

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a COVID-19 update on vaccination rollout.
2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant received from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Accelerating Climate Resiliency (ACR) Grant Program, in the amount of \$52,250 to the Grant Fund Public Works Other Ordinary Maintenance Account which will be used for technical assistance for 1) planning and permitting the expansion of the floating wetland pilot in the Charles; 2) outlining and disseminating a permitting road map and lessons learned that can enable similar capital, resiliency projects; and 3) engagement with the wider community to support understanding of water quality and to inform the expansion process.
3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to proposed amendments to the Tree Protection Ordinance. [[DPW letter](#)] [[proposed ordinance changes](#)]
4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to recommendations for the block rates for water consumption and sewer use for the period beginning Apr 1, 2021 and ending Mar 31, 2022. [[City Manager letter](#)]
5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to suggested zoning text amendments as well as amendments to Chapter 5.50 of the Municipal Code regarding cannabis delivery businesses. [[Law Department memo](#)] [[Zoning text](#)] [[Municipal Code](#)]

ON THE TABLE

1. Resolution on the death of William Leeds. [TABLED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL JAN 11, 2021]
2. Vaccinating CPS Staff Plan PO. [TABLED IN COUNCIL FEB 3, 2021]
3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-64, requesting Home Rule language to allow for acoustic live entertainment performances in small businesses under certain conditions without a license. [TABLED IN COUNCIL FEB 22, 2021]
4. An application was received from TD Bank, requesting permission for 4 (four) awnings at the premises numbered 617 Massachusetts Avenue. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters. [TABLED BY COUNCILLOR NOLAN IN COUNCIL MAR 8, 2021]
5. The Health & Environment Committee met on Oct 13, 2020 to discuss amending the Tree Protection Ordinance based on the findings of the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force.

[TABLED IN COUNCIL MAR 1, 2021 BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN]

6. Health & The Health and Environment Committee met on Nov 10, 2020 to continue discussing amending the Tree Protection Ordinance based on the findings of the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force. [TABLED IN COUNCIL MAR 8, 2021 BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 18-108, regarding a report on offering early voting in City Council and School Committee Elections. [PENDING RESPONSE FROM LEGISLATURE]

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Samantha Nardone representing Boston Properties, requesting permission for a (5) five temporary banners across Main Street announcing Kendall Center Brand thru Oct 1, 2021.
2. An application was received from Brian Walsh, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 75 Smith Place; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Emma Hartswick, regarding seeking update on safe shelter and affordable housing.
2. A communication was received from Judy Stitt, regarding complete and transparent forensic audit of our election process.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Frances Babalas. Councillor Toomey
2. Thanking the Cambridge Historical Society for COVID-19 Butterfly Memorial. Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toomey
3. A Resolution recognizing Peter Gately and Leon Cantor on their commitment to making our community a better place. Councillor McGovern
4. Resolution on the death of Joseph J. McSweeney. Councillor Toomey
5. Resolution on the death of Lucille P. Kenney. Councillor Toomey
6. Standing in Solidarity with Asian Community and Condemning White Supremacy. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan

ORDERS

1. Opposing wood-burning biomass plants. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui

2. In Support of the FARE Act. Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui
3. Making Remote Participation in City Council Meetings Permanent. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
4. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Department of Equity and Inclusion, the Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department, the Purchasing Department, the Information Technology Department, and other relevant City departments to provide an update on progress made towards including this information from the Cambridge Minority Business Enterprise Program in the Open Data Portal. Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons
5. Opposing The MBTA Service Cuts. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Public Safety Committee met on Oct 14, 2020 to discuss traffic enforcement and PO 2020 #178.
2. The Ordinance Committee met on Oct 28, 2020 to discuss the Real Estate Transfer Home Rule Petition.
3. The Ordinance Committee met on Feb 11, 2021 to conduct a public hearing a petition to amend Article 8.000 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance.
- A. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Zoning Petition which amends Article 8.000 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui and Vice Mayor Mallon transmitting information about a Commercial Composting Pilot Program in Cambridge. [[Cambridge Table to Farm Commercial Composting Report](#)] [[Cambridge Table to Farm Composting Fact Sheet](#)]
2. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, transmitting an update on the Charter Assessment Review.
3. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting communicating information from the School Committee.
4. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting questions for the City Manager's COVID-19 update.

HEARING SCHEDULE (via TV and Zoom)

Mon, Mar 22

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 29

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 5

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Thurs, Apr 8

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Cambridge Missing Middle Housing Zoning Petition (Ordinance #2021-2) (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 12

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Apr 14

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Retail Uses Zoning Recommendations – Refiled (Ordinance #2021-3) and the Home Occupations Zoning Recommendations - Refiled (Ordinance #2021-4) (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 26

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 3

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 10

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 17

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 24

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 14

5:30pm City Council 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 22, 2021

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

MAYOR SIDDQUI

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is committed to ensuring and safeguarding the health, safety, and environment of the residents of our community; and

WHEREAS: Wood-burning biomass are known to release pollutants including fine particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS: The Commonwealth adopted science-driven Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) regulations in 2012 recognizing that wood-burning power plants emit more carbon dioxide than fossil fuel power plants per unit of energy generated; and

WHEREAS: Due to the 2012 RPS regulations, the only wood-burning biomass plants eligible for Massachusetts renewable energy incentives have been small, efficient combined-heat-and-power biomass plants; and

WHEREAS: If the weakened RPS regulations proposed in December 2020 by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) go into effect, Massachusetts incentives would be available for inefficient large-scale biomass power plants; and

WHEREAS: The proposed RPS regulations would wrongly incentivize the construction of a largescale wood-burning biomass plant proposed by Palmer Renewable Energy in Springfield, an Environmental Justice community already heavily burdened by industrial air pollution and by record-setting rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge stands in solidarity with the residents of the City of Springfield, and the Springfield City Council, which passed a resolution on Dec 21, 2020, opposing Massachusetts state incentives for wood-burning biomass plants; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Council opposes any state incentives for inefficient commercial wood-burning biomass plants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Council calls upon the Massachusetts DOER to revise the proposed RPS regulations by returning the woody biomass provisions to their previous, science-based language; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Council calls upon the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy of the Massachusetts Legislature to hold an accessible public hearing on said proposed RPS regulations; and be it further

ORDERED: That a copy of this resolution is sent to Governor Charlie Baker and the entire state delegation from Cambridge.

O-2 Mar 22, 2021

VICE MAYOR MALLON

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: Public transportation is a lifeline for our residents, especially lower-income residents and communities of color who are [more likely to lack access to cars](#); and

WHEREAS: The cost of public transportation is often burdensome, and can create a barrier to civic participation, especially for low-income or BIPOC communities who face a disproportionately high number of hurdles to the voting box, and typically vote at lower rates than white or higher-income residents; and

WHEREAS: The recently introduced [HD.2474](#) and [SD.1557](#), the FARE Act, would make public transit free on the days of all statewide primary and general elections; and

WHEREAS: By making bus, subway, and trolley service from the MBTA and the state's 15 other regional transit authorities free on Election Day, the FARE Act will allow vulnerable residents to make their voices heard, and help ensure our political leadership accurately reflects our community's values; and

WHEREAS: [San Diego, CA](#); [Dallas, TX](#); [Kansas City, MO](#); and dozens more municipalities have made public transit fare-free on Election Days, and Los Angeles County's decision to make public transit free on Election Day resulted in [a 5% increase in bus and rail ridership](#), demonstrating a link between price and access; and

WHEREAS: While the City is working on a [Fare-Free Bus Pilot Program](#), eliminating public transit fees on Election Days statewide is an important step to take to expand equitable access to civic participation as we move towards making this critical service free year-round; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record supporting HD.2474 and SD.1557, the FARE Act; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to the entire Cambridge state delegation on behalf of the City Council.

O-3 Mar 22, 2021

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: On Mar 12th, 2020, Governor Baker issued [an executive order](#) authorizing municipalities to conduct public meetings virtually, and allowing residents to give public comment remotely; and

WHEREAS: In the year since, the City Council, the Planning Board, and various other City entities have held productive remote meetings, and as we approach mass-vaccination and a new normal, it is clear that virtual participation should remain as an option for residents; and

WHEREAS: Remote participation enhances flexibility, enabling more residents, especially those who may typically find it difficult to attend an in-person public meeting, to weigh in on important community issues and participate in civic engagement, while balancing their other responsibilities, such as childcare; and

WHEREAS: While City Hall has accessibility features, residents with disabilities, such as mobility impairments, may find it easier to participate virtually, so expanding remote participation is a way to amplify the voices of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS: The City Council has a vested interest in ensuring participation in public meetings is as convenient as possible, as doing so will encourage residents to lend their unique perspectives and better inform the City Council's decision-making process; and

WHEREAS: [Boston](#) is currently considering making an option for remote participation permanent, and Cambridge should also ensure remote participation does not end with the pandemic; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Government Operations, Rules and Claims Committee schedule a hearing to consider amending [the City Council rules](#) to allow for a permanent remote participation option at all public City meetings, and to ensure that the City commits to closing the digital divide that currently makes such remote participation significantly easier for those with technological access and savvy; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Committee report back to the City Council in a timely manner.

O-4 Mar 22, 2021

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: On [Nov 19th, 2020](#), the Economic Development and University Relations Committee convened a hearing to discuss opportunities for the City to support small businesses owned by minorities, women, and other historically disadvantaged groups; and

WHEREAS: Committee members and City staff discussed the possibility of adding data from the [Cambridge Minority Business Enterprise \(MBE\) Program](#) to the City's [Open Data portal](#); and

WHEREAS: Under this program, general contractors must subcontract at least 10% of the total bid price of qualifying construction projects to MBEs, or purchase materials from MBEs, and as this program infuses a substantial amount of money into our local economy, transparency is key; and

WHEREAS: The Open Data Portal is a critical tool to ensure governmental transparency and accountability, and including data from this program will help ensure the City meets its goals in supporting local MBEs, especially during this critical time for our small business community as they continue to weather the financial impacts of this pandemic; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Department of Equity and Inclusion, the Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department, the Purchasing Department, the Information Technology Department, and other relevant City departments to provide an update on progress made towards including this information from the Cambridge Minority Business Enterprise Program in the Open Data Portal; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to the City Council in a timely manner.

O-5 Mar 22, 2021

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: The City Council and the City of Cambridge have consistently advocated for a well-functioning public

transit system as an essential part of an equitable city and a sustainable future, including advocating on Nov 9, 2020 with a [unanimously sponsored resolution](#) opposing service cuts, and yet the MBTA has cut service and proposed reductions which jeopardize the future of transit; and

WHEREAS: These cuts affect thousands of lower-income residents, who depend on public transit, including a disproportionate number of people of color, non-English speakers, and people with disabilities—precisely those most impacted by the pandemic and resulting recession, including Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Islander, and other communities of color; economically disadvantaged residents; and young adults who are most likely to use public transit; and

WHEREAS: The MBTA has cut service frequency temporarily for many bus and rail routes, citing low ridership during the pandemic; and suspended service on at least nine bus routes, leaving some underserved areas without good transit alternatives; and affected service in Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Savings from MBTA service cuts made during the pandemic totaled about \$21M yet Federal pandemic assistance for the MBTA is reportedly close to \$2B, and most of MBTA federal pandemic-related funds have been allocated to capital budget or held for post-pandemic operating costs; and

WHEREAS: The Metropolitan Area Planning Council noted in its comments to the MBTA that these cuts have a direct impact on the Commonwealth's need to produce more housing, and without more transit options new housing may increase sprawl; and

WHEREAS: Fighting climate change must include increasing access to reliable public transit yet concerns about reliability and crowding has led to congestion increasing on highways as the region slowly returns to work; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record as supportive of all efforts to fully fund the MBTA and roll back all cuts to service detailed in the "Forging Ahead" Plan; and further be it

ORDERED: That the City Clerk prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution and transmit it to the Cambridge legislative delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.