

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 09-29, regarding the possibility of other cable and internet providers doing business in the City.

CHARTER RIGHT

1. Economic stimulus package for Harvard and MIT. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Reeves on Policy Order Number Fourteen of Apr 6, 2009.]

ON THE TABLE

2. Opposition to the closing of the Oliver Farnum Senior Health Center. [Placed on Table on motion of Councillor Maher on Order Number Fourteen of Nov 3, 2008.]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Co-Chair of the Ordinance Committee, for a meeting held on Nov 18, 2004 for the purpose of considering proposed amendments to Chapter 2.74 of the Cambridge Municipal Code, the Police Review and Advisory Board Ordinance. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after Feb 14, 2005. [Four sections of the proposed amendment were passed to be ordained as amended. Ordinance #1284. The remaining proposed amendments to chapter 2.74 remain on Unfinished Business.]
 4. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Numbers 06-87, 07-83 and 07-138, regarding the status of putting the City's self-evaluation on the website. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Kelley on City Manager Agenda Item Number Sixteen of Dec 10, 2007. Dec 17, 2007 - Referred to 2008-2009 City Council as Unfinished Business on motion of Councillor Kelley.]
 5. An application from Alan L. Johnson, requesting a curb cut at the premises numbered 135 Western Avenue; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical, Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association. [Charter right exercised by Councillor Reeves on Mar 23, 2009. Meeting recessed on Mar 30, 2009. Referred to Unfinished Business on motion of Councillor Ward on Apr 6, 2009.]
2. A communication was received from Karen Ferreira and family, transmitting thanks for the resolution of sympathy on behalf of their dad, Roland Paris.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Condolences to the family of Elise Jones. Mayor Simmons
2. Congratulations to Estella Johnson on her appointment as a member of the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency Board of Directors. Mayor Simmons
3. Congratulations to the Cambridge Youth Hockey Girls U12 team for their recent Mayor's Cup win and receiving second place in the State Championships. Mayor Simmons
4. Resolution on the death of Specialist Israel Candelaria Mejias. Councillor Decker
5. Resolution on the death of Sergeant Daniel J. Beard. Councillor Decker
6. Resolution on the death of Lance Corporal Nelson M. Lantigua. Councillor Decker
7. Resolution on the death of Sergeant Devin C. Poche. Councillor Decker
8. Resolution on the death of Staff Sergeant Raphael A. Futrell. Councillor Decker
9. Congratulations to Cody Romano, CRLS 2008 graduate, on having the film that he directed, Dawn, selected for the Boston International Film Festival. Mayor Simmons
10. Resolution on the death of Nancy E. (Houlihan) Barry. Councillor Toomey
11. Urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day on Apr 24, 2009. Mayor Simmons
12. Resolution on the death of Daniel Lewicki, Jr. Councillor Toomey
13. Congratulations to David Fieldhouse on the opening of the Atomic Bean Cafe at 902-904 Massachusetts Avenue. Vice Mayor Seidel
14. Urge residents to be cognizant that April is National Poetry Month. Vice Mayor Seidel
15. Congratulations to Concilio Hispano and Centro Latino de Chelsea on their partnership in services to the Latino population. Councillor Davis
16. Congratulations to the Arlington A-Team, Team Medford and the Cambridge Energy Busters for their participation in the Energy Smackdown on Mar 21-22, 2009. Councillor Davis
17. Congratulations to Catherine Ruiz and David A. Lewis on their recent marriage. Councillor Davis

ORDERS

1. That the Government Operations Committee review the policy about naming street corners and develop a procedure to ensure that placement of memorial signs is agreeable to neighbors and also to develop a procedure to remove existing signs to another location when neighbors object to their placement. Councillor Kelley
2. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council with an update on the City Council's existing request for an Inspectional Services Department review of the Concord Avenue radio antennae issue, where this antennae is believed by neighbors to pose a threat to their safety should it fall over. Councillor Kelley
3. That the Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee is requested to hold a meeting to discuss the three fatal collisions in which pedestrians have been killed by motor vehicles and to review any possible lessons learned that could be implemented to prevent future collisions in the same or other locations. Councillor Kelley

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from 9 Tastes, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign in front of 50 JFK Street.
2. An application was received from Cardullos Gourmet Shoppe, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign, display of merchandise, three tables and nine chairs in front of 6 Brattle Street.
3. Approval of constable bond surety received from Fred MacDonald.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Representative William N. Brownsberger, transmitting thanks for the resolution supporting local option legislation for red light camera enforcement.

4. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council prior to the final June meeting on the City's plans to enforce relevant laws about noise from motorcycles and loud cars. Councillor Kelley
5. That the City Manager is requested to ask the Director of the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the Cambridge Police Department to increase their presence along Webster Avenue and more aggressively enforce parking regulations in that area. Mayor Simmons
6. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Commissioner of Public Works and report back with the tree planting schedule and locations that will be filled throughout the city and the status of the wait list for plantings. Councillor Toomey
7. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the MIS Department to address solutions regarding city employees being blocked from access to receiving email, listserv communications, or access to websites, all of which are relevant to professional practice. Mayor Simmons
8. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council regarding the feasibility of posting proposed zoning changes in a manner similar to that done for the Board of Zoning Appeal hearings. Vice Mayor Seidel
9. That the City Manager is requested to update the City Council on efforts currently underway at the Cambridge Energy Alliance to encourage energy efficiency upgrades, energy audits and dissemination of appropriate information in large multi-unit buildings. Vice Mayor Seidel
10. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Inspectional Services Department on the status of two residential sites which have sat vacant in inhabitable condition for an extended period of time, one located on Churchill Avenue and the other on the corner of Foster Street and Foster Place. Councillor Maher
11. That the City Council support the Board of Building Regulations and Standards having just two codes in Massachusetts: one standard and another more stringent to promote energy efficiency. Councillor Davis
12. That the City Manager is requested to urge Harvard, MIT and other businesses to use the progressive practice of asking for concessions from all employees at all levels before resorting to layoffs of the lowest paid workers. Councillor Davis and Councillor Ward
13. That the City Council conveys its wishes for the continuing publication of The Boston Globe to the publishers of The Boston Globe. Councillor Davis
14. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Assistant City Manager for Human Services to create a Cambridge Parent/Family listserv comparable to the town of Arlington's "Arlington Parent Journal," which allows parents and families to share relevant/useful parenting information with one another. Councillor Decker
15. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Assistant City Manager for Human Services to create a more user-friendly website, including a separate, more user-friendly webpage for the Cambridge Center for Families. Councillor Decker

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Craig Kelley, Chair of the Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee, for a meeting held on Feb 10, 2009 to discuss traffic enforcement data analysis.
2. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair of the Health and Environment Committee, for a meeting held on Mar 11, 2009 to discuss community gardens, receive an update on the possibility of a Cambridge Farm and any other matters relating to growing fruits and vegetables in Cambridge.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a letter from Gregory P. Russ, Executive Director of Cambridge Housing Authority in response to Order Number Seven of Mar 2, 2009.

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Apr 13

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Apr 14

4:00pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on a zoning petition submitted by Lesley University to amend the Zoning Map and Article 20.000 of the Zoning Ordinance by adding "Section 20.200 Lesley Porter Overlay District." This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Apr 15

2:30pm The Housing Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss plans for a public forum to provide information and support for homeowners or tenants who may be facing displacement because of economic distress. (Ackermann Room)

Thurs, Apr 16

6:00pm The Human Services Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss the closing of the Riverside Health Clinic by the Cambridge Health Alliance. (King School Auditorium)

Mon, Apr 27

5:15pm Special Presentation - Send off for Cambridge GLBT Commissioner Chris Mason who is Driving Equality across America. (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Apr 29

6:00pm The Human Services Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss the closing of the North Cambridge Health Clinic by the Cambridge Health Alliance. (Peabody School Auditorium)

Thurs, Apr 30

9:30am The Finance Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss FY10 City Budget. This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 4

5:30pm Roundtable Meeting with School Committee. No public comment. No votes will be taken. Meeting will not be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, May 5

5:00pm The Health and Environment Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss the creation of partnerships between community or neighborhood groups and a nearby food pantry; a Cambridge Agricultural Fair and any other issues related to growing fruits and vegetables in Cambridge. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, May 6

9:30am The Finance Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss FY10 City Budget. This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Thurs, May 7

4:00pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public meeting to consider whether the City Council should petition to amend the zoning law with regard to yard definitions, special permit thresholds and open space requirements in the Business A3 district. (Sullivan Chamber)

4:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public meeting with regard to require aisle width for parking facilities in certain instances. (Sullivan Chamber)

5:00pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance filed by the City Council to facilitate parking for shared vehicles in Cambridge by amending Article 2.000 Definitions, creating a vehicle sharing parking facility use in the Table of Use Regulations, a new Footnote 56 in Article 4.000 Section 4.40, and creating a new Section 11.20-Vehicle Sharing Service Parking Facilities. This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 11

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, May 13

3:00pm The Finance Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss FY10 School Department Budget. This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Thurs, May 14

9:30am The Finance Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss FY10 City Budget. (if necessary) This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 18

4:00pm 2009 Scholarship Award Ceremony (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 1

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 15

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 22

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 29

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, July 27

5:30pm Special City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Sept 14

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Sept 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Oct 5

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Oct 19

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Oct 26

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 2

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 9

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 16

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 23

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 30

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 14

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 28

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: Some residents have expressed concern over the proliferation of memorial street corners in Cambridge and, in some cases, have objected to the specific location of relevant memorial signs; and

WHEREAS: Some residents have expressed concern over their belief that notice about a corner naming was not sufficient to allow them to express their opinion on the propriety of the dedication; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Government Operations Committee review the policy about naming street corners and develop a procedure to ensure that placement of memorial signs is agreeable to neighbors and also to develop a procedure to remove existing signs to another location when neighbors object to their placement; and be it further

ORDERED: That City Councillors are requested not to submit any corner memorial orders until the City Council has adopted a formal policy on the naming of street corners.

O-2 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council with an update on the City Council's existing request for an Inspectional Services Department review of the Concord Avenue radio antennae issue, where this antennae is believed by neighbors to pose a threat to their safety should it fall over.

O-3 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: There have been three fatal collisions in Cambridge since March of 2008 in which pedestrians have been killed by motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS: The City staff has provided the City Council with very limited information on these fatal collisions which makes it difficult for the City Council to form any opinion on how to learn from these collisions to make our streets safer; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee is requested to hold a meeting to discuss these fatal collisions and to review any possible lessons learned that could be implemented to prevent future collisions in the same or other locations.

O-4 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: There are state laws limiting motorcycle exhaust noise and there are City regulations allowing enforcement actions against overly loud vehicles; and

WHEREAS: Overly loud motorcycles and cars tend to increase in number during the warmer weather, with a resulting negative impact on the general public enjoyment of our public ways, sidewalks and private property; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council prior to the final June meeting on the City's plans to enforce relevant laws about noise from motorcycles and loud cars to help ensure that these problematic vehicles do not continue to have a negative impact on the quality of life in Cambridge.

O-5 Apr 13, 2009

MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: Residents living on and near Webster Avenue have long voiced concern about the traffic congestion, blind driveways, double-parked vehicles, and pedestrian traffic that sometimes spills onto that street as "an accident waiting to happen;" and

WHEREAS: There have been complaints that many vehicles along this stretch of road are often illegally double parked, exacerbating the traffic congestion and making the street more dangerous for motorists and pedestrians alike; and

WHEREAS: These complaints have been reaching the Mayor's Office in increasing numbers from people who either reside on Webster Avenue, or who find occasion to travel upon this street. The City has determined that it is wiser to take corrective action before accidents occur, rather than waiting until an incident happens and forces the issue; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to ask the Director of the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the Cambridge Police Department to increase their presence along Webster Avenue and more aggressively enforce parking regulations there; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to ask the Director of the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and other appropriate City personnel whether further measures are needed to calm traffic congestion and increase the safety of Webster Avenue.

O-6 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The spring tree planting season is upon us; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Commissioner of Public Works and report back with the tree planting schedule and locations that will be filled throughout the city and the status of the wait list for plantings.

O-7 Apr 13, 2009

MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: Many city employees are blocked from access to receiving email, listserve communications, or access to websites, all of which are relevant and at times critical to professional practice; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the MIS Department on providing solutions to this ongoing problem.

O-8 Apr 13, 2009

VICE MAYOR SEIDEL

WHEREAS: Zoning decisions have significant impact on public policy that necessitate adequate notification of the public; and

WHEREAS: Citizens have voiced concerns that the existing methods of notification are not sufficient; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council regarding the feasibility of posting proposed zoning changes in a manner similar to that done for the Board of Zoning Appeal hearings.

O-9 Apr 13, 2009

VICE MAYOR SEIDEL

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Energy Alliance was created to implement efficiency improvements in energy use; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has many large multi-unit buildings; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to update the City Council on efforts currently underway at the Cambridge Energy Alliance to encourage energy efficiency upgrades, energy audits and dissemination of appropriate information in large multi-unit buildings.

O-10 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR MAHER

WHEREAS: There are two residential sites which have sat vacant in inhabitable condition for an extended period of time, one located on Churchill Avenue and the other on the corner of Foster Street and Foster Place; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Inspectional Services Department on the status of these two housing sites and update the City Council on the status.

O-11 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: The vast majority of U.S. states permit local adoption of building codes and building proceeds from these; and

WHEREAS: It is generally thought to be a better practice to limit the complexity of the rules builders face by having fewer options than those that pertain when there is a local option; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council support the BBRS having just two codes in Massachusetts: one standard and another

more stringent to promote energy efficiency; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Board of Building Regulations and Standards.

O-12 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

COUNCILLOR WARD

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to urge Harvard, MIT and other businesses to use the progressive practice of asking for concessions from all employees at all levels before resorting to layoffs of the lowest paid workers; and be it further

ORDERED: That this matter be referred to the University Relations Committee.

O-13 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: There is disturbing news that The New York Times Company may shut down The Boston Globe which would be a tragic loss for the community; and

WHEREAS: It is of great importance that a city of Boston's size support a strong newspaper for the city and surrounding communities; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council conveys its wishes for the continuing publication of The Boston Globe to the publishers of The Boston Globe; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the publishers of The Boston Globe.

O-14 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: There is technology available which would be able to connect different Cambridge parents and families with one another to allow them to share parenting information and resources; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Assistant City Manager for Human Services to create a Cambridge Parent/Family listserv comparable to the town of Arlington's "Arlington Parent Journal," which allows parents and families to share relevant/useful parenting information with one another; and be it further

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

O-15 Apr 13, 2009

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: Cambridge residents have voiced concern that the Human Services website is difficult to navigate, especially the webpage for the Cambridge Center for Families; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Assistant City Manager for Human Services to create a more user-friendly website, including a separate, more user-friendly webpage for the Cambridge Center for Families; and be it further

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