



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • FEBRUARY 10, 2020

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 transfer of \$301,785 in the General Fund between School Department statutory accounts as follows: \$301,785 from the Other Ordinary Maintenance account to the School Salaries & Wages account (\$124,168) and to the Travel & Training Account (\$177,617). During the course of the school year, the School Department allows principals and department administrators to move funds across statutory categories within their budgets to better meet their educational needs.

CMA 2020 #27

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

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the reappointments of the following members of the Conservation Commission for a term of 3-years, effective February 1, 2020: Purvi Patel, Ted Pickering and Kaki Martin.

CMA 2020 #28

This item was placed on file on the consent agenda.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appointment and re-appointment of the following persons as members of the Recycling Advisory Committee for a term of 3-years, effective February 10, 2020: Appointments: Leah Beckett, Holden Cookson, Catrina Damrell, Shirley Elliott, Sakiko Isomichi, Lindsay Levine, Scott MacGrath, Audrey Ng, Richard Nurse, Diane Roseman, and Suzanne Wong. Reappointment's Ilana Bebhick, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Martha Henry, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Laura Nichols, Meera Singh, Quinten Steenhuis, Mary Verhage, and Kristen Watkins.

CMA 2020 #29

This item was placed on file.

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$1,200,000 from Free Cash, to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account for expanded tree planting and continued implementation of the Urban Forestry Master Plan recommendations.

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CMA 2020 #30

This appropriation will go towards expanding tree planting efforts, and, alongside the City's regular budget, will fund direct tree planting, soil analyses, maintenance, and education efforts. We are expecting to plant 1,050 additional trees through FY21, and it is crucial that they are planted in an equitable way, prioritizing areas that are at risk of losing significant portions of their urban tree canopy. Further, as we continue to work towards achieving an urban forest, it will be worthwhile to look into planting more female trees, or fruit trees. Most public trees in Cambridge are male trees, pollinators, which can have detrimental effects on the health of people with asthma and allergies, especially during the spring months. While fruit trees may present an issue with rats, planting female trees, especially around schools, could vastly improve public health.

This item was adopted.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$20,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used for the support of the math enrichment programs provided by Cambridge Math Circle, a nonprofit organization and the Martin Luther King Day morning math festival.

CMA 2020 #31

This allocation will go towards the Cambridge Math Circle and the Martin Luther King Day morning math festival, math enrichment programs. Early test scores in math are reliable indicators of success later in life, so the City must take every step possible to close the achievement gap and ensure the future accomplishment of our students. These programs are centered on assisting low-income students and students of color, who are disproportionately affected by the achievement gap, and who can benefit from academic enrichment programs like these the most. A large number of girls are also attracted to the Cambridge Math Circles, as there is a high amount of women leadership in the program. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Cambridge Math Circle program.

This item was adopted.

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$150,000 of Community Schools additional revenue to the General Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account. Funds will allow the Community Schools to continue programming and pay the increased costs related to contractual services and other costs including bus transportation.

CMA 2020 #32

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-159, regarding safety concerns at the intersection of Walden and Saville Streets.

CMA 2020 #33

This item was placed on file on the consent agenda.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to amending the Cambridge Municipal Code to insure a Welcoming Community Ordinance.

CMA 2020 #34

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This item was brought forth with Calendar Item #4. The referenced Calendar Item #4 is the City's Welcoming Community Ordinance, while this item contains proposed final amendments to the Ordinance. After nearly a year of collaboration between the City Council, the Police Department, the City Solicitor, and the ACLU, it is heartening that this Ordinance has finally been approved. With its ordination, Cambridge joins several other municipalities, both in Massachusetts and across the country, that have safeguarded immigrant communities by prohibiting City employees, most notably Police Officers, from inquiring about a resident's immigration status. An amendment included here is my proposal to include T Visas and provisions from the Violence Against Women Act to the list of protections our Police Department will grant to undocumented victims of crime. Additionally, the Council further amended the Ordinance during discussion. In the section of the Welcoming Community Ordinance that prohibits a City employee from inquiring about a resident's immigration status except as required by federal or state law, the language was altered to specifically name the relevant federal law, 8 USC § 1373. The Welcoming Cities ordinance was ordained, and I am glad that we have finally codified our current practice to safeguard our immigrant residents and ensure they feel protected from ICE in the City of Cambridge

These amendments were adopted, and the Welcoming Community Ordinance (Calendar Item #4) was ordained.

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II. CALENDAR

ON THE TABLE

1. 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. **TABLED ON JANUARY 27, 2020.**
POR 2019 #339
No action was taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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.
3. TPO Extension PO
PASSED TO A SECOND READING ON JANUARY 27, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 10, 2020.
POR 2020 #4
This order would extend the tree moratorium placed on the City last year to restrict the removal of “significant trees” on private property. By extending the moratorium, the City Council will have additional time to review the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force Report, which had a delayed release, and consider the Report’s recommendations.

This item was ordained.
4. That the Cambridge City Council amend the Municipal Ordinances of the City of Cambridge to insert a new Chapter 2.129, entitled WELCOMING COMMUNITY ORDINANCE
PASSED TO A SECOND READING ON JANUARY 27, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 10, 2020.
POR 2020 #14
This item was ordained. See City Manager’s Agenda Item #8 for discussion.

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III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from One Linkage LLC, requesting permission for an A Frame sign in front of the premises numbered 1759 Massachusetts Avenue.

APP 2020 #6

This application was approved.

2. An application was received from Greg Leppert, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 147 Otis Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. Response has been received from the neighborhood association.

APP 2020 #7

This application was approved.

IV. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to work with the residents of the Agassiz neighborhood in furthering this important neighborhood conversation and in helping make a determination as to how to arrive at an appropriate, official name change for this neighborhood.

Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2020 #25

At the January 14, 2020 meeting of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, neighborhood residents determined it is time to rename the neighborhood. It is currently named after Louis Agassiz, who was highly influential in white supremacy movements, and who does not deserve to be recognized in this manner, especially not in a City that values equity and diversity so highly. Instead, this order supports the efforts of CRLS student Maya Counter, who has led the call for the neighborhood to be renamed to better reflect the contributions of a resident of that neighborhood. Maria L. Baldwin was referenced during public comment and during Councillor Simmons testimony on the floor. Born in Cambridge, and serving as a dedicated educator and civic leader her entire life, Baldwin is a much better fit for the neighborhood. This order, which asks the City Manager to work with Agassiz residents on renaming the neighborhood, has to be one of many efforts to remove harmful figures from public recognition in neighborhoods, schools, and public buildings, and instead offers an opportunity to uplift and celebrate lesser-known, but no less important or valuable, Cambridge leaders.

This order was adopted.

2. That the City Manager is requested to rename the maintenance area within the Ryan Garage at 147 Hampshire Street in honor of Sydney Cox, with this becoming known as the “Sydney James Cox Maintenance Facility.

Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toomey

POR 2020 #26

Sydney Cox was a devoted public servant who worked in the Department of Public Works for 45 years, with 35 of those years being spent as the Master Mechanic in charge of the Department’s fleet of vehicles. Across his long and celebrated service, Cox supervised the municipal garage in a time of substantial technological advancement, but never failed to adapt himself and the fleet to meet the changing needs of the City. This order will honor Cox’s longtime service by naming the maintenance area in the Ryan Garage after him.

This order was adopted.

3. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request from Councillor McGovern to find a suitable location near Roosevelt Towers to honor Randy Thomas

Councillor McGovern

POR 2020 #27

This order was adopted.

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4. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relevant City departments on the feasibility of instituting a program to install rings on parking meters to expand bicycle parking options.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2020 #28

This order was adopted.

5. City Council support of the full Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan

POR 2020 #29

This order was amended to add Councillor Carlone as a co-sponsor.

This order was adopted as amended.

6. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Department of Human Services and other relevant departments to determine the feasibility of both expanding the Head Start program hours and adding additional scholarships to improve access to high-quality, early childhood educational resources.

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Carlone, Councillor McGovern

POR 2020 #30

On December 2, 2019, the City Council and School Committee held a Joint Roundtable Meeting on Early Childhood, where the need to expand pre-kindergarten programs was highlighted as a priority for the City. Specifically, the Head Start program was recognized as a great opportunity for early childhood education, but one that many low-income families do not take part in. As Head Start runs on limited hours during the school year, and does not operate during the summer at all, time restrictions present a barrier to entry for low-income families who otherwise may be able, and eager, to participate in the program. Accordingly, this policy order asks the City Manager to extend Head Start hours, and to fund further scholarships, so as many children as possible can attend high-quality pre-schools, and get the early education they need to promote long-term academic success.

This order was adopted.

7. That the City Council go on record calling for the Parliament of India to uphold the Indian constitution by repealing the Citizenship Amendment Act, stopping the National Register of Citizens, and taking steps towards helping refugees by ratifying various UN treaties on refugees.

Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan

POR 2020 #31

On December 11, 2019, the Indian Parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which uses religion as a qualifying criterion for Indian citizenship. This discriminatory law has already had serious implications for Muslim Indians, a minority in India, who have faced forced detention as mass-prisons, violence at anti-CAA protests, and an overwhelming loss of citizenship rights. As a City that values equity and diversity, it is imperative that the City Council express solidarity with affected individuals, and urge our Congressional Delegation to take federal action condemning the Republic of India for this discrimination.

This order was adopted.

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V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report of the Ordinance Committee - Committee Meeting - Dec 10, 2019 3:00 PM
This report was accepted.

2. Report of the Ordinance Committee - Committee Meeting - Feb 5, 2020 5:30 PM
This report was accepted.
 - A. A refilling Zoning Petition Has been received from Joseph T. Maguire of Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc. transmitting a proposed revised amendment to the zoning ordinance by creating the Grand Junction Pathway Overlay District. **REFERRED TO THE CITY COUNCIL FROM THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 5, 2020.**
APP 2019 #82
This item was passed to a second reading.