

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number #24-47, regarding the garbage chute at 1 Leighton Street. (CM24#218)
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to an update on Memorial Drive. (CM24#219) [[text of report](#)]

TAX RATE HEARING (6:30pm)

Late 1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to votes necessary to seek approval from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue of the tax rate for FY2025. (CM24#220) [[text of report](#)]

Agenda Item Number 1A Oct 7, 2024

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is authorized to use \$2,000,000 in Overlay Surplus Reserve to be used to reduce the Fiscal Year 2025 tax rate.

Agenda Item Number 1B Oct 7, 2024

ORDERED: That the City Council classifies property within the City of Cambridge into five property classes allowed for the purpose of allocating the property tax levy. Additionally, that the City Council hereby adopts a minimum residential factor of 64.2099 for the purpose of distributing the property tax levy.

Agenda Item Number 1C Oct 7, 2024

ORDERED: That the City Council approves a thirty (30) percent residential exemption for owner-occupied homes.

ORDERS

1. That this City Council go on record in support of 2024 ballot Question 2 to replace the MCAS graduation requirement and require instead that districts certify that students have satisfactorily completed coursework demonstrating mastery of the skills and knowledge required by the Commonwealth's strong, statewide standards in order to graduate. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Wilson (PO24#139)

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate departments to produce the petition(s) necessary to accomplish the goal of lowering the speed limit as much as possible on all state highways that fall within Cambridge's geographic boundaries, including and especially Memorial Drive. [Charter Right – Azeem, Sept 30, 2024] (PO24#137)

ON THE TABLE

2. That the City Manager is requested to explore the feasibility of delaying the Mass Avenue reconstruction project to minimize its impact upon the busy season for restaurants and other affected businesses, and, should this not be found feasible, a method of providing financial assistance to the impacted businesses to cover the costs of removing their outdoor dining structures, designed to mitigate some of the financial impacts upon them, should be established. [Charter Right – Simmons, June 3, 2024; Tabled as Amended June 10, 2024] (PO24#70)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. An Ordinance 2023 #8B has been received from City Clerk, relative to Amend Chapter 14.04 – Fair Housing. [Passed to 2nd Reading Oct 2, 2023; Amended Nov 6, 2023; to remain on Unfinished Business pending legislative approval of Special Act needed prior to ordination] (ORD23-8B)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication from Allison Smedberg Wilson, re: Please move forward with zoning changes that support new housing.
2. A communication from Amina Sheikh, re: Please vote for more housing!
3. A communication from Amy Waltz, re: Proposed zoning for construction of 6 story/75' buildings will cause massive climate harm! Please regulate embodied emissions & reconsider zoning priorities!
4. A communication from Annette LaMond and Joe Moore, re: Opposed to Wholesale Up-Zoning.
5. A communication from Annette LaMond and Joe Moore, re: Please Suppose Marsh-Half Crown NCD.
6. A communication from Ariana Olson, re: Support for PO#4.
7. A communication from Aria-Vue Daugherty, re: Send CM24#207 to Ordinance.
8. A communication from Arthur Strang, re: Opposing the Zoning proposal – considerably incomplete.
9. A communication from Beth Gamse and Judy Singer, re: Please vote no on citywide Up-zoning
10. A communication from Carolyn Fuller, re: PO#4 & In Support of Bold Action on Housing.
11. A communication from Carolyn Magid, re: multifamily zoning on tonight's agenda.
12. A communication from Rabbi Yoni, Central Square Tenants, re: Zoning proposal for six-story multifamily buildings citywide to go to Ordinance.
13. A communication from Charles Franklin, re: Council Meeting Comments.
14. A communication from Christopher Cullen, re: please allow multifamily housing throughout Cambridge - begin to ameliorate this housing crisis.
15. A communication from Zachary Yaro, re: Support for PO#4 at tonight's City Council meeting.
16. A communication from Young Kim, re: My comment tonight.
17. A communication from Dan Phillips, re: In support of more housing.
18. A communication from Dan Totten, re: zoning petition legal opinion.
19. A communication from Wayne Welke, re: CMA #207 (Charter Right #1) – End Exclusionary Zoning!
20. A communication from Daniel Hidalgo, re: Please move Zoning Language to Ordinance.
21. A communication from David Halperin, re: Support multifamily housing zoning.
22. A communication from Tom Miller, re: Support for CM24#207.
23. A communication from David Hattis, re: In Support of Ending Exclusionary Zoning.
24. A communication from David Levy, re: Against Upzoning Proposal without Changes.

25. A communication from Elisabeth Meurer, re: oppose upzoning plan with no guardrails.
26. A communication from Tem Bendapudi, re: Action on Housing.
27. A communication from Suzanne Hopkins, re: Citywide upzoning.
28. A communication from Elizabeth Kon, re: Up-zoning concerns.
29. A communication from Emily Fletcher, re: Stop the Delays Re: Eliminate Exclusionary zoning.
30. A communication from Suzanne Blier, re: Opposed to Wholesale Up-Zoning.
31. A communication from Emma Bouton, re: It's time to end exclusionary zoning.
32. A communication from Erika Silva, re: Support for PO24#137.
33. A communication from Ethan Frank, re: Safe Streets.
34. A communication from Ethan Frank, re: Unique reasons to support housing.
35. A communication from Helen Walker, re: Do Not Advance Multifamily Housing Citywide to Ordinance Committee.
36. A communication from Helen Walker, re: In Support of Half Crown-Marsh Neighborhood Conservation District.
37. A communication from Jackson Moore-Otto, re: Support for Multifamily Zoning: Urge Speedy Passage
38. A communication from James Zall, re: Reform zoning for more housing (Calendar items #1-3 on 9/30/24 agenda).
39. A communication from Jenine Turner-Trauring, re: Please support PO#4.
40. A communication from Jennifer Wang, re: Allow multifamily housing Cambridgewide.
41. A communication from Jess Sheehan, re: please advance multifamily proposal.
42. A communication from Jessica Sheehan, re: cyclist killed on Memorial Drive.
43. A communication from Jessica Sheehan, re: please don't water down Mem Drive PO.
44. A communication from Josh Talbot, re: In Support of Bold Action on Housing.
45. A communication from Justin Saif, re: Please Send Zoning Language to End Exclusionary Zoning to Ordinance!
46. A communication from Karen Falb, re: Cambridge's "Eiffel Towers" and "Big Bens" - Data and Demographics.
47. A communication from Kenneth Leinbach and Marion Hogan, re: proposed zoning changes.
48. A communication from Kevin Grinberg, re: Public comment: CM24#207.
49. A communication from Kevin Wilson, re: In Support of Bold Action on Housing - Please end exclusionary zoning.
50. A communication from Lee Farris, re: Multifamily zoning concerns and questions.
51. A communication from Susan M. Carter, re: AHO.
52. A communication from Sue Wentworth, re: Support for continuing NCD's.
53. A communication from Stephen Fitzsimmons, re: and Orawan Saejao Fitzsimmons AHO proposal vote.
54. A communication from Stephanie Tournas, re: My comments on the Walden Sq development
55. A communication from Shelagh Hadley, re: AHO etc.
56. A communication from Shannon Canavin, re: In Support of Bold Action on Housing.
57. A communication from Sarah Stone, re: In Support of Sending New Zoning Language to Ordinance.
58. A communication from Sara Kimmel, re: Concerns Re: Citywide Upzoning Plan.
59. A communication from Ross Simmons, re: Please advance the new zoning rules as quickly as possible!
60. A communication from Robert Camacho, re: Citywide Up-zoning.
61. A communication from Reeva Meyer, re: CM24#207.
62. A communication from Rand Wentworth, re: Continue NCD's.
63. A communication from Rabbi Yoni, re: Transparency in Agendas for City Council Meetings and Committees.
64. A communication from Quentin Smith, re: Restoring sanity to multi-family zoning.
65. A communication from Patricia and David Wagner, re: Opposing citywide upzoning.
66. A communication from Pamela Lipson, re: Opposition to upzoning.
67. A communication from Nina Herrera, re: postscript on Monday eve.
68. A communication from Ned Melanson, re: What happens when we delay in the face of crisis.
69. A communication from Michael J. Johnston, re: Corcoran Park Concerns.
70. A communication from Max Kaplan, re: Supporting zoning reform.
71. A communication from Mary Jane Kornacki, re: Upzoning's environmental impact.
72. A communication from Mark Rifkin, re: Please end exclusionary zoning.
73. A communication from Marilee Meyer, re: Please support the preservation of 90 Brattle St and Half-crown Marsh NCD.
74. A communication from Marilee Meyer, re: please send rezoning back to the HOUSING COMMITTEE.
75. A communication from Marilee Meyer, re: Please do not send rezoning to ORDINANCE.
76. A communication from Liz Merrill, re: Corcoran Park Concerns.
77. A communication from Ben Heath, re: Memorial Drive redesign.
78. A communication from Conleigh Byers, re: Support for making Memorial Drive safer by expanding the park, reducing car lanes and speeds.
79. A communication from David Read, re: Memorial Drive.
80. A communication from Donald Sull, re: Memorial drive safety.
81. A communication from Elizabeth Bartle, re: Bicycle Safety.
82. A communication from Ian Hutchinson, re: A Safer Memorial Drive.
83. A communication from Jan Devereux, re: Memorial Drive improvements: Just do it!
84. A communication from Jason Livingston, re: Support for Expanding Park Paths and Narrowing Motor Vehicle Lanes on Memorial Drive.
85. A communication from Joe Maranzano, re: Bike Safety in Cambridge on Memorial Drive.
86. A communication from John Lambert, re: Please act now.
87. A communication from Josh McLinden, re: Please improve the safety of Memorial Drive.

88. A communication from Julian Astbury, re: Support for Expanding the Park and Enhancing Safety on Memorial Drive.
89. A communication from Karen Falb, re: The present 2023 map of the AHOverlay Proposal Corridors misleads and handicaps citizen input.
90. A communication from Kathleen McDermott, re: Support making Memorial Drive safer!!!!
91. A communication from Louisa Thomas, re: Make Memorial Drive Safer.
92. A communication from Madge Kaplan, re: In support of major changes on Memorial Drive.
93. A communication from Rob Vandenabeele, re: A Safer Memorial Drive.
94. A communication from Rachel Wilson, re: Memorial Drive traffic changes needed.
95. A communication from Quinn Cooney, re: Make Memorial Drive Safer (1).
96. A communication from Nike Tirman, re: San Diego pays \$7M in fatal cyclist crash.
97. A communication from Michael Nunziato, re: Make all of Memorial Drive safer now, expand the park path with Jersey barriers.
98. A communication from Max Schwartz, re: Change Memorial Drive.
99. A communication from Franziska Amacher, re: Memorial Drive improvements – Just do it!
100. A communication from Hannah Hinzman, re: Bicycle Safety- Why not?
101. A communication from Sandra Fairbank, re: Memorial Drive improvements– Just do it!
102. A communication from Nikola Goles, re: My support for re-designing Memorial Drive.
103. A communication from Suzanne Blier, re: 1-2-3 on this week's Council Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Teresa Brown on her retirement from the Department of Human Services. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
2. Congratulations to Krystyna McNally on her retirement from the Cambridge Water Department. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
3. Congratulations to Patricia Rosser on her retirement from the Department of Human Services. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
4. Congratulations to Lieutenant George Sabbey on his retirement from the Cambridge Police Department. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
5. Congratulations to Catherine Foshier on her retirement from the Department of Public Works. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
6. Condolences on the death of Teresa C. Contreras. Councillor Toner
7. Congratulations to Janice Manion on her retirement with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
8. Congratulations to Laura Grainger on her retirement from the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
9. Congratulations to John Quinn on his retirement from the Assessing Department. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
10. Wishing Dorothy Chaves a Happy 80th Birthday. Councillor Toner
11. Recognizing the Work Force Program for 40 Years of Service to the Youth and Families of CHA. Councillor Wilson, Mayor Simmons, Councillor Siddiqui
12. Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day 2024. Mayor Simmons, Councillor Siddiqui

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication from Diane LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting an update re: legislative activity. (COF24#128)

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Oct 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting

6:30pm **PROPERTY TAX RATE CLASSIFICATION** - The Cambridge City Council will conduct a public hearing related to setting the property tax rate classification. ... Under the laws of the Commonwealth, the City has the option of taxing residential and commercial/industrial property at different tax rates. At this public meeting, the City Council will review tax rates/classifications proposed by the City Manager and the Board of Assessors. The votes taken will result in property tax rates that reflect the city's property tax levy for Fiscal Year 2025, including the granting of the residential exemption.

Tues, Oct 8

11:00am The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to receive an update from city staff on BEUDO implementation and to review and discuss regulations, elements of BEUDO, and possible future updates.

Thurs, Oct 10

1:00pm The **Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss preliminary recommendations from the Central Square rezoning process.

Tues, Oct 15

11:00am The **Housing Committee** will hold a public hearing to continue the discussion from the meeting that was held on April 30, 2024 on the feasibility of municipally funded housing vouchers as referenced in PO24#24.

3:00pm The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing on a Zoning Petition by the City of Cambridge Board of Zoning Appeal to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Articles 2.000 and 8.000 with the intent to add a definition of "dormer" to Article 2.000 and to amend the requirements related to adding dormers to nonconforming one- and two-family dwellings in Section 8.22.1.h.2 in order to allow certain dormer(s) construction as-of-right.

Mon, Oct 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Oct 22

11:00am The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss the updates on the Zero Waste Master Plan (ZWMP).

Thurs, Oct 24

3:00pm The **Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss research on four-day work week pilot programs with businesses, government agencies, and non-profits and models for a four-day work week that have been implemented locally.

Mon, Oct 28

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Nov 4

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Nov 18

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Nov 25

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 2

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 9

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 16

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 23

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 30

5:30pm City Council Meeting

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Oct 7, 2024

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR WILSON

WHEREAS: Access to a high-quality, publicly funded education is a guaranteed right in the Massachusetts Constitution; and

WHEREAS: Pediatricians, researchers and school counselors have warned of the impact of high-stakes testing on students' mental health and well-being and studies demonstrate that it creates disproportionate barriers for students of color, ESL students, and students with learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS: The most effective measures of whether students are meeting our strong, statewide standards and developing the skills they need to succeed in college, the workforce and beyond are educator-led assessments such as projects, papers, tests and group activities that are conducted throughout the school year; and

WHEREAS: The MCAS is significantly limited in its ability to accurately and effectively measure whether students are meeting the Commonwealth's standards and developing the skills they need to thrive after high school; and

WHEREAS: A question has been certified for the 2024 ballot to remove the MCAS exam as a high school graduation requirement in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: The ballot question would only remove the MCAS as a graduation requirement and not prevent the test's administration in Massachusetts schools or its use as a diagnostic tool; and

WHEREAS: The use of MCAS as a high school graduation requirement has restricted curriculum and shifted the focus of education in public schools toward meeting a test score instead of fostering an environment of creativity, critical thinking and real teaching and learning that helps students realize their full potential; and

WHEREAS: Using MCAS testing as a high school graduation requirement has prevented or delayed thousands of students from earning a diploma, thereby interrupting or derailing education or career plans, with especially harmful impacts on students of color, low-income students, students with disabilities and students for whom English is their second language; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record in support of 2024 ballot Question 2 to replace the MCAS graduation requirement and require instead that districts certify that students have satisfactorily completed coursework demonstrating mastery of the skills and knowledge required by the Commonwealth's strong, statewide standards in order to graduate.