

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as member of the Avon Hill Neighborhood Conservation District Commission:
Robert G. Crocker - (Historical Comm. Rep.) - term expires 3/1/2013
Maryann Thompson - (reappointment) - term expires 4/1/2012
Theresa Hamacher - (reappointment) - term expires 8/10/2012
Art Bardige - (reappointment) - term expires 8/10/2012
2. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Numbers 10-08, regarding a report on working with building owners to make vacant retail space available to non-profit groups who need temporary space, and Awaiting Report Item Number 10-12, regarding a report on reasons for Pearl Arts & Crafts leaving Central Square.
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Friends of the Community Learning Center (CLC) Bridge to College Program grant funded from the Cambridge Community Foundation in the amount of \$5,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account which will be used to support the Bridge to College program which consists of one class that meets two evenings per week for a total of six hours of instruction per week.
4. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Friends of the Community Learning Center (CLC) grant funded by the Cambridge Community Foundation Sheila Gamble Fund in the amount of \$7,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$6,668.00) and Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$332.00) which will support the Next Steps Program which will allow the Community Learning Center to provide classes and counseling to students to help them plan for their careers and further education after graduating from the CLC.
5. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to an additional appropriation of the Pathways grant in the amount of \$4,000.00 received from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Adult and Community Learning Services to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account. The purpose of these additional funds is specifically for the evaluation of the Pathways to Family Success Program and will be paid to the Center for Social Policy on receipt of invoices approved by DESE.
6. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 10-23, regarding this spring's street planting efforts with a list of planned locations, and Awaiting Report Item Number 10-28, regarding a report on what the protocol is for scheduling tree pruning.

ON THE TABLE

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.

[Communications and Reports from City Officers #1 of Jan 11, 2010 Placed on Table.]

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.

[Communications and Reports from City Officers #2 of Jan 11, 2010 Placed on Table.]

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. Constable bond received from Burton Mark Malkofsky for approval of the surety.
2. An application was received from TD BANK requesting permission for a sign at the premises numbered 1270 Massachusetts Avenue. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development, Historical Commission and abutters.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Representative William N. Brownsberger acknowledging receipt of a resolution adopted by the City Council supporting H3371 entitled "AN ACT PROVIDING CITIES AND TOWNS WITH A LOCAL OPTION TO INCREASE CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE FINES TO IMPROVE DRIVING."
2. A communication was received from Representative William N. Brownsberger acknowledging receipt of a resolution adopted by the City Council regarding the importance of communication by the Department of Transportation regarding the construction of the Western Avenue and River Street bridges.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Martin P. Garry. Councillor Toomey
2. Condolences to Elizabeth Zalgenas on the death of her sister Frances Mary Zalgenas. Councillor Toomey
3. Happy 70th Birthday wishes to Hollie Moutrie. Councillor Simmons
4. Retirement of Ellen Lund from the School Department. Mayor Maher
5. Retirement of Marsha Weirnerman from the Election Commission. Mayor Maher
6. Retirement of Antonio Oliveira from the Cambridge Hospital. Mayor Maher
7. Retirement of Jacqueline Genece from the Cambridge Hospital. Mayor Maher
8. Retirement of Jean Ford from the Cambridge Hospital. Mayor Maher
9. Retirement of Stephen Dorsey from the Cambridge Hospital. Mayor Maher
10. Congratulations to the Cambridge Public School Department of Visual & Performing Arts and the young playwrights involved on the occasion of the Page to Stage Young Playwright's Celebration on Mar 10-11, 2010. Councillor Cheung
11. Resolution on the death of Corporal Daniel T. O'Leary. Councillor Decker

12. Resolution on the death of Sergeant William C. Spencer. Councillor Decker
13. Speedy recovery wishes to Anna Arias. Councillor Decker
14. Speedy recovery wishes to Leanora Pedro. Councillor Decker
15. Congratulations to Just-A-Start on receiving the LEED platinum certification for its project at 823 Main Street. Councillor Seidel
16. Condolences to Sylvia Saavedra-Keber and family on the loss of her father, Douglas Saavedra. Councillor Simmons
17. Congratulations to the Cambridge Youth Hockey U12 Team on their recent victory in the McGongile State Championship. Councillor Simmons
18. Happy Birthday wishes to the Pearson family members. Councillor Simmons
19. Congratulations to Raynard S. Kington on his achievements and best wishes for continued success in his new position. Councillor Reeves
20. Best wishes to the Great Boston Morehouse College Alumni Association on their upcoming fundraising jazz weekend. Councillor Reeves
21. Resolution on the death of Caroline Clark. Councillor Reeves

ORDERS

1. Dedication of a suitable location in the vicinity of Callendar Street in honor of Mrs. Mildred E. Best. Councillor Simmons
2. That the City Manager and the Mayor is requested to confer with the appropriate City departments to address the issue of the stairs at the Graham and Parks School with a view towards a temporary or long-term resolution to the problem. Councillor Simmons
3. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Police Commissioner, Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, and other appropriate personnel to aggressively monitor, report on, ticket, and prosecute MBTA buses running red lights, endangering pedestrians and cyclists, or otherwise disobeying the rules of the road. Councillor Cheung
4. Certificate of Occupancy and other related issues regarding the development at the premises numbered 45-47 Yerxa Road and 124 Rindge Avenue. Councillor Kelley
5. Availability of public meeting space at the Cambridge Main Library and other library related issues. Councillor Kelley
6. That the City Manager is requested to evaluate Grozier Road, which has a number of road defects, for resurfacing and repair. Vice Mayor Davis
7. That the City Manager is requested to arrange for a No Idling sign to be installed at Farr Academy on Pearl and Auburn Streets. Vice Mayor Davis
8. That the City Manager is requested to increase enforcement at the pedestrian light for the safety of those crossing Inman Street. Vice Mayor Davis
9. That the City Manager is requested to convene a meeting of various stakeholders in the Central Square community for the purpose of discussing and reviewing current action plans for Central Square. Councillor Reeves

10. City Council support for Massachusetts House Bill 4526 "A Bill Relative to Municipal Relief." Councillor Seidel
11. That the Cambridge City Council go on record requesting the Massachusetts Legislature to conduct an independent cost-benefit analysis of Level III gambling in Massachusetts. Councillor Seidel

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Mar 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 22

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Mar 23

6:00pm School Committee 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)

Mon, May 3

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, May 4

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 10

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 17

4:00pm 2010 Scholarship Award Ceremony (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, May 18

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 24

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, June 1

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 14

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, June 15

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 28

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Mar 8, 2010

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

ORDERED: That the City Council dedicate a suitable location in the vicinity of Callendar Street in honor of Mrs. Mildred E. Best; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Executive Assistant to the City Council be and hereby is requested to confer with the family regarding a suitable dedication ceremony and communicate with the Department of Public Works to arrange for the sign.

O-2 Mar 8, 2010

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: A city has an obligation to provide a quality education to its children, and this education must be provided in a building that is safe and secure; and

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the City Council that the stairs of the Graham and Parks building are in disrepair which

puts the safety of the students and all others who use this building at risk; and

WHEREAS: The condition of the school building is a concern not only to the School Department, but also the Department of Human Services and to the Community Schools Program, as the building is used as a school and as a community meeting space; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager and the Mayor be and hereby is requested to confer with the appropriate City departments to address the issue of the stairs at the Graham and Parks School with a view towards a temporary or long-term resolution to the problem.

O-3 Mar 8, 2010

COUNCILLOR CHEUNG

WHEREAS: There are reports from pedestrians and cyclists residing in Cambridge of MBTA buses endangering the public with aggressive and inconsiderate driving; and

WHEREAS: News reporters recently filmed buses speeding through red lights in Cambridge

<http://wbztv.com/local/mbta.bus.drivers.2.1529504.html>; and

WHEREAS: This is inconsistent with Cambridge's desire to promote non-vehicular modes of personal transportation; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge cannot afford to wait for accidents to happen to pursue the public good; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager is hereby requested to confer with the Police Commissioner, Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, and other appropriate personnel to aggressively monitor, report on, ticket, and prosecute MBTA buses running red lights, endangering pedestrians and cyclists, or otherwise disobeying the rules of the road; and be it further
ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the efficacy of enforcement efforts to deter such behavior by operators of public transportation.

O-4 Mar 8, 2010

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: Development at the former Saint John's property at 45-47 Yerxa Road and 124 Rindge Avenue has been going on for many years; and

WHEREAS: Neighbors of this development project have regularly complained to the City, at public meetings, via email and through petitions, that the developer does not keep the site suitably clean, that work is done outside of permitted hours, that water has started leaking into neighboring foundations and that they are being deprived of quiet enjoyment of their own properties because the adjacent development is being so poorly managed by the developer and reviewed by City staff as to make their own lives very difficult; and

WHEREAS: It appears that tenants have been living in the former Saint John's property despite the developer not having been issued a certificate of occupancy; and

WHEREAS: There is some question as to whether the developer is meeting the City's inclusionary zoning rules; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with relevant City staff and report back to the City Council on

- a. The current status of the former Saint John's property;
- b. The feasibility of the City's fining the developer for violations of City code and, if fines could have been issued, why no fines have been imposed;
- c. Which of the neighbors' requests, as detailed in the attached February 14 petition, will not be required for a Certificate of Occupancy, temporary or otherwise;
- d. An explanation of how many affordable units are required at this development and whether the developer is meeting that requirement and other inclusionary zoning requirements; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record requesting that, if it is in the discretion of the relevant City staff to impose fines on the developer of the former Saint John's property for violating relevant City ordinances on site management, occupancy and similar issues that the City impose the maximum fines possible; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to ensure that no one is living in buildings that do not have occupancy permits at the Saint John's site.

O-5 Mar 8, 2010

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: The new Cambridge Main Library, which is widely acknowledged to be a wonderful addition to Cambridge, has recently opened; and

WHEREAS: This new library has a variety of public meeting spaces; and

WHEREAS: It is not clear to many people how and when these public meeting spaces will be made available; and

WHEREAS: The opening of the new Main Library has resulted in partial closings of branch libraries on a rotating basis to cover staffing needs at the Main Library; and

WHEREAS: There is some concern that the lack of an accurate understanding of what library services are most utilized when will lead, or has lead, to opening hours that do not sufficiently meet public demand; and

WHEREAS: The location of the new Main Library next to the high school was promoted as a reason to build such an elaborate addition; and

WHEREAS: Coping with the influx of high school students at various parts of the day has proven to be somewhat problematic; and

WHEREAS: The café had been intended to be staffed with students from Rindge School of Technical Arts but that plan is not currently feasible; now therefore be it

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

- * a. What the plans are for allowing general use of the new Main Library's various public meets spaces;
- * b. What the plans are for future use of the new Main Library by high school students;
- * c. What type of usage data the Library system has and how is the Library system using this data and collecting new data to determine what libraries should be open when; and
- * d. What the plans are for the new Main Library's café space.

O-6 Mar 8, 2010

VICE MAYOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to evaluate Grozier Road, which has a number of road defects, for resurfacing and repair.

O-7 Mar 8, 2010

VICE MAYOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: Buses and cars dropping off and picking up students at Farr Academy, 71 Pearl Street, continue to idle for long periods of time; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to arrange for a No Idling sign to be installed at Farr Academy on Pearl and Auburn Streets.

O-8 Mar 8, 2010

VICE MAYOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: Cars emerging from Inman Street onto Massachusetts Avenue often run the red light or turn right on red illegally, endangering those crossing Inman Street at the pedestrian light; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to increase enforcement at the pedestrian light for the safety of those crossing Inman Street.

O-9 Mar 8, 2010

COUNCILLOR REEVES

WHEREAS: Many of our citizens live in, work in, and in other ways interact with the Central Square area every day; and

WHEREAS: Central Square is, for many people both in and out of Cambridge, a central point of interaction with the City, owing to the many transportation lines that run through the square; and

WHEREAS: A recent observer has indicated via e-mail to the City Council that Central Square is “overrun with drunks, drugs, drugs (sic) deals and scum”; and

WHEREAS: Businesses have been leaving Central Square of late; and

WHEREAS: This is a dangerous cycle into which the City and Central Square cannot afford to fall; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to convene a meeting of various stakeholders in the Central Square community for the purpose of discussing and reviewing current action plans for Central Square; 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-10 Mar 8, 2010

COUNCILLOR SEIDEL

WHEREAS: Cambridge continues to pursue innovative approaches to tackling the important issue of climate change; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge investigated a program called “Berkeley FIRST”, which established in Berkeley, California a “sustainable energy financing district” where property owners voluntarily opted to join in order to access financing for solar and energy efficiency improvements; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council was informed that legislation enacted at the state level is required to enable this type of program to be available in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: Legislation, originally entitled House Bill Number 4393, “An Act Relative to energy efficiency of residential properties” has been filed during this legislative session in the Massachusetts State Legislature; and

WHEREAS: House Bill 4393 would permit the establishment of a revolving fund whose purpose is “to provide loans to owners of privately held real property in the city or town for energy conservation and renewable energy projects on their properties so as to prioritize energy efficiency as the first step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with buildings”; and

WHEREAS: The ability to create such a revolving fund would allow the City of Cambridge to pursue programs similar to Berkeley FIRST; and

WHEREAS: House Bill 4393 has now been incorporated as Sections 56 and 57 of House Bill 4526, “A Bill Relative to Municipal Relief”, currently pending before the State Legislature; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record supporting a local option to create a revolving loan fund for the purposes of promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward this resolution to the Cambridge Delegation of the Massachusetts Legislature on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-11 Mar 8, 2010

COUNCILLOR SEIDEL

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Legislature is currently considering expanding legalized gambling to Level III, which authorizes slot machines and casino gambling in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: Level III gambling also includes games such as blackjack, craps and roulette; and

WHEREAS: The National Gambling Impact Study Commission conducted an extensive study in 1999 and found that gambling had social as well as economic impacts; and

WHEREAS: The Commission study stated that \$1 out of \$10 “leisure dollars” was spent on gambling in the United States in 1997; and

WHEREAS: The Commission reported that total annual sales nationwide from state lotteries increased from \$2 billion in 1973 to \$34 billion in 1997; and

WHEREAS: The Commission found that with regard to lotteries in 1997 “players with incomes under \$10,000 bet nearly three times as much as those with incomes over \$50,000”; and

WHEREAS: The Commission reported that “while the prevalence and causes of problem and pathological gambling are not well understood, it is clear that millions of individuals fall into these categories”; and

WHEREAS: The Commission report states “The proponents of gambling tend to stress its economic benefits. Opponents tend to point to its social costs. In fact, there are both significant benefits and significant costs. Communities that embrace gambling, and the areas that surround them, experience both gambling’s negative and positive impacts”; and

WHEREAS: There has never been an independent cost-benefit analysis on Massachusetts legislative proposals in 2010 to authorize Level III gambling; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record requesting the Massachusetts Legislature conduct an independent cost-benefit analysis of Level III gambling in Massachusetts; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record requesting that the Massachusetts Legislature withhold from authorizing any Level III gambling before such a study is conducted; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge Delegation of the Massachusetts Legislature on behalf of the entire City Council.