



ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

3:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber

Call to Order

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"/>	
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sumbul Siddiqui	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paul F. Toner	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ayesha M. Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Catherine Zusy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Denise Simmons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council's Ordinance Committee was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. The meeting was Called to Order at 1:30 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, Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Siddiqui – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Present/Remote

Councillor Toner – Present/Remote

Councillor Wilson – Present/Remote

Councillor Zusy – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Mayor Simmons – Absent

Present – 7, Absent – 2. Quorum established.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern offered opening remarks and noted that the Call of the meeting was to hold a public hearing on a Zoning Petition by the Cambridge City Council to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Article 11.000 with the intent to amend a subsection of the Cannabis Uses standards, Section 11.800 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance, with the intent to remove the provision that prohibits the packaging or repackaging of cannabis products on the premises of a Cannabis Retail Store. The Committee will also review and discuss proposed amendments to the Cambridge Municipal Code Chapter 5.50, Cannabis Business Permitting. Present at the meeting was City Solicitor, Megan Bayer, Acting Assistant Manager of the Community Development Department, Melissa Peters, Economic Development Specialist, Christina DiLisio, and Director of Economic Development, Pardis Saffari.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Christina DiLisio who gave a presentation titled “Streamlining Local Cannabis Regulations”. The presentation was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern opened Public Comment.

Richard Harding, 189 Windsor Street, Cambridge, MA, spoke in support of the proposed changes.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who shared her excitement for the streamline process and would like to see other departments use a similar model. Councillor Nolan asked if the proposed changes are the same as the State or if the City was requiring different information from the State. Christina DiLisio explained why the City has migrated close to State regulations. Councillor Nolan asked why the City is not 100% the same with the State. Christina DiLisio shared that there are different web portals being used between the City and the State which is why it is not the same. Councillor Nolan shared her support for moving the proposed amendments forward.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern who had a clarifying question on crowd control documentation listed on Agenda Packet page 22 and asked if those were State requirements. Christina DiLisio shared that customer queuing is required by the State, but the question related to store front activation is specific to Cambridge and related to citywide urban design guidelines. The Vice Mayor shared support for the proposed amendments to move forward and taking away unnecessary challenges for owners.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Siddiqui who made a motion to forward the proposed amendments to the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance and Cambridge Municipal Code to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**Deputy City Clerk called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Yes
Councillor Zusy – Yes
Mayor Simmons – Absent.

Yes – 7, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.

The Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Zusy who made a motion to adjourn the meeting.**Deputy City Clerk called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Yes
Councillor Zusy – Yes
Mayor Simmons – Absent.

Yes – 7, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:31p.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/1020?view_id=1&redirect=true

An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk Diane P. LeBlanc, relative to Zoning Petition to remove the repackaging prohibition as a City Council Zoning Petition. REFERRED TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AND PLANNING BOARD FOR HEARING AND REPORT IN COUNCIL MARCH 17, 2025

An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to Chapter 5.50 CANNABIS BUSINESS PERMITTING REFERRED TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL MARCH 17, 2025

A communication was received from Christina DiLisio, Economic Development Specialist, transmitting a presentation related to Cannabis Regulations.