



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • APRIL 24, 2023

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 the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant in the amount of \$532,218.00 funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$24,693.00), to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$504,025.00), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$3,500.00).

CMA 2023 #98

This is an appropriation of \$532,218 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development to assist with the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. This program is run by the Department of Human Service Programs and provides assistance with home heating bills to households in need within the City.

If you or someone you know could benefit from assistance, click [here](#).

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

2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of School Committee Member Caroline Hunter as a member of the Family Policy Council.

CMA 2023 #99

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

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as member of the to the Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women for a term of three years: • Jean Connor (appointment) • Caitlin Dube (appointment) • Rhonda Greene (reappointment) • Mara Horwitz (appointment) • Natalie Le (appointment) • Judith Tumusiime (appointment)

CMA 2023 #100

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

4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as members of the the Mass Ave Partial Construction Working Group: • Sukia Akiba • Steven Beaucher • Darren Buck • Christopher Cassa • Makayla Comas-Race • Gary

Dmytryk • Debby Galef • Diane Gray • Denise Jillson • Timothy Keefe • Ruth Ryals • Eitan Normand • Daniel Stubbs • Laurie Pessah
CMA 2023 #101

The Mass Ave Partial Construction Working Group is a group of appointed members that are tasked with serving as community representatives to the City Manager and his staff on key issues regarding construction and traffic design on Mass Ave as well as communicating those ideas and plans back to residents and community members.

To read more about each member, click [here](#).

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

5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, requesting that the City Council authorize an agreement to partner with the Town of Arlington ("Arlington") in its receipt of a federal planning grant ("Grant") from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA").
CMA 2023 #102

This [communication](#) is a letter from the City Manager asking the City Council to approve a partnership between Arlington and Cambridge for a federal planning grant of \$992,500 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This grant will be used to conduct a study to identify places where flood interventions can be placed in the region. This will be a three-year project between Arlington and Cambridge.

This item was placed on file.

6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to improvements to the area around Jerry's Pond.
CMA 2023 #103

This [communication](#) is a letter from City Manager Huang outlining improvements IQHQ, the property owner of Jerry's Pond, has committed to in an effort to transform the pond area into a more usable open space. When renovations are complete, a new boardwalk, community garden, trees, seating, and programming through Mass Audubon will be available for residents to take advantage of. This is a great step in the right direction, however, there was discussion about the decision to reallocate the ARPA funds dedicated to this project to instead fund a feasibility study of renovating the area to include a 25% bike and pedestrian bridge to connect Rindge Ave and Danehy Park over the Fitchburg Commuter Line train tracks. If the funds are reallocated, it would make the City eligible to receive additional federal funds to complete the bridge construction. There was discussion about the confusion many residents have surrounding the project details, and it was determined that a Neighborhood & Long Term Planning Meeting would be the best place to further discuss the plans in detail.

This item was referred to the Neighborhood & Long Term Planning Committee for discussion.

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 23-08, regarding a report regarding exploring additional less-lethal alternatives that pose the smallest risk of injury when deployed for standard issue in the Cambridge Police Department.
CMA 2023 #104

This communication is a report from the Cambridge Police Department in response to this [policy order](#) filed by Councillor Azeem, Councillor Toner, and Councillor Simmons that outlines additional less-lethal alternatives that pose the smallest risk of injury when deployed for standard issue by the CPD. The report shows that the CPD is not in possession of several less-lethal tools, but only the Taser 10. The report also shares that the CPD will wait for the Police Executive Review Forum (PERF) to complete their evaluation and recommendations before CPD begins implementation.

This item was referred to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. An application was received from Siyu Xiao, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 25 Suffolk Street; 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
APRIL 10, 2023
APP 2023 #18**

After discussion with Traffic, Parking, & Transportation, it was decided that it would best benefit them to receive the curb cut before the shared street design process begins, so the curb cut can be included.

This application was approved by a vote of 8-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no.

2. Riverbend Park on Memorial Drive

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL APRIL
10, 2023
POR 2023 #68**

There was much discussion about the impacts of the Memorial Drive closures on both days of the weekend. It was determined that the best course of action is to forward this policy order to the DCR as the City investigates traffic mitigation efforts and the DCR works to come up with a plan for regular weekend closures to continue.

Councillor Nolan proposed an amendment to the original policy order to include the language “legal justification” in the first ordered paragraph.

The amendment to include “legal justification” was adopted 8-1. Councillor Simmons voted no.

This policy order was further amended to include Councillor Zondervan as a cosponsor.

This policy order was adopted as amended by a vote of 7-2. Councillor Toner and Councillor Simmons voted no.

V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to light City Hall up green from May 1 through May 7, 2023 in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month.

Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2023 #69

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and City Hall will be lit up green for the first week of May in recognition of the month. There are many mental health resources available around the City through the Cambridge Health Alliance. If you or someone you know is struggling, please reach out [here](#).

This policy order was adopted.

2. City Council support for Amendments #685 and #1333 to House Bill H3900 and in urging that the members of the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee ensure their inclusion and passage in the final bill.

Councillor Simmons

POR 2023 #70

This policy order asks the entire Council to go on record supporting amendments #685 and #1333 to [House Bill H3900](#). These amendments would propose an allocation of \$500,000 to LGBTQ Senior Housing, to support the creation of the first Senior Housing in Massachusetts.

This policy order was adopted.

3. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request for a dedication in the vicinity of the Harvard Observatory on Concord Avenue or Garden Street in honor of Williamina P.S. Fleming and Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin.

Councillor Nolan

POR 2023 #71

This policy order is a request to dedicate a street corner in the area of the Harvard Observatory on Concord Ave or Garden Street in honor of Williamina P.S. Fleming and Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin, two women astronomers who faced adversity on the way to accomplishing many great feats.

This policy order was adopted.

4. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to bring together a working group to conduct outreach through neighborhood groups including the Fresh Pond Residents Alliance, and any other nearby neighborhood groups and city departments, in order to discuss and review options for use of the BB&N Field.

Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone

POR 2023 #72

This policy order asks the City Manager to work with the relevant City departments to create a working group to begin discussing options for use of the newly acquired BB&N field. The goal of this order is to begin the community engagement process for this piece of land so all voices are heard in the process.

This policy order was adopted.

5. That the City Manager is requested to direct relevant departments to work together to develop a policy that would lead to a ban on the use of gas-powered lawn equipment in Cambridge in line with other municipalities and development of possible ordinance language limiting the use of gas powered lawn equipment by residents, businesses, and city operations.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone

POR 2023 #73

This policy order asks the City Manager to work with the relevant departments to work together to begin drafting the policy that would ban gas-powered lawn equipment in Cambridge. There was discussion about the health effects of workers who operate this equipment as well as how powerful electric alternatives are.

This policy order was referred to the Health & Environment Committee for further discussion.

6. That the City Council go on record declaring April 2023 as “Autism Acceptance Month” in the City of Cambridge.

Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern

POR 2023 #74

April is Autism Acceptance Month, and the City of Cambridge will be honoring the month.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Health and Environment Committee met on March 1, 2022 to receive an update on the Net Zero Action Plan.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

2. The Health and Environment Committee met on March 8, 2022 to conduct a public hearing on proposed BEUDO amendments.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

3. The Health and Environment Committee met on March 23, 2022 to continue discussion on the Net Zero Action Plan.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

4. The Health and Environment Committee met on March 29, 2022 to receive a report from the Climate Resilience Zoning Task Force.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

5. The Health and Environment Committee will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 to review plans for solar and renewable energy installations in the city, including report on solar expansion and works by the CEA (Cambridge Energy Alliance) and potential for solar on city owned water supply land, and any other items related to renewable energy.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

6. The Ordinance Committee held a public hearing on April 13, 2023 on the Citizen's Zoning Petition received from Michael Monestime et al. regarding Outdoor Use Zoning in the Central Square Cultural District.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

A. A Zoning Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc City Clerk, relative to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge be amended on a Zoning Petition by Michael Monestime, et al., to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge by creating new footnotes in the Table of Permitted Uses in Section 4.30 for Outdoor Retail or Consumer Service Establishment, not otherwise defined and Outdoor Entertainment and Recreation Facility” in the Business B, B- 1 and B-2 column which read, “For the Central Square Overlay see section 20.304.5 (5)” and “For the Central Square Overlay see section 20.304.5 (6)”; and by amending Section 20.304.5 of the Central Square Overlay District to allow Outdoor Retail or Consumer Service Establishment, not otherwise defined by Special Permit from the Planning Board, with associated approval criteria, and to permit Outdoor Entertainment and Recreation Facility as-of-right within the Business B District of the Central Square Overlay District. (Ordinance #2023-1)

ORD 2023 # 1

This ordinance would change the zoning to allow for Starlight Square to be a permanent establishment in Central Square as part of the Central Square Overlay. I am pleased to see this move forward and look forward to many more years of Starlight Square.

Since no action can be taken on this ordinance until the Planning Board meets, the only recommended action was to pass this to a second reading.

This ordinance was passed to a second reading.

VII. ROUNDTABLE/WORKING MEETING SUBMISSION OF THE RECORD

1. Minutes of the City Council - Roundtable/Working Meeting - March 13, 2023 5:30 PM

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

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

COF 2023 #71

This communication was accepted and placed on file.

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

COF 2023 #72

This communication was accepted and placed on file.