

RECONSIDERATION

1. Councillor Kelley filed Reconsideration on the vote taken on Dec 21, 2009 confirming the appointments transmitted on a communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as Commissioners of the Cambridge Housing Authority:
Anthony Pini (term expires 4/1/2014)
Gerald Clark (term expires 1/11/2015)
[Dec 21, 2009 motion of Councillor Kelley to Table failed 4-5-0. Appointments confirmed 8-1-0. Councillor Kelley filed Reconsideration.]

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the State Executive Office of Public Safety/Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for \$2,480 to the Grant Fund Fire Other Ordinary Maintenance to provide funds to support the operations of the Emergency Preparedness and Coordination Office within the Fire Department.
2. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the State Executive Office of Public Safety for \$6,112 to the Grant Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account (\$4,612), Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$1,000) and Travel and Training account (\$500) 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.
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$170,400 from the General Fund Employee Benefits Salary and Wages (Salary Adjustment) account to the General Fund Fire Other Ordinary Maintenance account to cover the cost to outfit 15 new firefighters with personal protective equipment and uniforms as well as to perform related medical evaluations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Vice Mayor Sam Seidel and Councillor David Maher, Co-Chairs of the Ordinance Committee, for a meeting held on Nov 18, 2009 for the purpose of considering a petition for a zoning amendment filed by Richard D. Fanning et al. to eliminate the Section 5.25.3 exemption of existing parking facilities in the calculation of floor area ratio (FAR) and to delete Sections 20.44.3, which specifies maximum heights for the area between the centerline of the railroad right of way and the centerline of Cardinal Medeiros Avenue in the East Cambridge Housing Overlay District. Planning Board hearing held on Nov 17, 2009. Petition expires Feb 16, 2010. Committee Report Number Six of Dec 14, 2009 was Accepted and Referred to Unfinished Business.
2. That the matter of the election of the Mayor be referred to Unfinished Business.

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Flat Patties, requesting permission for five tables and twenty chairs for restaurant seating in front of premises numbered 33 Brattle Street.

2. An application was received from Aiyara Thai Cuisine, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign in front of premises numbered 16-18 Eliot Street.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Ruth E. Hill, transmitting thanks to the City Council for the resolution praising Brother Blue's life and contributions to the City of Cambridge.
2. A communication was received from Olive Sampson, Director, Office of Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs, United States Department of State, transmitting thanks for the letter of Oct 15, along with the City Council's resolution condemning sexual violence in the Easter region of the Democratic Republic of Congo and calling for U.S. government action.
3. A communication was received from Department of Public Utilities, Transportation Oversight Division, transmitting notice that the hearing scheduled on Jan 12, 2010 has been reschedule for Jan 20, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at One South Station, Boston, on the appeal of Cambridge Airport Shuttle, Inc. from the City Council's denial of an application for a hotel shuttle service over certain routes between Logan International Airport and the City of Cambridge.
4. A communication was received from the family of Janice Xavier, transmitting thanks to the City Council for the expression of sympathy resolution.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Barbara Lee. Councillor Simmons
2. Resolution on the death of Dorothea E. Masse. Councillor Maher
3. Resolution on the death of Marilyn A. (Brennan) McGinn. Councillor Maher
4. Resolution on the death of Richard Kindleberger. Councillor Davis
5. Resolution on the death of Julia Isadora (Abernethy) Wallace. Councillor Decker, Councillor Seidel, Councillor Davis, Councillor Maher, Councillor Simmons
6. Resolution on the death of Charles H. Shuman Jr. Councillor Toomey
7. Congratulations to the British Consulate-General on their new offices at One Broadway in Cambridge. Councillor Toomey, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Davis
8. Congratulations to Peter and Sarah Popovics on the birth of their twin girls, Maya Rose and Jillian Diane, born on Dec 1, 2009. Councillor Toomey
9. Resolution on the death of Specialist Brushaun X. Anderson. Councillor Decker
10. Resolution on the death of Violet (Abate) Santackas. Councillor Toomey
11. Resolution on the death of James J. LaRocca. Councillor Toomey
12. Resolution on the death of Helen M. (Bennett) Griffin. Councillor Maher
13. Happy 90th Birthday wishes to Kay Frawley on Jan 21, 2010. Councillor Maher

14. Resolution on the death of Val Postell. Councillor Maher, Councillor Toomey, Councillor Davis
15. Resolution on the death of Jean (Gillespie) Peterson Harvie. Councillor Toomey
16. Speedy recovery wishes to Karen Meehan. Councillor Simmons
17. Resolution on the death of Specialist David A. Croft Jr. Councillor Decker

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the appropriate City department heads and personnel in order to determine alternatives to laying off the five employees from the Lead Safe Cambridge program. Councillor Simmons
2. That the City Manager is requested to clarify the status of the new smoke detector regulation and how the regulation relates to Cambridge residential structures. Councillor Davis
3. That the City Manager, in conjunction with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works and School Department, is requested to prepare a report with an assessment and a plan for repairs and improvements, if needed, regarding the present conditions of all of our school playgrounds. Councillor Maher
4. City Council concerns regarding House Bill 4410 which would give new powers to state and local school officials to turn around under-performing schools and increase the number of charter schools. Councillor Davis and Councillor Maher
5. That the City Manager is requested to appoint a committee to pursue the possibility of establishing a sister city relationship in Haiti. Councillor Simmons

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a copy of the referral of Order Number 15 of Dec 21, 2009, regarding increasing the amount of public information about elections while the election is in progress, to the 2010-2011 City Council.
2. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a copy of the referral of Order Number 16 of Dec 21, 2009, regarding the City Council's policy on naming street corners, along with the attached Oct 27, 2006 report from the City Manager.

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Jan 11

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Jan 19

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Jan 25

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 1

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Feb 2

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 22

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 1

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Mar 2

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 15

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Mar 16

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 22

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 5

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Apr 6

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 12

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 26

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Jan 11, 2010

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: It has recently been announced that five valued City employees who comprise the Lead Safe Cambridge program are scheduled to be laid off from their positions as of March, 2010 due to budgetary concerns; and

WHEREAS: These five individuals have given so much of themselves via the exemplary way in which they have executed their jobs; they have honored their contracts by working hard to create a better, healthier community, and collectively these individuals given over three decades of their service to Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Lead Safe Cambridge has, since 1995, supported the de-leading of 800 units and 300 yards; has partnered with Homeowner's Rehab, Inc., Just A Start, Cambridge Affordable Housing Commission, and other valued community partners; has ensured that three Federal and State Regulations (which require municipalities make certain that any rehab project in excess of \$5,000 is performed with proper lead abatement) are adhered to; has assisted predominantly low-income home owners who agree to keep de-leaded rental units affordable; and

WHEREAS: The City Council and City Manager's Office have been quite vocal in supporting the employees of other institutions - notably Harvard University, Hilton Worldwide, and the Marriot Hotels Corporation - when those institutions engaged in mass layoffs and uncharitable displacement practices towards their dedicated employees. The City Council and the City Manager's Office have gone on record as stating that those institutions have a duty to treat all their employees with the dignity and respect they have earned, and that those institutions must consider the implications of terminating those long time workers who would be thrust into a particularly bleak job market; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge must hold itself to the same high standards that these other institutions are being

held to. The City must recognize that it cannot chastise a Harvard or a Hilton for their seemingly cavalier displacement practices on the one hand, while simultaneously dismissing its own longtime employees on similarly questionable grounds on the other; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has cited economic concerns as the basis for these five layoffs, yet there is no evidence available that suggests the City's finances are so dire that the retention of these five employees would cause substantial harm to the City's budget; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge depends upon its reputation as a fair and charitable employer in order to attract the very strongest individuals to fill essential roles at every level of the municipal government. This reputation can best be preserved by demonstrating its strong commitment to its hardworking employees; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the appropriate City department heads and personnel in order to determine alternatives to laying off the five employees from the Lead Safe Cambridge program.

O-2 Jan 11, 2010

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: A regulation adopted last year by the state Board of Fire Prevention Regulation related to the installation and maintenance of certain smoke detectors took effect on Jan 1, 2010; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to clarify the status of the new smoke detector regulation and how the regulation relates to Cambridge residential structures; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the entire City Council on this matter.

O-3 Jan 11, 2010

COUNCILLOR MAHER

WHEREAS: Several parents from the Cambridgeport and Haggerty Schools have expressed their concerns on current conditions relating to the deterioration/safety issues of their school playgrounds; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager, in conjunction with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works and School Department, be and hereby is requested to prepare a report with an assessment and a plan for repairs and improvements, if needed, regarding the present conditions of all of our school playgrounds; and be it further

ORDERED: That this report be received by the City Council prior to the adoption of the FY2011 Budget.

O-4 Jan 11, 2010

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

COUNCILLOR MAHER

WHEREAS: House Bill 4410 is an important piece of education legislation that would give new powers to state and local school officials to turn around under-performing schools and increase the number of charter schools; and

WHEREAS: City and town officials remain seriously concerned about the deep flaws in the charter school funding system and there are more than 150 amendments to H4410, some of which should be supported and some opposed; and

WHEREAS: A final bill is expected to be on the Governor's desk by Jan 14 following an expedited House-Senate Conference committee; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging passage of the following amendments:

- * Amendments that would reduce the severe financial impact that charter schools have on local public schools; under the current system, 199 cities, towns and school districts experience a net loss of \$200 million a year to charter schools, draining valuable resources from classrooms
- * Amendments that would improve the process for approving and evaluating charter schools
- * The progressive school management powers included in House 4410 to turn around under-performing schools and amendments that would enhance these powers; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record opposing those amendments that further erode and threaten funding imbalances and management prerogatives as follows:

- * Amendments that would weaken the proposed management powers or enhance the ability of unions to block action by school districts
- * Amendments that would require municipalities and school districts to sell or lease surplus school facilities to charter schools
- * Any new spending mandates on cities, towns and school districts
- * Lifting the cap on charter schools; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward copies of this resolution as soon as possible to the Cambridge legislative delegation on behalf of the City Council.

O-5 Jan 11, 2010

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to appoint a committee to pursue the possibility of establishing a sister city relationship in Haiti.