 2020, the project re-opened, and 210 laborers are working onsite, working different shifts and practicing social distancing. The date of occupancy is undetermined. The High School Building Committee is formalizing a plan for school education in the Fall, and the next meeting is June 15, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

15. Ordinance By City Councilor Niedergang
210185 Proposing an amendment to the zoning map to change 56 Murdock Street from
(ID:23037) the Neighborhood Residence to the Urban Residence district.

Also referred to the Planning Board.
Councilor Niedergang noted this lot is uniquely shaped next to UR Properties. The owner would like to add the affordable unit that is required under the new zoning and redevelop the property for his family to remain living on the residence.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

16. Resolution 210186 (ID:23038) By City Councilor Niedergang, Davis, Rossetti, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr. That the Director of Inspectional Services, the City Solicitor, and the Mayor appear before this Council to explain why a development at 21 Cherry Street was deemed essential and granted a temporary Certificate of Occupancy despite a history of building code violations and physical violations of the Special Permit granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Councilor Rossetti discussed the problems with the residential project at 21 Cherry Street and how they were allowed to work during COVID-19 despite multiple documented violations of the building code. Neighbors disagreed with the project being granted a temporary Certificate of Occupancy despite a history of building code violations and physical violations of the ZBA Special Permit. She said the garage on the lot is not being built to the approved plan, and many other conditions have been violated. She suggested the Council review the Inspectional Services Department's operations. Councilor Davis agreed. This problem occurs frequently in the City and the City's rules are being ignored. 21 Cherry Street should never have been deemed essential, and the developer should reconstruct the project to conform with what the ZBA approved. Councilor Niedergang also agreed that this problem occurs frequently. The Administration, Inspectional Services Department, and Law Office need to respond to the public and resolve this issue immediately. He requested a public hearing for residents to share their feedback on the lack of enforcement in the community. Councilor White discussed many problems with Inspectional Services and said inspectors need to make sure developer are in compliance with all conditions. He said the Council should review all of the inspection reports to verify compliance. Councilor Clingan said the Public Utilities and Public Works Committee would conduct a public hearing.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

17. Resolution 210187 (ID:23039) By City Councilor Niedergang, Davis, Rossetti, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr. That the Administration explain in writing to this Council, upon granting a permanent Certificate of Occupancy or extending a temporary Certificate of Occupancy to the 21 Cherry Street development, why het COO was granted given the many built violations of the Special Permit granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

For discussion of this item see #210186.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]

AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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| 18. | Resolution
209284
(ID:22154) | By City Councilor Scott
Supporting House Resolution 702, The People's Justice Guarantee. | <p>RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE</p> <p>FOLLOWUP: City Council</p> |
| 19. | Grant of
Location
209997
(ID:22863) | Submitted by Eversource to install 70 feet of conduit in Broadway from manhole #2572 to a new handhole in front of Trum Field. | <p>Councilor White requested to waive the readings of items 19 to 24 and approve them. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.</p> <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| 20. | Grant of
Location
209998
(ID:22864) | Submitted by Eversource to install 80 feet of conduit in Broadway from manhole #2569 to a new handhole at the intersection of Broadway and Dexter Street. | <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| 21. | Grant of
Location
210130
(ID:22998) | Submitted by Eversource to install 25 feet of conduit in Smith Avenue from pole 525/1 to a point of pickup at 5 Smith Avenue. | <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| 22. | Grant of
Location
210131
(ID:22999) | Submitted by Eversource to install 46 feet of conduit in Prospect Street from pole 291/15 to a point of pickup at 109 Prospect Street. | <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| 23. | Grant of
Location
210132
(ID:23000) | Submitted by Verizon to install 130 feet of conduit in Broadway from existing manhole 333 to a new handhole at the intersection of Broadway and Boston Avenue. | <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott,
Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |

24.	Grant of Location 210133 (ID:23001)	Submitted by Verizon to install 291 feet of conduit in South Street and Earle Street, from existing manhole 464 to a new manhole 44/464A, then to a point of pickup at the rear of 111 South Street.
		RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

25. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A.	Committee Report 210188 (ID:23041)	Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on May 18, 2020.
		<p>Councilor Scott noted the Committee discussed several routine items. City staff distributed a detailed budget report of funds spent on COVID-19, which will be reimbursed by the CARES Act. The City will seek other ways to pay expenses that did not qualify for the CARES Act. Finances for FY20 look good. The Administration has not submitted the FY21 budget yet. It is projected to be received the second week of June, and the Committee will then issue a schedule with a public hearing. The Committee will continue conservative budget practices, and the Council might be asked to vote to approve salary, services and jobs cuts.</p> RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

26. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A.	Committee Report 210189 (ID:23045)	Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on May 26, 2020.
		RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
B.	Mayor's Request 210143 (ID:22944)	Requesting approval to appropriate \$76,000 from the Wynn/Encore Small business Assistance Stabilization fund to pay for technical assistance for small businesses impacted by COVID-19.
		RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
C.	Mayor's Request 210144 (ID:22399)	Requesting approval to create the Alpine Street Stabilization fund and accept a payment to the Fund of \$10,000 from 2-13 Alpine St. LLC for Open Space improvements.
		RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS] AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

D.	Mayor's Request 210168 (ID:22891)	Requesting acceptance of a \$325,000 grant with no new match required, from the MBTA for public safety emergency first responder costs.
		<p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p>

27. LAND USE COMMITTEE

A.	Committee Report 210190 (ID:23042)	Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting on May 19, 2020.
		<p>Councilor Ewen-Campen noted the Committee held a public hearing for several zoning map changes requested by property owners. One of the changes was withdrawn, and two were recommended for approval. The Committee received several requests for the Union Square area, which is undergoing a proposed overlay district and needs to be addressed with the neighborhood strategic planning process. Councilor Scott discussed how Union Square end cap properties were up-zoned to three stories. Providing a master plan for this region will enable the end caps to a moderate build and increase green space, affordable housing, density and revenue for businesses.</p> <p>RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis</p> <p>ABSENT: Ballantyne</p>

B.	Public Communication 209734 (ID:22577)	62 College Ave Trust LLC proposing a zoning amendment to re-zone their property at 60-62 College Ave to UR.
		<p>RESULT: ORDINANCE ORDAINED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p>

C.	Public Communication 209777 (ID:22623)	Nikhilesh Gorukanti proposing a zoning amendment to re-zone their property at 365-369 Somerville Ave to remove the Pedestrian Street designation.
		<p>RESULT: WITHDRAWN. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis</p> <p>ABSENT: Ballantyne</p>

D.	Ordinance 210169 (ID:23024)	By City Councilor McLaughlin Proposing an amendment to the Zoning Map, to rezone 31 Tufts Street to the Urban Residence District.
		<p>RESULT: ORDINANCE ORDAINED. [UNANIMOUS]</p> <p>AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p>

28. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210191 (ID:23043) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on May 21, 2020.

Councilor Davis noted the Committee discussed capping fees charged by third-party restaurant delivery services, and is working with the Statehouse on a cap. The Committee also discussed two proposed amendments for the Adult-Use Marijuana Ordinance and an ordinance to recognize domestic partnerships. The Committee considered an ordinance to mitigate pollution for new housing built along high-transit roadways, but the Law Office said the Council doesn't have authority in this area, and it should be referred to the Board of Health. The Committee is reviewing the Community Benefits Ordinance and seeks public feedback. The Administration is collecting information for the Surveillance Technology Ordinance and will provide an update.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

29. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210192 (ID:23040) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting as s Committee of the Whole on May 18, 2020.

Councilor Davis noted the Committee meeting minutes contain an update from the Director of Public Health & Safety and a discussion of a reopening plan for the City. He said the Committee heard an update on the City Shared Streets Plan, which will be rolled out in stages. The Shared Curb Program will help expand sidewalks, which can be used as retail and restaurant space.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- B. Order 210125 (ID:22981) By City Councilor Ballantyne That the Superintendent of Schools update this Council on how the school year is faring, best practices, projected changes, any ways to help, etc.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

30. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report 210193 (ID:23044) Report of the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, meeting as s Committee of the Whole on May 26, 2020.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

- B. Order 210194 (ID:23068) By City Councilor Strezo That the Chief of Police provide weekly updates on mask citations issued and any non-compliance incidents.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

31. Ordinance 210195 (ID:23034) City Solicitor submitting an amendment to the Municipal Ordinances to provide for the appointment of the Clerk and Assistant Clerks of Committees by this Council.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

32. Officer's Communication 210196 (ID:23031) Assistant City Solicitor responding to #209663, requesting an ordinance requiring pollution mitigation for new housing built along high transit roadways.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

NEW BUSINESS

33. License/Permit 210197 (ID:23053) Renewing Flammables License, U-Haul, 600 Mystic Valley Pkwy.

Councilor White requested to waive the readings of items 33 to 40 and approve them. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.
RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

34. License/Permit 210198 (ID:23054) Renewing Flammables License, Mercedes Benz of Boston, 259 McGrath Hwy.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

35. License/Permit 210199 (ID:23055) Renewing Garage License, Goodyear Auto Service Center, 1 Bow St.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

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| 36. | License/Permit
210200
(ID:23056) | Renewing Garage License, Green Automotive, 600 Windsor Pl. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 37. | License/Permit
210201
(ID:23057) | Renewing Taxi Stand License, Green Cab and Yellow Cab Assn, 3 cabs at 295 Broadway, 3 cabs at 1 Davis Sq, 2 cabs at 22-26 Union Sq. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 38. | License/Permit
210202
(ID:23059) | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Country Club Transportation, Med #3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,46. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 39. | License/Permit
210203
(ID:23058) | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, God's Blessing Cab, Med #60. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 40. | License/Permit
210204
(ID:23049) | Small Wireless Facility License, Extenet Systems installing small wireless facilities on a replacement pole at the intersection of Broadway and Boston Avenue. | RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne |
| 41. | License/Permit
210205
(ID:23060) | Renewing Dog Kennel License, Elliots House Pet Care and More, 230 Somerville Avenue, to board 10 dogs overnight only. | Councilor White deferred to Councilor Scott, who noted this is the first overnight boarding license in the City. He requested time to investigate the licensee's planned repairs and enhancements.
RESULT: LAI D ON THE TABLE
FOLLOWUP: City Council |

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

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| 42. | Withdrawn
210206
(ID:23061) | Withdrawn. | RESULT: WITHDRAWN |
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43. Order 210207 (ID:23062) By City Councilor Clingan That the Director of SPCD and the Commissioner of Public Works work with MA DOT to install a temporary protected pedestrian lane on the Rt. 28/Fellsway Mystic River Bridge.

Councilor Clingan said that this bridge is very narrow for public biking and walking.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

44. Order 210208 (ID:23063) By City Councilor Clingan, Ballantyne That the Director of Parks and Recreation report to this Council’s Public Health and Public Safety Committee the plan to re-open the Dilboy Pool on July 1.

Councilor Clingan noted the public has great concerns about reopening the Dilboy Pool due to COVID-19 and would like to know the Parks and Recreation Department's plan.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

45. Order 210209 (ID:23064) By City Councilor Clingan, Ballantyne That the Director of Parks and Recreation report to this Council’s Public Health and Public Safety Committee with the plan for re-opening the department’s Summer Camp.

Councilor Clingan noted the public has great concerns about reopening summer camps due to COVID-19 and would like to know the Parks and Recreation Department's plan.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

46. Order 210210 (ID:23065) By City Councilor Clingan, Strezo, Ballantyne That the Chief of Police report to this Council’s Public Health and Public Safety Committee the protocols for domestic violence calls, such as asking the children if they are okay, making sure that victims have access to a phone, and obtaining that phone number.

Councilor Clingan requested the Police Department report the protocol for domestic violence calls to insure the public is protected.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

47. Order 210211 (ID:23066) By City Councilor Clingan, Scott
That the Director of Health and Human Services work with all community partners in contact with parents to make sure those parents identify someone to care for their children should they need to be hospitalized, and make that information is accessible, with contact information, in case it is needed.

Councilor Clingan noted he reached out to social workers to discuss having parents identify a person to care for their child should they become ill and need hospitalization. Currently the State struggles to find placements for children in this situation.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

48. Order 210212 (ID:23067) By City Councilor Clingan, Strezo
That the Director of Health and Human Services work with the appropriate state agencies to identify all state funded group and foster homes to ensure they have enough PPEs and to examine their plans to keep facilities clean.

Councilor Clingan said private entities are not meeting the State's cleaning standards, and suggested enforcing those standards to protect the public.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

49. Order 210213 (ID:23069) By City Councilor Strezo, Scott, Davis, Ewen-Campen, Clingan
That this Council discuss the need for Rent Control in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, as illustrated by dramatic rent increases displacing residents.

Councilor Strezo discussed the importance of rent control during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many residents are concerned with paying their rent should they become unemployed, and unemployment today is similar to the Great Depression. Rent control can help residents maintain housing. Councilor Scott noted the Eviction Moratorium does not fully protect tenants. The City has passed an endorsement for a rent freeze for individuals experiencing unemployment and hardship, and it's saddening to see landlords increasing rents during the crisis. Councilor Ewen-Campen discussed the Tenant Protection Act, which will allow municipalities to institute rent control, and said he supports rent control measures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

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| <p>50. Mayor's Request
210214
(ID:23071)</p> | <p>Requesting the appropriation of \$88,588 from the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund to the Fire Alarm Other Lump Sum Benefits Account to fund retroactive payments pursuant to the Agreement with the Firefighters Local 76, Fire Alarm Unit.</p> |
| <p>Councilor Scott noted this a settlement for back pay for a multiyear contract with the Fire Alarm Unit.
 RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> | |
| <p>51. Officer's Communication
210215
(ID:23070)</p> | <p>Planning Board conveying its recommendations re: #s 208951, 209034, 209419, 209734, 209735, and 210169, requesting map amendments.</p> <p>RESULT: PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| <p>52. Officer's Communication
210216
(ID:23072)</p> | <p>Director of Water and Sewer submitting proposed water and sewer volumetric rates for FY21.</p> <p>Councilor Scott noted this item was just submitted by the Administration. They had stated they would not be pursuing any rate increases this year, and he recommended that Councilors review the memo carefully. It proposes a 7.5% and 2.5% rate increase, and the Administration has scheduled a public hearing and he will be in attendance. Councilor Rossetti encouraged Councilors to send the memo to their constituents so the public can voice their opinions at the public hearing.
 RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
 FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee</p> |
| <p>53. Officer's Communication
210217
(ID:23073)</p> | <p>Housing Programs Coordinator reporting on the Affordable Housing Trust meeting of May 14, 2020.</p> <p>RESULT: PLACED ON FILE. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |
| <p>54. License/Permit
210218
(ID:23074)</p> | <p>Small Wireless Facility License, ExteNet Systems attaching small cell equipment on a new, updated pole replacing an existing pole at Trum Playground, 546 Broadway.</p> <p>Councilor White said this item had previously been submitted and there was a concern regarding the style of the pole. That issue has now been addressed and he supported approving this request. City Clerk John Long noted that the new design was reviewed by the City Engineer and Planning staff who said it is consistent with the existing poles.
 RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
 AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezio, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne</p> |

LATE ITEMS

55. Order 210219 (ID:23080) By City Councilor White Jr., Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah That the Director of Inspectional Services provide the Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works with the building jacket for the development project at 21 Cherry Street, prior to the Committee’s June meeting.

For discussion of this item see #210186.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

56. Order 210220 (ID:23076) By City Councilor Ballantyne, Strezo That the Director of Finance and the Budget Director provide funding equity for girls in the FY21 budget with respect to Parks and Recreation Department sports and activities as well as High School varsity sports and activities.

Councilor Ballantyne said the FY21 budget must provide gender equity in its appropriations. She said she wouldn't support any new budget that does not provide gender equitable appropriations among youth under 18 years of age, and Councilor Strezo concurred.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

57. Order 210221 (ID:23077) By City Councilor Ballantyne That the Director of Finance discuss providing small businesses the option to pay the Licensing Commission's annual license renewal fees in installments instead of all at once.

Councilor Ballantyne said this request is important to help the community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. She discussed the process for renewing licenses and said they are very expensive. She expressed concern that business owners could be unable to pay the fees and have to close their businesses. Councilor Clingan concurred and suggested creating an establishment plan for businesses.

RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Mbah, Rossetti, Strezo, White Jr., McLaughlin, Scott, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 9:35 PM.