



GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, RULES & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Monday, May 5, 2025

3:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber

The Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee will hold a public hearing to initiate the process of re-appointing the City Auditor, POR 2025 #62.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Burhan Azeem	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marc C. McGovern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paul F. Toner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Catherine Zusy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council's Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee was held on Monday, May 5, 2025. The meeting was Called to Order at 3:00 p.m. by the Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation. This public meeting was hybrid, allowing participation in person, in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and by remote participation via Zoom.

At the request of the Chair, Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Toner – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Zusy – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Present – 4, Absent -1. Quorum established.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern offered opening remarks and noted that the Call of the meeting was to hold a public hearing to initiate the process of re-appointing the City Auditor, Policy Order 2025 #62. Present at the meeting was the City Auditor, Joseph McCann, and the City Solicitor, Megan Bayer.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Mr. McCann who offered a brief overview of the overall role of the City Auditor. In addition to providing an overview during the meeting, Mr. McCann provided a Memo to the Committee in advance of the meeting, which was included in the Agenda Packet.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler who asked Mr. McCann to provide information on the day-to-day operations of the Auditing Department. Mr. McCann explained the main functions of the Auditing Department, noting that the two main functions are accounts payable and financial reporting. Mr. McCann provided a brief overview of the number of employees in the Department and what support they provide within the Department. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler thanked Mr. McCann for providing a detailed review and asked if he knew how much credits from the IRS would be received for smart buildings, noting that \$500,000 was received for electric vehicles. Mr. McCann shared that it would be around \$450,000, with anticipation of additional municipal buildings currently under construction that will fall into the eligibility criteria.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Toner who asked if the City Auditor ever had to make suggestions or changes within financial oversight (bullet #1 on Packet page 6). Mr. McCann explained how the accounting profession is constantly changing, and it is important for the City Auditor to continue to gain

knowledge to implement changes when needed. Mr. McCann provided one example of a suggested change that has been made related to the leases. Councillor Toner asked if there has ever been a loss of funds (bullet #2 on Packet page 6). Mr. McCann highlighted that the City has not lost funds due to spending incorrectly. Councillor Toner asked if the City wanted to audit a specific department or program, would that fall under the responsibility of the City Auditor. Mr. McCann pointed out that with that type of audit, the City would need specific resources, and his department would not run the audit.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Zusy who asked if the Auditing Department was embedded or outside. Mr. McCann shared that it is more embedded and that his Department works very closely with the Finance Department but also interact with many different Departments to ensure paperwork is done correctly when it comes to payments and authorization of payments.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler who asked if all departments are using electronic accounts payable systems. Mr. McCann explained that not all use electronic accounts and there are some that are still done on paper and added that the Department is working to implement a more sufficient system that is more current with today's standards. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler explained that the Council will sometimes receive emails related to late payments and asked the City Auditor if he could explain more. Mr. McCann noted that they strive to pay any bill that is received within two pay cycles, and there are many factors that could contribute to why payment is late. Mr. McCann noted that they encourage anyone to reach out to the Auditing Department to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Mayor Simmons who pointed out that Mr. McCann is the City Auditor for School Department as well. Mayor Simmons echoed comments made about bill payments and urged the City to work with the Auditor to create a system that can help expedite payments for both the City and the School Department. Mr. McCann explained that it is important to modernize and update the systems that are being used, especially when it comes to electronic funds.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Toner who made a motion that the Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee forward the re-appointment of City Auditor, Joseph McCann to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Yes – 4, No – 0, Absent -1. Motion passed.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Toner who made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Yes – 4, No – 0, Absent -1. Motion passed.

The Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee adjourned at approximately 3:34p.m.

Clerk's Note: The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/1013?view_id=1&redirect=true

City Council requesting that the Chair of the Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee initiate the process of re-appointing the City Auditor.

A communication was received from Joseph McCann, City Auditor, transmitting a memo regarding City Auditor Re-Appointment.