

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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

October 7, 2008, 7:00 PM
Aldermanic Chambers

***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

OPENING OF THE MEETING

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| 1. | Roll Call | Call of the Roll. | 186317
Placed on File |
| 2. | Minutes | Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2008. | 186318
Approved |

CITATIONS

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| 3. | Citation | Submitted by Ald. Heuston and the Entire Board, Congratulating the King Solomon's Lodge on its 225 th year of fraternal brotherhood and generous community service. | 186319
Approved |
| 4. | Citation | By Ald. Connolly and the Entire Board, Congratulating Lawrence Bolt on the auspicious occasion of his 90 th birthday. | 186320
Approved |
| 5. | Citation | By Ald. Connolly and the Entire Board, Congratulating Patricia Bradley on the auspicious occasion of her 80 th birthday. | 186321
Approved |
| 6. | Citation | By Ald. Sullivan, Congratulating outgoing Commander Christopher Mercer and Ladies Auxiliary President Margaret Twohig for their loyal and dedicated service to American Legion Post 388 for the last year. | 186322
Approved |
| 7. | Citation | Submitted by Ald. O'Donovan, Commending Hugh and Ann Gill on the happy occasion of their 50 th anniversary. | 186323
Approved |

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

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| 8. | Order | By Ald. Roche, That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the temporary sidewalk patches on Mt. Vernon and Melvin Sts. prior to snow and frost setting in. | 186324
Approved |
| 9. | Order | By Ald. Roche, That the Director of SPCD dispatch the Neighborhood Inspection Team to 11 Kensington Ave. for code violations. | 186325
Approved |
| 10. | Order | By Ald. Roche, That the Commissioner of Public Works coordinate with the MA Highway Dept. tree trimming and brush removal on I-93 behind Broadway Brake, prior to frost and snow setting in. | 186326
Approved |
| 11. | Order | By Ald. Roche, That the Board of Health bait the catch basins at 240 Pearl St. and Kensington Ave. near Broadway. | 186327
Approved |
| 12. | Order | By Ald. Heuston, That the Director of Finance inform this Board about the city's finances re: the recent economic crisis, including the city's ability to float bonds for capital projects, changes in lending practices and the bond market, projects affected by these changes, revenue shortfalls and trends, properties in foreclosure since June, and whether shortfalls in state revenue will impact state aid to the city. | 186328
Approved, Copy to
Finance |
| 13. | Order | By Ald. Heuston, That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the street sign at Washington and Calvin Sts. | 186329
Approved |
| 14. | Order | By Ald. Heuston, That the Commissioner of Public Works trim the tree at 39 Adrian St. | 186330
Approved |
| 15. | Order | By Ald. Heuston, That the Director of Traffic and Parking install a NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER sign at Dane and Washington Sts. | 186331
Approved |
| 16. | Resolution | By Ald. Heuston, That this Board requests that the Dedication Committee approve a dedication request for Thomas Palombo, WWII Veteran and past coach and Athletic Director in the School Dept. | 186332
Approved |
| 17. | Order | By Ald. Heuston, That the Director of Traffic and Parking move the handicapped parking space from 50 Dane St. to 7 Skehan St. | 186333
Approved |

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| 18. | Order | By Ald. Connolly and Gewirtz, That the Commissioner of Public Works erect a banner in Davis Sq. for the Honkfest festival in Davis Sq. this Sat.-Sun., Oct. 11-12. | 186334
Approved |
| 19. | Order | By Ald. Connolly, That the Chief of Police order a directed patrol to the restaurant at 30 College Ave. to enforce the midnight weekday closing and the 1AM weekend closing until further notice, and notify the Licensing Commission of his findings, prior to the Commission's next meeting. | 186335
Approved |
| 20. | Order | By Ald. Connolly and Gewirtz, That the Director of SPCD inspect 79 College Ave. for improper trash storage, and compel the owner to comply with weekly trash procedures. | 186336
Approved |
| 21. | Order | By Ald. White, That the City Solicitor and Commissioner of Public Works appear before the Committee on Public Utilities & Works to discuss damage to homes, pipes and retaining walls caused by public trees. | 186337
Approved, Copy to
Public Utilities &
Works |
| 22. | Order | By Ald. White, That the Director of Finance appear before the Finance Committee to discuss the City's debt, including outstanding bonds, notes and debt service, and the impact of the current financial crisis. | 186338
Approved, Copy to
Finance |

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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| 23. | Citation | By Ald. Taylor and the Entire Board, Congratulating the Somerville Hospital Ladies' Aid Association on its 117 th year of generous service to the Somerville Hospital. | 186262
Removed from Table,
Approved |
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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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| 24. | Committee Report | Report of the Committee of the Whole on Public Health & Public Safety, Sept. 29.
No papers. | 186339
Approved |
| 25. | Committee Report | Report of the Committee on Land Use, Oct. 2. | 186340
Approved |
| 25A. | Ordinance | Ten registered voters requesting approval of an amendment to the zoning ordinances for Union Sq. PUD C, PUD C-1, and Arts Overlay District. | 182835
Placed on File |
| 25B. | Ordinance | Ten registered voters requesting approval of an amendment to the zoning ordinances for Union Sq. to reduce the affordable housing site aside for artist's housing. | 182836
Placed on File |
| 25C. | Ordinance | Ten registered voters requesting approval of an amendment to the zoning ordinances to increase the affordable housing requirement to 15% in Union Sq. | 182837
Placed on File |

25D.	Comm.	Sixteen residents requesting an amendment to the proposed PUD-C Overlay District in Union Sq.	182842 Placed on File
25E.	Officer's Comm.	Director of Planning Board Responding to #182597 re: Proposed PUD-B1 Zoning Ordinance Amendments.	182912 Placed on File
25F.	Ordinance	By Ald. Heuston and Taylor, Proposing an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances by establishing a PUD-C Zoning Overlay District and a Union Square Arts Overlay District, with facilitation by miscellaneous city-wide amendments.	183156 Placed on File
25G.	Officer's Comm.	Planning Board reporting recommendations on #183156 re: zoning amendments to create a PUD-C Zoning Overlay District and Union Sq. Arts Overlay.	183720 Placed on File
25H.	Comm.	Anna Shenk submitting comments re: Union Sq. Zoning.	183727 Placed on File
25I.	Comm.	Fred Berman submitting comments re: Union Sq. Zoning.	183728 Placed on File
25J.	Comm.	Somerville Chamber of Commerce submitting comments re: Union Sq. Zoning.	183729 Placed on File
25K.	Mayor's Request	Requesting approval of amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to clarify the Planning's Board's role as Special Permit Granting Authority within a Planned Unit Development.	184478 Placed on File
25L.	Officer's Comm.	Planning Board responding to #184646 re: Recommendations on the proposed amendments to establish a notice and review procedure for requests to revise previously granted special permits.	185153 Placed on File
25M.	Officer's Comm.	Planning Board submitting recommendations on a proposed zoning amendment to clarify the SPGA in PUDs (#185375).	185722 Placed on File
25N.	Officer's Comm.	Planning Board submitting recommendations on a proposed zoning amendment to require the removal of abandoned satellite dish antennas (#185376).	185723 Placed on File
25O.	Mayor's Request	Requesting approval of a proposed Zoning Ordinance adopting a Temporary Moratorium in a portion of the Winter Hill Commercial District.	185824 Placed on File
25P.	Officer's Comm.	Planning Board submitting recommendations re: a proposed Zoning Ordinance adopting a Temporary Moratorium in a portion of the Winter Hill Commercial District.	186113 Approved, Enrolled & Ordained

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| 26. | Committee Report | Report of the Committee of the Whole on Housing and Community Development, Oct. 2.
No papers. | 186341
Approved |
| 27. | Committee Report | Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, Oct. 2. | 186342
Approved as Amended:
#186025 referred back
to Legislative Matters |
| 27A. | Mayor's Request | Requesting approval of Home Rule Petition to exempt the position of Supervisor and Asst. Supervisor of School Custodians from the provisions of Civil Service Law. | 182518
Placed on File |
| 27B. | Officer's Comm | Asst. City Solicitor submitting a draft Ordinance for Tree Preservation. | 186025
Referred back to
Legislative Matters |

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

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| 28. | Mayor's Request | Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$16,193.65 from the Health Dept. Emergency Preparedness Region 4B for the Fire Dept. to hire a part-time Emergency Preparedness Assistant Coordinator. | 186343
Finance |
| 29. | Mayor's Request | Requesting the appointment of Terry Christopher to the Fair Housing Commission. | 186344
Approved |

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

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| 30. | Officer's Request | Asst. City Solicitor requesting an exemption under MGL c268A s20(d) for Cheri Ruane, a member of the Design Review Committee. | 186345
Legislative Matters |
| 31. | Officer's Comm. | Asst. City Solicitor submitting a revised Tree Preservation Ordinance. | 186346
Legislative Matters |

NEW BUSINESS

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| 32. | Public Occ | Public Occupancy Permit, Josephine Ave. Block Party, between Kidder and Morrison Aves., Oct. 4, 4-7PM. | 186347
Approved |
| 33. | Public Occ | Public Occupancy Permit, Honkfest closure of Chester St. from Elm to Herbert Sts., Oct. 11, 12-4PM. | 186348
Approved |
| 34. | Public Occ | Public Occupancy Permit, Somerville Pride Girls Basketball Canning, various locations, Oct. 25, 8AM-3PM. | 186349
Approved |
| 35. | Public Occ | Public Occupancy Permit, The Road to Development Inc. & New England Haiti Hurricane March down Broadway to College Ave. to Davis Sq., Oct. 26, 12-3PM. | 186350
Approved |

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| 36. | Public Occ | Public Occupancy Permit, Willow Ave. Block Party, between Elm and Summer Sts., Oct. 26, 12-5PM. | 186351
Approved |
| 37. | Public Occ | Public Occupancy Permit, Shape Up Somerville Road Race, Trum Field, Nov. 1, 10AM-1PM. | 186352
Approved |
| 38. | Public Occ | Public Occupancy Permit, Bob the Magic Guy, Davis Sq. Statue Park, W 6-9PM, F 6-9:30PM & Sa 1-3PM & 7-10PM, Until Nov. 30. | 186353
Approved |
| 39. | Sign | Sign/Awning Permit, Parisian Style Beauty Supplies, 18 Bow St., sign. | 186354
Approved |
| 40. | Flammable | Renewal of Flammable License, Somerville Hospital, 230 Highland Ave., 15,000 gallons. | 186355
Approved |

LATE ITEMS

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| 41. | Resolution | By Ald. Connolly, That this Board requests that the Administration record and broadcast the Oct. 16, 2008, public meeting on the proposed Condominium Conversion Ordinance. | 186356
Approved |
| 42. | Order | By Ald. Desmond, That the City Clerk request of DCR and the State Delegation that the poor lighting and safety conditions on Alewife Brook Pkwy. (Rt. 16) between Powderhouse Blvd. and Boston Ave. be quickly remedied. | 186357
Approved |
| 43. | Comm. | By Pres. Sullivan, Conveying the re-appointment of Joanne O'Leary to the Municipal Compensation Advisory Board. | 186358
Placed on File |
| 44. | Taxi Med | Transfer of Taxi Medallion, SLS Trans. Inc. to WLEJ. Inc., Med. #76. | 186157
Discharged From
Traffic & Parking,
Approved |

Submitted by John J. Long, City Clerk