



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • OCTOBER 7, 2019

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30 PM

Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as new members of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board, for a term of three years, effective October 7, 2019: Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril de Pagter, Mary Devlin, Jackie Jones and Daniel Stubbs
CMA 2019 #258
This matter was placed on file.
2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommendation not to adopt the City Council zoning petition to amend Article 19.000 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding utility and infrastructure impacts of large development projects that require a Project Review Special Permit.
CMA 2019 #259
This matter was approved and referred to the Ordinance Committee.
3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-101, regarding community outreach and participation of residents, especially lowincome households, in Cambridge Energy Alliance (CEA) programs and services.
CMA 2019 #260
This matter was placed on file.
4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-42, regarding sidewalk markings for mobility devices.
CMA 2019 #261
This matter was placed on file.
5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-46, regarding whether the MBTA is in compliance with the amended Settlement Agreement in the District of Massachusetts case Daniels-Finegold et al. v. Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2019

CMA 2019 #262

This matter was placed on file.

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the votes necessary to seek approval from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue of the tax rate for FY2020.

CMA 2019 #263

This matter set the residential tax rate as \$5.75 per thousand dollars of value and the commercial tax rate as \$12.68 per thousand dollars of value for FY2020. In order to decrease the tax burden on property owners and the increase in the budget to include various City Council priorities, the City Manager and his team have \$2.5 million in overlay surplus and \$14 million in Free Cash will be used to accommodate the lower property tax levy. Using Free Cash to offset tax burdens due to increasing property value assessments has been the City's practice since 2006. There was discussion of that practice, and how to address and improve that practice going forward by many Councillors, including myself, and the City Manger will convene a larger discussion in the months ahead. This will be the 15th year in a row that the majority of taxpayers (61%) will see a reduction, no increase or and increase of less than \$100 on their tax bills. 74% of all taxpayers will see an increase of less than \$250. Additionally, we voted to ensure there is a residential exemption of 30% for owner occupied homes. This matter was approved.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider a request from Peter C. Johnson for a street sign dedication to Asa Brebner for his contributions to the community of Cambridge musicians.

POR 2019 #308

This order was adopted.

2. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request from Vice Mayor Devereux for a street sign dedication near 360 Huron Avenue in honor of Fresh Pond Market and the Najarian family.

POR 2019 #309

This order was adopted.

3. That the City Manager is requested to work with the City Clerk's Office, the Public Information Office, and the Information Technology Department to identify a suitable location on the City website to house information regarding the Municipal Code and to track non-zoning legislation and amendments.

POR 2019 #310

This order that was suggested by Vice-Mayor Devereux asks the city to dedicate space on the city website for residents to more easily track municipal code and non-zoning legislation amendments to make it easier for the public to see what is being considered for amendment and where in the process the City is, to keep residents better informed of changes that may affect them. This order was adopted.

4. That the City Council requests that the City Manager to work with the appropriate City departments to determine if ISD can be given the authority to issue citations for smoking in nonsmoking buildings and to report back to the City Council

POR 2019 #311

This order was adopted.

5. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to address the previously requested investigation of the possibility of entering into an agreement with TransCanada to obtain up to 100% renewable power for all municipal electricity needs

POR 2019 #312

This order was adopted.

6. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the appropriate City departments to determine whether it would be possible to allow a permitted area for serving alcoholic beverages on Danehy Park property during special community-wide events

POR 2019 #313

Jazz Fest occurs at Danehy Park each year, and while it is a very well attended event, the organizers have asked that the City review it's policies around alcohol in the parks

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2019

for events. They cite that for the very popular street festivals, like Ribfest, there are Beer Gardens specifically permitted to enhance the public's ability to enjoy these events, and JazzFest would like the same consideration. Councillor Simmons was added as a co-sponsor, and this order was adopted as amended.

7. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate departments to ensure that the redesign of the Harvard Square plaza and its coming renovation be used as an opportunity to further improve the safety of all crossings in the surrounding area.

POR 2019 #314

This order was adopted.

8. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Department of Human Services and the Cambridge Public Library system to hire a social worker in the FY2021 budget for the Central Square Library branch.

POR 2019 #316

This policy order was submitted by me, with Councillor Siddiqui and Mayor McGovern. Libraries offer a wide variety of resources for a wide variety of people. The communities of people who frequent libraries can face significant challenges that librarians are not well-equipped to handle. This Policy Order asks the City Manager to work with the Library to hire a social worker, with the understanding that a social worker may be better equipped to assist vulnerable populations who use the library. This order was adopted.

9. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Peace Commission and Citizens' Commission on Civic Unity to ensure that the Meet Your Neighbor Day event is held at another time of year, in Spring or Summer, in order to eliminate any appearances of political conflict at Meet Your Neighbor Day events.

POR 2019 #317

This order was withdrawn.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to proposed amendments to the following ordinance: and proposed amendments to Chapter 14.04 of the Cambridge Municipal Code (the "Fair Housing Ordinance). Fair Housing (passed to a 2nd reading) **AWAITING HOME RULE LEGISLATION-BEFORE PROPOSAL CAN BE ORDAINED**

CMA 2018 #234

No action was taken.

11. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 18-108, regarding a report on offering early voting in City Council and School Committee Elections. **PENDING RESPONSE FROM LEGISLATURE**

CMA 2018 #286

No action was taken.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2019

12. A Zoning Petition has been received from Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc. et al proposing a Grand Junction Pathway Overlay District **ORDINATION COMES ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 7, 2019**

APP 2019 #75

Alexandria Real Estate has working with the Linden Park neighborhood to rezone the MetPipe location on Fulkerson and Binneys Streets in East Cambridge. As there major concerns regarding the Eversource location planned for Fulkerson Street, the City Council has asked that the development community, City leadership and Eversource find an alternate location for their new proposed substation. As these conversations have yet to find a suitable alternative, we were told that in 4-6 weeks we will have more information and perhaps a new location. In order to give that group more time to facilitate those conversations, Alexandria has asked the Council to take **NO ACTION**, and will refile the petition. This matter was placed on table.

13. Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day

POR 2019 #318

This matter was placed on file.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Amorino Gelato JFK, LLC, requesting permission for a sandwich A-Frame sign in front of the premises numbered 50 JFK Street between September 6, 2019 thru March 31, 2020 with a start time of 11:00am and end time of 12:00am.

APP 2019 #76

This application was denied.

2. An application was received from &Pizza, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign in front of the premises numbered 3 Brattle Street with a start date of December 1, 2019 thru March 31, 2020 and a start time of 11:00am and an end time of 11:00pm.

APP 2019 #77

As the paperwork was incorrectly submitted from the clerk's office, Mayor McGovern exercised his charter right, meaning the application will be on the agenda for the next City Council meeting.

3. An application was received from the Department of Community Development requesting permission for a temporary banner across JFK at Mount Auburn Streets announcing Cambridge Energy Alliance on October 8, 2019 through October 31, 2019.

APP 2019 #78

This application was accepted without discussion.

4. An application was received from MIT Visual Arts Center requesting permission for fifteen temporary banners on Ames Street, Memorial Drive to Main Street, announcing Alicja Kwade: In Between Glances on October 7, 2019 and removal date of January 31, 2019.

APP 2019 #79

This application was accepted without discussion.

5. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Suzanne P. Blier regarding Harvard Square Zoning Petition.

APP 2019 #80

This application was referred to the Ordinance Committee for Hearing and Report.

VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, the Harvard Square Business Association and the Harvard Square Neighborhood Association to determine the feasibility of closing some portion of Harvard Square to vehicular traffic on a select number of days during the summer of 2020 to have open market-style events.

Councillor Mallon, Vice Mayor Devereux, Councillor Siddiqui

POR 2019 #321

Based on the success of the Open Newbury days, as well as the need to create more traffic in Harvard Square to support our fragile retail environment, I submitted this order with Vice-Mayor Devereux and Councillor Siddiqui to investigate if an “Open Harvard Square” model could work in the Summer of 2020, and potentially be a pilot for having more pedestrian only days in Harvard Square. Harvard Square is closed off for several annual events, like Oktoberfest and the blueprint exists to do so, on days that a large scale event is not already happening. This order was adopted as amended, to add Councillor Zondervan as a co-sponsor.

2. Recognizing LGBTQ+ History Month

Mayor McGovern, Councillor Simmons

POR 2019 #322

This order was adopted on the consent agenda without discussion.

3. That the full City Council ask the City Solicitor to report back on the legal authority of the City to ban the use of natural gas in newly constructed buildings.

Councillor Zondervan

POR 2019 #323

This order was adopted.

4. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Arts Council and the Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the Rindge School of Technical Arts, to determine the best re-use for the four honey locust logs from Inman Square to create public art for the community.

Councillor Zondervan

POR 2019 #324

This order was adopted.

5. That the City Manager have appropriate city staff review the proposed Welcoming Community Ordinance

Councillor Kelley, Councillor Mallon, Vice Mayor Devereux, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Siddiqui

POR 2019 #325

The proposed “Welcoming Community” Ordinance would serve to formalize the ways in which the Cambridge Police Department will work with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), and in the circumstances they won’t. This is a critical companion to our status as a Sanctuary City, but as we have recently seen in Boston, if an ordinance is not adopted, that specifically calls out parameters, we could see community members deported. This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2019

6. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide an update to the City Council on the number of free MBTA passes issued to CRLS students in FY20 and to consider expanding the program to include qualifying Cambridge residents of high school age

Vice Mayor Devereux, Mayor McGovern

POR 2019 #326

This order was submitted by the Vice-Mayor to ask the City Manager if income eligible, non-CRLS high school students (ie. at Charter Schools etc.) would be able to access free MBTA passes as CRLS students are now able to do. This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. Fuel pump warning labels

Vice Mayor Devereux, Mayor McGovern, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Zondervan

POR 2019 #327

This order was adopted.

8. Public Utilities' Planning and public meetings

Vice Mayor Devereux, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone

POR 2019 #328

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

9. That the Cambridge City Council go on record stating its severe concern for the developments in Kashmir and declaring its solidarity with the Kashmiri people, specifically Cambridge's Kashmiri community, that they may soon again be in contact with their families, friends and loved ones. **Councillor Siddiqui,**

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone

POR 2019 #329

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

10. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Electrical Department to ensure that City Hall is appropriately illuminated in honor of Indigenous Peoples Day and Hispanic Heritage Month on Friday, October 18, from the hours of 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Mayor McGovern, Councillor Mallon, Vice Mayor Devereux, Councillor Siddiqui

POR 2019 #330

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

11. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to allocate more funds in the FY21 budget to Inspectional Services to help combat the city-wide rodent issue and report back on the feasibility of providing monetary compensation to homeowners who have had to self-finance traps and what funds could be allocated in the future to help homeowners buy traps.

Councillor Toomey

POR 2019 #331

This order was adopted.

12. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant City departments and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to install NO TURN ON RED signs along Memorial Drive where it intersects with Cambridge-owned streets to improve the safety of heavily used pedestrian and

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2019

non-vehicular, multimodal commuter routes along and across the Charles and increased enforcement by the Massachusetts State Police at these intersections.

Mayor McGovern

POR 2019 #332

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

13. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Budget Department, the Assessor's Department and the Community Development Department to consider directing a portion of future PILOT funds into the Affordable Housing Trust starting in FY21.

Vice Mayor Devereux, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Zondervan

POR 2019 #333

This order was adopted.

14. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to allocate more funds in the FY21 budget for the small business improvement grants and to confer with the Massachusetts Attorney General's office on whether other cities in Massachusetts have been facing similar issues with ADA compliance and what can be done to protect the small businesses.

Councillor Toomey

POR 2019 #334

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

15. That the City Council go on record in support of House Bill 3116, Senate Bill 2034, and the establishment of Governor Baker's Low-speed Mobility Device Advisory Working Group as part of the Safe Driving Legislation, Senate Bill 7

Councillor Kelley, Vice Mayor Devereux, Councillor Mallon, Councillor Siddiqui

POR 2019 #335

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

16. Creating the Director of Arts and Culture Position

Councillor Mallon, Mayor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Simmons

POR 2019 #336

I submitted this Policy Order asking the City Manager to create the Director of Arts & Culture position. The creation of this position was one of the key recommendations in the Arts Task Force Final Report after nine months of collaboration with leaders in Cambridge's artistic community. Ensuring that a greater variety of cultures are recognized and celebrated, and that City resources are equitably distributed would be a priority for the Director; by having a dedicated person to fulfill this responsibility, artistic events will better reflect Cambridge's diversity. As the Director will be proactive both in supporting Cambridge's artistic community and in fulfilling the Arts Task Force Recommendations, it is hoped that they will be able to intervene in difficult circumstances, such as those experienced by EMF, Green Street Studios and prevent further harm to the City's integral artistic organizations.

This order was adopted.

17. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Economic Development division of the Community Development Department to retain a financial/economic analyst to conduct a confidential financial

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2019

analysis of NED's pro forma to inform the council in confidence on the value of the proposed upzoning.
Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Kelley, Vice Mayor Devereux
POR 2019 #337

Councillor Simmons exercised her charter-right.

18. That the City Manager is requested to seek permission from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to plant new trees in Magazine Beach Park in Spring 2020 with a special focus on the eastern end of the park and the grove area.

Councillor Zondervan, Vice Mayor Devereux, Mayor McGovern, Councillor Mallon
POR 2019 #338

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

19. That the City Manager is requested to direct the City Solicitor, Community Development, Public Works, Inspectional Services and any other related departments to review the proposed amendments regarding the prohibition of Natural Gas Infrastructure in New Buildings.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Devereux
POR 2019 #339

This order was combined with POR 2019 #323, and was adopted.

20. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Affordable Housing Trust on the matter of increasing funding to the City's HomeBridge program so that access to homeownership may be made available to a wider range of incomes, as the program intends.

Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Mallon, Councillor Toomey
POR 2019 #340

This is an important home-ownership program that is currently under funded. We have had many conversations about affordable housing this term, and access to home ownership opportunities in addition to rental opportunities is critical. This policy order was submitted by Councillor Siddiqui and was adopted.

21. Proposed amendment to City Ordinance 1.12.040 regarding City Solicitor opinion on proposed ordinances.

Councillor Carlone, Vice Mayor Devereux, Councillor Kelley, Councillor Siddiqui
POR 2019 #341

This order was adopted.

22. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Fire Chief to report back providing information confirming that the temporary location of the Taylor Square Fire Station to the Alewife area continues to provide uninterrupted service to residents in the Taylor Square Fire Station area.

Councillor Toomey
POR 2019 #320

This order was adopted.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A report from Vice Mayor Jan Devereux and Councillor Quinton Zondervan, Co-Chairs of the Health and Environment Committee for a public hearing held on September 25, 2019 regarding banning natural (fracked) gas infrastructure in Cambridge

CRT 2019 #69

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Paula Crane, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Quinton Zondervan, Co-Chair and Councillor Dennis J. Carlone, Co-Chair of the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebration Committee, for a public hearing held on September 17, 2019 to discuss the preserved Inman Square tree trunks and receive input from the public on possible future uses of the wood, which is a public resource.

CRT 2019 #70

This item was placed on file.

3. A report from Councillor Dennis J. Carlone and Councillor Craig A. Kelley, Co-Chairs of the Ordinance Committee, for a public hearing held on October 2, 2019 at 3 PM to discuss the Welcoming Community Ordinance

CRT 2019 #71

This item was placed on file.