

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$20,000 from the General Fund Reserves Other Ordinary Maintenance Account to the General Fund City Clerk Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to cover higher than expected printing and advertising costs.
2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a Homeland Security Grant from the City of Boston for \$7,047.00 to the Grant Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account, received as reimbursement for trainings performed in conjunction with the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and will be used to cover the City's costs for participation in the trainings.
3. Transmitting communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of to an order authorizing the City Manager for transfer appropriations of available balances prior to the close of the books for FY19-20.

Agenda Item Number 3 Mar 23, 2020

ORDERED: That pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 33B, and prior to the close of books for FY20, the City Manager is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations from allotments with available balances to those needing supplementation.

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, 2020 and ending Mar 31, 2021.

Mar 23, 2020

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Please find attached for your consideration, my recommendations for the block rates for water consumption and sewer use for the period beginning Apr 1, 2020 and ending Mar 31, 2021.

Very truly yours, Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager

Agenda Item Number 4 Mar 23, 2020

ORDERED: That the following block rate for water consumption and sewer use in the City of Cambridge be in effect for the period beginning Apr 1, 2020 and ending Mar 31, 2021:

| | Annual Consumption* | FY20 Water Rate | FY21 Proposed Water Rate | FY20 Sewer Rate | FY21 Proposed Sewer Rate |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Block 1 | 0 – 40 CcF | \$3.02 | \$3.02 | \$11.77 | \$12.51 |
| Block 2 | 41 – 400 CcF | \$3.24 | \$3.24 | \$12.44 | \$13.22 |
| Block 3 | 401 – 2,000 CcF | \$3.44 | \$3.44 | \$13.36 | \$14.20 |
| Block 4 | 2,001 – 10,000 CcF | \$3.65 | \$3.65 | \$14.39 | \$15.30 |
| Block 5 | Over 10,000 CcF | \$3.96 | \$3.96 | \$15.30 | \$16.26 |

*All rates are per CcF. CcF is an abbreviation of 100 cubic feet. One CcF is approximately 750 gallons; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Senior Citizens Discount Program gives either a 15 percent or 30 percent discount on water/sewer bills, depending upon certain qualifications. Any resident who owns and occupies his/her own home and who is 65 or older on July 1 qualifies for the 15 percent discount. This discount may not exceed \$90 for the fiscal year.

To qualify for the 30 percent discount, a homeowner must be 65 years of age or older and must have been granted the Clause 41C Elderly Real Estate Exemption, which is based on the demonstrated financial need. This discount may not exceed \$180 for the fiscal year.

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the "2020 Cycling Safety Ordinance" be forwarded to the Ordinance Committee for discussion and recommendation. [CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER ON MAR 16, 2020.]

ON THE TABLE

2. That the City Manager is requested to direct the City Solicitor, Community Development, Public Works, Inspectional Services and any other related departments to review the proposed amendments regarding the prohibition of Natural Gas Infrastructure in New Buildings. [TABLED ON JAN 27, 2020]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. 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]

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Heather Hoffman, regarding decision in PB #288.
2. A communication was received from Audrey Cunningham, 49 Gore Street, regarding proposed Real Estate Transfer Fee.
3. A communication was received from Alfred Disidoro, 49 Gore Street, regarding proposed Real Estate Transfer Fee.
4. A communication was received from Genevieve Coyle, 230 Lakeview Avenue, regarding affordable housing.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That a suitable resolution be prepared on the death of Sal DiDomenico Sr. Councillor Toomey, Councillor Simmons
2. Resolution on the death of Manuel Teixeira. Councillor Toomey
3. Resolution on the death of Paul Doherty. Councillor Toomey

4. Resolution on the death of Jimmy Albert Smith.
Councillor Toomey, Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui,
Councillor McGovern
5. Congratulations to Eleanor Boudreau for being named the
2019 winner of the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry prize.
Councillor Simmons

ORDERS

1. City Council support of Senator Ron Wyden's forthcoming
legislation calling for the delay of federal REAL ID
requirements until September 2021. Councillor Simmons,
Mayor Siddiqui
2. That the Cambridge City Council requests that brokers,
landlords, and real estate agents not to show housing units
with current occupants during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Simmons
3. That the City Manager is requested to explore the feasibility
of using vacant properties and hotels as emergency shelters
during the COVID-19 pandemic. Councillor Sobrinho-
Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan
4. That the City Manager is requested to present emergency
appropriations to the City Council in order to provide
appropriate financial relief to businesses and organizations
in the city, especially those which are not receiving
sufficient state or federal assistance. Councillor
Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
5. That the City Manager is requested to work with the
Information Technology Department and other relevant
departments to develop a hotline dedicated to providing
updated local information about the ongoing COVID-19
crisis in as many languages as possible and implement an
audio/video bridge between the Zoom platform and the
city's existing audio/video streaming and recording platform
in the Sullivan Chamber. Councillor Zondervan,
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
6. That the City Manager is requested to work with the
appropriate City personnel to develop and implement an
online portal designed to allow senior citizens who are
house-bound due to the coronavirus outbreak to sign up and
notify the City that they require assistance with receiving
grocery deliveries, other services delivered, and/or wellness
checks throughout this crisis. Councillor Simmons

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from City Clerk Anthony I.
Wilson, transmitting a letter from New England
Development regarding a Pre-Application Conference with
the City Council for a CambridgeSide 2.0 PUD-8 Special
Permit.
2. A communication was received from Councillor Zondervan,
transmitting COVID-19 Ideas and Suggestions.

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Mar 23

5:30pm City Council Meeting (web-only)

Tues, Mar 24

5:30pm Roundtable/Working Meeting for members of the City
Council and School Committee to continue discussion regarding
the school budget for Fiscal Year 2021. [CANCELLED]

Thurs, Mar 26

10:00am The Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public
Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committee will hold a public
hearing to discuss the timeline, scope, and budget of the
Tobin/Vassal Lane School Project and how it fits into the long
term plan for all school buildings in the city to accommodate
expected enrollment changes over the next 10 to 20 years and an
update on the legislative office plans. [CANCELLED]

Mon, Mar 30

5:30pm City Council Meeting (web-only)

Tues, Mar 31

3:00pm The Economic Development and University Relations
Committee will meet for a hearing to discuss challenges and
opportunities that exist in City purchasing, procurement and
programs for MWBEs and other historically disadvantaged
businesses and non-profits in Cambridge. [CANCELLED]

Thurs, Apr 2

11:00am The Human Services and Veterans Committee of the City
Council will hold a public hearing to discuss harm reduction in
Cambridge, hear input from community partners and legal
scholars, and host a mock-SIS demonstration, and discuss a policy
order out of committee asking the City to move forward with
approving a supervised injection services location.
[CANCELLED]

Mon, Apr 6

5:30pm City Council Meeting (web-only)

Tues, Apr 7

3:00pm The Economic Development and University Relations
Committee will meet for a hearing to discuss a report back from
the Economic Development Division of the Community
Development Department on steps the City of Cambridge has
taken towards developing a vacant storefront registration policy.
[CANCELLED]

Mon, Apr 13

5:30pm City Council Meeting (web-only)

Tues, Apr 14

5:00pm The Ordinance Committee will hold a public hearing on the
Affordable Housing Overlay Petition. THIS MEETING WILL BE
TELEVISED. (likely web-only)

Wed, Apr 15

3:00pm The Ordinance Committee will hold a public hearing on the
Affordable Housing Overlay Petition. THIS MEETING WILL BE
TELEVISED. (likely web-only)

Thurs, Apr 16

5:30pm The Health and Environment Committee to hear a progress
report and recommendations from the Climate Resilience Zoning
Task Force. [CANCELLED]

Mon, Apr 27

5:30pm City Council Meeting (web-only)

Tues, Apr 28

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss the Harvard Square Conservation District Study Committee report. THIS MEETING WILL BE TELEVISED. (likely web-only)

Mon, May 4

5:30pm City Council Meeting (likely web-only)

Mon, May 11

5:30pm City Council Meeting (likely web-only)

Tues, May 12

9:00am The Finance Committee will meet for a public hearing on the FY21 budget. (likely web-only)

Wed, May 13

5:00pm The Finance Committee will meet for continued public hearings on the FY21 budget. (likely web-only)

Mon, May 18

4:00pm Cambridge Scholarship Awards Ceremony. (likely to be web only or cancelled)

5:30pm City Council Meeting (likely web-only)

Mon, June 1

5:30pm City Council Meeting (likely web-only)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Mar 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: City, State, and Federal Offices are all grappling with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, curtailing hours, closing offices, and scaling back to skeletal staffs and barebones operations for an undetermined period of time; and

WHEREAS: Communities across the country are bracing for the possibility that routine daily life could be disrupted for upwards of eight weeks, if not longer, depending upon a variety of factors; and

WHEREAS: The closures of all these government offices will make it difficult, if not impossible, for residents of Cambridge and across the Commonwealth to go in person to their local Registry of Motor Vehicles to complete the process to obtain the new Massachusetts REAL ID, which must be completed by Oct 1, 2020 and which will be required for people to enter federal buildings and to fly domestically after that date; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record in strong support of Senator Ron Wyden's forthcoming legislation calling for the delay of federal REAL ID requirements until September 2021; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and U.S. Senator Ed Markey on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-2 Mar 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 virus is spread when individuals are in close proximity to each other and Cambridge residents are being encouraged to social distance during the outbreak; and

WHEREAS: Many leases allow landlords to enter an apartment without a tenant's permission on short notice to show the unit to prospective tenants, purchasers, or mortgagees; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has asked brokers and real estate agents not to show apartments during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS: Apartment showings during this period of high transmission potential could put the health of immunocompromised tenants at risk and harm local efforts to curb the pandemic; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council requests that brokers, landlords, and real estate agents not to show housing units with current occupants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

O-3 Mar 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Department of Human Services estimated that there were 408 homeless individuals residing in Cambridge in 2018, an increase of 18.5 percent from the number of 340 unhoused Cantabrigians accounted for in 2010; and

WHEREAS: Individuals experiencing homelessness are especially vulnerable to the transmission and severe health risks of COVID-19, as many are older, struggle with compounding disabilities, and have little to no access to healthcare; and

WHEREAS: Lack of housing during this outbreak is a concern not only for these individuals but also a public health concern, shelters currently do not have adequate space for social distancing and exposure creates opportunities for infection; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Director of the Assessing Department and the Director of the Inspectional Services Department to compile an up-to-date list of housing units and buildings currently vacant in Cambridge, that feasible measures may be taken to avail that underutilized shelter to those most in need during this time of emergency; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to explore the feasibility of using City properties including the vacant buildings at 884 Main St and 105 Windsor St as emergency shelters; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to reach out to local hotel operators about contracting for the use of their properties as emergency shelters; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter no later than the Apr 6, 2020 City Council meeting.

<https://cambridge.wickedlocal.com/news/20190220/housing-crisis-fuels-homelessness-in-cambridge-statewide>

O-4 Mar 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 crisis poses great risk to many Cambridge organizations and the people who run them, including but not limited to arts & culture institutions, nonprofits providing essential services, restaurants and foodservice establishments, bars and nightlife, and more; and

WHEREAS: Many such organizations rely on revenue streams such as ticket and item sales, which are no longer available because of necessary social distancing to limit the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: Some organizations have necessarily shut down completely or partially in order to comply with regulatory changes and social distancing recommendations from health experts; and

WHEREAS: Organizations both large and small will be challenged by social distancing and limits on large gatherings for weeks and months to come; and

WHEREAS: For some of these organizations, losing weeks or months of revenue may end up being an impossible hurdle to overcome without assistance; and

WHEREAS: The positive, uplifting power of art and music will be an important component of our healing process in the months to come; and

WHEREAS: State and federal funding is becoming available for certain businesses and organizations, but not others; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to present emergency appropriations to the City Council in order to provide appropriate financial relief to businesses and organizations in the city, especially those which are not receiving sufficient state or federal assistance, in proportion to need; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Community Development Department and local business associations to provide and promote a centralized resource with ways that residents can continue to support local organizations and businesses in the weeks and months ahead, including when applicable takeout and delivery, online merchandise, donations, and the sale of gift cards; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on these matters as soon as possible.

O-5 Mar 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: The city cannot possibly over-communicate essential information during the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS: The city set up a website dedicated to providing information related to the crisis, but some residents do not have access to the internet, and it is essential that this information is universally accessible; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts has set up a telephone hotline dedicated to information about the crisis via 2-1-1, but callers are often placed on long holds after pressing 2-6; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Department of Public Health has set up a telephone hotline dedicated to information about the crisis but it currently does not provide any information and only invites the caller to leave a message; and

WHEREAS: It is important to reduce language barriers to this information as much as possible; and

WHEREAS: As the City Council continues to meet during the crisis, we will need to proactively work to maintain integrity and public trust; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Information Technology Department and other relevant departments to develop a hotline dedicated to providing updated local information about the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in as many languages as possible; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with all city departments to ensure that any communication materials provided by the city about the ongoing COVID-19 crisis are offered in as many languages as possible; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to implement an audio/video bridge between the Zoom platform and

the city's existing audio/video streaming and recording platform in the Sullivan Chamber so that all City Council meetings can be conducted entirely via Zoom without anyone needing to be physically present in the Sullivan chamber, including council members, city staff and members of the public, all of whom should be able to participate via Zoom including during public comment; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide detailed instructions and training for the public on new systems of participation in council meetings, including public comment, as they are implemented.

O-6 Mar 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the appropriate City personnel to develop and implement an online portal designed to allow senior citizens who are house-bound due to the coronavirus outbreak to sign up and notify the City that they require assistance with receiving grocery deliveries, other services delivered, and/or wellness checks throughout this crisis; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the appropriate City personnel to develop and implement an online portal designed to allow Cambridge residents who wish to volunteer their services for this purpose to provide their contact information to the City; and be it further

ORDERED That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to model this service [on programs being offered by cities like Salem](#), and to report back to the City Council in a timely manner.