



ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Thursday, November 21, 2024

3:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

I. Call to Order

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Burhan Azeem	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:04 PM
Marc C. McGovern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sumbul Siddiqui	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paul F. Toner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ayesha M. Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:18 PM
Catherine Zusy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Denise Simmons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:15 PM

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council's Ordinance Committee was held on Thursday, November 21, 2024. The meeting was Called to Order at 3:00 p.m. by the Co-Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation. This public meeting was hybrid, allowing participation in person, in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and by remote participation via Zoom

At the request of the Co-Chair, Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent*

Vice Mayor McGovern – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Siddiqui – Absent

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Present/Remote

Councillor Toner – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Wilson – Absent*

Councillor Zusy – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Mayor Simmons – Absent*

Present – 5, Absent – 4. Quorum established.

*Councillor Azeem was present and remote at 3:04p.m.

*Councillor Wilson was present in the Sullivan Chamber at 3:18p.m.

*Mayor Simmons was present in the Sullivan Chamber at 3:15p.m.

Co-Chair McGovern offered opening remarks and noted that the Call of the meeting was to hold a public hearing on the City Council's Flexible Parking Corridor Zoning Petition, the Parking and Transportation Demand Management (PTDM) Municipal Ordinance and the Commercial

Parking Space Permits Municipal Ordinance. Present at the meeting were Brooke McKenna, Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Commissioner, Ryan McKinnon, Associate Transportation Planner, Stephanie Groll, PTDM Officer, Jeff Roberts, Director of Zoning and Development, Megan Bayer, City Solicitor, and Elliott Veloso, First Assistant City Solicitor.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Brooke McKenna, Stephanie Groll, Jeff Roberts, and Ryan McKinnon who gave a presentation titled “Proposed Flexible Parking Changes”, which was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet. During the presentation City staff were available to respond to clarifying questions from Committee members.

Co-Chair McGovern opened Public Comment.

Ethan Frank, 623 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA, provided comments on transportation and distance for those living and working in Cambridge.

Kristen Cheng, 10 Cowperthwaite Street, Cambridge, MA, offered concerns about these changes affecting more sustainable transportation.

Jason Alves, East Cambridge Business Association, spoke on the loss of parking and small businesses and offered support and for the changes.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who made a motion to close public comment.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Absent

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Yes

Yes- 8, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Co-Chair Toner who offered the suggestion that once these proposals move forward it will be important to communicate to lot owners so they are aware of this opportunity.

Co-Chair McGovern asked the team from the City what type of outreach is going to be conducted. Brooke McKenna shared that the Department is currently in the process of developing an outreach approach and wants to make these changes as clear as possible for people.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler who stressed the importance of being intentional when making PTDM changes so they will not hurt small businesses along the

corridors, but only help to benefit them. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler suggested that smaller lots should be treated differently than bigger garages. Stephanie Groll helped to clarify that there would be different levels within different scenarios under which lot owners would be able to use the parking flexibility. Brooke McKenna added that if the City requires PTDM measures for commercial parking, charging for parking would be the best PTDM measure.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Zusy who asked if there have been any conversations with lot owners and shared it would be important to be creative on bringing more parking along Broadway. Brooke McKenna shared that there has not been individual outreach to businesses, but there have been conversations with business associations who have heard from businesses that there is interest. Brooke McKenna agreed that Broadway is limited to what can be created related to parking, and that the intention of this moving forward is to help property owners make decisions about additional parking. Councillor Zusy asked if metered parking would be going in on side streets off of Broadway, which Brooke McKenna confirmed there would be.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who asked how the corridors were selected and why not allow it city-wide. Brooke McKenna explained that flexible corridors represent the network of separated bike lanes and designated bus priorities and explained why the corridors were also chosen based on the parking that has already been removed and anticipated to be removed in the future. Brooke McKenna offered additional information on how small businesses would be able to use the PTDM plan for Cambridge residents and for patrons from outside the City that would use parking. Councillor Nolan stressed the importance of helping small businesses and shared she was in favor of moving forward.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Wilson who asked if there was any information on how many spaces could become available with this program and how many licenses would be available once this language passed. Brooke McKenna shared the number of spaces all depend on how many private owners will take advantage of this opportunity and noted that there will be a maximum of 1400 licenses available to issue. Councillor Wilson asked if lot owners are able to come up with their own parking fees and if the City is able to monitor and put a max on fees so it stays reasonable. Brooke McKenna pointed out that the City will not play any role regarding fees and they will be based on decisions made by property owners. She noted that there is no way to regulate it. Councillor Wilson stressed the importance of helping small businesses and thinking about intentional ways the City can continue to help them during these changes. Stephanie Groll provided suggestions on how the City can help small businesses by researching different parking apps that may help them.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Zusy, Co-Chair Toner, and Councillor Nolan who all shared their support for this program to move forward. Councillor Nolan asked if homeowners would have the opportunity to rent out their driveways, which Elliott Veloso advised that the proposed amendments apply only to parking facilities.

Co-Chair McGovern asked if the City has looked at parking opportunities that are not on the current list of streets and have looked at neighboring streets to open more opportunities. Brooke

McKenna explained that when staff were working through changes, that option was discussed and considered, but it was decided to keep it within the corridors itself for now, and something that could be looked at again in the future.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who made a motion to forward the Flexible Parking Corridor Zoning Ordinance to amend Articles 2.000, 4.000, and 6.000 to add a definition of “Flexible Parking Corridor” to Article 2.000, add footnotes 64 and 65 to Section 4.30 Table of Use Regulations, and add Section 6.25 Flexible Parking Corridor Regulations, to the Full City Council with a favorable recommendation that it be passed to a second reading.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Absent

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Yes

Yes – 7, Absent – 2. Motion passed.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Co-Chair Toner who made a motion to forward the Parking and Transportation Demand Management (PTDM) Municipal Ordinance that reflects the changes proposed by City staff, to the Full City Council with a favorable recommendation that it be passed to a second reading.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Absent

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Yes

Yes – 7, Absent – 2. Motion passed.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who made a motion to forward the Commercial Parking Space Permits Municipal Ordinance that reflects changes by City staff to the Full City Council with a favorable recommendation that it be passed to a second reading.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Absent

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Yes
Councillor Zusy – Yes
Mayor Simmons – Yes
Yes – 7, Absent – 2. Motion passed.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Co-Chair Toner who made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Yes
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Siddiqui – Absent
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Yes
Councillor Zusy – Yes
Mayor Simmons – Yes
Yes – 7, Absent – 2. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:24p.m.

Clerk's Note: The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. This is a permanent record. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/906?view_id=1&redirect=true

II. Discussion

- 1. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to Flexible Parking Corridor Zoning Petition. ADOPTED AS A CITY COUNCIL ZONING PETITION AND REFERRED TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AND PLANNING BOARD IN COUNCIL OCTOBER 21, 2024.**
- 2. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to the Parking and Transportation Demand Management (PTDM) Municipal Ordinance. REFERRED TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL OCTOBER 21, 2024.**
- 3. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to the Commercial Parking Space Permits Municipal Ordinance. REFERRED TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL OCTOBER 21, 2024.**
- 4. A communication was received from Ryan McKinnon, Parking and Transportation Demand Management Planner, transmitting a presentation regarding proposed flexible parking changes.**