



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## CITY COUNCIL

### AGENDA FEBRUARY 24, 2020

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**Regular Meeting**

**Sullivan Chamber**

**5:30PM**

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

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## I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

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1. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Massachusetts Formula Grant in the amount of \$173,998.00 funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$109,283.00), Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$57,915.00), and to the Travel and Training account (\$6,800.00) which will be used for the Council on Aging Division to provide transportation for Cambridge seniors to medical appointments and weekly grocery shopping trips and will also support an activities assistant, an office aid, a meals assistant and several wellness/exercise instructors and group facilitators who provide services at the Citywide Senior Center.

***CMA 2020 #35***

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

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of additional funds for the Community Learning Center's Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Community Learning Services state grant in the amount of \$33,425.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account which will be used to increase part time staff hours for follow up, collection, tracking and entry of outcomes in LACES (the state database), for assessments; and for part time staff participation in CLC teams' work, and for the newly hired ESOL/CAN teacher to familiarize herself with the program curriculum and to tutor students to pass the MA certificate exam and will also be used to pay for staff hours for education and career advising and curriculum coordination.

***CMA 2020 #36***

***This item was adopted on the consent agenda.***

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of new Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) funds for the YWCA family shelter in the amount of \$8,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to provide educational enrichment (tutoring, school vacation programs, educational software and events) to children and teens residing in its DHCD funded family shelter during the July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 contract year.

***CMA 2020 #37***

***This item was adopted on the consent agenda.***

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4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following person as members of the Family Policy Council for a term of 2 years, effective February 24, 2020: Hiba Eddaif and Irene Hill.

**CMA 2020 #38**

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the State Executive Office of Public Safety for \$3,125 to the Grant Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account (\$2,500.00) and Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$625.00) to provide funds for the Senior SAFE Program that educates seniors on the dangers of fire and its effect on people, property, and the environment.

**CMA 2020 #39**

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the State Executive Office of Public Safety for \$10,655 to the Grant Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account (\$8,855), Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$1,500.00) and Travel and Training account (\$300.00) to provide funds to continue the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) Program that educates students on the dangers of fire and its effect on people, property, and the environment.

**CMA 2020 #40**

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-143, regarding a report on a pilot program with the Cambridge Housing Authority of assigning security officers with CHA premises in and near Central Square and The Port.

**CMA 2020 #41**

This report was submitted in response to a policy order submitted by Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, and myself last October. At the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA)-owned Manning Apartments in Central Square, safety concerns resulted in elderly and disabled residents taking turns serving as security guards for the building. These residents should not have to sacrifice their peace of mind, or risk their safety acting as security officers, so our policy order asked the CHA and Cambridge Police Department (CPD) to determine a suitable course of action to institute a security presence at these buildings. This communication reports that the CHA has hired a private security guard for the building overnight, and that the CPD will take additional steps, such as adding the CHA buildings to officer patrol routes, to increase safety in the surrounding areas.

This item was placed on file.

8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$500,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account for continued design of improvements to the DPW complex.

**CMA 2020 #42**

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

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9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-128, regarding ways the City is combating the city-wide rodent issues.

***CMA 2020 #43***

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

10. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-2, regarding a report on maintenance plan for public area bins on Cambridge Street with an emphasis on cleaning open-trash receptacles more frequently.

***CMA 2020 #44***

This report is a response to a policy order Councillor Toomey filed requesting information on the maintenance and cleaning of trash bins in Cambridge. Open top bins require trash pick up twice a day, and are only cleaned twice a year, and as requested; due to their open tops, these bins are also highly susceptible to rodents. Big bellies, on the other hand, compact trash to a fifth of the space it would otherwise take up, and are completely enclosed, preventing rodents' access. Moving forward, the City should prioritize replacing open tops with big bellies, and the public, especially local businesses, should be educated on how to request trash receptacle cleanings.

This item was placed on file.

11. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-14, requesting an update on the Lechmere Station closure, the replacement bus service, and the community outreach that is planned.

***CMA 2020 #45***

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

This item was placed on file.

12. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommendation to adopt the Incentive Zoning Contribution Rate Zoning Petition.

***CMA 2020 #46***

This communication expresses the Planning Board's support for increasing the Incentive Zoning Contribution Rate from \$17.10 per square foot to \$20.10 per square foot. Large non-residential developments pay this Contribution Rate to the Affordable Housing Trust to mitigate the impacts these developments have on affordable housing in Cambridge.

This item was placed on file.

13. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the Getting to Net Zero Action Plan Fiscal Year 2019 progress report.

***CMA 2020 #47***

[Click here](#) to read the Getting to Net Zero Action Plan Progress Report.

This item was referred to the Health and Environment Committee for further discussion.

14. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the revised Surveillance Technology Impact Reports.

***CMA 2020 #48***

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This communication contains revised Surveillance Technology Impact Reports that were completed in compliance with the City's Surveillance Technology Ordinance. These Reports were revised to include expanded information, and to combine certain Reports to streamline the review process. In the future, the City should ask who is being disproportionately affected by Surveillance Technology.

This item was placed on file.

## II. CALENDAR

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### 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. 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.  
**PASSED TO A SECOND READING ON FEBRUARY 10, 2020, TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 24, 2020**  
**APP 2019 #82**  
At the request of Alexandria Real Estate, as well as the local neighborhood association, no action was taken on this item, as they are preparing an update for the City Council for next week, which, they believe, will spur meaningful progress in this process.  
  
No action was taken.
4. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Suzanne P. Blier regarding Harvard Square Zoning Petition.  
**PASSED TO A SECOND READING ON FEBRUARY 18, 2020, TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER MARCH 2, 2020**  
**APP 2019 #80**  
No action was taken.

### III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

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1. An application was received from the Traffic and Parking Department requesting permission for a temporary banner across JFK at Mount Auburn Street to inform people about the 20 mph speed limits that are being implemented the banner will be hung from March 2, 2020 thru March 16, 2020.

***APP 2020 #10***

**This application was approved on the consent agenda.**

2. An application was received from Rock and Roll Daycare, requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 190 Concord Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.

***APP 2020 #11***

**This application was approved on the consent agenda.**

## IV. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

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1. 100% Affordable Housing Overlay Zoning Petition 2020

**Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Toomey**  
***POR 2020 #41***

This order is a refiling of the Affordable Housing Overlay Zoning Petition that was brought before the City Council last term. After months of committee meetings, countless hours of public comment, and considerable stakeholder input, the Affordable Housing Overlay was placed on the table before it expired last September. The Affordable Housing Overlay would allow affordable housing developers to build more densely than market-rate developers, and by streamlining the zoning approval process for affordable housing developers, the Affordable Housing Overlay would help affordable housing developers compete with market-rate developers, who often have more resources, and can pay more for land and materials. This new iteration includes new amendments, which I look forward to discussing further with my colleagues in Committee. To read more about the new amendments, [click here](#).

This order was referred to the Ordinance Committee for further discussion.

2. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Department of Public Works and other relevant City Departments to determine the feasibility of limiting the number of Saturdays and holidays any one developer can be permitted for any one construction project.

**Vice Mayor Mallon**

***POR 2020 #35***

I sponsored this policy order asking the City Manager to look into limiting the number of Saturdays and holidays any one developer can be permitted for any one construction project. Currently, construction on Saturdays and holidays is not limited beyond normal construction hours regulated by the City Noise Ordinance. While new construction, especially new residential units, should be made available for use as soon as reasonably available, it cannot be at the expense of the health of residents in the surrounding areas. As many residents are more likely to be at home on Saturdays and holidays, they, as a result, often have to endure high levels of noise all day that deeply impact their ability to relax and enjoy their homes. By limiting the number of Saturdays and holidays any one developer can be permitted for any one construction project, developers can continue to make progress on their projects, and the health and well-being of nearby residents won't be compromised.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

3. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Director of Cambridge Public Libraries to determine the feasibility of eliminating late fines.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon**

***POR 2020 #36***

This order sponsored by Mayor Siddiqui, which I co-sponsored, asks the City Manager to look into eliminating late fines in Cambridge Public Libraries. Currently, children's and young adult items do not incur fees, but Cambridge-owned adult materials incur a ten cent fine for each day it is not returned past

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its due date, which Commonwealth Catalog and Interlibrary loan items incur a \$2 late fee each day. For so many low-income residents, late fees serve as a substantial barrier to the library, as they may not be able to pay a fine that their more affluent counterparts can. Removing library fines would enhance equity and accessibility, while not posing any significant financial burden for the City, as late fees raise a minuscule portion of the Library's budget, and are associated with additional administrative costs. If late fines were eliminated, Cambridge would join a growing number of municipalities across the country enjoying increased patronage, increased material return rates, and increased access to low-income residents. This order was amended to update library fine statistics included in the text.

This order was adopted as amended.

4. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with all relevant City departments and agencies to implement an appropriate shut down time and lighting to add to the plan at Glacken Field  
**Councillor McGovern, Councillor Toomey, Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Mallon**  
***POR 2020 #37***

This policy order requests that lighting be added to Glacken Field. With the Tobin Montessori/Vassal Lane Upper Schools reconstruction, the West Cambridge Little League is being relocated to Glacken Field. With Glacken Field only offering two baseball fields, compared to Tobin's three baseball fields, the West Cambridge Little League will have to extend its practices and games later into the day, when it is dark out. To prevent any potential accidents or injuries that could occur from playing in the dark, this order requests lighting be added to Glacken Field. While there were concerns about the effect the lights could have on nearby wildlife, we are certain that the City would work to ensure there is a minimal impact on nearby wildlife and neighbors.

This order was adopted.

5. That the Department of Conservation and Recreation reconsider a road diet and protected bike lane for Gerry's Landing Road.  
**Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan**  
***POR 2020 #38***

This order asks the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to reconsider its decision to delay the road diet and protected bike lanes along Gerrys Landing Road. The road diet and protected bike lanes were plans included in the Department's 2018 Mount Auburn Street Corridor Study. However, it was announced earlier this month that the Department would be delaying these two plans, and instead keep the current, dangerous traffic patterns until further notice. 29 crashes have occurred at the intersection in question since 2017, and the public outcry of opposition to the delay has highlighted just how necessary this road diet and these protected bike lanes are. Accordingly, the City Council must do everything in its power to encourage the Department of Conservation and Recreation to reconsider its decision.

This order was adopted.

6. That the City Manager is hereby requested to confer with relevant City departments and the MBTA on the feasibility of implementing additional dedicated bus lanes, as well as fully separate protected bicycle lanes.  
**Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui**  
***POR 2020 #39***



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This order, which I sponsored alongside Councillors Sobrinho-Wheeler and Zondervan, and Mayor Siddiqui, asks for more dedicated bus lanes to be added in areas with high bus ridership, particularly along Massachusetts Avenue. Our buses have had continual issues with delays, and creating dedicated bus lanes would help them keep on schedule by removing them from high-density traffic, which could, in turn, encourage more people to get out of their cars, and into public transportation. Staying on schedule is also a matter of transit equity, as a middle-income or high-income resident could opt to take a taxi if there were substantial bus delays, but low-income riders cannot, and rely on the bus.

This order was adopted.

7. That the City Manager is requested to produce a Request For Proposal for the municipal broadband feasibility study that was called for by the City's Broadband Task Force in August 2016.

**Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern**  
***POR 2020 #40***

This policy order asks the City Manager to conduct a municipal broadband feasibility study. In response to immense public support for the possibility of implementing municipal broadband, the City Manager appointed a Broadband Task Force in 2014, which worked for over two years to evaluate the City's options. The Task Force recommended that a feasibility study be completed to determine the potential cost, but a study has still not been conducted to this day. In our ever-changing world, the internet is a crucial source that far too many low-income residents do not have access too, as the lack of broadband competition in Cambridge has continually driven up prices. Our City is one that prides itself on equity, accessibility, and innovation, so it is crucial that the City seriously considers municipal broadband as an option, starting with a feasibility study. This order was amended to add Councillor Zondervan as a co-sponsor.

This order was adopted as amended.

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report of the Public Safety Committee - Committee Meeting - Jan 22, 2020 5:00 PM regarding a meeting on the Surveillance Technology Impact Reports  
*See City Manager's Agenda Item #14 for discussion.*

*This report was accepted.*

- A. A communication was received from City Manager Louise DePasquale regarding Surveillance Technology Impact Reports  
**COM 65 #2020**

*This communication was placed on file.*

- B. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the Surveillance Use Policy and related documents.  
**CMA 2019 #319**

*This communication was placed on file.*

- C. A communication was received from Louie DePasquale, City Manager, regarding Supplemental Information for Public Safety Committee Meeting on January 22, 2020  
**COM 66 #2020**

*This communication was placed on file.*

2. Report on the Ordinance Committee - Committee Meeting - Feb 12, 2020 5:30 PM regarding a hearing on an amendment to the Incentive Zoning Ordinance  
*See City Manager's Agenda Item #12 for discussion.*

*This report was accepted.*

- A. That section 11.202(b) of Article 11.000, entitled SPECIAL REGULATIONS, of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge, be amended the table as follows: January 28, 2020 (Annual Adjustment) \$19.10 per square foot

**POR 2019 #387**

**Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone, Councillor McGovern**

*This order was passed to a second reading.*

3. Report on the Government Operations, Rules & Claims Committee - Committee Meeting - Feb 4, 2020 10:00 AM regarding a meeting to review the City Council Rules for the 2020-2021 Legislative year.

*This report was accepted and placed on file.*

## VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

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1. A communication was received from City Manager Louis A. DePasquale, transmitting Surveillance Technology Impact Reports  
**COF 2020 #9**

See City Manager's Agenda Item #14 for discussion.

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Councillor McGovern, transmitting a memorandum with comments on refilling the 100% Affordable Housing Overlay Zoning Petition 2020.  
**COF 2020 #10**

See Policy Order #1 for discussion.

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Councillor Dennis Carlone, transmitting Proposed Amendments to the Harvard Square Overlay District Zoning Petition  
**COF 2020 #11**

See Calendar Item #4 for discussion.

This communication was placed on file.