



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • JUNE 12, 2023

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 Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the proposed structure for the Cambridge Community Electricity program (CCE) for the period 2024-2025.
CMA 2023 #156

This [communication](#) shares a proposed structure for the Cambridge Community Electricity program (CCE) for the 2024-2025 period. The report states that the City is currently receiving bids from several competitive energy suppliers to provide the best option for a basic green, 50% renewable and 100% renewable energy option. To increase enrollment, especially among low-income households, the City is planning two mailings that should be arriving in mailboxes before the end of June to explain the benefits of the CCE and encourage people to switch their supplier.

If you would like to learn more about the CCE, click [here](#). To change your energy supplier to the CCE, click [here](#) or call All In Energy at 1-844-379-9934, the City's consultant for renewable electricity.

This communication was placed on file.

2. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a request for authorization of a spending limit of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2024, for the Renewable Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction revolving fund (Revolving Fund), pursuant to Chapter 3.24 of the Municipal Ordinance titled "Departmental Revolving Funds".
CMA 2023 #157

This [communication](#) is an authorization request for \$150,000 for the Renewable Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction revolving fund. The funds will be spent on metering equipment for the solar panels installed at the Graham & Parks School, operating and maintenance costs related to collecting the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), and scouting another renewable energy project for the City via a Virtual Power Purchase Agreement (vPPA).

This authorization was approved.

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 23-31, regarding potential amendments to the Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO).
CMA 2023 #158

This communication is in response to this [policy order](#) filed by Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Azeem, and Councillor Zondervan asking the City Manager to direct the Community Development Department to draft a zoning petition that can be filed by the Council based on the current Affordable Housing Overlay amendments before the Council. We were reminded that this is just one more step to finalizing the Affordable Housing Overlay, and there is still much work to be done.

To read the full amendment language, click [here](#).

The proposed zoning language was adopted as a Council petition. The petition was referred to the Planning Board and Ordinance Committee for discussion and report by a vote of 5-3-1. Councillor Carlone, Councillor Toner, and Councillor Nolan voted no. Mayor Siddiqui was absent.

4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Policy Order 2023 #81 directing City staff to recommend what new city regulations and council action or changes to existing regulations or ordinances are needed to put in place in order to implement the Craig Kelley et al. Zoning Petition for residential car sharing and renting of EV charging stations.
CMA 2023 #159

The rules were suspended to bring Calendar Item #2 forward for discussion with this item.

This [communication](#) is in response to this [policy order](#) filed by Councillor McGovern and Councillor Nolan asking the City Manager to direct relevant City staff to recommend new City regulations that may be needed in order to implement the Craig Kelley et al. Zoning Petition. The Law Department satisfied this order with suggested language to ensure this zoning petition can pass and ease the path to sharing electric vehicle car charging in Cambridge.

This petition was amended with the substitute language.

This ordinance was ordained by a vote of 7-1-1. Councillor Carlone voted no and Mayor Siddiqui was absent.

5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 23-27, regarding the Charter Review Timeline Legal Opinion Request.
CMA 2023 #160

This [communication](#) is in response to this [policy order](#) filed by Councillor Zondervan asking the City Manager to direct the City Solicitor to provide a legal opinion on the earliest date potential charter changes could be voted on if the Charter Review Committee proceeds on a December 31, 2023 deadline. Solicitor Glowa's response shares that the possible charter changes could be voted on immediately through approval from the Attorney General's office, or next year during a

special election as approved through the Mass General Court. There was discussion about the feasibility of both of these options since the Attorney General route is typically reserved for more small-scale changes, rather than an entire rewrite, as the Charter Review Committee is planning.

This communication was placed on file.

6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the recommendation of the following appointments and reappointments of members to the Avon Hill, Half-Crown-Marsh, and Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) Commissions. These appointments are for three years and are effective June 12, 2023 unless otherwise noted; Levin Campbell, Ruby Booz, Aaron Kemp, Donna Marcantonio, James Van Sickle, Kathryn Moll, Nan Laird, Catherine Tice and Charles Redmon
CMA 2023 #161

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

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointments and reappointments of the following person as members of the Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship (CIRC) Commission for a term of three years effective June 12, 2023; Maximus Daniel De Medici, Debra Klein, Vanessa Sarmiento, Tsamchoe Dolma and Ana D. Mejia
CMA 2023 #162

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

8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as members of the Public Arts Commission (PAC) for a term of three years, effective June 12, 2023; Diana Smith, John Ravenal, Frank Shirley, Jennifer Lawrence, Gabrielle Domb and Keisha Greaves.
CMA 2023 #163

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

9. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to an order authorizing the City Manager to transfer necessary funds needed to maintain appropriation control as part of the fiscal end-of-year closeout process.
CMA 2023 #164

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

10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the establishment of a Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Stabilization Fund.
CMA 2023 #165

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

11. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$10,000,000 from Free Cash to the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Stabilization Fund. Funds appropriated to and held by the UPK Stabilization Fund, will be expended for the provision of programs and services related to establishing, maintaining and expanding a Universal Pre-Kindergarten program and other early childhood programs in the City of Cambridge.

CMA 2023 #166

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

12. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$1,000,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Department of Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account for technical assistance in assessing and implementing the City's Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) for new and existing City-owned buildings.

CMA 2023 #167

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

13. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$250,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Department of Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account, for a conditions assessment and preliminary feasibility study for the City's property at 119 Windsor Street.

CMA 2023 #168

This communication is an appropriation request for \$250,000 to assess the conditions at 119 Windsor Street and begin a preliminary feasibility study at the property. There was discussion once again that the Community Arts Center also operates out of this building, and should be considered when these assessments are being done.

This appropriation was approved.

This item was placed on file.

14. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$660,866.80 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account. Funding will support projects to convert inefficient lighting to energy-saving LEDs at the Healy Public Safety Building, Main Library, Alice K Wolf Building, Longfellow-Broadway School and First Street Garage.

CMA 2023 #169

This [communication](#) is an appropriation request for \$660,866.80 to replace inefficient light bulbs with LED light bulbs at the Healy Public Safety Building, Main Library Branch, Alice K Wolf Building, the Longfellow-Broadway School, and the First Street Garage. The Council was assured these buildings are some of the last to need replacement bulbs, and the wait is only attributed to the age of some of the buildings and the need for different fixtures to fit the LED bulbs.

This appropriation was approved.

This communication was placed on file.

15. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$100,000 from the General Fund Employee Benefits (Insurance) Salary and Wages account to the General Fund Fire Travel and Training (Judgment and Damages) account to cover current and anticipated medical services for the remainder of the fiscal year, for personnel injured in the performance of their duties.

CMA 2023 #170

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

16. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$10,481.00 to the Grant Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account (\$8,681.00) and Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$1,800.00) to provide funds to continue the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) Program that educates students in the dangers of fire and its effect on people, property, and the environment.

CMA 2023 #171

This communication is an appropriation request for \$8,681.00 to fund the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) program. There was discussion about whether or not this program could be expanded to include college-age students, and Fire Chief Cahill shared that the program is only targeted at kindergarten – high school students, but the education and guidance they receive sticks with them well into young adulthood and beyond.

This appropriation was approved.

This communication was placed on file.

17. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$2,877 to the Grant Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account (\$2,000.00) and Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$877.00) to provide funds for the Senior SAFE Program that educates seniors in the dangers of fire and its effect on people, property, and the environment.

CMA 2023 #172

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

18. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$6,000 donated from the Carl Barron Awards for Administrative Excellence, to the Fire Department Grant Fund Other Ordinary Maintenance account.

CMA 2023 #173

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

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the Transportation and Public Utilities and Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committees work with the City Manager and appropriate city departments and staff, to hold a joint hearing to receive input from city staff and the community to review the effectiveness and develop recommendations on methods to collect data and establish measurable benchmarks and standards as it relates to the Cycling Safety Ordinance.
CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR AZEEM IN COUNCIL JUNE 5, 2023 POR 2023 #109
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

This policy order seeks to hold a joint meeting between the Transportation and Public Utilities and Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committees to determine what data should be collected to best benchmark the effectiveness of the Cycling Safety Ordinance.

The original policy order was amended by substitution to clarify the intent of the order. This is the substitute language from Councillor Azeem:

WHEREAS: In 2015 Cambridge's Bicycle Plan laid out a vision for a bikeable city which was updated in 2020, and the City Council adopted Vision Zero in 2016, and the Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO) was passed in 2019 and amended in 2020 to add timelines and the city has now installed 9.41 miles and is on track to add 4.73 more miles ~~or is close to completing 14.54 miles~~ of separated and partial build bike lanes across the city; and

WHEREAS: This policy order is not meant to delay CSO projects.

~~All city programs and projects including the CSO should be reviewed periodically to ensure that the goals are met, and adjustments may be made if appropriate, now therefore be it~~

ORDERED: That the Transportation and Public Utilities and Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committees work with the City Manager and appropriate city departments and staff, to hold a joint hearing to receive input from city staff and the community to review and identify recommendations on methods to collect data and establish measurable benchmarks and standards to make our streets safer and more efficient including and not limited to:

- Cycling activity and automobile traffic pre and post-installation, through the use of Eco Totems or other methods installed across the city
- Safety data and the number of pedestrian, cyclist, and automobile accidents and injuries and the
- The impact of new road infrastructure on the community ~~including businesses, seniors and residents with disabilities~~

~~And consider including SMART goals in the ordinance for future reporting, to ensure updates on such data annually.~~

The amendment by substitution was adopted.

This policy order was further amended to include Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toner, and Councillor Carlone as cosponsors by a vote of 7-1-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no and Mayor Siddiqui was marked absent.

This order was adopted as amended by a vote of 7-1-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no and Mayor Siddiqui was marked absent.

2. An Ordinance has been received from Craig Kelley et al, relative to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge regarding EV and car share Zoning change.

PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MAY 15, 2023

TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER JUNE 5, 2023 EXPIRES AUGUST 1, 2023

ORD 2023 # 2

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #4.

This ordinance was ordained by a vote of 7-1-1. Councillor Carlone voted no. Mayor Siddiqui was absent.

3. Ordinance entitled “Building Energy Use,” Chapter 8.67 of the Municipal Code of the City of Cambridge Building Energy Use Disclosure and Emission Reductions BUEDO (Ordinance 2021-26)

PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL JUNE 5, 2023

TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER JUNE 26, 2023 ORD 2021 # 26

No action was taken.

V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. Proposed amendment to BEUDO.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone

POR 2023 #115

The rules were suspended to bring policy order #2 forward for discussion with this item.

This [policy order](#) is a proposed amendment to the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance. This amendment proposes a new definition of “covered property.”

This item was placed on the table by a vote of 7-1-1. Councillor Toner voted no. Mayor Siddiqui was absent.

2. Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Pilot

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan

POR 2023 #116

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward for discussion with policy order #1.

This [policy order](#) requests a new chapter “Fossil Fuel-Free Demonstration” be added to the City Code of Ordinances. This addition would allow Cambridge to be in compliance with the application requirements for the DOER fossil fuel free construction pilot, which is due by September 1, 2023.

Councillor Zondervan exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and action until the next Council meeting.

3. Golf Course Demographic Information PO
Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone
POR 2023 #117

This [policy order](#) asks the City Manager to direct the relevant departments to release any available demographic information related to the dues-paying membership of the municipal golf course, including (but not limited to) zip code, age, gender, race, and longevity of membership. Assistant City Manager of Human Service Programs Ellen Semenoff assured the Council demographic information from the Golf Course during the FY24 Budget hearings. There was discussion about what information the Golf Course collects from its members, and it was determined race, gender, and zip code are not collected, but other information is already available from the Golf Course office.

Councillor Zondervan exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and action until the next Council meeting.

4. That the City Manager is requested to amend the Cambridge Math Circle budget up by \$100,000 annually.
Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Azeem
POR 2023 #118

This [policy order](#) asks the City Manager to raise the Cambridge Math Circle budget from \$20,000 to \$100,000 for annual operation. Math Circle is an enrichment program that helps Black and brown students as well as girls and low-income students fall in love with and excel at mathematics. There was discussion about possibly setting a precedent for other programs to request additional funding by asking the Council to submit policy orders.

Councillor Toner exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and action until the next Council meeting.

5. City Council support for MIT GSU’s right to a fair contract.
Councillor Azeem, Councillor Zondervan
POR 2023 #119

This [policy order](#) asks the City Council to go on record in support of the MIT Graduate Students Union’s right to a fair contract.

Councillor Toner exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and action until the next Council meeting.

6. That the Home Rule Petition titled “PETITION FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TO EMPLOY AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE” be forwarded to the state delegation in order to forward to the General Court for adoption.

Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Carlone
POR 2023 #120

This [policy order](#) asks for the Home Rule Petition attached to the policy order be forwarded to the state delegation to be adopted by the General Court. This home rule petition would allow Cambridge to use automatic enforcement to handle traffic violations such as red light infractions, speeding violations, and more. If passed, Cambridge would become a model City for other municipalities to look to when it comes to increasing the safety of traffic enforcement.

This policy order was amended to include the entire Council as cosponsors.

This policy order was adopted as amended.

7. City Council support for Bill No. H. 2019 - Ollie's Law.

Councillor McGovern
POR 2023 #121

This [policy order](#) asks the entire Council to go on record supporting [Bill H.2019](#), “Ollie’s Law.” The law would introduce state oversight to dog breeders, day cares, and high volume kennels, something that does not currently exist in Massachusetts.

This policy order was amended to include the entire Council as cosponsors.

This policy order was adopted as amended.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Ordinance Committee held a public hearing on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 on the Citizens Zoning Petition received from Charles Jessup Franklin et al., regarding allowing new construction that is similar in size and shape as existing buildings for the purpose of promoting housing and first floor retail.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

VII. ROUNDTABLE/WORKING MEETING

1. Minutes of the City Council - Roundtable/Working Meeting - February 9, 2021 6:00 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 #101

This communication was accepted and placed on file.

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

COF 2023 #102

This communication was accepted and placed on file.

IX. LATE POLICY ORDER

Councillor Nolan

That the City Manager is requested to have the legal department answer the following questions related to the timeline on voting a possible charter change:

- Has the Secretary of State in Massachusetts approved charter revision ballot questions by municipalities to be voted the same day as state elections as long as separate ballots are issued?
- If a charter revision is a rewrite of a charter would the Massachusetts Attorney General office allow the charter to be changed under G.L. c. 43B section 10 (a)?
- How often have charter changes been approved and voted upon by Massachusetts municipalities in a special election separate from a usual municipal election?

This late policy order filed by Councillor Nolan addresses some additional questions that were raised after receiving the City Solicitor's legal opinion on the voting timeline of a possible charter change.

This policy order was adopted by a vote of 6-1-1-1. Councillor Simmons was marked present. Councillor Zondervan voted no. Mayor Siddiqui was absent.