

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$300,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Law Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account. The funds will be used to cover unanticipated increases in costs relating to legal matters handled by outside counsel legal services, stenographers and court reporters, constable services, consultants and experts, temporary contract attorneys covering while staff was on parental leaves, as well as filing fees and related costs in matters pending in courts and/or administrative bodies. These were necessary expenses used to manage litigation and other important legal matters essential to the City of Cambridge. (CM24#23)
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to appointments and reappointments of members to the Cambridge Bicycle Committee for a term of two years, effective Feb 26, 2024. (CM24#24)
3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative appointments and reappointments of members to the Cambridge Pedestrian Committee. (CM24#25)
4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, Policy Order Response #24-15 dated Feb 12, 2024 regarding drafting zoning language and related changes to allow for and encourage the continued growth, redevelopment, and evolution of Central Square. (CM24#26) [[text of report](#)]
5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the establishment of a revolving fund for the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP). (CM24#27) [[text of report](#)]

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the Final Report of the Charter Review Committee be referred to the Government Operations, Rules and Claims Committee. [Charter Right – Simmons, Feb 12, 2024] (PO24#19)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. A communication from Kathleen Born, Charter Review Committee Chair, transmitting the Final Report of the Charter Review Committee. Please note that this report was received by the City Clerk on Jan 31, 2024. (COF24#11)
3. Ordinance 2023 #8B Amend Chapter 14.04 – Fair Housing [Passed to 2nd Reading Oct 2, 2023; Amended Nov 6, 2023; to remain on Unfinished Business pending legislative approval of Special Act needed prior to ordination] (ORD23-8B)

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application from Edward Batten representing Retro Fitness, requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 822 Somerville Avenue, approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and proof of abutter mailing has been provided. (AP24#6)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication from Alison Sanders-Fleming regarding SUPPORT Electric Micromobility policy order.
2. A communication from Amanda Sindel-Keswick regarding Bike Lane Economic Study.
3. A communication from Ann Spanel regarding Electric bikes need regulation.
4. A communication from Anne Sundaram regarding Speed Limits for Electric Vehicles in public parks.
5. A communication from Audrey Cunningham regarding E BIKE regulations.
6. A communication from Betty Lee Saccoccio regarding PO24#17.
7. A communication from Camden Bauchner regarding Economic Impact Survey of the Cycling Safety Ordinance.
8. A communication from Candace Young regarding SUPPORT electric micro-mobility policy order.
9. A communication from Carol Lee Rawn regarding Comment on Agenda Item #11 and Policy Order #4.
10. A communication from Charles de Lantsheere regarding SUPPORT Electric Micromobility policy order.
11. A communication from Charles Teague regarding SUPPORT Electric Micromobility policy order #4.
12. A communication from Dan Totten regarding HEART's submitted contract.
13. A communication from Dan Totten regarding Updating the inclusionary preferences.
14. A communication from Ethan Frank regarding Adding my voice to the pile on upcoming bike discussions.
15. A communication from the Family of Marion A. Sullivan regarding Thank you card.
16. A communication from Gretchen Friesinger & David Denison regarding SUPPORT Electric Micromobility policy order.
17. A communication from Hannah Mahoney regarding Supporting Key Improvements to the Jerry's Pond Project.
18. A communication from Itamar Turner-Trauring regarding City-commissioned study shows bike lanes have no impact on business.
19. A communication from John Hanratty regarding Small Business Impact Study is Completely Worthless.
20. A communication from Lee Farris regarding PO #2 - re-zoning Central Square.
21. A communication from Lois Markham regarding Jerry's Pond renovation.
22. A communication from Margery Davies regarding Jerry's Pond redesign -- keeping the walkway away from Rindge Avenue.
23. A communication from Marie Elena Saccoccio regarding PO24#17.
24. A communication from Mary Jane Kornacki regarding tonight's agenda related to bike lanes.
25. A communication from Patrick Magee regarding CMA item 11.
26. A communication from Paula V. Cortes regarding Electric Micromobility policy order.
27. A communication from Phil Wellons regarding SUPPORT Electric Micromobility policy order.
28. A communication from Randy Stern regarding Economic Impact Study (City Manager's Agenda #11) for Feb 12, 2024 city council meeting.
29. A communication from Rebecca Ramsay regarding Rate of travel for bicycles in general on Linear Park Path.

30. A communication from Robert Mack regarding SUPPORT Electric Micromobility policy order.
31. A communication from Shelagh Hadley regarding Regulation of e-bikes, e-scooters, e-skateboards
32. A communication from Vicky Bestor regarding CMA #11 and PO #4.
33. A communication from Young Kim regarding Thank you for the long-awaited Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO) Economic Impact Report.
34. A communication from Young Kim regarding Action on CM24#21 Economic Impact Study Report.
35. A communication from Carolyn Shipley regarding Traffic Calming Request.
36. A communication from Bonnie Miller regarding Proposed Metered Parking at 14 Upland Road.
37. A communication from Cornelis Biemans regarding Bike network.
38. A communication from Kelly Dolan, regarding Government Operations Discussions.
39. A communication from Corné Biemans, regarding Bike network.
40. A communication from Allegra Pericles, regarding Excited for Bicycle lanes.
41. A communication from Mounji Bawendi, regarding Please continue adding separated bike lanes in Cambridge.
42. A communication from Carolyn Shipley, regarding Traffic Calming Request.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Lawrence Silva on his retirement from Emergency Communications. Councillor Toner
2. Congratulations to John Blouin on his retirement from the Water Department. Councillor Toner
3. Congratulations to Yoko Harumi on her retirement from the Cambridge Health Alliance. Councillor Toner
4. Congratulations to Robin Zachary on her retirement from the Cambridge Health Alliance. Councillor Toner
5. Commending Dr. Beverly C. Sealey's outstanding contributions to the Cambridge community. Vice Mayor McGovern, Mayor Simmons
6. Resolution on the death of Charles Fried. Councillor Nolan
7. Condolences to the family of Gordon Ifill, Sr. Mayor Simmons
8. Condolences to the family of Dr. Elizabeth Rawlins. Mayor Simmons
9. Condolences on the death of Alfred E. Gallant. Councillor Toner

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested to present recommendations for the refinement and improvement of the housing permitting process to the City Council, with a focus on reducing delays, minimizing costs, and enhancing clarity and accessibility for all stakeholders. Councillor Azeem, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Nolan (PO24#20)
2. City Council support of H.4138, *The Affordable Homes Act*, and urge legislators to retain the provisions for a location

- option transfer fee. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Simmons (PO24#21)
3. Declare Apr 19th, 2024 as Global Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day and Lighting City Hall in Recognition. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Siddiqui, Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO24#22)
4. City Council recognition of International Mother Language Day every February 21st. Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Wilson, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Simmons (PO24#23)
5. That the City Manager is hereby directed to confer with the City Manager's Housing Liaison, Community Development Department, and the Cambridge Housing Authority on the feasibility of municipally-funded housing vouchers. Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Wilson (PO24#24)
6. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council with the data analysis included in the Economic Feasibility Analysis provided to EOHLC as part of Cambridge's MBTA Communities final compliance submission. Councillor Toner, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Nolan (PO24#25)

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication from Diane LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF24#17)
2. A communication from Councillors Nolan and Pickett, transmitting Preliminary Schedule for Finance Committee Meetings. (COF24#18)

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Feb 26

- 10:00am The **Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee** will hold a public hearing from 10:00am-12:00pm to continue the discussion and review possible amendments to the City Council Rules.
- 5:30pm City Council Meeting

Wed, Feb 28

- 3:00pm The **Finance Committee** will have a public meeting to review and discuss the Operating Budget in advance of the FY25 budget season including a discussion of budget obligations and future spending planning and to discuss City Council budget priorities and goals.

Mon, Mar 4

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting

Wed, Mar 5

- 12:00pm The **Housing Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss the appointments to the Cambridge Housing Authority, CMA 2024 #12 and CMA 2023 #238. In addition to the appointments, the Housing Committee will review and discuss any necessary edits to the zoning language that would allow unrelated people to live together in the City of Cambridge, POR 2024 #9.

Mon, Mar 11

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Mar 18

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Mar 19

3:00pm The **Finance Committee** will hold a public meeting to review and discuss the FY25 Capital Budget and to continue the Dec 12, 2023 City Council discussion on Public Investment Planning and to discuss City Council budget priorities and goals.

Mon, Mar 25

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Mar 26

3:00pm The **Finance Committee** will hold a public meeting to receive a status update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in Cambridge, as well as to review and discuss the Police Department budget for FY25 before it is submitted to the City Manager, as required under Cambridge Municipal Code Chapter 2.74.040.

Mon, Apr 1

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Apr 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Apr 22

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Apr 29

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, May 6

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, May 13

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, May 20

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, June 3

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, June 10

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, June 17

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, June 24

5:30pm City Council Meeting

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Feb 26, 2024

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: The current housing permitting process within the city is recognized as lengthy, often leading to significant delays, creating confusion, and driving up the cost of housing; and
WHEREAS: The complexity and costliness of these processes can act as a barrier to the creation of affordable housing options; and
WHEREAS: Simplifying these processes, including the review of permitting fees, timelines, communication across departments and the consideration of pre-approved designs, can significantly reduce

the bureaucratic and financial burden, thus encouraging more affordable housing options in Cambridge; now therefore be it
ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to undertake a comprehensive review of the city's current housing permitting processes, with the aim of identifying and implementing measures to streamline these processes, and with such review done with input from entities involved with both market rate and affordable housing production; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to develop a high-level overview of the current processes, highlighting areas of inefficiency and potential improvements; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to present recommendations for the refinement and improvement of these processes to the City Council, with a focus on reducing delays, minimizing costs, and enhancing clarity and accessibility for all stakeholders; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the Housing Committee with this overview and set of recommendations.

O-2 Feb 26, 2024

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: The City Council has consistently supported statewide [legislation](#) to enact a real estate transfer fee for municipalities and in 2020 the City Council unanimously approved a [Real Estate Transfer Fee Home Rule Petition](#); and

WHEREAS: [H.4138](#), *The Affordable Homes Act* includes many important provisions that will improve the production of livable and affordable housing throughout the state, and includes a provision to enable a local option for transfer fees; and

WHEREAS: Over a dozen communities have requested the ability to use a transfer fee to support affordable housing production since 2010 and the housing crisis has only worsened without this important tool; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record strongly supporting H.4138, *The Affordable Homes Act*, and urge legislators to retain the provisions for a location option transfer fee; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this policy order to House and Senate leadership on the Joint Committee on Housing and to the Cambridge delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-3 Feb 26, 2024

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

MAYOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: April 19, 2024 is Global Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS: While the cause is still unknown, CDH affects diaphragm and lung development in over 52,000 babies annually, leading to the death of over 800 infants annually across the country; and

WHEREAS: Due to advancements in prenatal technology, CDH is detected more often, but only a select few medical centers are capable of providing treatment; and

WHEREAS: More research is being conducted every day to determine the cause of and develop additional treatment options to this condition, including at the Massachusetts General Hospital; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record declaring April 19, 2024 as Global Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day to bring further awareness to this condition; and be it further
ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to ensure that City Hall is lit up in blue, pink, and yellow on April 19, 2024 in recognition of this day.

O-4 Feb 26, 2024

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR WILSON

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: International Mother Language Day is celebrated around the world on February 21, to promote linguistic diversity and multilingualism; and

WHEREAS: International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999, and the idea was initiated by Bangladesh; and

WHEREAS: Languages hold cultural significance and 45% of estimated 7,000 languages spoken in the world are endangered and less than 100 languages are used in the digital world; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is a multilingual city where more than 90 languages are spoken in Cambridge Public Schools and 33.3% of Cambridge residents speak another language at home; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge recently initiated a translation hotline and cards are available at city offices to make the number and service more visible; and

WHEREAS: For the first time, the 2023 Cambridge Resident Satisfaction Survey was conducted in Amharic, Arabic, Bangla, Portuguese, English, Haitian Creole, and Spanish; and

WHEREAS: Last year, more than 60 poems were on display in Cambridge City Hall collected from Cambridge residents to showcase the various languages spoken in our city; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City department to put up a lawn sign every year a week before International Mother Language Day to commemorate; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record recognizing the importance of International Mother Language Day every February 21st.

O-5 Feb 26, 2024

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR WILSON

WHEREAS: The [City of Boston Voucher Program](#) (“CBVP”) was established with a \$2.5m appropriation from the city’s general fund, which was increased to \$5m in the FY22 budget and is administered by the Boston Housing Authority (BHA); and

WHEREAS: CBVP focuses on Project Based Vouchers tied to a particular site or development and aims to leverage city resources by deepening the affordability of both existing and in-development income-restricted housing; and

WHEREAS: The City of Somerville started a [new fully municipally funded voucher program](#) with a priority for Somerville families who have kids in the public schools and who are ineligible for federal housing resources; and

WHEREAS: Funding for Somerville’s program comes from ARPA dollars to begin with, and likely pivot to funds from the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust when necessary; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council has passed multiple policy orders regarding the use of city financed vouchers, including PO #581 in 2015, [PO #78 in 2016](#); [PO #47 in 2023](#); and

WHEREAS: As outlined in the [Envision Cambridge](#) report, “both home values and rents nearly doubled between 2000 and 2015,” requiring a household income of \$100,000 to rent a 1 bedroom apartment, although the median household income in Cambridge is \$75,000, and prices have only risen since the time the report was published; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge should explore the feasibility of this municipal resource and pros and cons of adopting a similar program to Boston and Somerville; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby directed to confer with the City Manager’s Housing Liaison, Community Development Department, and the Cambridge Housing Authority on the feasibility of municipally-funded housing vouchers and report back to the City Council in a timely manner; and be it further

ORDERED: That the matter be referred to the Housing Committee for a meeting to discuss.

O-6 Feb 26, 2024

COUNCILLOR TONER

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: The Commonwealth is experiencing a housing crisis of previously unforeseen proportions; and

WHEREAS: Increasing the availability supply of housing is a major priority of the Cambridge City Council both in the interest of addressing housing affordability and to provide housing near jobs to support our local and regional economy; and

WHEREAS: Section 3A of MGL c. 40A, the ‘MBTA Communities Law,’ requires that an MBTA community shall have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multifamily housing is permitted as-of-right, and that meets other criteria set forth in the statute; and

WHEREAS: Failure to comply with the law results in a loss of eligibility for certain state funding programs such as funds through the Housing Choice Initiative; Local Capital Projects Fund, and Mass Works infrastructure program; and

WHEREAS: Housing that is subject to inclusionary housing requirements greater than 20% cannot be counted towards compliance under the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) guidelines and EOHLC requires an Economic Feasibility Analysis for communities that have pre-existing inclusionary housing ordinances that require more than 10% of housing units in new developments to be affordable to low-to-moderate income households; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge received approval of preliminary compliance application from EOHLC and submitted final compliance documents in December 2023; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council with the data analysis included in the Economic Feasibility Analysis provided to EOHLC as part of Cambridge’s MBTA Communities final compliance submission.