



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • DECEMBER 5, 2022

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 Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$95,000 from the General Fund Library Salary and Wages account to the General Fund Library Travel and Training (Judgment and Damages) account to cover current and anticipated medical services and/or prescription reimbursement costs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

CMA 2022 #235

This communication asks for the approval of \$95,000 to be used for worker's compensation reimbursements for library staff.

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

2. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$18,803.68 received from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition's Community Safety Initiative through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Grant Fund Police Department Salary and Wages account (\$9,963.70) and the Grant Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$8,839.98), funds will be used for hot spot patrols in support of youth violence reduction strategies and the Focused Deterrence program and the Teen Media Public Art Program at the Community Art Center. ***CMA 2022 #236***

This communication asks for the approval of the Shannon Grant in the amount of \$18,803.68 to be used to fund hot spot youth violence patrols and a Teen Media Public Art Program.

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

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to an amendment to the proposed Home Rule Petition for a special act regarding a fire cadet program for the City of Cambridge Fire Department.

CMA 2022 #237

The rules were suspended to bring Communications from Other Officers #4 forward with this item.

Originally, I submitted this [policy order](#) in October of 2019 alongside former Councillor Toomey, Councillor McGovern, and Councillor Simmons asking the City to look into the feasibility of creating a Fire Cadet Program. I was very pleased to see this update to the Home Rule Petition, but seeing as this has already been a 2 year process, I inquired whether or not the process can

continue with the current legislative body or if the process would restart with the new body in January. The City Solicitor shared that she was not sure of the outcome, but assured that the Council can formally request the process to be expedited. I want to thank Representative Decker who has helped us move this petition forward, and to my colleagues who have supported this endeavor to not only recruit and train more firefighters, but to also diversify our first responders. Two amendments were [suggested](#), the first adds language that is similar to the language in Boston's Fire Cadet program which explains that Fire Cadets cannot pay into the pension system, but can buy back their time once they become full time firefighters. This amendment was accepted. The second proposed amendment would limit the program to five years, and it was not suggested that we accept that language change.

This communication was approved as amended.

[Communications from Other Officers #4](#) outlines the progress of all pending Home Rule petitions. You can check the links for a status update.

Communications from Other Officers #4 was accepted and placed on file.

4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board report with a recommendation to adopt the Emissions the Accounting Zoning Petition (Version 3) with clarifying comments.

CMA 2022 #238

This communication is a positive recommendation from the Planning Board to adopt the [Emissions Accounting Zoning Petition](#). Two small edits were suggested to classify department reporting and to change the date. The Ordinance Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 6 will discuss this petition in greater detail.

This item was referred to the petition.

5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board Zoning Petition to consider adoption of the attached Climate Resilience Zoning.

CMA 2022 #239

This communication is a positive recommendation form the Planning Board to adopt the [Climate Resilience Zoning Petition](#). There will be a Health & Environment Committee Meeting to discuss the petition in further detail.

This item was referred to the Ordinance Committee and Planning Board for hearing and report.

6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the City Manager's 90 Day Report.

CMA 2022 #240

The rules were suspended to bring Communications from Other Officers #1 and Committee Report #1 forward for discussion with this item.

In the 2021 municipal election, residents voted to update the City Charter and establish an annual performance evaluation and review process for the City Manager. During the November 22 Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee, I chaired the effort to develop the review process that will be used to evaluate the City Manager. In February, the City Council and City Manager will meet to review our shared goals, and those will be the items we will use to evaluate him publicly in December. During the committee meeting, we were able to create a timeline to be used for this annual performance review. In addition, we have decided on a January-December calendar for the annual review, this way new members of the Council who are elected in November will have time to observe the Manager before conducting their review. We will use an ad-hoc committee for the review, but this may change as we hope for this to be an iterative process.

The [90-day review](#) the City Manager submitted tonight is a recap of what City Manager Huang has been able to accomplish so far as well as a look ahead to the opportunities in the future. In his review, Manager Huang shares that he is hopeful, excited, and enthusiastic about accomplishing many of the City's goals. I am especially thankful to Manager Huang for helping us to create a new culture of transparency and structure with performance reviews.

In Committee Report #1, you can read the transcript of the meeting. [Communications from Other Officers #1](#) contains the timeline and rubric for the Manager's review. There was discussion about adding language to page 9, under "November" in the 4th bullet that refers to allowing the community-at-large to give feedback on the Manager's performance through emails to the City Council. This amendment was adopted.

This communication was placed on file.

Committee report #1 was placed on file.

Communications from Other Officers #1 was placed on file.

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to asking the Department of Conservation and Recreation to suspend the Saturday closures of Memorial Drive between Greenough Boulevard and Western Avenue for the remainder of this year.

CMA 2022 #241

This communication is a letter from City Manager Huang outlining his intent to ask the Department of Conservation and Recreation to suspend the Saturday closures of Memorial Drive for the remainder of the year. Although there are only two remaining Saturdays in the year, the loss of open space for these two days will still have an impact on the greater community and those who rely on the parkway for weekend bike riding, running, and other recreational activities without the threat of motor vehicle traffic. There was much discussion about the lack of transparency and myself and several of my colleagues expressed our disappointment in the late nature of this item. It was also mentioned that we should be collecting data on the usage of the parkway in December and use that data to make an informed decision about winter closures.

Manager Huang owned his mistake in submitting this item after the Thursday deadline, and noted that data should be collected.

Councillor Zondervan presented a policy order asking the Manager not to ask the DCR to suspend the closures. This policy order failed 3-6. Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, and myself voted yes.

This communication was placed on file.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Reports Items Numbered 16-111, 18-38, and 20-61, regarding Municipal Property Inventory. **CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 21, 2022 CMA 2022 #231**

There was discussion about why 689 Massachusetts Ave (Citizens Bank Building) was left off of the Municipal Property Inventory list. Assistant Manager for Community Development Iram Farooq explained that this property already has plans for its use, so it is not regarded as unused property. It was noted that the City should begin to plan for the building's usage after the current tenant's 5 year lease is up. In addition, it was asked that City property leased out to other tenants be added to this list.

This communication was placed on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. That the Ordinance Committee refer Categories M (Shared Vehicle) and N (Publicly-accessible, Privately-owned Electric Vehicle Charging System) of the Cambridge Transportation Decarbonization and Congestion Mitigation Bill, along with definitions, to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation. Ordinance #2022-13 as Amended **EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 POR 2022 #150**

This petition expired. No action was taken.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from John Piacitelli representing AP Brattle Square LP, requesting permission for an awning at the premises numbered 31 Brattle Street. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters proof of mailings has been provided. **APP 2022 #60**

This application was approved.

2. An application was received from John Piacitelli representing AP Brattle Square LP, requesting permission for an awning at the premises numbered 25 Brattle Street. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters proof of mailings has been provided.

APP 2022 #61

This application was approved.

3. An application was received from Lauren Delarda representing Herbwel Cannabis, requesting permission for an awning at the premises numbered 1686 Massachusetts Avenue. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters proof of mailing has been provided.

APP 2022 #62

This application was approved.

VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to work with the residents at 931 Massachusetts Avenue to identify and provide a short-term parking spot in front of 931 Massachusetts Avenue.

Councillor Toner, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons

POR 2022 #310

This policy order asks for a permit-only, short-term parking spot to be added in front of 931 Massachusetts Ave. This building is a large condo building that does not have a safe drop-off loading zone, which residents say negatively impacts them when they order large appliances or furniture for delivery. The order seeks to create a safe space for deliveries without negatively impacting the existing bike lane. Councillor Azeem proposed an amendment that would add language protecting the Cycling Safety Ordinance. That amendment was adopted. Councillor McGovern offered an amendment adding the words “permit only” which will require people to obtain a permit from Traffic, Parking & Transportation to use the space. This amendment was adopted.

This order was adopted as amended 8-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no.

2. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Cambridge Department of Public Health, the Law Department, and the Fire Department to provide at least one vaccine clinic in December which will provide gift cards to residents who receive a COVID19 vaccination or booster.

Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2022 #311

I want to thank Mayor Siddiqui for her continued support of a “gift cards for vaccines” pilot in the City. We submitted this policy order in an effort to raise the City’s very low second booster

[rate](#). The communities that have been able to take part in these gift card for vaccine clinics through the [State](#) have seen a significant uptick in their second booster rates, and it is important we encourage and promote boosters for all of our residents. This order asks the City Manager to work with the necessary departments to conduct at least one booster clinic in the month of December.

This policy order was adopted.

3. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate departments to conduct street cleaning without towing starting with the 2023 season.

Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Azeem
POR 2022 #312

This policy order seeks to change the way the City conducts street cleaning and proposes a less punitive process that would first ticket vehicles left on the street, then tow on a second or third offense. For those who are towed on street cleaning days, the cost to get their vehicle out of the impound lot can be crippling. Both Somerville and Boston conduct street cleaning without towing cars each week, and Cambridge should collect relevant data to determine if we should join them. There was discussion and debate about the effectiveness of the street sweepers with cars still parked on the street. Councillor Simmons exercised her Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and debate until the next Council meeting.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Government Operations, Rules & Claims Committee held a public meeting on November 22, 2022 to discuss the City Manager's Annual Evaluation process.

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #6.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Vice Mayor Mallon, transmitting information regarding the City Manager Annual Review process.

COF 2022 #151

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #6.

This communication was accepted and placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Councillor Nolan and Councillor Carlone, transmitting information regarding a Finance Committee meeting

COF 2022 #152

There will be a Finance Committee meeting on December 15 at 11:00am. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Council's goals for the next year and determine ways to incorporate those goals into the FY24 budget. Members of the Council are encouraged to send their priorities for the year to the co-chairs of the committee so a fruitful conversation can happen.

This communication was placed on file.

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

Mayor Siddiqui
COF 2022 #153

This communication was accepted and placed on file.

4. A communication was received from Diane P. LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity.

COF 2022 #154

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #3.

This communication was accepted and placed on file.