

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 \$1,250,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Emergency Communications Extraordinary Expense account which will be used for site maintenance and the replacement of critical infrastructure to support the City of Cambridge radio system.
3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to two appropriations totaling \$9,500,000 related to the Foundry as follows: \$6 million from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Department of Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account; and \$3.5 million from the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority to the Public Investment Fund Department of Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account.
4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$450,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Law Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to cover unanticipated increases in costs relating to legal matters handled by outside counsel legal services, stenographers and court reporters, constable services, consultants and experts, as well as filing fees and related costs in matters pending in courts and/or administrative bodies.

CHARTER RIGHT

1. A communication was received from John W. Parsons, Esq., Executive Director, PERAC, regarding required Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriation. [CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR CARLONE IN COUNCIL NOV 23, 2020]
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. [CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR NOLAN IN COUNCIL NOV 23, 2020]
3. Policy Order to strengthen community bonds and ensure equitable access to neighborhood organizations. [CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR NOLAN IN COUNCIL NOV 23, 2020]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. 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]

5. 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]
6. 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 Jason Stockman, regarding Policy Order #4.
2. A communication was received from Bill Hanage, regarding High risk settings for SARS-CoV-2 transmission.
3. A communication was received from Jamie Lichtenstein, regarding ventilation as a means to keep restaurants and gyms safe.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Manuel C. Sousa. Councillor Toomey
2. Resolution on the death of James E. Fitzgerald, Jr. Councillor Toomey
3. Congratulations to the Cambridge Rindge and Latin Boys Cross Country team on winning a league championship. Councillor McGovern
4. Congratulations to the Cambridge Rindge and Latin Boys Soccer team on winning a league championship. Councillor McGovern

ORDERS

1. That City Manager be and hereby is requested to implement a program similar to the patio heater reimbursement program for purchasing air sanitizers that meet or exceed the above specifications for Cambridge businesses. Councillor Toomey, Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern
2. Council Opposition to Comcast Data Cap. Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui
3. Expanding Testing in Nursing Homes PO. Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Toomey, Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui
4. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to present the City Council with a comprehensive data report on a weekly basis, for the duration of the pandemic emergency, including (but not limited to) regional and Cambridge-specific trends. Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan

5. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments to implement comprehensive contact tracing in Cambridge including the ability to conduct backwards contact tracing facilitated with technology such as the use of QR codes, and to report back to the City Council on this matter as soon as possible. Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
6. That the City Manager confer with the Cambridge Department of Public Health on the feasibility of launching mobile COVID-19 testing vans in December and report back to the City Council as soon as possible. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Ordinance Committee met on Nov 12, 2020 to conduct a public hearing on the PUD-CDK District Zoning Amendment.
 - A. A Zoning Petition has been received from BMR–Third LLC c/o BioMed Realty, L.P. regarding a Zoning Amendment Petition for a new Planned Unit Development PUD District CDK.

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 and TV)

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)

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 30, 2020

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is facing an unprecedented crisis in COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: Indoor activities have been identified as areas of potential risk; and

WHEREAS: Per the [EPA](#), "Air cleaning and filtration can help reduce airborne contaminants, including particles containing viruses"; and

WHEREAS: Air purifiers have been identified by many experts on the Manager's COVID Response Team and at large as an effective means to help control airborne spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS: A portable device capable of monitoring CO2 levels in a room, contains a HEPA copper lined filter, and UV sanitization is very well suited to mitigate indoor spread; and

WHEREAS: The demand for these devices during the Winter surge of COVID-19 could result in similar scarcity as patio heaters; and

WHEREAS: The cost of these devices can be prohibitive as businesses are hesitant to make further expenditures; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to implement a program similar to the patio heater reimbursement program for purchasing air sanitizers that meet or exceed the above specifications for Cambridge businesses.

O-2 Nov 30, 2020
COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN
COUNCILLOR NOLAN
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the City Council that Comcast plans to [impose](#) a home internet data cap on customers across the United States, including in Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Starting in March 2021, customers who exceed 1.2TB of data in any given month will be charged \$10 per additional 50GB of data used, up to \$100 per month in additional fees; and

WHEREAS: Comcast has [long admitted](#) that its data caps are not necessary to manage network congestion, and network congestion has not been a major problem this year despite increased use due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS: It is unjust for working families to be hit with such frivolous fees in the middle of a pandemic and economic recession that has necessitated realities like remote K-12 learning and online eviction court; and

WHEREAS: These fees will disproportionately impact people of color and other vulnerable groups, including many who are already struggling with limited, uneven, or non-existent digital access; and

WHEREAS: It is essential that the FCC stand up for working people across this country by preventing ISPs like Comcast from abusing their monopoly power to nickel-and-dime consumers who rely on internet access as a daily utility; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging Comcast to reconsider the decision to impose a data cap and additional fees on consumers starting next year; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record asking Cambridge's Congressional Delegation to do everything possible to stop these additional fees from being implemented, and to advocate with the FCC for improved broadband regulations, including net neutrality; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to Comcast SVP Tracy Pitcher, Assistant Speaker Clark, Congresswoman Pressley, Senator Markey, and Senator Warren on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-3 Nov 30, 2020
VICE MAYOR MALLON
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: On October 5th, 2020, [the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued updated guidelines](#) for mandated surveillance testing programs in nursing homes and assisted living facilities; and

WHEREAS: If there are no COVID-positive staff, and a nursing home belongs to a county with less than a five percent positivity rate under a 14 day rolling average, testing only has to be conducted on 50% of staff every two weeks; and

WHEREAS: Weekly testing of all staff is only required if there is a COVID-positive staff member or resident, and residents are only required to be tested if they were in close contact with a COVID-positive staff member, and are not required to undergo regular surveillance testing; and

WHEREAS: COVID had a devastating impact on the older, highly susceptible nursing home residents during the early days of the pandemic, and [72 of the 100 deaths caused by COVID](#) in Cambridge are of residents in assisted living facilities; and

WHEREAS: As we are heading into another COVID case surge, as there were [recently some cases in a local nursing home](#), it is critical to ensure cases are quickly identified, COVID-positive staff and residents receive treatment as soon as possible, and further transmission is prevented; and

WHEREAS: The City conducted [a Testing Pilot Program](#) in local nursing homes in April, and could implement a similar testing program again to complement the surveillance testing mandated by the Commonwealth to ensure all staff and residents are being tested with greater frequency, and therefore are better protected from the threat of COVID; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Public Health Department and other relevant City departments to explore the feasibility of providing more regular COVID testing for residents and staff in nursing homes and assisted living facilities; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back on this matter by the Dec 14th, 2020 regular City Council meeting.

O-4 Nov 30, 2020

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: Each Monday night the City Council is presented with data from the state's weekly [report](#) on COVID-19, which is published on the Thursday prior to the meeting; and

WHEREAS: These reports show a comparison between Cambridge and other towns based on the 14-day average of newly reported cases per 100,000 population as of 10 days prior to the Council Meeting; and

WHEREAS: New COVID-19 cases are assigned retroactively to the date the test was taken rather than the date the results were reported, so by the time the 10-day old figure is reported to the council it is no longer even an accurate reflection of the case count average as of that day, and is reliably an undercount when case counts are increasing; and

WHEREAS: On Nov 23, 2020 the council [received](#) a presentation from area experts, including data from the Harvard Machine Intelligence [Lab](#) showing regional case count doubling times, testing positivity, heat maps, wastewater viral loads, hospitalizations, web search analytics, and other data creating a more comprehensive picture of the rapidly evolving pandemic in and around Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: It is critical that the council receives the most up to date and comprehensive data during weekly updates to inform policy making decisions regarding the city's pandemic response; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to present the City Council with a comprehensive data report on a weekly basis, for the duration of the pandemic emergency, including (but not limited to) regional and Cambridge-specific trends (as opposed to point-in-time data like the 14-day average from 10 days prior) as outlined above.

O-5 Nov 30, 2020

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: On Nov 23, 2020 the council [received](#) a presentation from area experts to help inform what actions should be taken to slow the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS: The experts made it clear that the highest risk of spreading is attached to indoor activities where people go unmasked such as dining; and

WHEREAS: One of the critical pieces of missing information identified by the experts is locations of transmission using "backwards" contact tracing to identify transmission clusters; and

WHEREAS: This technique has been successfully applied in many other places to identify outbreaks by finding recently

shared locations among several individuals testing positive for the virus; and

WHEREAS: Identifying specific locations of outbreaks can help the city perform more targeted interventions to improve the safety of those specific locations, as well as reduce the spread by identifying additional individuals who should quarantine and seek COVID testing; and

WHEREAS: Until an effective vaccine is in widespread use, contact tracing to identify and suppress clusters is the most efficient way to limit spreading of the virus and can help avoid more widespread closures of businesses and other indoor gathering spaces; and

WHEREAS: Backwards contact tracing is greatly facilitated by the use of mobile devices that can track and compare locations securely, by providing an easy way for people to "check in" to a place of business by scanning a QR code unique to that location upon entry; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments to implement comprehensive contact tracing in Cambridge including the ability to conduct backwards contact tracing facilitated with technology such as the use of QR codes, and to report back to the City Council on this matter as soon as possible.

O-6 Nov 30, 2020

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge currently offers 7 day a week testing at 4 sites; and

WHEREAS: Access to testing and geographic proximity to testing is critical; and

WHEREAS: Some cities in Massachusetts and across the country have utilized mobile vans for COVID-19 testing; and

WHEREAS: Currently, data is not available about who is taking advantage of the city's free COVID-19 testing; and

WHEREAS: Mobile testing vans can be deployed in Cambridge to increase access and ensure that there are no neighborhoods with disproportionately low COVID-19 testing rates; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager confer with the Cambridge Department of Public Health on the feasibility of launching mobile COVID-19 testing vans in December and report back to the City Council as soon as possible.