



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • JANUARY 31, 2021

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 Awaiting Report Item Number 21-93, regarding proposed amendments to the Municipal Code relative to recent charter changes.

CMA 2022 #10

This communication offers amendments to the Municipal Code as a result of the recent charter changes that were voted on in the 2021 Municipal election.

Councillor Nolan exercised her Charter Right, halting all discussion on this matter until the next Regular Council Meeting on Monday, February 7th.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-77, regarding a report on ways to report pedestrian and cycling crashes using real-time reporting.

CMA 2022 #11

This communication answers this [policy order](#) from October of last year that asked the City Manager to meet with the relevant departments to create a seamless way for residents to be notified of pedestrian and cyclist accidents in real time. While I agree the Police Department is a suitable vehicle for sharing this information, I do believe the Public Information Office would be better equipped to disseminate this information.. The goal of this system is to share information with residents the way it's shared with Councillors in real time in our emails. In an effort to see a better plan for communication of these collisions, I motioned to refer this back to the City Manager's office.

This communication was referred back to the City Manager's office 8-1. Councillor Simmons was marked present.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-5, regarding pedestrian safety on Broadway at CRLS.

CMA 2022 #12

This communication answers this [policy order](#) from last week's meeting that asked for improvements to the crosswalks in front of CRLS. Traffic, Parking & Transportation was pleased to announce they will be adding a lighted signal to the crosswalk on Broadway, and will also

continue to look at the surrounding area of the school from Prescott Street to Ellery Street. Traffic, Parking, & Transportation Director Joe Barr agreed with the Council that we need to consistently look at the safety of the whole city, and not just rely on policy orders after an accident to push for change. Director Barr assured the Council that the Vision Zero initiative focuses on continued change for pedestrian safety.

This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-85, requesting a report on potential modifications or adjustments to the recent improvements that were made on the segment of Massachusetts Avenue from Dudley Street to Alewife Brook Parkway.

CMA 2022 #13

This communication answers a request for a report on possible adjustments to the recent traffic improvements on Massachusetts Ave from Dudley Street to Alewife Brook Parkway. A question was raised about the overhead MBTA wires and when they would be removed. Director Barr said the MBTA is in the process of getting new electric buses for the North Mass Ave routes, and the wires will be de-energized in March. An official take-down date for the wires is not yet available, however. Another question was raised about the median and whether it will be removed, should be removed, and what the hurdles are to removing it. Director Barr assured that Traffic, Parking & Transportation wants to explore all the options around the median whether they be removal, downsizing, or creating a new one.

This communication was placed on file.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-1, regarding the feasibility of creating a Cycling Safety Ordinance Advisory group.

CMA 2022 #14

This communication is in response to two policy orders, both concerning the Cycling Safety Ordinance. The first was [Councillor Toomey's December 6th order](#) that asked for a standardized community outreach process when implementing sections of protected bike infrastructure. This order was in direct response to the North Mass Ave neighbors and businesses who did not feel there was sufficient community outreach done by the City prior to implementation of those bike lanes and the bus only lanes. The second order this report was responding to was from January 6th (original [policy order](#) here.) That order was then [amended](#) to be more specific on the asks of the advisory group, ensuring that members were already members of other boards and commissions in the City and adopted. This response from the City Manager's office advised the make up of the advisory committee and the process for community engagement pre-during and post implementation, however, it did not make it clear what the standardized process would be. The order sought to have real metrics (i.e. 3 community meetings, postcards mailed to neighbors in a 300 foot catchment area 1 month prior to the 1st community meeting etc.) When asked why

there were not clear metrics outlined, Traffic, Parking & Transportation advised that every section will have different variables, and they do not want to lock themselves into a process that may not work for every implementation plan. Instead, they want to remain open to change in the process as needed for each segment. I urged Traffic and Parking to work with the new advisory group to determine metrics on community engagement so everyone is clear on what should happen, and when.

This communication was placed on file.

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommendation to not adopt the Cushing, et al., Zoning Petition.

CMA 2022 #15

This communication was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommendation not to adopt the Yamin, et al., Zoning Petition.

CMA 2022 #16

This communication was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommendation not to adopt the Francis Donovan, et al., Zoning Petition.

CMA 2022 #17

This communication was placed on file.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. An application was received from Kevin O'Donnel, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 59 Fresh Pond Lane; 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.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL
JANUARY 24, 2022**

APP 2022 #1

The applicant and their attorneys were able to confirm they did receive approval from the necessary departments for this curb cut.

The application was approved.

2. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments and committees to present a report to the Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebration Committee which includes information on the history, membership data of golf course users, environmental conditions, and a legal analysis of what uses are currently permitted or what would be involved in changing use for other city needs.

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR TONER IN COUNCIL JANUARY 24, 2022

POR 2022 #9

This policy order generated a lot of discussion among residents when it was first on the agenda last Monday evening, we heard from many residents who both use the golf course and spoke of it being a low cost alternative to other courses, and a place where people can meet and play with others of all ages. It has truly been a pleasure over the last two weeks to hear the impact the course has had on so many people from so many backgrounds. The original policy order before the Council last week proposed a study to determine whether the Fresh Pond Golf course remains a good use of open space in the City by looking at playership rates and membership info. There was specific language included that referred to City goals of needing more affordable housing and space for the Department of Public Works as well as positing that other places have decreased their golf course to 6 holes from 9 and that we could also consider such an aidea. Building on the Golf Course would require both the approval of the Water Board (the golf course is situated next to our water supply) and a state enabling legislation to remove open space as required by Article 97. WE heard from members of the Water Board, as well as members of the Fresh Pond REservoir Master Plan Advisory Board who advised they were not consulted prior to the policy order being placed on our agenda. In response to the Water Board, and the many residents who opposed the original policy order, last night, Councillors Toner, McGovern, and Simmons offered an amendment by substitution to the original policy order:

Substitution for Policy Order #9 submitted by Councillors Toner, McGovern and Simmons

WHEREAS: The Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr Golf Course, also known as the Fresh Pond Golf Course, in West Cambridge is the largest open space in Cambridge and has been enjoyed as welcome green space for since 1933; and

WHEREAS: Golf is an important and safe outdoor activity, with many residents participating, and has operated in a manner to ensure the sport is accessible to an increasingly diverse community of residents, including keeping course fees low to ensure affordable to all users, and supporting the CRLS golf team when most urban high schools charge fees or do not have a golf team due to barriers; and

WHEREAS: The golf course is self-sufficient and operates on member fees and receives no additional funding from the city

WHEREAS: The city seeks to encourage outdoor activity and physical activity among residents,

WHEREAS: Considering these trends, it makes sense to review if other outdoor uses could be incorporated into golf operations without interfering with its current and primary purpose as the only low cost, municipal golf course in Cambridge; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with all appropriate departments, as well as, the Cambridge Water Board and Fresh Pond Advisory Committee and present a report to the

Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebration Committee, which includes but is not limited to a legal analysis of what uses are currently permitted, information on the history of the golf course, membership data of golf course users, and any environmental constraints; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council request that the Chair of the Neighborhood & Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts, and Celebration Committee schedule a public hearing to discuss what other complimentary uses, if any, might be made of the space that do not interfere with the regular operations of the golf course, and encourage greater usage by all Cambridge residents; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council by March 30, 2022 to enable a committee hearing this spring.

This amendment by substitution makes it **more clear that there will be no changes made to the current golf operations at the course and it will remain a 9-hole course.** Councillor Zondervan offered further amendments to this proposed substitution, minor edits were approved, and larger edits which would have negated the substitute were not adopted.

The policy order was adopted as amended unanimously.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Heather Dudko representing Citizens Bank, requesting permission for a projecting sign externally illuminated by spot at the premises numbered 698 Massachusetts Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.

APP 2022 #2

This application was approved 8-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Shehime Arshad, regarding Extremely Upset Bike Lanes.

COM 77 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Robin Adele Greeley, regarding don't remove plane trees on Memorial Drive.

COM 78 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Rick Hawkins, regarding comments re PO # 9 Fresh Pond Golf.

COM 79 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication was received from Paul E Fallon, regarding request Support State Police Action Against Free Speech.

COM 80 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

5. A communication was received from Michael Massagli, regarding request for revision of implementation of Bike Safety Ordinance North of Harvard Square.

COM 81 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

6. A communication was received from Margery Davies, regarding Net Zero Action Plan 2021 Update -- comments from Margery Davies.

COM 82 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

7. A communication was received from Linda Moussouris, regarding asking a question at the 125 TPP Meeting -- Porter SQ. Cyclist Safety Infrastructure.

COM 83 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

8. A communication was received from Joan Pickett Street, regarding Porter Square Mass Ave Safety Improvement Project.

COM 84 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

9. A communication was received from Janet Plotkin, regarding DCR Proposal for Memorial Drive.

COM 85 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

10. A communication was received from Beth Gamse, regarding comments on Porter Square Redesign.

COM 86 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

11. A communication was received from Annette Osgood and Jeanne Oster, regarding Annette Osgood and Jeanne Oster Meeting Jan 31 Policy Orders needed to be followed for Beech St to Roseland St Project.

COM 87 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

12. A communication was received from Angela Hofmann, regarding Porter Square Bike Lanes.

COM 88 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

13. A communication was received from Amy Brakeman, regarding saving mature trees on Memorial Drive Cambridge.

COM 89 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

14. A communication was received from Rachel Morpeth, regarding Voicing Support for the Cycling Safety Ordinance.

COM 90 #202

This communication was placed on file.

V. RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to the City Manager's Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awardees.

Councillor Simmons

RES 2022 #20

This resolution was adopted.

2. Condolences to the family of State Senator Bill Owens.

Councillor Simmons

RES 2022 #21

This resolution was adopted.

3. Congratulations to Deval Patrick on the occasion of his new role at the Kennedy School of Government's Center for Public Leadership.

Councillor Simmons

RES 2022 #22

This resolution was adopted.

4. Resolution on the death of Doris Cyr.

Councillor Toner

RES 2022 #23

This resolution was adopted.

5. Resolution on the death of Eleanor Vailliant.

Councillor Toner

RES 2022 #24

This resolution was adopted.

6. Congratulations to Peter Ciurczak and Elizabeth McIntyre on the birth of their daughter, June Ciurczak-McIntyre.

Councillor McGovern

RES 2022 #25

This resolution was adopted.

VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Council go on record recognizing February 2022 as Black History Month in the City of Cambridge.

Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2022 #13

This policy order asks the entire City council to go on record acknowledging February as Black History Month in Cambridge. Cambridge is home to several influential African Americans: former City Councillor and Vice Mayor Sandra Graham, principal and women's rights activist Maria L. Baldwin, attorney and Alderman Clement G. Morgan, and many more whose contributions to history cannot go uncelebrated. A motion was put forward to add the entire City Council as cosponsors. This amendment passed unanimously.

The policy order was adopted as amended.

2. Wage Theft Ordinance.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Toner

POR 2022 #14

This policy order introduces language to be adopted into the Ordinance of the City regarding wage theft. Wage Theft disproportionately affects people of color and immigrants who are already disadvantaged on job sites. The Wage Theft Ordinance was originally introduced in September 2021, but this new language defines wage theft and creates the opportunity for an enforcement committee to develop. A motion was put forward to add the entire City Council as cosponsors. This amendment passed unanimously.

This policy order was adopted as amended.

3. That the City Council and School Committee hold a joint virtual roundtable on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 to discuss priorities for the FY23 Budget.

Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2022 #15

This policy order asks for a joint roundtable discussion between the School Committee and the City Council on the FY23 Budget. This meeting will be held in Sullivan Chamber on February 8, 2022 from 5:30-7:30pm. We know there are always many questions about the upcoming school year budget, and this roundtable will provide a forum for discussion.

This policy order was adopted.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Ordinance committee met on December 8, 2021 to conduct a public hearing on the Yard Setback Zoning Petition (Ord # 2021-22).

Clerk Wilson wanted to make it known that Cable TV, the company that broadcasts City meetings has received new audio transcription software as of December 2021. While the software is helpful, it is not always accurate. After a meeting or committee hearing, the transcription is sent to the chair of the committee and reviewed for any errors. Once it's been approved by the chair, it's referred to the Council for acceptance and to place it on file.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Anthony Wilson, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity.

COF 2022 #10

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from City Clerk Anthony I. Wilson, transmitting a response to Charter Right item #1.

COF 2022 #11

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Councillor Marc McGovern, transmitting the January 2022 report on homelessness in Cambridge.

COF 2022 #12

This [report](#) is from the ad-hoc group working on homeless resources. Councillor McGovern announced he will be scheduling a Human Services & Veterans Committee Meeting to formally present the meeting notes and findings.

This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee.

COF 2022 #13

This communication from Mayor Siddiqui offers a recap of the most recent School Committee meeting. Ahead of February Break, all CPS students and staff will be sent home with one box containing two at-home rapid Covid tests. All students and staff will self-test on Sunday, February 27 and report any necessary absences to the school by noon on Sunday. This should be a smooth back-to-school transition that keeps us all safe. The next School Committee meeting will be held on February 1 at 6pm.

This communication was placed on file.

VIII. LATE POLICY ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

Councillor Toner

WHEREAS: Officer David Albert announced his retirement after 33 years of service to the Cambridge Police Department; and,

WHEREAS: Officer Albert served as a Patrol Officer for 27 years and ended his last 6 years as a Detective in the Criminal Investigations Department; and,

WHEREAS: Officer Albert dedicated his energy and focus to serving the citizens of Cambridge; and,

WHEREAS: Officer Albert grew up in North Cambridge on Magoun Street and comes from a large family dedicated to public service to the City of Cambridge serving as police officers, firefighters and nurses, including his youngest daughter, Delaney Albert who recently joined the force; and,

WHEREAS: Officer Albert has earned a long and happy retirement with his wife Kathleen;

RESOLVED: That the City Council and City of Cambridge go on record thanking Officer Albert for his long and honorable service to the City of Cambridge.

This resolution was adopted 8-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no.

A motion was made for reconsideration, making all actions tonight final.

Reconsideration failed. All actions tonight were final.