



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • MARCH 23, 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 \$20,000 from the General Fund Reserves Other Ordinary Maintenance Account to the General Fund City Clerk Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to cover higher than expected printing and advertising costs.

CMA 2020 #70

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

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a Homeland Security Grant from the City of Boston for \$7,047.00 to the Grant Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account, received as reimbursement for trainings performed in conjunction with the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and will be used to cover the City's costs for participation in the trainings.

CMA 2020 #71

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

3. Transmitting communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of to an order authorizing the City Manager for transfer appropriations of available balances prior to the close of the books for FY19-20.

CMA 2020 #72

This appropriation will enhance flexibility within departmental spending, and is generally made a few months before the end of each fiscal year. This request is being made earlier this year, ensuring that there is an opportunity to transfer funds more flexibly due to the COVID19 public health crisis that emergency measures could be taken efficiently if the City Council was unable to meet.

This item was adopted.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to recommendations for the block rates for water consumption and sewer use for the period beginning April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021.

MA 2020 #73

This item was adopted.

I. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the “2020 Cycling Safety Ordinance” be forwarded to the Ordinance Committee for discussion and recommendation.

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER ON MARCH 16, 2020.

POR 2020 #50

The 2020 Cycling Safety Ordinance, which is sponsored by Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui and myself, creates a timeline during which the City Manager must build dedicated bike lanes on certain key streets. At our last City Council meeting, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler exercised his charter-right to ensure adequate public discussion on this ordinance could be given, as our City Council meetings have moved to an online platform as a result of Coronavirus. As the pandemic continues, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler asked to table the ordinance until a later date, as meetings are still being conducted virtually. This ordinance was amended to add Councillors Carlone and Nolan as co-sponsors.

This ordinance was tabled.

ON THE TABLE

2. 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

3. 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.

II. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. City Council support of Senator Ron Wyden's forthcoming legislation calling for the delay of federal REAL ID requirements until September 2021.

Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2020 #59

This order was adopted.

2. That the Cambridge City Council requests that brokers, landlords, and real estate agents not to show housing units with current occupants during the COVID-19 pandemic

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Simmons

POR 2020 #60

This policy order requests that brokers, landlords, and real estate agents do not show housing units with current occupants to prospective tenants until the COVID-19 pandemic is over. As many residents continue to responsibly self-isolate, it is crucial that tenants, especially those with compromised immune systems, are protected from possible transmission. This order was amended to ask the City Manager to enforce this policy of prohibiting landlords from showing occupied housing units to prospective tenants in person.

This order was adopted as amended.

3. That the City Manager is requested to explore the feasibility of using vacant properties and hotels as emergency shelters during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan

POR 2020 #61

This order asks the City Manager to explore the possibility of using vacant properties and hotels as emergency homeless shelters. Transmission among our homeless residents is a high concern, considering homeless shelters may not always be equipped to practice proper social distancing, and as many homeless residents are elderly or have pre-existing health conditions. That's why allowing them to self-isolate in vacant rooms would help flatten the curve of infection, and keep them safe. Councillor McGovern has been working with stakeholders for the past few weeks to explore this idea, and I am thankful for the dedication the City Council has shown towards our homeless residents. In addition, the City is partnering with local restaurants across Central and Harvard Squares to provide meals to homeless residents. This fantastic idea will ensure we are meeting the needs of our most vulnerable residents, while supporting small businesses during these challenging times. Read more about this partnership by clicking [here](#).

This order was adopted.

4. That the City Manager is requested to present emergency appropriations to the City Council in order to provide appropriate financial relief to businesses and organizations in the city, especially those which are not receiving sufficient state or federal assistance.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler

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POR 2020 #62

This policy order asks the City Manager to work with Neighborhood Business Associations and the Community Development Department to explore more ways the City can support local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a challenging time for our small businesses, as all non-essential businesses have been ordered to close their physical stores, leading to lost revenue, and potentially lost jobs. As the Chair of the Economic Development and University Relations Committee, I was proud to organize City efforts with the Cambridge Community Foundation and New England Development to create the Cambridge Artist Relief Fund. By providing financial assistance to artists and arts organizations over the next several months, the Cambridge Artist Relief Fund seeks to alleviate the impacts of this lost income, and help our Arts community get back on its feet. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Cambridge Artist Relief Fund. As this public health crisis continues to unfold, I am hopeful that City leadership will continue to provide guidance and support to our local small business community. To learn more about resources available to Cambridge businesses, click [here](#).

This order was adopted.

5. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Information Technology Department and other relevant departments to develop a hotline dedicated to providing updated local information about the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in as many languages as possible and implement an audio/video bridge between the Zoom platform and the city's existing audio/video streaming and recording platform in the Sullivan Chamber.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler

POR 2020 #63

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

6. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate City personnel to develop and implement an online portal designed to allow senior citizens who are house-bound due to the coronavirus outbreak to sign up and notify the City that they require assistance with receiving grocery deliveries, other services delivered, and/or wellness checks throughout this crisis.

Councillor Simmons

POR 2020 #64

The City has partnered with Food For Free to create the Cambridge Community Food Line. By delivering fresh produce and shelf-stable items to eligible residents, we will ensure no one goes hungry during these difficult times. Click [here](#) to check your eligibility, and for more information on signing up for home food deliveries. For more resources available for seniors, click [here](#).

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. That the City Manager and the Chief Public Health Officer immediately execute a 'Stay at Home' order for the City of Cambridge.

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern

POR 2020 #65

This policy order, sponsored by Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern, and myself, asks the City Manager to execute a "Stay at Home" order for Cambridge. It also asks him to ensure proper social distancing measures are being practiced in essential businesses that remain open,

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such as grocery stores. We are at a critical tipping point, as our medical facilities are becoming overwhelmed, creating the possibility for additional preventable deaths. That's why it's so crucial that everyone does their part to flatten the curve of transmission by staying at home when possible, and practicing responsible safety measures when in public. This order complements the "Stay at Home" Advisory Governor Charlie Baker issued for two weeks on Monday, March 23. To read the City's press release explaining the Stay at Home Advisory, click [here](#).

This order was adopted.

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III. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from City Clerk Anthony I. Wilson, transmitting a letter from New England Development regarding a Pre-Application Conference with the City Council for a CambridgeSide 2.0 PUD-8 Special Permit.

COF 2020 #19

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Councillor Zondervan, transmitting COVID-19 Ideas and Suggestions.

Councillor Zondervan

COF 2020 #20

This communication was placed on file.