

## RECONSIDERATION LIST

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of Erik Sarno and Andrea Taylor and the reappointment of **Saffana Anwar, Christopher Fort, Robert Winters, Tahir Kapoor, and Esther Hanig** to the Central Square Advisory Committee for a term of three years. [Reconsideration filed by Sobrinho-Wheeler]

## CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of **Joe Camillus** and **Filo Castore** as a members of to the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) Board. (CM24#250)
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the reappointment of **Tabithlee Howard** and appointing **Johanny Maria Castillo, Jasper Adiletta, Shanjin (Eva) Asraf, Jasper Mallon, and Larisa Mendez-Peñate** to the Coordinating Council for Children Youth and Families also known as the Family Policy Council, effective November 25, 2024. [CM24#251]
3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item number 24-37, regarding a request for the City Manager to work with relevant City departments to consider a number of city application processes and find ways to reduce paper and printing waste. (CM24#252)
4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report 24-32, regarding exploring with the MBTA how to best ensure that the public art, Gift of the Wind, is preserved. (CM24#253) [[text of report](#)]
5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$15,000 to the Grant Fund Public Celebrations (Arts Council) Other Ordinary Maintenance account. The MCC Cultural District Grant provides financial support to state-designated Cultural Districts throughout the Commonwealth. This funding will support District-based initiatives that drive economic growth and strengthen the distinctive character of the Central Square Cultural District. (CM24#254)

## ORDERS

1. That the Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning Committee hold a meeting to explore the ability to prohibit, either through city or state legislation, the common practice of landlords requiring tenants to pay broker fees. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Azeem, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO24#150)
2. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments and encourage the state Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the MBTA to adhere to Cambridge local ordinances, including the Cambridge Asbestos Protection Ordinance, during Alewife Construction. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zusy (PO24#151)

## CHARTER RIGHT

1. An application from Mario Massimino, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 67 Inman Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. Response has been received from the neighborhood association. {Charter Right – Azeem, Nov 18, 2024} (AP24#38)

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. 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)
3. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to ARTICLE 2.000 DEFINITIONS Dormer. A roofed projection built out from a sloping roof, containing a window or windows. ARTICLE 8.000 NONCONFORMITY 8.22.1h. Construction of a dormer or dormers to a nonconforming one- or two-family dwelling. [Passed to 2nd Reading Nov 4, 2024; Eligible To Be Ordained on or after Nov 25, 2024] (ORD24#9)

## COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication from Liz Byron Loya, regarding Critical Opposition to New Zoning Proposal- Follow-up Requested.
2. A communication from Dan Totten, regarding last minute appointment of Robert Winters.
3. A communication from Young Kim, regarding Multi-Family Zoning Petition.
4. A communication from Dean Eckles, regarding Support for liberalizing zoning.
5. A communication from Suzanne Blier, regarding Satisfaction Report - the data percentages are off.

## RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to John R. Serwecinski on his retirement from the Cambridge Fire Department. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
2. Congratulations to Marilyn Rottersman on her retirement from the Cambridge Public Schools. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
3. Condolences to the family of former State Representative Gloria Fox. Mayor Simmons
4. Resolution on the death of Luke Bailey Santos. Vice Mayor McGovern

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Finance Committee** - Committee Meeting - May 1, 2019, 9:00am. [[text of report](#)]
2. The **Transportation & Public Utilities Committee** held a public hearing on July 24, 2019 to receive information about the draft Policy and Regulations for Small Cell Wireless Installations on Public Ways under consideration by the Pole & Conduit Commission and the Historical. [[text of report](#)]
3. The **Finance Committee** conducted a public hearing on May 26, 2020 to discuss the city and school budgets

- covering the fiscal period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. [[text of report](#)]
4. The **Finance Committee** conducted a public hearing on June 2, 2020 to discuss the city and school budgets covering the fiscal period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. [[text of report](#)]
  5. The **Finance Committee** conducted a public hearing on June 3, 2020 to discuss the city and school budgets covering the fiscal period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. [[text of report](#)]
  6. The **Finance Committee** held a public hearing on May 11, 2021 to discuss the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. [[text of report](#)]
  7. The **Finance Committee** held a public hearing on May 18, 2021 to discuss the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. [[text of report](#)]
  8. The **Finance Committee** held a public hearing on May 19, 2021 to discuss the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. [[text of report](#)]
  9. The **Finance Committee** met on July 27, 2021 to discuss the American Rescue Grant. [[text of report](#)]
  10. The **Finance Committee** met on December 1, 2021 to receive an overview and update on funds received from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery (American Rescue Plan Act) Grant. [[text of report](#)]
  11. The **Health and Environment Committee** met on June 9, 2021 to discuss the city's progress on our Zero Waste Plan, and relevant items referred to committee, including eliminating single use plastics. [[text of report](#)]
  12. The **Health & Environment Committee** met on July 14, 2021 to discuss the future of the city's water supply and strategies for improving water quality while keeping costs down. [[text of report](#)]
  13. The **Human Services and Civic Unity Committees** held a joint meeting on August 10, 2021 to discuss measures the City should be taking to address the increase in gun violence. [[text of report](#)]
  14. The **Finance Committee** met on March 2, 2022 to discuss ARPA funding. [[text of report](#)]

**COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS**

1. A communication from Diane LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF24#147)
2. A communication from Mayor E. Denise Simmons, transmitting Notice of **Special City Council Meeting re Charter Review**. (COF24#148)

**HEARING SCHEDULE**

**Mon, Nov 25**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Dec 2**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Tues, Dec 3**

3:00pm The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss amendments to the Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO), as amended in full Council on October 21, 2024.

**Wed, Dec 4**

2:30pm The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing on two Multifamily Zoning Petitions. This is a continuation of the public hearing that was recessed on Nov 19, 2024. There will be public comment at this meeting. This meeting will be recessed and reconvened on Dec 19, 2024, and again, there will be public comment. Further, two additional meetings are being planned.

**Mon, Dec 9**

1:00pm **City Council Special Committee of the Whole meeting on City Charter**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Wed, Dec 11**

3:00pm The **Finance Committee** will hold a public hearing for an update and discussion on Public Investment Planning.

**Mon, Dec 16**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Thurs, Dec 19**

5:30pm The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing on two Multifamily Zoning Petitions from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. There will be public comment at this meeting. This is a continuation of the public hearing that was recessed on Nov 19, 2024, that reconvened and recessed again on Dec 4, 2024. Further, two additional meetings are being planned.

**Mon, Dec 23**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Dec 30**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**TEXT OF ORDERS**

O-1 November 25, 2024  
 COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER  
 COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI  
 COUNCILLOR AZEEM  
 VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: In the [most recent citywide resident survey](#), Cambridge residents noted their concerns about housing affordability, growing 7% over the 2023 survey as the single most important issue to handle over the next two years, with the [Census Bureau](#) reporting nearly two-thirds of residents as renters; and

WHEREAS: [State law](#) prohibits property owners from requiring any additional funds beyond first month's rent, last month's rent, a security deposit equal to one month's rent, and the purchase of a lock and key, but renters are commonly required to pay real estate broker fees usually equal to a month's rent paid to the real estate agent hired by property owners to market their units and find suitable renters; and

WHEREAS: This additional fee often drives up the move-in cost by at least one-third, further burdening renters for services rendered by agents hired by property owners, prohibiting lower-income residents from finding suitable housing in the City; and

WHEREAS: The New York City Council recently passed the *Fairness in Apartment Rentals Act*, setting the stage for Cambridge to become one of the few remaining cities in the United States where brokers fees are expected to be paid by tenants; and

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council recently introduced a hearing order “To prohibit renter-paid broker fees when hired by a landlord” to begin addressing these fees; and

WHEREAS: According to the [Census Bureau](#), the median rent in Cambridge is \$2,628, 107% higher than the [\\$1,268 national median rent](#), and the City Council has stated its commitment to lowering the housing cost burden faced by its residents; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning Committee hold a meeting to explore the ability to prohibit, either through city or state legislation, the common practice of property owners requiring tenants to pay broker fees.

O-2 November 25, 2024

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR ZUSY

WHEREAS: The [Cambridge Asbestos Protection Ordinance, Chapter 8.61](#), was passed unanimously by the Cambridge City Council in 1999 in order to protect Cambridge residents from the hazards of asbestos, and was designed to fill in the gaps left by state and federal standards involving air pollution; and

WHEREAS: At the time of its passing, the [Cambridge Asbestos Protection Ordinance](#) (CAPO) was the first of its kind in the nation and filled an important loophole in state and federal law, which only regulated asbestos in buildings and enclosed areas, rather than in the soil and open areas; and

WHEREAS: Asbestos is a particularly dangerous contaminant because:

- Asbestos does not degrade in the environment; if inadvertently carried offsite, it may remain there as a threat for later exposure;
- Once lodged in the body, asbestos fibers remain as a carcinogenic irritant without being cleared, and adding to the cumulative lifetime exposure; the effects last long after the incident which caused exposure has ended;
- Asbestos has been repeatedly and irrefutably proven to cause a cancer in humans called mesothelioma and is painful and causes death within a few months, with no known cure;
- No level of exposure has been shown to be safe, despite numerous studies;

As such, there are very strict laws concerning the removal and disturbance of asbestos products in buildings, and in general, if asbestos is not in a form that is a current health risk, it is often advised to leave it undisturbed rather than creating a potentially very serious risk; and

WHEREAS: CAPO defines asbestos contaminated soil, and disruptive activities that would be covered by the ordinance; the property owner would be required to either:

- Place a structure (e.g. a tent) over the area where contaminated soil will be disrupted while the activities take place; or
- Cover the area with clean fill so that the contaminated soil will not be disturbed during construction activities;

These provisions match the regulation of asbestos containing materials in buildings; and

WHEREAS: On Monday, September 30, the MBTA held its first public meeting for an improvement to tunnel access for red line maintenance and concerns were raised about the tunnel’s location on a highly contaminated area; and

WHEREAS: To protect the community and future residents from harmful asbestos exposure, it is essential that construction projects on all potentially contaminated sites follow safety rules and regulations promulgated by federal, state, and local authorities; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant City departments and encourage the state Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the MBTA to adhere to our local ordinances, including the Cambridge Asbestos Protection Ordinance, during the project; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council by December 2024; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this policy order to the Cambridge delegation and to the MBTA on behalf of the entire City Council.