

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
Matters of Business of the Board of Aldermen**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

February 28, 2008, 7:00 PM  
Aldermanic Chambers  
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***NOTICE:** This is NOT the official version of the Board of Aldermen's minutes. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the data provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the City Clerk.*

**PRESENT for all or part of the meeting:** President Dennis M. Sullivan, Vice President Walter F. Pero, Aldermen John M. Connolly, Bruce M. Desmond, William A. White Jr., William M. Roche, Maryann M. Heuston, Thomas F. Taylor, Sean T. O'Donovan, Rebekah L. Gewirtz, Robert C. Trane

**OPENING OF THE MEETING**

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| 1. | Roll Call | Call of the Roll.   | 185017<br>Placed on File |
| 2. | Minutes   | Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 24, 2008. | 185018<br>Approved       |

**CITATIONS**

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| 3. | Citation | By Ald. Heuston and the Entire Board, Commending Tom Buckley, who is retiring after 37 years as Sewer Foreman. | 185019<br>Approved |
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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS  
AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

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| 4. | Order      | By Ald. Pero, That the Chief of Police order a directed patrol of Sewall St. in response to recent vehicle break-ins.   | 185020<br>Approved |
| 5. | Resolution | By Ald. Pero, That this Board requests that the Traffic Commission adopt parking restrictions on Fellsway West similar to those at the lot at Broadway and McGrath Hwy. | 185021<br>Approved |
| 6. | Order      | By Ald. Pero, That the Director of SPCD inspect 53 Heath St. for building and/or health code violations.  | 185022<br>Approved |

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| 7.  | Order      | By Ald. Pero and Roche, That the Director of the Arts Council contact DCR to facilitate painting the Foss Park pool mural to match the other three sides of the pool area.   | 185023<br>Approved |
| 8.  | Resolution | By Ald. Sullivan, Roche, Heuston, White, Desmond and Connolly, That this Board requests that MA Highway resurface Washington St. from Boston to McGrath Hwy.   | 185024<br>Approved |
| 9.  | Resolution | By Ald. Sullivan, Roche, White, Desmond and Connolly, That this Board requests that MA Highway repair the fence and install sound proof barriers along I-93 at New Hampshire Ave. and Rhode Island Ave.  | 185025<br>Approved |
| 10. | Resolution | By Ald. Connolly, That this Board advises the Chairman and members of the Licensing Commission that Lynn and Revere are rolling back the closing hours for bars and alcohol serving establishments to 1 AM (from 2 AM).  | 185026<br>Approved |
| 11. | Order      | By Ald. Connolly and Gewirtz, That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the pothole on Villa Ave. opposite the telephone pole on the right side of the roadway.   | 185027<br>Approved |
| 12. | Resolution | By Ald. Gewirtz, That this Board requests that the Administration and Board of Library Trustees work with this Board to initiate a program modeled on Belmont's One Book One Belmont program that supports reading a common book as a way to bring the community together.   | 185028<br>Approved |
| 13. | Order      | By Ald. Gewirtz, That the Finance Committee hold at least 3 budget hearings (in east, central, and west Somerville), starting in April of each year, prior to the budget submittal in June, to ensure all residents the opportunity to weigh in on their budget priorities before the budget is introduced.  | 185029<br>Finance  |
| 14. | Order      | By Ald. Gewirtz, That the Chief of Police and the City Solicitor inform this Board of the process to create a "bike parts pool" for abandoned bikes and parts that is accessible to the public, the time for the city to take actual ownership of these items, and the process for making them available to the public after ownership by the city is determined.  | 185030<br>Approved |
| 15. | Order      | By Ald. Gewirtz, That Rule #3 of the Rules of this Board be changed as follows: That any item submitted after midnight of the previous day before a regularly scheduled Board meeting, either by Aldermen or the Administration, be printed as part of an addendum agenda available to the public the evening of the meeting, and that any item submitted an hour or less prior to the meeting, or during the meeting, require a 2/3 vote of the Board to admit the item before it is accepted and admitted to the agenda. | 185031<br>Rules    |

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| 16. | Order      | By Ald. Gewirtz, That the Director of SPCD and the Chief Assessor report to the Committee on Housing and Community Development, any new information relating to the sub-prime mortgage crisis and the specific steps Somerville is taking to protect citizens from foreclosures. | 185032<br>Approved, Copy to<br>Housing & Community<br>Development |
| 17. | Order      | By Ald. O'Donovan, That the Director of Traffic and Parking contact the Ward 5 Alderman to schedule a meeting with residents to discuss traffic and parking concerns in Magoun Sq., particularly on Medford St.  | 185033<br>Approved  |
| 18. | Order      | By Ald. O'Donovan, That the Director of SPCD contact the Ward 5 Alderman to schedule a community meeting on the redevelopment of Albion Park.  | 185034<br>Approved  |
| 19. | Order      | By Ald. O'Donovan, That the Chief of Police contact the Ward 5 Alderman to schedule a community meeting to discuss issues in and around Albion Park.   | 185035<br>Approved  |
| 20. | Order      | By Ald. O'Donovan and Gewirtz, That the Commissioner of Public Works submit to this Board a report of needed and completed repairs at the Brown School.  | 185036<br>Approved  |
| 21. | Resolution | By Ald. Trane, That this Board requests that the Administration form a committee to name a poet laureate, in keeping with the City's efforts to support the arts.  | 185037<br>Approved  |
| 22. | Order      | By Ald. Trane, That the Chief of Police increase patrols around Clarendon Hill Towers and Foodmaster Super Market to deter loitering and other activities.   | 185038<br>Approved  |
| 23. | Order      | By Ald. Trane, That the Director of SPCD work with the business community in Teele Sq. to find funding mechanisms for storefront improvements.   | 185039<br>Approved  |
| 24. | Order      | By Ald. White, That the Director of Finance explain the history of #178688, a transfer of \$232,658 to the Public Works Rubbish Removal Account approved on 5/12/05.   | 185040<br>Approved, Copy to<br>Finance                            |
| 25. | Order      | By Ald. White, That the Director of Finance and the Commissioner of Public Works provide this Board with the amounts expended for the Rubbish Removal and Professional and Technical Services Accounts under sanitation, for fiscal years 2003 through 2007.                     | 185041<br>Approved, Copy to<br>Finance                            |
| 26. | Order      | By Ald. White, Sullivan and O'Donovan, That representatives of Capital Project Management and the City Solicitor's Office update this Board on the Trum Field House project and efforts to recoup the additional costs.  | 185042<br>Approved, Copy to<br>Capital Planning                   |

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| 27.                                 | Order            | By Ald. Taylor, That the Chief of Police order a directed patrol of Atherton and Beech Sts. by the Roundhouse, for vandalism and illegal trash dumping from 5 to 10 PM.  | 185043<br>Approved                           |
| 28.                                 | Order            | By Ald. Taylor, That the Commissioner of Public Works contact the MBTA to request that the tracks and surrounding area behind Montrose St. be cleared of debris.   | 185044<br>Approved                           |
| 29.                                 | Order            | By Ald. Taylor, That the Director of Traffic and Parking evaluate the intersection of Prescott, Summer and Quincy Sts. for pedestrian and vehicular safety and make recommendations for improvement.   | 185045<br>Approved                           |
| 30.                                 | Order            | By Ald. Taylor, That the City Solicitor draft a Home Rule Petition to allow volunteer community members to enforce handicap parking regulations.   | 185046<br>Approved, Ald.<br>Sullivan opposed |
| 31.                                 | Order            | By Ald. Taylor and Roche, That the Chief of Police contact the State Police to jointly evaluate the intersection of McGrath Hwy. and Medford St., from 7:30 - 9:00 AM and 2:00 - 3:30 PM, for traffic violations that are placing the city's students in jeopardy. | 185047<br>Approved                           |
| 32.                                 | Comm.            | By President Sullivan, Creating a Special Committee on Parks and Open Space.   | 185048<br>Placed on File                     |
| <b><u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u></b>   |                  |  |  |
| 33.                                 | Citation         | By Ald. Taylor and the Entire Board, Congratulating John McEachern on the auspicious occasion of his 93 birthday.  | 184614<br>Approved                           |
| 34.                                 | Order            | By Ald. Gewirtz, That the Committee on Rules consider a change to Rule 3 of the Rules of the Board of Aldermen governing late items, as described within.  | 184841<br>Withdrawn                          |
| 35.                                 | Citation         | By Ald. O'Donovan and the Entire Board, Congratulating Constance Lauro on the auspicious occasion of her 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday.   | 184823<br>Laid on Table                      |
| <b><u>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</u></b> |                  |  |  |
| 36.                                 | Committee Report | Report of the Committee on Public Health & Safety, Feb. 20.<br>No papers.  | 185049<br>Approved                           |
| 37.                                 | Committee Report | Report of the Committee on Land Use, Feb. 21.  | 185050<br>Approved                           |
| 37A.                                | Officer's Comm.  | City Solicitor responding to #183131 re: an Ordinance addressing the locations of satellite dish installations.  | 184659<br>Placed on File                     |

37B.	Mayor's Request	Requesting the approval of proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance's Table of Permitted Uses.	184956 Approved
38.	Committee Report	Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, Feb. 26.	185051 Approved
38A.	Resolution	By Ald. Taylor, That this Board requests that the Administration direct Parking Control Officers to enforce the snow removal ordinance for businesses and deliver flyers to residences starting with the first snow in 2008-09.	185052 Approved
38B.	Order	By Ald. Taylor, That the City Solicitor forward to all relevant departments, a letter stating that no permits are to be granted if taxes are not current.	185053 Approved
<b><u>COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR</u></b>			
39.	Mayor's Request	Requesting an appropriation and issuance of a bond of \$545,800 for the demolition of the severely damaged Southeast Wing of the East Somerville Community School.	185054 Approved
40.	Mayor's Request	Requesting a transfer of \$33,863. from Salary Contingency Acct. to the Police Salaries to fund 3½ new civilian positions as part of Police Dept. Reorganization Plan.	185055 Finance
41.	Mayor's Request	Requesting an appropriation of \$4,125 from Free Cash to the Police Special Items Rental-Buildings Acct. to lease the Mudflat Pottery School as the site of the East Somerville Police Sub-station, at a rent of \$1,375 per month.	185056 Finance
42.	Mayor's Request	Requesting the use of available funds of \$1,443 in the Auditing Salaries Acct. to fund a new salary rate for the vacant position of Payroll Coordinator, effective March 18.	185057 Finance
43.	Mayor's Request	Requesting approval to expend a \$21,000 grant from the MA Office of Public Safety for the Police's Click it or Ticket and You Drink and Drive You Lose programs. (This grant was approved as #184867 on 2/14, for \$19,000, but the State's formal award was for \$21,000.)	185058 Approved
44.	Mayor's Request	Requesting approval to expend a grant of unknown value consisting of six 19 inch flat screen monitors from the Clearwater FL Police Dept., awarded to the Police Dept.	185059 Approved
45.	Mayor's Request	Requesting the adoption of proposed amendments to MGL Ch. 48, Sections 59b, 59c and 59d, to enable the City to establish a reserve Fire Force.	185060 Legislative Matters
46.	Mayor's Request	Requesting the appointment of Tom Gilbert to the Commissions for Persons with Disabilities.	185061 Approved

47.	Mayor's Request	Requesting the appointment of Robin Pfetsch to the Municipal Athletics Facilities Commission.	185062 Conf. of Appointments
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**COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS**

48.	Officer's Comm.	Chief of Police responding to various Board Orders.	185063 Placed on File
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49.	Officer's Comm.	Chief Fire Engineer responding to various Board Orders.	185064 Placed on File, Copy to Public Health & Safety
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50.	Officer's Comm.	Director of SPCD responding to various Board Orders.	185065 Placed on File
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**NEW BUSINESS**

51.	Public Occ	Public Occupancy Permit, Somerville Community Corp. Save Our Homes Walk, High School to East Som. Community School and back, April 27, 2-4PM.	185066 Approved
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52.	Public Occ	Public Occupancy Permit, On The Hill Tavern Road Race, Trum Field to Highland Ave., June 8, 11:30AM.	185067 Approved
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53.	Public Occ	Public Occupancy Permit, Somerville Road Runners Summer Steamer Road Race, Broadway, July 13, 10AM.	185068 Licenses & Permits
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54.	Public Occ	Public Occupancy Permit, Somerville Road Runners Gobble Gobble Road Race, Davis Sq., Nov. 27, 9AM.	185069 Licenses & Permits
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55.	Drainlayer	Renewal of Drain Layer's License, James W. Flett Co.	185070 Approved
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56.	Drainlayer	Renewal of Drain Layer's License, Donohoe Excavating Inc.	185071 Approved
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57.	Drainlayer	Renewal of Drain Layer's License, Robell Inc.	185072 Approved
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58.	Sign	New Sign/Awning Permit, Artifaktori LLC, 22A College Ave., Sign.	185073 Licenses & Permits
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59.	Junk Dealer	New Junk Dealer License, Artifaktori LLC, 22A College Ave.	185074 Licenses & Permits
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60.	Garage	New Garage License, John's Auto Sales Inc., 50 Tufts St., 100 autos inside.	185075 Licenses & Permits
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61.	Garage	Renewal of Garage License (2007), Autosal, 444R Somerville Ave., 15 autos inside.	185076 Licenses & Permits
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62.	Garage	Renewal of Garage License, Autosal, 444R Somerville Ave., 15 autos inside.	185077 Licenses & Permits
63.	Garage	Renewal of Garage License, Reilly's Garage, 61-63 Washington St., 2 autos inside, 6 outside.	185078 Licenses & Permits
64.	Garage	Renewal of Garage License, Doucette Auto Service, 325 Alewife Brook Pkwy., 2 autos inside, 6 outside.	185079 Licenses & Permits
65.	Garage	Renewal Garage License, John's Auto Sales, 161 Broadway, 65 autos inside, 4 outside.	185080 Licenses & Permits
66.	Outdoor Seating	New Outdoor Seating License, Mystic Cleaners dba Mystic Tailors & Cleaners, 282 Broadway, Sign on sidewalk.	185081 Licenses & Permits
67.	Outdoor Seating	Renewal of Outdoor Seating License, FCMC Corp. dba Blue Shirt Café, 424 Highland Ave., 4 tables & 10 chairs.	185082 Licenses & Permits
68.	Outdoor Seating	Renewal of Outdoor Seating License, LDDJ Inc. dba Dave's Fresh Pasta, 81 Holland St., 5 tables & 10 chairs and one Sandwich Board.	185083 Licenses & Permits
69.	Outdoor Parking	Renewal of Outdoor Parking License, Urban Equity Development Co., 7-9 and 11-13 Herbert St., 20 autos.	185084 Licenses & Permits
70.	Outdoor Parking	Renewal of Outdoor Parking License, Urban Equity Development Co., 55-59 and 108-112 Dover St., 70 autos.	185085 Licenses & Permits

**LATE ITEMS**

71.	Mayor's Request	Requesting an appropriation of \$27,324 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to the Police Capital Outlay Vehicles Acct. to purchase a replacement police cruiser.	184861 Discharged From Finance, Approved
72.	Mayor's Request	Requesting an appropriation of \$2,500 from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation – Chapter 148A Violations to the Law Salaries Monthly Acct. to adjust the salary of the Hearing Officer.	184481 Discharged From Finance, Approved
73.	Order	By Ald. Heuston, That the Director of SPCD meet with the manager of the Beacon St. Shaw's Supermarket to address violations to the noise ordinance, dumpster pickups and loitering in the parking lot after hours.	185086 Approved as Amended: That the Chief of Police also order a directed patrol to the area
74.	Order	By Ald. Heuston, That the Director of SPCD inspect 47 Webster Ave. for a consistently open and overflowing dumpster in front of the building.	185087 Approved

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| 75. | Order              | By Ald. Heuston, That the Director of SPCD inspect 9 Marion St. for violations related to improper trash storage, and direct the owner to address the rodent problem there.   | 185088<br>Approved                                 |
| 76. | Order              | By Ald. O'Donovan and Heuston, That the Committee on Legislative Matters consider amending the city's snow removal policy by adding an exception of a fine for senior and disabled homeowners for their failure to remove snow, and by better pursuing owners of commercial property. | 185089<br>Approved, Copy to<br>Legislative Matters |
| 77. | Mayor's<br>Request | Requesting approval to transfer \$32,000 from the IT PS Salaries Acct. to the IT OM Computer Equipment Acct. to cover the Kronos Time Clocks.   | 185090<br>Finance                                  |
| 78. | Mayor's<br>Request | Requesting approval for the IT Dept. to pay prior FY invoices from Nettek and TriNet for \$16,267.10 and \$17,043.00, respectively.   | 185091<br>Finance                                  |
| 79. | Mayor's<br>Request | Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$12,248.32 from the Boston's Mayor's Office of Emergency Preparedness for Fire Dept. training at a "When Structures Fail" seminar.  | 185092<br>Approved                                 |
| 80. | Officer's<br>Comm. | City Solicitor responding to #184477 re: amending Ordinance 12-8 for snow removal policies affecting persons with disabilities.   | 185093<br>Legislative Matters                      |
| 81. | Used Car           | Renewal of Used Car Dealer's License Class II, Frank and Eds Inc., 483 Somerville Ave., 8 autos outside, 6 inside.  | 185094<br>Licenses & Permits                       |

**Submitted by John J. Long, City Clerk**