

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an update on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.
2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the State Executive Office of Public Safety, Department of Fire Services, in the amount of \$187,500 to the Grant Fund Fire Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used for hazmat responders Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including respiratory equipment, chemical protective clothing, flash protection and gloves; decontamination supplies and detection devices; warrantees, calibration gasses and Confidence Tests for detection devices; research equipment to assist with identifying hazardous materials; and to repair or replace related equipment as needed.
3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Shannon Grant received from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition's Community Safety Initiative through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, in the amount of \$33,585.19, to the Grant Fund Police Department Salary and Wages account (\$25,875.19) and the Grant Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$7,710.00) which will be dedicated to hot spot patrols, Metro Gang Task Force participation, and the Focused Deterrence program.
4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$300,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account to continue the COVID-19 sewer testing program through the end of calendar year 2021.
5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$1,771,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Public Works Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used for snowstorm related expenses associated with snow plowing and snow removal contracts, salt, and other materials.
6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$650,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account to fund the procurement of three pieces of equipment for use in snow and ice operations.
7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$400,000 from Free Cash to the Public Works Public Investment Fund Extraordinary Expenditures account to fund snowstorm related street repairs.
8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the transfer of funds of the Mass Housing and Shelter Alliance Grant from the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account in the amount of \$3,200.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account to be used to purchase gifts for the men in the Carey Program which will allow them to purchase food and other household items such as laundry detergent and cleaning supplies.
9. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the transfer of funds of the Children's Trust Fund grant from the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account which will enable the purchase of gift card incentives for Cambridge parents participating in the Center for Families' Parent Workshops and Parent Child Activities.
10. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the transfer of funds of the Low-Income Heating Assistance Program Grant from the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account in the amount of \$1,940.88 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to purchase operating supplies for the program's administration.
11. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant increase from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Adult and Community Learning Services, in the amount of \$58,950.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$42,660.00), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$16,290.00). With this increase the total grant amount is now \$901,880.00 which will be used to support costs associated with implementing program services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
12. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation a grant from the Cambridge Community Foundation in the amount of \$25,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used for the purchase of Chromebooks, hotspots, and webcams for Community Learning Center (CLC) students to connect to their classes.
13. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Family Shelter grant received from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in the amount of \$165,650.08 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be subcontracted to the Cambridge YWCA and used to operate its family shelter from April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (final quarter FY21), including the provision of case

management and housing search and stabilization services for ten homeless families at a time as referred by the DHCD.

CHARTER RIGHT

1. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$130,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Electrical Extraordinary Expenditures account which will fund the purchase of a new aerial bucket truck. [CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR NOLAN IN COUNCIL APR 5, 2021]

ON THE TABLE

2. 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]

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]

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Shoshanah Garber, Black Sheep Bagels requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 101 Magazine Street approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.
2. An application was received from Brooke Garber, Mint Julep requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 43 Brattle Street. approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Rachel Mosher Henke, regarding DHSP after-school and summer program.
2. A communication was received from Kate Skubecz, regarding reopening of DHSP after-school and summer camps.
3. A communication was received from Elinor Ectipis, regarding after-school programs and libraries.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Thank You to Rachel Culley. Mayor Siddiqui
2. That the City Council go on the record in support of this session's proposed TOPA bills, SD.1672 and HD.2984, and in urging the Cambridge State Legislative Delegation to advance this legislation to swift passage. Councillor

Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone

3. Support of Expanding the Medicare Savings Plan Eligibility. Councillor Simmons

ORDERS

1. Policy Order re Making Remote Participation Permanent. Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan
2. Policy Order Re Making Remote Public Participation Easier. Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern
3. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the appropriate City personnel to reestablish funding for a visiting attorney to be situated in the Multi Service Center and/or the Senior Center, with a focus on services provided to the unhoused community, to seniors, and to veterans. Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Toomey, Mayor Siddiqui
4. That the City and CPD create laminated, information cards detailing how an individual can file complaints and concerns regarding their interactions with CPD. Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Vice Mayor Mallon
5. That the Chair of Civic Unity schedule a meeting to discuss survey results, progress made to date, and recommendations to diversify City's Boards and Commissions. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Simmons
6. That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to consult with the Water Department and report back to the City Council by the end of the month on plans for monitoring the situation, for early communication on conserving water and for instituting water savings measures, and to inform the Water Board of this request. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan
7. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Community Development Department, the Law Department, and the City Manager's Housing Liaison to discuss and advise on ways to increase equity in the initial application process for tenants looking to rent in Cambridge that does not violate fair housing laws. Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
8. That the City Council shall have its own budget for outside legal research to be utilized at the discretion of the Council when designated by a majority of members in pursuance of the Council's authority to exercise the legislative powers of the City as specified in the City charter. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Ordinance Committee met on Feb 4, 2021 to conduct a public hearing on the Green Roofs zoning petition.
 - A. That the City Manager conduct a nexus study to determine the connection between building roofs and local climate impacts including urban heat island and stormwater impacts to determine the appropriate mitigation costs including through construction of bio-solar and green roofs. Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Toomey
2. The Ordinance Committee met on Mar 31, 2021 to continue a public hearing on the Green Roofs zoning petition.
 - A. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to propose an effective date for adopting the Green Roofs Zoning Petition and to provide a list of which projects would be unaffected by the new zoning as a result. Councillor Zondervan, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui
 - B. That the Green Roofs Zoning Petition is amended by substitution. Councillor Carlone
 - C. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Amy Oliver, regarding that the City require the installation of GREEN ROOFS vegetated or Bio-Solar on future construction and significant rehab of buildings that are 20,000 square feet and larger.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, communicating information from the School Committee.
2. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting questions for the COVID-19 Update.

HEARING SCHEDULE (via TV and Zoom)

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

10:00am The Health and Environment Committee will meet to conduct a public hearing regarding the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Sullivan Chamber)

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)

Thurs, Apr 29

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Broad Canal Zoning Petition. (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 Apr 12, 2021

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

WHEREAS: On March 12, 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 13 months since that emergency executive order was issued, members of the Cambridge community have urged the City to ensure that the option for remote public participation in City Council meetings, and at meetings of the City's boards and commissions, be allowed to continue even after the Governor's emergency order is lifted; and

WHEREAS: The City Council passed [a policy order on March 22, 2021](#) asking the City Manager "...to explore options for including a permanent remote participation option at all public meetings in the city, including, but not limited to, the Planning Board and the BZA;" now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council formally goes on record in supporting the concept of permanently extending the ability for members of the public to remotely participate in meetings of the City Council and meetings of the City's boards and commissions; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide the City Council with an update on any progress made in response to the aforementioned policy order from March 22, 2021; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the City Solicitor to draft the necessary language to petition the Commonwealth for permission to make remote participation for members of the public a permanent option in City Council meetings, and in board and commission meetings, to make remote participation by a quorum of the members of a public body a permanent option, to determine whether the City may wish to partner with other local municipalities in asking for this rule

change in the State Legislature, and to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-2 Apr 12, 2021
COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: There has been recent discussion within the City Council around exploring the feasibility of making remote public participation a permanent feature for all City Council meetings, and meetings of the City's boards and commissions, going forward; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to determine ways of making remote participation to the City's public meetings more accessible, including (but not limited to) easing the process of signing up for Public Comment, allowing members of the public to view meetings via Zoom even when they may not wish to provide Public Comment, allowing members of the public to turn on their cameras when giving Public Comment, and exploring other ways and technologies that can make it easier for members of the public to participate in City Council, board and commission meetings; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-3 Apr 12, 2021
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: In years past, the Multi Service Center hosted weekly hours from legal students affiliated with [Shelter Legal Services](#) in order to provide general legal advice to the Multi Service Center's unhoused clients and to veterans; and

WHEREAS: While this service was eventually discontinued due to the lack of funding, the need for free legal advice for the City's most vulnerable residents remains an ongoing concern; and

WHEREAS: As we look toward the day when the Governor's Covid Era eviction moratorium is lifted, there will surely be an increased need for a program that provides the City's residents – particularly seniors on a fixed income, our unhoused community, and our veterans – to be able to consult with an attorney for guidance, advice, and direction; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the appropriate City personnel to re-establish funding for a visiting attorney to be situated in the Multi-Service Center and/or the Senior Center, with a focus on services provided to the unhoused community, to seniors, and to veterans; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide an update on this matter to the City Council in a timely manner.

O-4 Apr 12, 2021
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
VICE MAYOR MALLON

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Police Department comes into contact with individuals for various reasons; and

WHEREAS: At times, individuals have raised concerns regarding their interactions with the CPD; and

WHEREAS: The City and CPD have a system in place for individuals to file complaints and concerns regarding their interactions with the CPD, however, many individuals do not know of, or know how, to access this system; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City and CPD create laminated, information cards detailing how an individual can file complaints and concerns regarding their interactions with CPD and that these cards be made readily available to the public.

O-5 Apr 12, 2021
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
VICE MAYOR MALLON
COUNCILLOR CARLONE
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: On Tuesday, March 27, 2018, the Civic Unity Committee held a public hearing to discuss whether the City's Boards and Commissions adequately reflect the demographic makeup of the community; and

WHEREAS: The members of the Civic Unity Committee discussed a potential survey to ascertain information about who served on the City's Boards and Commissions; and

WHEREAS: The survey report was completed in August 2019, and of the 266 responses, 73% were white individuals, and 30.8 % were 65 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS: Themes that came up during the survey to increase diversity were to: (1) improve recruitment methods, (2) simplify the application process, (3) make it easier to apply, (4) ensure information is widely available and accessible, (5) diversify boards and commissions and (6) provide additional support for members, including food, childcare, a stipend; and

WHEREAS: The City Manager stated his commitment to diversify the City's Boards and Commissions, specifically stating that over 50% of appointees in the last 10 months have been people of color; and

WHEREAS: The need is also highlighted in Envision Cambridge, where over the course of a three-year process, the community recommended the City to diversify representation on City boards, commissions, and advisory committees, including targeted outreach and recruitment; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Chair of Civic Unity schedule a meeting to discuss survey results, progress made to date, and recommendations to diversify City's Boards and Commissions.

O-6 Apr 12, 2021
COUNCILLOR NOLAN
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

WHEREAS: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, over just the last month, has gone from 0% of the state being in any drought condition to [75% being categorized by the national monitoring entity as abnormally dry](#), including all of Cambridge's watershed, compared to 0% of the state being in any level of drought concern one year ago; and

WHEREAS: In the summer of 2016, the Commonwealth and Cambridge experienced a serious drought that was not foreseen or prepared for and led to a financial charge to city; and

WHEREAS: The summer of 2020 also saw drought conditions, which led the City Council to urge for public communication about

conserving water, and last year's decrease in water consumption due to the pandemic-related drop in population at colleges and universities helped the city weather the drought; and
WHEREAS: Development continues to add residents and workspaces that increase the city's water consumption, which without conservation efforts may lead to ongoing future issues with our long-term water supply; and
WHEREAS: The City Council wants the City to be prepared in the case of the current dry conditions worsening and in the long term; now therefore be it
ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to consult with the Water Department and report back to the City Council by the end of the month on plans for monitoring the situation, for early communication on conserving water and for instituting water savings measures, and to inform the Water Board of this request; and be it further
ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to work with the Water Board to report back to the City Council by the summer meeting on long term projections for the water supply based on post-pandemic conditions and development growth due to increased housing, commercial space and labs.

O-7 Apr 12, 2021

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: Landlords and property management companies regularly use credit checks to make determinations about renting to potential tenants or employers making hiring decisions; and

WHEREAS: A low credit score or credit invisibility can limit housing choice and employment opportunities for low-income families; and

WHEREAS: For housing in Cambridge, many residents have their applications denied for inclusionary units or private apartments due to the credit check requirements set forth by management companies; and

WHEREAS: To comply with fair housing laws, all applicants applying for housing must be treated equally and under a standardized rubric, however, many of the standardized measures used, such as credit checks, create additional barriers to genuine equity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS: Credit checks also negatively impact an applicant's credit score, oftentimes ding 3-5 points off a credit score each time a third-party vendor, such as Experian, pull the report; and

WHEREAS: When management companies use a third-party reporting system, they base their decision to rent on the score that is given from the company, making it difficult to challenge; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge and new housing developments have an opportunity to lead the charge in creating new practices on reviewing a potential tenant's application, including creating alternative tools to assess an applicant's ability to pay rent; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Community Development Department, the Law Department, and the City Manager's Housing Liaison to discuss and advise on ways to increase equity in the initial application process for tenants looking to rent in Cambridge that does not violate fair housing laws.

O-8 Apr 12, 2021

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR CARLONE

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

WHEREAS: The [Cambridge City charter grants](#) that "The city council shall have and exercise all the legislative powers of the city"; and

WHEREAS: Most City Councillors are not themselves lawyers and seek assistance in exercising their legislative powers as prescribed by the charter in the drafting of ordinances; and

WHEREAS: The City's legal department has provided and will continue to provide legal research and opinions to the City Council as part of their role in representing the City; and

WHEREAS: At the Government Operations, Rules & Claims Committee meeting on the topic of adding an outside attorney line item to the City Council budget on [December 4, 2019](#), the City's legal department and administration affirmed that it had not been, and would not be, their intent to thwart the will of the City Council and committed "to working with the Council to find solutions that work for the Council" on legal research; and

WHEREAS: The legal department has stated that at times the large amount of work that is placed on the department delays their work responding to City Council and community priorities; and

WHEREAS: Other cities and towns in Massachusetts have experienced similar challenges and solved them by the City Council requiring its own budget for legal research to assist with the exercise of their legislative powers as prescribed by the charters in their respective municipalities; and

WHEREAS: Because the legal department represents both the City administration, which is responsible for executing the laws of the City, and the City Council, which holds the legislative powers of the City, there have at times been conflicts with drafting ordinance and policy language that the City Council has requested, such as on [supporting restaurants to have acoustic music without a permit](#), [prohibiting the use of tear gas](#), and [limiting campaign contributions](#); and

WHEREAS: The City Council requiring its own budget for legal research would help solve this issue by providing the Council with a dedicated point of contact to assist with the exercise of their prescribed legislative powers under the City's charter; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council shall have a budget for outside legal research that shall be utilized at the discretion of the City Council when designated by a majority of members in pursuance of the Council's authority to exercise the legislative powers of the City in drafting ordinances via an order that is voted upon in public at a scheduled City Council meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the precise amount of the budget line item for outside legal research in the City Council budget shall be determined as part of the FY22 budget process but shall be not less than 5% of the total amount of the legal department's FY22 budget.