

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the City of Cambridge receiving three Triple A ratings from the nation's major credit rating agencies.
2. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the rescission of \$14,881,482 which is the balance of the loan order approved by the City Council on Nov 17, 2008 for renovations to the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS).
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the appropriation of an additional \$6,515,000 to cover unanticipated costs related to renovations to the old police station at Five Western Avenue in Central Square. This appropriation will be financed through a loan order for \$5,770,000 and a transfer of \$745,000 in bond proceeds from the Radio Replacement project.
4. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as Constable for a term of three years, effective Jan 1, 2012: Charles M. Durrah (Renewal - With Power); Raymond Gray (Without Power)
5. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$18,078 in additional municipal access fees to the General Fund Cable Television Other Ordinary Maintenance account to provide additional payments to Cambridge Community Television (CCTV).
6. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the proposed MBTA fare increases and service cuts.

ON THE TABLE

1. A communication was received from Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., transmitting notification of his intent to return the 9 Wyman Street curb cut application to the table; the history of which is as follows:
An application was received from Eric Griffith, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 9 Wyman Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation and Public Works. No neighborhood association for that area. Charter Right exercised by Councillor Kelley on Applications and Petitions Number Three of Oct 24, 2011. Placed on Table Oct 31, 2011 by Councillor Cheung on roll call vote 6-3-0. Placed back on the Table Jan 23, 2012 by Councillor Toomey. Motion to take from the Table failed 3-5-1 on Feb 6, 2012.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. That the matter of the election of the Mayor and Vice Mayor be referred to Unfinished Business. Jan 30, 2012 ballot #4 (Councillor Cheung three votes; Councillor Davis one vote; Councillor Decker three votes; Councillor Kelley one vote and Councillor Toomey one vote) ballot #5 taken (Councillor Cheung three votes; Councillor Davis one vote; Councillor Decker two votes; Councillor Reeves two votes and Councillor Toomey one vote) ballot #6 taken (Councillor Cheung three votes; Councillor Davis one vote; Councillor Decker two votes; Councillor Reeves two votes

and Councillor Toomey one vote) ballot #7 taken (Councillor Cheung three votes; Councillor Davis one vote; Councillor Decker two votes; Councillor Maher one vote; Councillor Reeves one vote and Councillor Kelley absent)

3. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Seidel, Chair of the Ordinance Committee, for a hearing held on Dec 28, 2011 to consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance on the petition filed by Julia Bishop, et al. and re-filed by the City Council to amend Section 17.20 of the Zoning Ordinance - Regulations for Special District 2 located in North Cambridge along Linear Park. (Petition passed to a second reading at Special City Council Meeting held on Feb 8, 2012) The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after Feb 27, 2012. Planning Board hearing held Jan 17, 2012. Petition expires Mar 27, 2012.
4. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to a draft amendment to the GLBT Ordinance increasing the maximum number of commissioners from fifteen to twenty. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after Feb 13, 2012.
5. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the authorization to borrow an amount not to exceed \$36,800,000 for the purpose of refinancing existing General Obligation Bonds to acquire lower interest rates than those currently being paid. The question comes on adoption on or after Feb 13, 2012.

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Club Passim, requesting permission for a display of merchandise and two chairs in front of the premises numbered 47 Palmer Street.
2. An application was received from Cambridge Arts Council, requesting permission for a temporary banner across JFK Street at Mount Auburn Street announcing the Cambridge River Festival on June 2nd.
3. An application was received from Kundalini Yoga Boston, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign in front of the premises numbered 186 Hampshire Street.
4. An application was received from Spice Thai Cuisine, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign in front of the premises numbered 26 Holyoke Street.
5. An application was received from Associated Brokerage Group, requesting permission for a two sided sign at the premises numbered 307-313 Cambridge Street. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development and abutters.
6. An application was received from Panera Bread, requesting permission for a blade sign and awnings at the premises numbered 1280 Massachusetts Avenue. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development and abutters.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Vaughn Sills and Lowry Pei, 20 Bellevue Avenue, transmitting opposition to the curb cut at 79 Raymond Street.
2. A communication was received from John Cobb, Avon Hill Street, transmitting opposition to the Wyman Street curb cut.

3. A communication was received from Mary Jane Kornacki, 103 Avon Hill Street, transmitting opposition to the Wyman Street curb cut.
4. A communication was received from Mary-Jo Good, Raymond Street, regarding the Griffith-Ebrahimi curb cut.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Nancy (Divisano) Masci. Councillor Toomey
2. Resolution on the death of Maria (Barbosa) Vicente. Councillor Toomey
3. Resolution on the death of Manuel J. Pavao. Councillor Toomey
4. Resolution on the death of Julia Catherine Grant. Councillor Toomey, Councillor Decker
5. Retirement of Irena Puzinas from the School Department. Councillor Reeves
6. Retirement of William Mangone from the School Department. Councillor Reeves
7. Congratulations to Bobby Crane on the occasion of joining the Matignon Warriors 1,000 Point Club in basketball. Councillor Toomey
8. Hailing the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals declaring California’s Proposition 8 to be unconstitutional. Councillor Simmons
9. Appreciation to the houses of the Washington State Legislature for voting to legalize same-sex marriage in the State of Washington. Councillor Simmons
10. Congratulations and thanks to the Central Square Business Association as they hold their 80th Annual Meeting celebrating “Central Square in Motion 2012.” Councillor Reeves
11. Congratulations to the Mystic River Watershed Association for a successful kickoff event, a January Polar Plunge. Councillor vanBeuzekom
12. Retirement of D. Margaret Drury from the City Clerk’s Office. Councillor Reeves

ORDERS

1. That the City Council go on record in support of increasing the cap set on the Massachusetts solar net-metering program. Councillor Davis, Councillor Cheung and Councillor vanBeuzekom
2. That the City Manager is requested to direct City staff to replace the words “approve” and “disapprove” with the words “support” and “do not support” or, as appropriate, by some other terms that will help clarify where relevant authority rests when considering curb cuts. Councillor Kelley
3. That the City Manager is requested to confer with City staff with the intent of altering the physical location of signal lights or of adding new signal lights at the Super Crosswalk in Harvard Square so that all pedestrians can clearly see the status of the motor vehicle signal. Councillor Kelley
4. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the relevant City staff and report back to the City Council on what steps the City will take to help the general public keep track of awaited maintenance issues on things like park equipment, graffiti, sidewalks and so forth. Councillor Kelley and Councillor Decker

5. That the City Council meeting scheduled for Mon, Mar 12, 2012 be and hereby is cancelled so that the City Council may attend the National League of Cities Conference. Councillor vanBeuzekom
6. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on the ownership status of the Cambridge Street overpass plaza and any relevant conditions of that ownership, to include responsibilities for maintenance, the ability to close off areas of the plaza to the general public and the power to grant location rights to food trucks. Councillor Kelley
7. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Assistant City Manager for Community Development to ascertain the date or approximate date on which the shelter at Brookline and Erie Streets will be installed and report back to the City Council. Councillor Simmons
8. That the City Council urges the Community Development Department to work with the Floating Rock and their landlord Just Mass LLC toward finding an equitable compromise that would be fair to both parties, and that would allow the Floating Rock to remain in operation in Central Square. Councillor Simmons
9. That City Manager is requested to report back to the Council on the continuation of the Longfellow Community School Program and its companion program, the Longfellow Neighborhood Council. Councillor vanBeuzekom
10. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Community Development, Human Services and any other relevant City departments to hold community meetings across the city to inform and gather community input and to inform residents how to lobby the MA Legislature in opposition to the proposed MBTA fare increases and service cuts. Councillor Cheung
11. That the City Manager is requested to make information available on the City’s website regarding “Pathways Pledge” which provides youth work-related soft skills and the U.S. Department of Labor program which offer opportunities for summer of 2012 youth employment and to confer with the Department of Human Services in helping to spread information about the programs. Councillor Decker
12. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Community Development Department about developing a process which would require developers seeking zoning relief to build a model of the area impacted by the proposed developments prior to coming before the City Council for voting purposes. Councillor Decker
13. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Commissioner of Public Works with the intention of resurfacing the courts at the Jimmy Johnson Street Hockey Rink and providing lighting for the playing area and to report back to the City Council with a timetable. Councillor Toomey

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Craig Kelley, Chair of the Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee for a public meeting held on Sept 15,

2011 to discuss bike parking, enforcement, bike sharing and facilities.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting an interim plan for the City Clerk's Office.

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Feb 13

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 27

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 5

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 12

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 19

5:30pm City Council Meeting. (City Manager will submit recommendation for water/sewer rates.) (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 26

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 2

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 9

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 23

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 30

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 14

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 4

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 11

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 18

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 25

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

COUNCILLOR CHEUNG

COUNCILLOR VANBEUZEKOM

WHEREAS: Net-metering allows consumers to use their own on-site generation against a future bill when they have a greater consumption than production; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts net-metering program is capped at 1% and 2% of peak load for residential/commercial properties and governmental properties respectively, and we are beginning to bump up against this cap. As a result, developers are wary of taking on new and worthwhile solar projects because there is no guarantee that they will receive net-metering funds for their work; and

WHEREAS: Both SB1664 (An Act improving Neighborhood Solar and Net-Metering in the Commonwealth) and HB1776 (An Act Relative to Net-Metering) raise the net-metering cap and will significantly increase access to solar and its rate of production throughout Massachusetts; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in support of increasing the cap set on the Massachusetts solar net-metering program; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to transmit copies of this resolution to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Chairmen Senator Benjamin B. Downing and Representative John D. Keenan and to the Cambridge legislative delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-2 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: The current use of the words "approve" and "disapprove" on the Curb Cut Application form lead to confusion about how much control over the Curb Cut Application and approval process anyone or any agency has besides the City Council; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct City staff to replace the words "approve" and "disapprove" with the words "support" and "do not support" or, as appropriate, by some other terms that will help clarify where relevant authority rests when considering curb cuts; and be it further

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

O-3 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: The Super Crosswalk in Harvard Square is so big that pedestrians waiting to cross with a pedestrian light cannot see at what stage the motor vehicle signal light is; and

WHEREAS: This lack of information can make people confused about when to walk as most signalized intersections allow pedestrians to clearly see the relevant light cycle for motor vehicles; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with City staff with the intent of altering the physical location of signal lights or of adding new signal lights at this location so that all pedestrians using the Super Crosswalk can clearly see what the status of the motor vehicle signal is; and be it further

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

O-4 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: The City Council has talked with City staff in the past about tagging broken park equipment with tags that indicated that the broken equipment has been noted, that the equipment is in the queue to be fixed and, possibly, when repairs might be expected; and

WHEREAS: Such tagging of issues awaiting City action could be expanded to things such as removing graffiti on City property, addressing sidewalk dangers and other, similar issues; and

WHEREAS: Such tagging does not seem to be done at this point on anything in the public sphere; and

WHEREAS: Such tagging would allow people to know in real time, when they see a problem, that the issue is being addressed; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the relevant City staff and report back to the City Council on what steps the City will take to help the general public keep track of awaited maintenance issues on things like park equipment, graffiti, sidewalks and so forth.

O-5 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR VANBEUZEKOM

ORDERED: That the City Council meeting scheduled for Mon, Mar 12, 2012 be and hereby is cancelled so that the City Council may attend the National League of Cities Conference.

O-6 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: The plaza over Cambridge Street linking two Harvard properties is used by people from all over the City; and

WHEREAS: Harvard University has put a public skating rink on the plaza and regularly prunes plantings on the plaza and conducts other operations there; and

WHEREAS: It is not clear who actually owns this plaza and what conditions such ownership is subject to; and

WHEREAS: Maintenance of the underpass will cost millions of dollars, some of which will be paid by the City and some by Harvard University; and

WHEREAS: Harvard University recently closed Harvard Yard to the general public for a protracted period of time to keep the Yard safe for its students but at the same time, negatively impacting the thousands of people who rely on Harvard Yard as a walking route through that part of Cambridge; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the ownership status of the Cambridge Street overpass plaza and any relevant conditions of that ownership, to include responsibilities for maintenance, the ability to close off areas of the plaza to the general public and the power to grant location rights to food trucks; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the extent of the abilities of Universities and other similar organizations to close off property owned by those organizations but enjoyed by the general public, to include the possibility of prescriptive easements arising out of years of public use intermingling with private use.

O-7 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Department of Transportation and its sub-contractor, CEMUSA, have resisted numerous pleas from Cambridge seniors and elected leaders to put a bus stop at the corner of Brookline and Erie Streets; and

WHEREAS: Recently the City of Cambridge agreed to put a shelter at this location in response to requests from seniors at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Apartments and other members of the community; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Assistant City Manager for Community Development to ascertain the date or approximate date on which the shelter will be installed and report back to the City Council.

O-8 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: Since the Floating Rock Restaurant has opened for business in Central Square in the past year, it has quickly worked to become a valued and conscientious member of the Cambridge community; and

WHEREAS: The Floating Rock has proven itself thus by supporting the Red Ribbon Committee, Room to Read, and by joining the Central Square Business Association; and

WHEREAS: The Floating Rock has also contributed to the valued diversity that exists within Central Square; and

WHEREAS: The Commonwealth has weathered the recent recession better than many other areas, yet the economy has nevertheless been a factor in the Floating Rock's difficulty in establishing itself on firm economic footing, and this has necessitated their looking to partner with Yoki Japanese Cuisine and Sushi, to bolster their business; and

WHEREAS: Just Mass LLC, the landlord for the Floating Rock, had initially been notified of this proposed merger between the Floating Rock and Yoki Japanese Cuisine and Sushi, and had expressed support for this merger. The intended merger would be helpful to both businesses, and would hopefully enable the Floating Rock to stabilize their finances and become a reliably profitable tenant for Just Mass LLC; and

WHEREAS: Just Mass LLC has subsequently withdrawn their support for this merger, and has now stated they would prefer to evict the Floating Rock and rent the space to a chain restaurant instead. Such a move would go against the community's preference for supporting local small business owners and greater diversity in our local offerings; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council urges the Community Development Department to work with the Floating Rock and their landlord Just Mass LLC toward finding an equitable compromise that would be fair to both parties, and that would allow the Floating Rock to remain in operation in Central Square.

O-9 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR VANBEUZEKOM

WHEREAS: The first goal of the Cambridge City Council is to "Foster community and support neighborhood vitality and to support opportunities for citizens to participate and to know each other within their neighborhoods and across the city"; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Community Schools program has served residents of all ages for the past 40 years, and provides activities that enhance health, learning, creative expression and the sense of community that makes Cambridge a special place; and

WHEREAS: A neighborhood is defined by the residents that live together within the neighborhood and not by a physical school building within the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS: The program director of the Longfellow Community School Program and its companion program, Longfellow Neighborhood Council is retiring; and

WHEREAS: The Longfellow Community School Program and the Longfellow Neighborhood Council have continued to endeavor and provide rich and meaningful avenues of community engagement and expression despite inconsistent access to a physical school building in which to provide programs; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to continue to provide funding for the Longfellow Community School and Neighborhood Council Program; and be it further

ORDERED: That City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the Council on the continuation of the Longfellow Community School Program and its companion program, the Longfellow Neighborhood Council.

O-10 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR CHEUNG

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge and its residents, businesses and universities rely on the MBTA for safe and reliable transportation; and

WHEREAS: The MBTA has proposed two scenarios whereby fares are increased and services severely cut, thereby having a negative impact on those who rely on the MBTA for their own transportation or that of their employees, customers or students; and

WHEREAS: Reducing the availability of public transportation would negatively impact the ability to develop more densely around transportation hubs, potentially reduce tax revenues expected from such development and be harmful to the environment without solving the MBTA's fiscal deficit; and

WHEREAS: Furthermore, it would negatively impact the local economy by limiting transportation options for consumers to reach stores and get to work; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record in opposition and so inform the Secretary of Transportation Richard Davey, Governor Patrick and members of the Cambridge delegation of the Legislature in opposition to the proposed MBTA fare increases and service cuts; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide a report on the general impacts of the proposed MBTA

fare increases and service cuts on the City of Cambridge, its economy and future growth; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development, Human Services and any other relevant City departments to hold community meetings across the city to inform and gather community input and to inform residents how to lobby the MA Legislature.

O-11 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: This City Council has learned that the United States Department of Labor has created a program called Summer Jobs+ 2012, a new call-to-action for businesses, non-profits, and government to provide pathways to employment for low-income and disconnected youth; and

WHEREAS: As the nation continues to recover from the deepest recession since the Great Depression, American youth are struggling to get the work experience they need for jobs of the future. According to the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics 48.8 percent of youth between the ages of 16-24 were employed in July, the month when youth employment usually peaks. This is significantly lower than the 59.2 percent of youth who were employed five years ago and 63.3 percent of youth who were employed 10 years ago. Minority youth had an especially difficult time finding employment this past summer. Only 34.6 percent of African American youth and 42.9 percent of Hispanic youth had a job this past July; and

WHEREAS: The President's call-to-action and in support of the "Pathways Pledge" which will provide youth work-related soft skills, such as communication, time management and teamwork, through coursework and/or experience. As well as prepare youth for employment through job shadow days, internships and on-the-job skills in a learning environment while earning wages for their work; and

WHEREAS: In the coming weeks, the U.S. Department of Labor will be launching a new online tool to help connect youth around the country with great opportunities for the summer of 2012 at www.dol.gov/summerjobs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council thank local companies that already work in partnership with the City of Cambridge to provide summer youth employment and to encourage other companies to participate in this endeavor; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record committing to support the Summer Jobs+ 2012 initiative by encouraging local companies to join and amplifying the message in our community; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to make this information available on the City's website and to confer with the Department of Human Services in helping to spread information about the programs; and be it further

O-12 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: The City Council, residents and City staff are often left estimating physical changes to land areas when considering relief or permanent changes to existing zoning laws; and

WHEREAS: A visual aid would go a long way in helping all to better understand how development would impact the affected area; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to confer with the Community Development Department about developing a process which would require developers seeking zoning relief to build a model of the area impacted by the proposed developments prior to coming before the City Council for voting purposes; and be it further

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

O-13 Feb 13, 2012

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The Jimmy Johnson Street Hockey Rink on Charles Street adjacent to Ahern Field is in need of maintenance; and
WHEREAS: The rink is heavily used and cracks in the cement are creating a dangerous playing surface for those on roller blades; and

ORDERED: Users of the courts could also benefit from better lighting of the playing area; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Commissioner of Public Works with the intention of resurfacing the courts at the Jimmy Johnson Street Hockey Rink and providing lighting for the playing area and to report back to the City Council with a timetable.