

## **CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA**

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the votes necessary to seek the Massachusetts Department of Revenue approval for the tax rate for FY2011:
  - A. Authorize the use of Free Cash of \$11,400,000 to reduce the FY11 tax rate;
  - B. Authorize \$2,000,000 in overlay surplus/revenues to be used for reducing the FY11 tax levy;
  - C. Authorize \$8,300,000 from the Debt Stabilization Fund to be used as a revenue source to the General Fund Budget;
  - D. Authorize \$1,198,615 from the School Debt Stabilization Fund to be used as a revenue source to the General Fund Budget;
  - E. Classify property into five classes;
  - F. Adopt the minimum residential factor of 56.3344%;
  - G. Approve the maximum residential exemption factor of 30% for owner-occupied homes;
  - H. Vote to double the normal value of the statutory exemptions;
  - I. Vote the FY11 exemption of \$280.00 allowed under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17D;
  - J. Vote the FY11 asset limits of \$55,775 allowed under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17E;
  - K. Vote the FY11 income and asset limits allowed under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41D as follows: Income limits of \$23,061 for single and \$34,592 for married; and asset limits of \$46,122 for single and \$63,418 for married;
  - L. Vote the income limit for deferral of real estate taxes by elderly persons as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue for the purposes of MGL Chapter 62, Section 6, subsection (k) for a single person (\$51,000) and for married (\$77,000);
  - M. Vote to lower the interest rate by 4% to 14% for overdue water and sewer bills in FY11; and
  - N. Vote to accept MGL Chapter 200A, Section 9A, which allows for an alternative procedure for disposing of abandoned funds held in custody by the City as provided for in the recently enacted municipal relief legislation.
2. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 10-132, regarding a report on recent developments and sale of the North Point project.
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 10-100, regarding a report on the safety of the intersection of Irving and Scott Streets.

## **ON THE TABLE**

1. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a copy of the referral of Order Number 15 of Dec 21, 2009, regarding increasing the amount of public information about elections while the election is in progress, to the 2010-2011 City Council. [Communications and Reports from City Officers #1 of Jan 11, 2010 Placed on Table.]
2. That the City Manager is requested to restore funding for School Department clerical positions until a proper and negotiated process can be achieved with the Cambridge

School Department and Unions representing the employees, and to report back to the City Council on the progress. [Order Number Fourteen of Apr 26, 2010 Placed on Table. May 10, 2010 Councillor Kelley made a motion to take from the table motion failed 2-7-0 remains on Table. Sept 13, 2010 Councillor Kelley made a motion to take from the table motion failed 4-4-1 remains on Table. Sept 27, 2010 Councillor Kelley made a motion to take from the table motion failed 3-5-1 remains on Table.]

3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 10-32, regarding a report on issues with the development of the former St. John's property site. [Charter Right exercised on City Manager Agenda Item Number Eighteen of May 24, 2010. Placed on Table June 7, 2010.]
4. An application was received from Tony LaVita, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 68 Middlesex Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association. [Applications and Petitions Number Ten Of June 7, 2010 Placed on Table.]

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5. Reconsideration filed by Councillor Toomey on the affirmative vote taken on Sept 13, 2010 to refer to the Ordinance Committee and to pass to a second reading a proposed amendment to the Municipal code that would increase the residential parking sticker fee. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Toomey on City Manager Agenda Item Number Thirty-Six of Aug 2, 2010. On Sept 13, 2010 motion of Vice Mayor Davis to refer to Ordinance Committee and Passage to a second reading on roll call 7-1-1. Sept 27, 2010 no action taken on reconsideration. Affirmative vote taken Sept 13, 2010 to refer to Ordinance Committee and to pass to a second reading on proposed amendment to the Municipal Code that would increase the residential parking sticker fee effective as of Sept 13, 2010.] The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after Oct 11, 2010.

## **APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

1. Revocation of a sign permit for Adidas for the premises numbered 1270 Massachusetts Avenue, issued May 10, 2004. Inspectional Services inspected the property on Sept 27, 2010 and the sign is down.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution on the death of Sophie (Langer) Reagan. Mayor Maher, Councillor Toomey
2. Happy 100th Birthday wishes to Ms. Mattie Hayes. Councillor Simmons
3. Resolution on the death of Anita Louise Cignetti. Councillor Toomey
4. Congratulations to Cynthia Barnhart on her appointment as Acting Dean of MIT's School of Engineering. Councillor Cheung
5. Urge residents to be cognizant of the annual Party Under the Harvest Moon dinner to benefit Food for Free on Oct 15, 2010. Councillor Cheung

6. Congratulations to the twelve Cambridge residents who will run in the 10th annual Boston Athletic Association Half Marathon to benefit the Jimmy fund. Councillor Cheung
7. Congratulations to Annette Gordon-Reed on being selected as a MacArthur Fellow. Councillor Cheung
8. Congratulations to Nergis Mavalvala on being selected as a MacArthur Fellow. Councillor Cheung
9. Congratulations to Matthew Carter on being selected as a MacArthur Fellow. Councillor Cheung
10. Congratulations to Rob and Angela Green on the birth of their son Joseph Robert Green. Mayor Maher
11. Resolution on the death of Narcisse (Correia) Caldeira. Councillor Toomey
12. Resolution on the death of Jose Chaves. Councillor Toomey
13. Resolution on the death of Herbert E. Brown. Mayor Maher
14. Congratulations to the Community Dispute Settlement Center on their annual fundraising gala and to John G. Wofford and Peace First for being honored at this event. Mayor Maher
15. Best wishes to the organizers and participants of The Boston Local Food Festival. Councillor Cheung
16. Congratulations to Benjamin Wiegand on being honored at an awards ceremony for gifted children held by The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. Councillor Cheung
17. Congratulations to Martha Nichols on launching Talking Writing, a monthly online literary magazine. Councillor Cheung
18. Congratulations to the Cambridgeside Galleria Mall on their 20th anniversary. Councillor Toomey, Mayor Maher
19. Resolution on the death of Senior Airman James Arthur Hansen. Councillor Decker
20. Resolution on the death of Sergeant John Franklin Burner III. Councillor Decker
21. Resolution on the death of Specialist Marc C. Whisenant. Councillor Decker
22. Resolution on the death of Private First Class Gebrah P. Noonan. Councillor Decker
23. Resolution on the death of Specialist John Carrillo Jr. Councillor Decker
24. Congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of Swissnex. Vice Mayor Davis
25. Congratulating everyone who worked so hard to make the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center a reality. Councillor Decker
26. Resolution on the death of Joseph A. DaSilva. Councillor Toomey

## ORDERS

1. That the City Council meeting of Nov 15, 2010 shall be a roundtable meeting with the School Committee. Mayor Maher
2. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation to devise a plan to ensure the safe crossing of pedestrians in

the Martin Luther King Jr. School area. Councillor Cheung

3. That the City Manager is requested to direct City staff to work with the Cambridgeport School community on playground safety issues and developing a list of potential park improvements and maintenance measures, to create a safe and welcoming playground at the Cambridgeport School for all who use it. Councillor Seidel
4. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on the status of Sennott Park, including how space is scheduled to be used by organized groups and landscaping costs and upkeep. Councillor Seidel
5. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation to devise a plan to ensure the safe crossing of pedestrians in the Green Street and Hancock Street area. Councillor Cheung
6. That the City Manager confer with the appropriate department heads to assess the possibility of Cambridge participating in the Bixi bike-sharing program and make every effort to reach out to Boston to participate and report back to the City Council as soon as possible. Councillor Cheung
7. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Community Development Department on how the transition of the Grand Junction Rail Road to Commuter Rail traffic could impede the implementation of the Grand Junction Rail Trail and report back to the City Council. Councillor Toomey
8. That the City Manager is requested to report back on the language in the noise ordinance as it relates specifically to the noise of car radios and what steps the police can take and what steps residents can take to combat and end this disturbance. Councillor Decker
9. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Public Health Department and ask for a report back on the feasibility of Cambridge following suit with banning smoking in public parks, beaches and other public places. Councillor Decker
10. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Department of Public Health and request from them a report back on the new food allergy guidelines and what impact it will have on the food industry in Cambridge. Councillor Decker

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Sam Seidel, Co-Chair of the Ordinance Committee, for a hearing held on Sept 23, 2010 to continue to consider a proposed amendment to Chapter 10.17 of the Municipal Code entitled Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance to increase the residential permit parking fee from \$8 to \$20 effective in 2011 and \$25 effective in 2013, and to clarify that the fee revenue can be expended on "other actions addressing climate change."
2. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Leland Cheung, Chair of the University Relations Committee, for a public meeting held on July 26, 2010 to receive and discuss

information from MIT relative to City Council Order Number Five of Apr 5, 2010 requesting that Harvard and MIT cease further layoffs and any cuts in hours, salary and benefits.

3. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Leland Cheung, Chair of the Economic Development, Training and Employment Committee, for a meeting held on Sept 15, 2010 to discuss the subject of entrepreneur development and ways in which the city can be more responsive to said community.

#### **HEARING SCHEDULE**

##### **Mon, Oct 4**

3:00pm Special City Council Meeting to discuss Cambridge Review Committee Report. This meeting to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

6:30pm The City Council will conduct a public hearing to discuss the property tax rate classification. (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Oct 5**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Oct 12**

6:00pm School Committee Roundtable Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Thurs, Oct 14**

5:30pm The Cable TV, Telecommunications and Public Utilities Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss the digital divide. (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Oct 18**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Oct 19**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Oct 25**

5:30pm Roundtable Meeting for discussion in preparation of City Council goal setting process. No public comment. No votes will be taken. Meeting will not be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Nov 1**

5:00pm Special Presentation of the Cambridge Healthy Workplace Awards (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Nov 8**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Nov 15**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Nov 16**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Nov 22**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Nov 29**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Dec 6**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Dec 7**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Dec 13**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Dec 14**

6:00pm School Committee Budget Retreat (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Dec 20**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Dec 21**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Dec 27**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Jan 3**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Jan 4**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Jan 10**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Jan 11**

6:00pm School Committee Roundtable Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Jan 18**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Jan 24**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Jan 31**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Feb 1**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Feb 7**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Feb 8**

6:00pm School Committee Budget Retreat (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Feb 14**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Feb 15**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Feb 28**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

#### **TEXT OF ORDERS**

O-1 Oct 4, 2010

MAYOR MAHER

ORDERED: That the City Council meeting of Nov 15, 2010 shall be a roundtable meeting with the School Committee.

O-2 Oct 4, 2010

COUNCILLOR CHEUNG

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the Cambridge City Council that students attending Martin Luther King Jr. School are having a hard time crossing the intersection of Magee Street and Putnam Avenue; and

WHEREAS: Parents have complained that motorists drive too fast down Magee Street, putting children in danger; and

WHEREAS: Drivers are not slowing down even though it's obvious that many children and parents are crossing Magee Street without using the crosswalk; and

WHEREAS: Extra measures should be taken to ensure that the safety of the children in regards to traffic management; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Traffic, Parking and

Transportation to devise a plan to ensure the safe crossing of pedestrians in the beforementioned area; and be it further ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter.

O-3 Oct 4, 2010

COUNCILLOR SEIDEL

WHEREAS: There has been recent incidents at the Cambridgeport School playground involving dangerous situations, one of which resulted in children needing to seek medical attention; and

WHEREAS: The Department of Public Works, the Cambridge Police Department, Cambridgeport School custodial staff, and Cambridgeport teacher and parent volunteers have worked diligently to try and maintain a safe and welcoming area for students, families and neighborhood children in which to play; and

WHEREAS: Hundreds of children, including Cambridgeport students and children from the neighborhood, use this playground every day since it is one of the few open spaces in the area; and

WHEREAS: Even given these efforts, improvements to the playground are still needed to ensure the safety of all who use this important school and neighborhood space; therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct City staff to work with the Cambridgeport School community on playground safety issues and developing a list of potential park improvements and maintenance measures, to create a safe and welcoming playground at the Cambridgeport School for all who use it; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter.

O-4 Oct 4, 2010

COUNCILLOR SEIDEL

WHEREAS: Sennott Park is in high demand for use by neighbors, organizations and institutions; therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the status of Sennott Park, including how space is scheduled to be used by organized groups and landscaping costs and upkeep.

O-5 Oct 4, 2010

COUNCILLOR CHEUNG

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the Cambridge City Council that the intersection of Green Street and Hancock is particularly dangerous; and

WHEREAS: Many cars traveling down Green Street speed through this intersection without taking into account pedestrians or other cars; and

WHEREAS: The situation is similar to the one that had existed on Kinnaird Street. In both cases, cars have a straight shot from Pleasant Street and Western Avenue in which they can travel unimpeded, and many hit excessive speeds, despite the narrowness of the streets; and

WHEREAS: The Green and Hancock corner has the further complication of the steep hill from Hancock feeding into an intersection where cars from Green, which are hard to see, sail through; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation to devise a plan to ensure the safe crossing

of pedestrians in the before mentioned area; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter.

O-6 Oct 4, 2010

COUNCILLOR CHEUNG

WHEREAS: Bicycles are a critical part of a cleaner, greener future in American transportation;

WHEREAS: Motor vehicle emissions represent 31 percent of total carbon dioxide, 81 percent of carbon monoxide, and 49 percent of nitrogen oxides released in the U.S; and

WHEREAS: A Mass Bike survey found that Boston-area residents want to have the opportunity to bike instead of driving, with 40 percent of those surveyed saying they would commute by bike if safe facilities were available; and

WHEREAS: The beauty of the bike sharing program is that you can pick up your bike at one station, pedal to another part of the city, and drop it off at another station. If you need a bike later in the day, you insert the same credit card in a different kiosk (it remembers your number), and you pull out another bike; and

WHEREAS: The bike-sharing program will revolutionize the way in which Cambridge residents travel; and

WHEREAS: The Bixi bike-sharing program was slated to begin in Boston this summer, but funding delays pushed back the start of the program. This July, the federal government awarded Boston \$3 million to institute a bike sharing program. This will be added to \$2 million in previously pledged funds. Boston is currently putting the contact out to bid; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has also looked into private sponsorship of bike racks. They have already secured \$50,000 in private sponsorship funding. New Balance and a few neighborhood hospitals have expressed interest in "adopting" bikes; and

WHEREAS: At the moment, Boston plans to roll out 3,000 bikes with additional stations to follow after the initial start up; and

WHEREAS: If Cambridge wants to participate in this program in a timely manner that allows for access to federal funding, we need to apply within the next few weeks; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager confer with the appropriate department heads to assess the possibility of Cambridge participating in this program and make every effort to reach out to Boston to participate and report back to the City Council as soon as possible.

O-7 Oct 4, 2010

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The Grand Junction Rail Road corridor offers a unique opportunity to connect Cambridge through a multi use path; and

WHEREAS: Open Space opportunities in Eastern Cambridge are very rare and the Grand Junction Rail Trail concept offers a unique opportunity to provide and connect residents to open space; and

WHEREAS: A multi use path on the Grand Junction Rail Trail would connect existing parks and public facilities throughout this corridor and act as an urban necklace

connecting the neighborhoods and open space for residents of Cambridgeport, Area 4, Harrington/Wellington and East Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Many public amenities are located in close proximity to the Grand Junction Rail Trail, these include Simoni Skating Rink, Gold Star Mother's Park, Donnelly Field, Gold Star Pool, Frisoli Youth Center, Ahern Field, Green/Rose Park, Pacific Street Park, Fort Washington Park, Lindstrom Field; and

WHEREAS: The King Open School, Kennedy/Longfellow, Fletcher/Maynard Academy and the Morse Schools are also located along the Rail Trail; and

WHEREAS: The path would also provide safe access to the Charles River and Magazine Beach and DCR Pool; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has examined the possibilities of constructing a multi use path along side the operational rail system in the Grand Junction Rail with Trail Feasibility Study; and

WHEREAS: The study notes the low volume of traffic and considerably low speeds that make the project feasible; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has recently acquired the Grand Junction and has plans to extend commuter rail service through this corridor; and

WHEREAS: The benefits of a Grand Junction Rail Trail to a Cambridge resident are significant; and

WHEREAS: A commuter rail extension through the Grand Junction will not serve the Cambridge Community; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Community Development Department on how the transition of the Grand Junction Rail Road to Commuter Rail traffic could impede the implementation of the Grand Junction Rail Trail and report back to the City Council.

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitable copy of this resolution to Governor Patrick, Lieutenant Governor Murray, Transportation Secretary Mullen, MBTA general manager Richard Davey, and the Cambridge State Delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-8 Oct 4, 2010

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: The decibel level of the bass of some car radios is at such a level that it causes an enormous disturbance and distress when said cars are in motion, stopped at traffic lights, and idling; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back on the language in the noise ordinance as it relates specifically to the noise of car radios and what steps the police can take and what steps residents can take to combat and end this disturbance.

O-9 Oct 4, 2010

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that there has been an effort in New York to ban smoking in public parks and beaches and other public places; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Public Health Department and ask for a

report back on the feasibility of Cambridge following suit; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter.

O-10 Oct 4, 2010

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that new guidelines for food allergies have been adopted by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Bureau of Environmental Health food Protection Program; now therefore be it;

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Department of Public Health and request from them a report back on the new food allergy guidelines and what impact it will have on the food industry in Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter.