



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • OCTOBER 28, 2019

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30 PM

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

I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$300,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Department Extraordinary Expenditures Account to fund strategic and technical advisory services to position the City to procure a 100% renewable electricity supply.

CMA 2019 #277

In a previous legislative cycle, the City Council voted to procure a 100% renewable electricity supply for all municipal buildings. This item requests an appropriation to allow the City to hire a consultant for a year or more to help them with the process of switching to completely renewable electricity. After concerns were raised by some Councillors as to why it has taken so long for the City to initiate this conversion process, City Manager Louis DePasquale explained that learning to ask the right questions took time, and that a consultant with experience putting together bids and providing technological advisory services would provide much-needed guidance, as there is not a set process for Massachusetts municipalities making this conversion. The possibility of writing special legislation to the State Legislature, joining with other municipalities who may be interested in converting to a 100% renewable electricity supply, and the potential need to convert in phases rather than all at once were discussed. As getting this 100% renewable electricity from a farther away source may be more cost effective than getting it from a local source, the need to examine both the monetary and environmental cost of each option was recognized.

This item was approved.

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$250,000 from the General Fund Employee Benefits (Insurance) Salary and Wages account to the General Fund Public Works Travel & Training (Judgment and Damages) account which will cover medical bills and settlements for Public Works personnel injured in the course of their job.

CMA 2019 #278

This item was approved on the consent agenda (no discussion).

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$109,376.50 received in energy rebates, to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Department Extraordinary Expenditures account and will be used to supplement the FY20 public investment appropriation to support energy efficiency projects at school and City buildings.

CMA 2019 #279

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

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4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$245,000 to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account to support the construction of the O'Connell Library Pocket Park. This appropriation is supported through funds received from the following sources: \$25,000 from the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) Forward Fund Grant; \$75,000 from the East Cambridge Open Space Trust; and \$145,000 from Free Cash.

CMA 2019 #280

Enthusiasm for this appropriation was expressed by many Councillors, as there would be considerable community benefit from having additional green space near a library. Although there have been some issues with the bidding process thus far, it is hoped that a contract will be finalized in a month, and that the park will be completed in roughly two months.

This item was approved.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$10,000 from the General Fund Employee Benefits Salary and Wages account (Insurance) to the General Fund Electrical Travel and Training account (Judgments and Damages) to cover medical services and/or prescription reimbursement costs for personnel injured in performance of their duties. **CMA 2019 #281**

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Library Extraordinary Expenditures account which will fund the purchase of a new Library truck.

CMA 2019 #282

Councillor Zondervan asked about the energy efficiency of the prospective new Library truck, which will be used for deliveries both to library branches and homebound residents, snow removal, to transport employees, and more. While there are not electric options for the type of truck being procured, the model is fuel efficient and has the potential to be converted into a hybrid in the future.

This item was approved.

7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$350,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Library Extraordinary Expenditures account. This appropriation will fund a feasibility study and interior improvements to the Central Square Branch Library.

CMA 2019 #283

This item would grant much-needed upgrades to the Central Square Branch Library, which has the highest traffic of all Cambridge Public Libraries at roughly 18,000 patrons a month. Although residents have suggested this idea through the Participatory Budget Process in the last two cycles, it was not chosen either time to move forward. During this year's budget hearings, I called for the City to step in, and have since been working with the City Manager to provide this critical funding, which includes STEAM kits, laptop kiosks, non-traditional items such as bike locks available for check out, sharps boxes in restrooms, and more. Of the 350,000 being appropriated for this purpose, around 13%, or around \$45,500, will be used for two feasibility studies: one on lighting, and one on furniture and equipment. If it is found that additional improvements are necessary, the Library will request another allocation. There has been an effort to include residents in the process of determining what needs to be updated, with community meetings having been held both in the Central Square Branch and in other locations. Mayor McGovern thanked the Central Square Business Improvement District for their commitment to keeping the Library area clean.

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This item was approved.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-30, regarding traffic safety concerns on Madison Avenue.

CMA 2019 #284

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

9. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the request for two appropriations of \$23,000,000 from Free Cash and \$7,000,000 from Cambridge Redevelopment Authority for the Foundry project.

CMA 2019 #285

With a projected completion date of June 2021, this item requests an appropriation both to redevelop the Foundry to better suit its goal to provide a welcoming, mixed-use space, as well as to help fund its initial building operations and the Foundry Consortium, the non-profit organization that will be responsible for managing the foundry. To ensure a high level of community engagement is associated with the project, the City has been collaborating with MIT and Lesley University, and has been discussing the possibility of forming a Board and hiring an Executive Director for the Foundry; the Foundry Advisory Committee has also been holding public meetings to meet this community engagement objective. As drawing people into the Foundry will be a priority, creating a pedestrian connection to the building was discussed.

This item was approved.

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II. CALENDAR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 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.

2. 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.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Brett Owens, requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 579 Massachusetts Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.

APP 2019 #83

This application was approved on the consent agenda.

2. An application was received from Andrew Lafuente, requesting permission for an awning at the premises numbered 27 Brattle Street. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters.

APP 2019 #84

This application was approved on the consent agenda.

3. An application was received from Clover Food Lab, requesting permission for one internally illuminated projecting sign at the premises numbered 496 Massachusetts Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.

APP 2019 #85

This application was approved on the consent agenda.

4. An application was received from Mark Hanlon, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 90 Jackson Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association.

APP 2019 #86

During discussion, some Councillors voiced concerns over the potential environmental impacts this request would cause, as trees would be cut down. The lack of response from the neighborhood association, as well as the abutters' inconsistent response were also questioned.

This application was denied.

5. An application was received from Cambridge Trust, requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 353 Huron Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.

APP 2019 #87

This application was approved.

VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council with a proposed plan for implementation of a pilot off-leash dog shared use morning hours program at Sacramento Field to start by the end of Fall 2019.

Mayor McGovern, Vice Mayor Devereux

POR 2019 #351

Mayor McGovern asserted that, after a Wednesday meeting to finalize the plan, there would be a pilot off-leash dog shared use morning hours program in Sacramento Field lasting from nine months to one year. Councillor Zondervan was added as a co-sponsor.

This order was adopted as amended.

2. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider a request from Mayor McGovern for a suitable public dedication for Vincent and Santa Saia in the vicinity of Inman Square.

Mayor McGovern

POR 2019 #352

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

3. That the City Manager is requested to review the existing internal mechanisms for City staffers in all departments to report grievances, to determine if this system is functioning as it should or whether changes should be considered.

Councillor Simmons

POR 2019 #353

Councillor Simmons gave her rationale for introducing this order, explaining that she had several City Employees individually come forward to her with similar complaints of a toxic work environment with preferential treatment and retaliation. For non-union employees, many have had to seek legal representation for this unfair work treatment out of pocket. As there has been an ineffective response process for City Employees making these sorts of complaints, this order asks the City Manager to evaluate whether the reporting system for grievances should be changed.

This order was adopted.

4. That the City Manager is requested to install hearing loop technology inside the Sullivan Chamber as part of the upcoming renovations to City Hall, and in other critical City meeting venues wherever possible and other accessibility improvements.

Councillor Zondervan

POR 2019 #354

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

5. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relevant City staff on the need and feasibility of instituting traffic-calming and safety measures at Magazine Street at Upton Street.

Councillor Kelley, Vice Mayor Devereux, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Siddiqui

POR 2019 #355

A child was recently hit by a car while crossing the street in a crosswalk at Magazine Street at Upton Street, as the driver either did not yield, or was driving too quickly to stop. As this area is heavily used, especially by children from the nearby school, this order seeks to prevent another injury such as this from occurring. Although a

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pedestrian sign had been placed in the crosswalk prior to the Council meeting, Mayor McGovern encouraged his colleagues to adopt the order nevertheless, as a more permanent safety measure could be put into place.

This order was adopted.

6. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relevant City staff regarding the feasibility of reinstating a stop light or other major traffic-calming safety measures at the Raymond Street and Walden Street pedestrian crossing.

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

POR 2019 #356

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the appropriate City staff and report back to the City Council on the feasibility of installing a “Do Not Enter Except Local Residents” or similar sign on Mead Street at Walden Street.

Councillor Kelley, Vice Mayor Devereux, Councillor Toomey

POR 2019 #357

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

8. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the appropriate School Department and City Officials as well as organizations such as the Urban Area Security Initiative and the Southern Poverty Law Center to determine Cambridge’s threat level from hate crimes and other related events.

Councillor Kelley, Councillor Siddiqui

POR 2019 #358

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

9. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relevant City staff on determining the most appropriate signage and messaging that would best educate cyclists on the importance of following traffic laws, particularly stopping at red lights, for their own safety and the safety of other cyclists and pedestrians.

Councillor Kelley, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone

POR 2019 #359

Councillors Kelley, Siddiqui, and Carlone expressed that this order was intended to address the chaos that is a commonality on our streets, and to protect cyclists and pedestrians alike, and that they are open to exploring other possibilities that may better achieve that goal. During discussion, the need to enhance cycling education for both residents and tourists, and the potential to implement other models, such as the Idaho Stop, were considered. Councillor Simmons expressed concern for seniors, who may be at a higher risk for collisions, while Mayor McGovern encouraged the sponsors to include parties with an interest in this issue as well as other stakeholders in the discussion on how to improve cyclist and pedestrian safety, and Councillor Zondervan noted that the current road system is designed to prioritize cars, but should be adapted to protect cyclists.

Councillor Siddiqui exercised her charter-right (the order was not voted on and will appear on next week’s agenda) to allow for further investigation into alternatives that promote cyclist and pedestrian safety.

10. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Community Development Department, the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the Department of Public Works to determine what facilities, parking changes, and other improvements to the pavement conditions would be necessary and feasible to make Porter Square and Massachusetts Avenue between Roseland Street and Beech Street a quick-build Complete Street with bus priority.

Mayor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan

POR 2019 #360

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As Porter Square experiences a high level of crashes, and at the City's Vision Zero commitment encourages the use of bikes over single-occupancy vehicles, this order encourages the construction of a quick build bike lane. While frustration was expressed at how long this process has taken, this is proposed to be a solution to the biking problems in this area for cyclists. Councillor Kelley considered bringing forth an amendment that would ask the City Manager to review the southbound signal in the area, but decided to delay the amendment and look into introducing the effort as a policy order in the future, as it was unclear if this change had been included in interim changes to the area. This order was amended to add Vice Mayor Devereux as a co-sponsor.

This order was adopted as amended.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND LONG-TERM PLANNING MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

1. 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 24, 2019 to discuss the City policy on sidewalk surface treatments as discussed in Policy Order #16 of July 30, 2019.

CRT 2019 #72

This report was accepted and placed on file. The below text is the descriptive title for the Policy Order contained in this Committee Report.

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Department of Public Works to make it a priority to repair sidewalks, particularly legacy brick sidewalks and asphalt patches, to ensure full compliance with ADA requirements, and bring any necessary appropriations to the City Council in order to accomplish this purpose.

Councillor Zondervan

POR 2019 #361

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Marc C. McGovern, transmitting membership of a newly formed My Brothers' Keeper Cambridge Taskforce

Mayor McGovern

COF 2019 #56

My Brothers' Keeper (MBK) is an initiative spearheaded by Former President Barack Obama to help serve and support boys and young men of color. The MBK Cambridge Taskforce will be responsible for making recommendations on how policies supporting boys and young men of color's personal and academic growth, funding a variety of sources to support this population, fostering collaborative networks to support boys and young men of color, as well as to eliminate structures containing institutional bias.

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Mayor McGovern, transmitting a report, "The Kind of City which is Desirable and Obtainable:" A brief history of zoning in Cambridge.

Mayor McGovern

COF 2019 #57

The Mayor's Office has been working in conjunction with local resident and Harvard University student William MacArthur to study and write about Cambridge's zoning history and laws, as well as zoning's potential effects on residents. Mayor McGovern expressed he was open to any comments on or corrections with the report.

This communication was placed on file.