

NOTE: The Regular Meeting will be preceded by a **3:00pm Special Meeting** to discuss the COVID 19 trajectory with health and science experts.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Covid-19 update.
2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$9,277,190 from Free Cash to the General Fund School Department Salaries and Wages account (\$7,446,360), General Fund School Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$1,781,455), and General Fund School Department Travel and Training account (\$49,375), to fund additional costs associated with the reopening of schools with health and safety mitigations related to COVID-19.
3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a request to move to Executive Session to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.

CHARTER RIGHT

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a request for acceptance of G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23D to allow members of adjudicatory boards and commissions to vote on a matter before the adjudicatory body of which they are a member if the board member has missed one of the sessions regarding the matter at issue. [CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL NOV 16, 2020]
2. That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to work with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to explore the feasibility of keeping Riverbend Park open beyond Nov 29. [CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR TOOMEY IN COUNCIL NOV 16, 2020]
3. That the City Manager confer with the Metro Mayor's Association to close indoor dining, gyms, casinos and other non-essential indoor activities as soon as possible and That the City Manager, Community Development Department, the Economic Development Division, the Assessing Department and other relevant City Departments organize a small business and restaurant relief program that will assist during this second shutdown and our efforts to stop community spread of COVID-19 and keep schools open. [CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR TOOMEY IN COUNCIL NOV 16, 2020]

ON THE TABLE

4. Green Energy Analysis Zoning Amendment. [PASSED TO A SECOND READING ON NOV 2, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER NOV 23, 2020]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. 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]
6. The City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the City of Cambridge Law Department to review the above changes to the language of the Domestic Partnerships Ordinance and report back to the Council. [PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL JULY 27, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER SEPT 14, 2020]
7. That the enclosed amendments to the Tree Protection Ordinance be adopted to extend the temporary prohibition on tree cutting permits until Feb 28, 2021. [PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL NOV 16, 2020; TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER NOV 30, 2020]

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from John W. Parsons, Esq., Executive Director, PERAC, regarding required Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriation.
2. A communication was received from Audrey Cunningham, regarding Policy Order on Charter Right #2.
3. A communication was received from Lee Farris, regarding Broadband RFP suggestions.
4. A communication was received from Marie Elena Saccoccio, regarding Policy Order on Charter Right #2.
5. A communication was received from Norman MacLeod, regarding potential Closure.
6. A communication was received from Ashley Williams, regarding Petition to Prioritize Schools.
7. A communication was received from Heather Hoffman, regarding Transparency in governance is something we should strive for.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Representative Katherine Clark on being elected as the next Assistant Speaker of the House. Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon
2. Solidarity with Urban Hearth. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zondervan
3. Resolution on the death of Peter F. Colleary. Councillor Toomey
4. Resolution on the death of Dorothea R. Johnston. Councillor Toomey
5. Resolution on the death of Elizabeth Dexter. Councillor Nolan

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to explore the feasibility of hiring a consultant to perform an Equity Audit on the Cambridge Arts Council, and to report

back to the City Council by Jan 4th, 2021. Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons

2. That the City Council formally go on record in asking the City Manager to work with the appropriate City Staff in formulating an RFP for a public arts project that will acknowledge the unfinished work of the 19th Amendment, the importance of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and how the two pieces of legislation ultimately complemented one another in helping to shape a more perfect union, and that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.
Councillor Simmons, Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui
3. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Community Development Department and other pertinent City staff to establish a Black and Brown-Owned Business Taskforce, to be focused upon strengthening the City's outreach efforts, information-sharing, assistance mechanisms, and overall relationship with local Black and Brown-owned businesses, and to establish a rolling set of recommendations designed to ensure the City spares no effort in assisting these businesses. Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Toomey, Vice Mayor Mallon
4. Policy Order to strengthen community bonds and ensure equitable access to neighborhood organizations. Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Nolan
5. That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to appropriate the funds necessary to procure the work of the Collins Center as outlined in their submitted proposal. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Mallon
6. Policy Order to find a suitable location for a dedicated corner for Fred O'Connor. Councillor McGovern

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, Communicating information from the School Committee.

HEARING SCHEDULE (until further notice – via Zoom)

Mon, Nov 23

- 3:00pm A special meeting of the City Council to discuss the COVID 19 trajectory with health and science experts.
(Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Nov 24

- 3:00pm The Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss Awaiting Report response on Harvard Square street closures. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 30

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Dec 9

1:00pm The Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss a communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report regarding contacting the new owners of Jerry's Pond. (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Cannabis Delivery-Only Zoning Ordinance petition. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 14

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Dec 16

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Alewife Quadrangle Northwest Overlay petition. (Sullivan Chamber)

Thurs, Dec 17

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Retail Uses Zoning Ordinance petition and the Home Occupations Zoning Ordinance petition.
(Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 28

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Jan 6

5:00pm The Public Safety Committee will meet to conduct a public hearing on the Cambridge Police Department inventory list. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Jan 13

2:00pm Economic Development & University Relations Committee will meet to discuss the proposed Vacant Storefront Policy, and other strategies to address vacant storefronts in Cambridge. (Sullivan Chamber)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Nov 23, 2020

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of its departments, and addressing issues through an equity lens; and

WHEREAS: Racial bias and structural racism within the Arts have created a long, devastating history of wrongfully blocking artists of color from accessing funding opportunities within their communities; and

WHEREAS: As the City continues to support and fund the Arts in a meaningful way, we must deeply study where racial bias and institutional racism permeates our practices, and evaluate how those biases and structures determine funding outcomes; and

WHEREAS: Other municipalities, including Boston, [Indianapolis](#), [Sacramento](#), and [Ontario](#), have performed or will perform Equity

Audits of their Arts Council policies and procedures to determine where structural racism exists, and pathways to rectify the historical and current exclusion of artists of color by creating stronger, more inclusive access to engagement and funding opportunities; and

WHEREAS: Hiring a consultant to conduct an equity audit is one of the final recommendations from [the Mayor's Arts Task Force](#), which states: "Intentionally examining our practices and laying the right groundwork will benefit the whole City, by adding vibrant, diverse art to our public art collection, and by increasing well-funded arts opportunities for a more representative artist community"; and

WHEREAS: As the recent selection process for the [19th Amendment Centennial Public Art](#) project was impacted by institutional, racial bias, performing such an equity audit in Cambridge would help ensure future selection processes embody Cambridge's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and that Cambridge is a welcoming place for all artists; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to explore the feasibility of hiring a consultant to perform an Equity Audit on the Cambridge Arts Council, and to report back to the City Council by Jan 4th, 2021.

O-2 Nov 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MALLON

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: Beginning in 2019, the City of Cambridge began internal deliberations on how to properly commemorate the August 2020 centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which enshrined the right of women to vote in this country's elections; and

WHEREAS: Even before the Covid-19 pandemic dictated that the City's efforts would largely focus upon the establishment of a public arts display as a centerpiece of this commemoration, this was an idea that was rapidly gaining currency by the Fall of 2019; and

WHEREAS: While a process was initiated to find a suitable artist to bring forth ideas on what this public arts display might ultimately look like, it has concurrently been recognized that an additional public arts display underscoring the fact that for women of color, the rights enshrined in the 19th Amendment, which are rightfully being recognized for their centennial anniversary this year, for the most part excluded women of color, who were forced to wait an additional 45 years for the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to ensure that they, too, had a full voice in their democracy; and

WHEREAS: In establishing a separate public arts display to draw attention to the fact that women of color were largely denied the right to vote until 1965, the City of Cambridge will once again show how communities can celebrate our history, in all its complexity, as both a way of better understanding our past and of engaging us all to think more critically about how we can work to build a better, more inclusive future; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council formally go on record in asking the City Manager to work with the appropriate City Staff in formulating an RFP for a public arts project that will acknowledge the unfinished work of the 19th Amendment, the importance of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and how the two pieces of legislation ultimately complemented one another in helping to shape a more

perfect union, and that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-3 Nov 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

VICE MAYOR MALLON

WHEREAS: Over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic and economic crisis, the City has taken measures to assist local businesses in weathering the worst of the storm, including establishing funds to help businesses pay their staffs, their rent, and other critical operating expenses as these businesses have been temporarily shuttered or operating at reduced capacity; and

WHEREAS: While these measures have helped many local businesses, there have been concerns raised that these measures have not been reaching and not being applied to all businesses equally, and that Black and Brown-owned businesses have been particularly hit hard by the financial impact of this pandemic; and

WHEREAS: The fact that Black and Brown-owned businesses have been among those hardest hit, and among those least likely to access financial and other forms of assistance, during this crisis has been in keeping with the broader experience these local businesses have had as part of the local economy, and the pandemic has laid bare the need for the City to conduct a greater level of engagement with representatives of the Black and Brown-owned business community to ensure that these entities are not only better positioned to survive the Covid-19 era, but will be poised to thrive more generally as the City looks to the future; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Community Development Department and other pertinent City staff to establish a Black and Brown-Owned Business Taskforce, to be focused upon strengthening the City's outreach efforts, information-sharing, assistance mechanisms, and overall relationship with local Black and Brown-owned businesses, and to establish a rolling set of recommendations designed to ensure the City spares no effort in assisting these businesses; and be it further

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

O-4 Nov 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has many community and neighborhood organizations formed to discuss and advocate for issues that impact their neighborhood and the city as a whole; and

WHEREAS: These groups provide effective ways for residents to have a voice in the shaping of their neighborhood and the larger Cambridge community; and

WHEREAS: These groups are often formed and run by volunteers which have various abilities to promote, advocate, and forward their positions in aggregate for City planning purposes; and

WHEREAS: These groups often have membership and boards that struggle to represent the diverse demographics of their neighborhood and city at large; and

WHEREAS: Many of these groups are recognized by the City of Cambridge as the de facto voice of neighborhoods, and many city boards and agencies seek their input for planning purposes, and yet the groups may not fully represent the broad spectrum of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS: These groups are important and vital and deserve appreciation for trying to represent residents and amplify the voice of regular people all on a volunteer basis, and yet at times, these groups can unintentionally alienate certain voices and residents can feel uncomfortable taking part in meetings or in online conversations; and

WHEREAS: As recently as a few weeks ago, a board member of the East Cambridge Planning Team (ECPT) directed homophobic and sexually harassing comments at a resident on a public neighborhood email group after that resident wrote an op-ed opposed to an ECPT policy position; and

WHEREAS: No resident should ever have to expose themselves to bigotry and intimidation based on who they are in order to participate in community life; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has a duty not to empower groups or individuals who bully, harass, or abuse other residents based on their race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or physical/mental disability; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council believes in the dignity of all people and their right to respect, and equality of opportunity and participation in civic life free of abuse, and values the strength that comes with difference and the positive contribution that diversity brings to our city; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we condemn homophobic bullying and intimidation anywhere in the city, and we encourage all neighborhood groups and organizations to enact policies to prevent and sanction such abusive behavior that serves the opposite goal of these groups and organizations by alienating; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee of the City Council host a meeting to discuss ways to strengthen community bonds and ensure equitable access to neighborhood organizations which could include, but not be limited to:

- How the City of Cambridge can support neighborhood organizations and other community groups to create rules and regulations that ensure greater diversity and representation on boards and in membership of these groups and formal codes of conduct to ensure that these groups create safe and supportive environments for all participants
- Ensure that the City is not systemically elevating certain groups and voices over others in what should be equal community discussions and governing processes
- Developing policies and practices to allow members of neighborhood organizations to formally file complaints and grievances and seek assistance from the City when discriminatory incidents take place.

O-5 Nov 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

VICE MAYOR MALLON

WHEREAS: On July 27th, 2020, the Council unanimously passed a [Policy Order](#) asking the Mayor to call a Special Meeting for the Collins Center for Public Management to present to the Council on the process of charter review; and

WHEREAS: That Special Meeting took place on [Sept 23rd, 2020](#), and after a detailed presentation on the charter review, the Council had additional questions for the Collins Center staff and wanted more information about the different paths that the City could take to review its charter; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge, which adopted the Plan E Charter in 1940, has not once held a formal review process to consider revisions, making it one of the only municipalities in Massachusetts to go 80 years without reviewing its most important legal document; and

WHEREAS: [Chapter 43B, Section 2](#), in General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts states: “Every city and town shall have the power to adopt or revise its charter or to amend its existing charter in accordance with procedures prescribed by [Chapter 43B]”; and

WHEREAS: Somerville [recently launched](#) a charter review process, starting with the Council voting to appropriate funds to contract a technical expert to guide their work; and

WHEREAS: The City Council expressed interest in furthering its understanding of how a process of charter revision, review and or change would work, and the Collins Center drafted a four-step proposal that would include procuring and presenting Cambridge-specific information to the Council to better inform Councilors of the options and strategies available; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to appropriate the funds necessary to procure the work of the Collins Center as outlined in their submitted proposal.

O-6 Nov 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

ORDERED: That the City’s Dedication Committee find a suitable location for a dedicated corner for Fred O’Connor.