

MEETING	Special Regular City Council Meeting Friday, February 20, 2015 ATTLES Meeting Room, 459 Broadway
TIME	9:06 AM
PRESIDING OFFICER	Mayor David P. Maher
PRESENT	Mayor Maher, Vice Mayor Benzan, Councillors Carlone, Cheung, Kelley, Mazen, McGovern and Toomey.
ABSENT	Councillor Simmons
PRESENTATIONS	None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF MEDITATION

CALL OF THE MEETING

Mayor Maher read the call of the meeting as follows:
(HERE INSERT CALL OF THE MEETING)

Mayor Maher explained that due to the weather City Council meetings were cancelled and the City Council finds itself behind. He was concerned that waiting until Monday to hold this meeting because the City Council may be the same situation. He stated that he is beginning this meeting today and the meeting on Monday will be a continuation of this meeting. His intention was to conduct this meeting for three hours today. The public is invited to speak on any item on the agenda. This meeting will be recessed and the meeting will be reconvened on Monday at 5:30 PM. Regarding public comment he stated that any member of the public who did not speak today is welcome to speak on any item that has not had action taken on it on Monday. If an item has been acted upon the City Council will not be entertaining public comment on the matter. Many of the Policy Orders were on the agenda at the last regular meeting and were not acted upon and there was public comment on the Policy Orders at that time.

MAYOR ANNOUNCED THAT THE MEETING WAS BEING RECORDED WITH AUDIO AND VISUAL DEVICES.

SUBMISSION OF THE RECORD

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ginger Ryan, 35 Crescent Street, spoke on Policy Order #18. She stated her worries about the future she will bequeath her children by not dealing with the issue of climate change. She stated that the Keystone LX Pipeline is a project of TransCanada, the current supplier of the city's

municipal electricity. She stated that TransCanada has been extracting and transporting Tar Sand which is perhaps the dirtiest and carbon rich fossil fuel on the planet. She asked that the City of Cambridge take a moral stand by not renewing its contract with TransCanada. She stated that the City Council has the opportunity to take a significant step towards making a sustainable future for the children by voting to support this policy order.

Sue Donaldson, 187 Harvey Street, spoke on Policy Order #18. She stated that climate change is the most critical problem facing the society. It is clear that national and state government are not taking the steps that need to be taken. She stated that the people must rely on municipal and local efforts to move in the right direction. She stated that she hopes that the city will move towards renewable sources of energy.

Melissa Lutke, 30 Buena Vista Park, stated that her daughter worked in collaboration to make a quilt trying to show how an artist might envision what our life can be like if we can look at it in a sustainable way. That quilt is hanging in the Amigos School. She stated that she is trying to bring the message of climate control as a writer and activist. She stated that Cambridge made the NY Times today. An opinion piece in that publication stated that for those living here, it is not a pretty picture. This opinion piece stated that we are being devastated by a slow motion natural disaster of historic proportions. She stated that this is a catastrophe. She stated that we are using our abuse of fossil fuels. She stated that she would like to see the city become a leader.

Heather Hoffman, 213 Hurley Street, stated that the city needs need to remember the arts when thinking of STEAM. She stated her support for the park at the Volpe site. She stated that any new parkland that is in East Cambridge has to do with other developments. She stated that the 7.5 acres has to do with what was planned in ECAPS. To take the parkland away is to take away yet another piece of the bargain that was made with everyone at the table. She stated that she has seen that the developers are unwilling to live with the bargain that was made and the city has been eager to accommodate that. She said that the residents deserve better. She stated that as it relates to Bob and Janet Moses, a better tribute is to implement the Algebra project in our schools. Regarding the City Solicitor's opinion, the residents need to see that opinion in writing. She stated that she would like to see how the City Solicitor supports her opinion under state law. Regarding no turn on red, she stated that this was a Sue Clippinger project. She stated that when there was an accident on Third and Cambridge Streets it was due to a right turn on green. The death in Central Square was a right turn on green. With respect to zoning, she stated that she imagines the City Council saw the disrespectful and appalling letter that the Board of Zoning Appeal put in the Cambridge Chronicle. She stated her hope that the City Council will not stand to be treated in that way.

Sue Butler stated that she is active about introducing renewables. She asked for City Council support of Policy Order #18. She stated that her academic work is in judgment and decision making. She stated that she looks at when people make mistakes in judgment. She stated that the finding is that in a 50/50 circumstance, we generally get it pretty accurate. She stated that we need tools for climate change and that we must get onto renewables as soon as possible.

Carol O'Hare, 172 Magazine Street, stated that she is speaking on the policy order regarding variances granted by the Board of Zoning Appeal. She supports this idea. She added that she would like the City Council to request for information about not just the denials, grants and

withdrawals but also the continuances that are given. It is during this continuance process which is not re-advertised that the rubber hits the road very often. She noted that very few people attend the continuances although they are posted on the agenda. In those continuance proceedings, there are fewer people and fewer watchdogs and a lot goes on during those continuances. Regarding the letter by the Board of Zoning Appel to the Cambridge Chronicle, she stated that the letter completely ignores the fact that in 2010 there was a citywide attempt to amend zoning to allow corporate signs to be above the maximum current height. She stated that the Vice Chairman and Chairman think that the City Council should amend zoning. She pointed out that that zoning was originally to apply to business office and industrial zones. Those zones pared down because the business office did not want those branding signs even those the Vice Chairman objects to that term.

Sharon Devox, 118 Antrim Street, stated that she supports Policy Order #18. She stated her hope that the City can move towards 100% renewable energy. She stated that it would be great if Cambridge was an example to the rest of the country.

CONSENT AGENDA

- # 1A Order adopted 8 – 0 – 1 (Councillor Simmons)
- # 1B Order adopted 8 – 0 – 1 (Councillor Simmons)
- # 2 Referred to the petition
- # 4 Order adopted 8 – 0 – 1 (Councillor Simmons)
- # 5 Order adopted 8 – 0 – 1 (Councillor Simmons)
- # 7 Placed on file
- # 8 Placed on file
- # 9 Placed on file
- #10 Placed on file

NON CONSENT AGENDA

3 Here insert Agenda Number Three read by Mayor Maher. Councillor Carlone asked what a Soofa bench is. He stated that the City Council should know that this is. Ms. Farooq, Acting Assistant City Manager for Community Development, explained that Soofa benches are benches that have been developed at MIT Media Lab that has sparked a startup company. The benches contain a solar-powered charging station in the middle of the bench so that cell phones can be charged. The benches also have sensors and enable the collection of data about how much energy is being generated. There is also the capability to collect pollution data and vehicular and pedestrian traffic around the bench. There is also a future capability for an application that would allow access to this data. This allows the City to provide an amenity and to move forward in our goals to have better information and data and to customize things moving forward.

Councillor Cheung stated that this is exactly what the City likes to see. This company consists of three women entrepreneurs. This is an example of engaging the universities and entrepreneurs. This is a great initiative. This is an example of getting women entrepreneurs into the STEM field.

Mr. Rossi explained that the City is attempting to install these in high traffic areas.

Councillor McGovern spoke about the issue of access to technology and those who do not have access. In relation to the location he requested that the City be mindful of who could best use

this technology. Ms. Farooq stated that the locations have not been pinpointed as yet. She further stated that Community Development, Public Works and the Electrical Departments will all be working with Soofa to identify the best high traffic locations and areas of broad access such as the squares. She informed the City Council that there are ten benches in this pilot program.

Mayor Maher moved the following order, the question being on adoption, to wit:
(HERE INSERT APPROPRIATION ORDER FOR AGENDA THREE)

The question now came on adoption of the order and the roll was called and resulted as follows:

YEAS:	Vice Mayor Benzan, Councillors Carlone, Cheung, Kelley, Mazen, McGovern, Toomey and Mayor Maher	- 8
NAYS:	None	- 0
ABSENT:	Councillor Simmons	- 1

and the order was –

Adopted.

6 Here insert Agenda Number Six read by Mayor Maher. Councillor Carlone thanked the staff and former City Councillors who have worked on this. This will be discussed at the Ordinance Committee.

Councillor McGovern asked if amendment four would exempt take out bags from restaurants. Commissioner O’Riordan stated that take out bags would be exempt in this point in time. This is up to the City Council if they want to vote for this or against it. Councillor McGovern stated that take out bags for restaurants need to be included in the ordinance. He commented that no one uses these bags more than once. He stated that he would not be supporting this amendment.

6 Referred to Calendar Item Twelve on a voice vote.

SNOW REMOVAL

Councillor Toomey acknowledged the extraordinary response by the Mayor and his staff and the City Administration to the weather conditions over the past couple of weeks. All departments are working cooperatively. Issues are being addressed and telephone calls are being returned. He requested the City Manager to comment on the situation and in particular to address making some streets in East Cambridge one-way until April.

City Manager Rossi noted that he was impressed with the work done by the City’s workforce. He acknowledged Public Works, Police, Fire, Traffic, Water, Electrical, Human Services and Inspectional Services Departments for their work. These employees have worked around the clock for seven days a week to get this job done. He thanked the residents for their patience and support. He also thanked the business community and the institutions for being helpful and supportive. The City will continue to focus on hazards in the public way. The main thoroughfares will remain the focus so that emergency vehicles, trucks and busses are able to function. Then the focus was shifted to the secondary streets and the dead end streets in the

City where snow was hauled out. He stated that the cost of snow removal in previous bad winters has been about \$1.5 million, but he estimates that this year it will be around \$5 million. The efforts will continue. It has been set up for the workers to have time to rest. He noted that regular work, such as trash is ongoing. He informed that the City Council that a list is being kept of correspondence or e-mails and they are being prioritized. They will continue to be worked on until all issues are solved. He stated that the idea of the one-way streets he hopes will be a bonus for the community and help with the problem. He asked Commissioner O’Riordan to address the one-way streets. Commissioner O’Riordan responded that the ability to achieve emergency access was maximized. Next issue addressed is public safety, access and the ability of people to use public transportation and bicycle use. Due to the current weather conditions these priorities changed. He stated that some streets are not traversable for two way traffic. There have been situations where cars and trucks have had to back down a street to let traffic through. This was acute in East Cambridge. There is a learning process with this and Public Works is working with the Police Department and the neighborhood association to ensure they understand what is being tried to achieve. A concern was that children could get to school safety and that disembarking busses would be done safely. The School Department is working with the City departments to achieve this. This set out the streets that will be one-way until April. Additional streets in Cambridgeport and North Cambridge are being considered to become one-way streets.

Mr. Rossi stated that the City will see an increase in the number of potholes. He encouraged notification of the location of large potholes by the public. A list of location of potholes will be maintained. A plan will be developed to address and fill the potholes. He stated that there are some properties that are not the responsibility of the City; they are state properties. The City has received complaints about these properties. He stated that to the extent that the City can maintain these properties it will. The City does report these properties to the State. The City has dealt with the Parkway and the bridge at Fresh Pond and Memorial Drive. He stated that this is an additional extra burden for the City and the employees.

Councillor Toomey requested that the catch basins be cleaned with the rain coming. Mr. Rossi stated that the City asks residents to help with clearing hydrants and catch basins. He added that the Fire Chief is constantly evaluating City streets to ensure that emergency vehicles have access.

Councillor Cheung expressed his appreciation to City staff for their work. He stated that the residents understand that this is an historic amount of snow. This is the new normal. He stated that all the communities are vying for the same contractor services. He felt that Cambridge is doing a better job than the surrounding communities. He suggested sending an alert to residents to check their roofs for ice and ice dams which could be problematic. He urged residents to support their local businesses during this difficult time.

Mr. Rossi stated his appreciation and thanks to the local garages for letting residents park free or at reduced rates.

Councillor Carlone spoke about the one-way streets in East Cambridge and stated that there was a one-way system proposal for East Cambridge from Community Development and Traffic in the 1980. He suggested reviewing this proposal. Councillor Toomey added that the East Cambridge Planning Team did address this a few years ago.

Vice Mayor Benzan stated that it was incredibly helpful the “Tweets” that were sent out by Mr. Gianetti. He stated that the business community has been severely impacted this winter. He stated that many businesses are experiencing financial difficulties. He urged all to support local businesses. He spoke about snow removal scams. He asked if the City is aware that residents are being charged astronomical prices for removing snow from roofs. Mr. Rossi stated that the City does not recommend contractors to residents. There are lists at Inspectional Services Department of licensed bonded contractors. Vice Mayor Benzan asked about the City policy regarding handicapped parking spaces. He asked whose responsibility it is to clear the handicapped spaces. He noted that the snow banks are high on the corners and there are no openings for handicapped persons. Commissioner O’Riordan stated that the City has a list of people with medical needs and the City addresses these as priority areas. He stated that the City’s policy on handicapped parking spaces is that snow is removed from handicapped spaces around public buildings. The City does not clear handicapped parking spaces beyond this. This is a burden on the people who use these spaces. The City does not have the resources to clear these spaces. It is a challenge for the City to clear snow between parked cars. Vice Mayor Benzan asked Commissioner O’Riordan if he encourages residents to clear off their cars or leave them covered by snow. Commissioner O’Riordan stated that where cars impede emergency vehicle access the City will seek to identify the owner of the vehicle and ask the owner to remove the vehicle or the City will remove the vehicle. He further stated that if the vehicle owner has a resident parking sticker and is legally parked they can have 7-8 feet of snow on their vehicle. It only becomes an issue if there is a problem with emergency access. Mr. Rossi explained that the City has a process where due to a resident’s age, disability or income they can register on an exemption list. Currently there are 80 registered on this exemption list and the City clears the sidewalk and the parking space for those registered on the exemption list. This is done through the Council on Aging and is listed on the website. The City also works with the Housing Authority.

Councillor Cheung asked what Cambridge is telling residents about the space saver policy. Mr. Rossi stated that this is not a priority.

Councillor McGovern spoke about the handicapped parking spaces. He stated that the need for a handicapped parking spot makes it more difficult to shovel the space. He stated that he has noticed that the contractors are plowing snow in handicapped spaces or open spaces. He wanted this issue reviewed by the City. Mr. Rossi stated that the priority is clearing major streets. He stated that as snow is clear there may be a way to provide temporary handicapped spots until the snow is removed. It would be an impossible task to clear snow from every handicapped parking space in the City. Councillor Carlone stated that he agreed that on a residential street the residents should clear the handicapped parking space. This issue becomes more complex when this is on Massachusetts Avenue or Cambridge Street. He noted that possibly a church, university or business association should be responsible to clear handicapped parking spaces located in their vicinity. Councillor Carlone stated that he was under the impression that cars had to be cleared within three days in the 1980. Mr. Rossi was unsure of this regulation. He stated that some residents organize themselves by streets and ask the City to remove the snow so that they can park. The City is willing to do things like this to work with the community. He stated that the City will have a debriefing after this to review all the suggestions.

Councillor Kelley stated that he too was under the impression that cars needed to be moved within three days. He commented that people are using space savers anyway and maybe the City may want to rethink its attitude toward space savers. He suggested selling space saver permits for \$100.

Councillor Toomey commented that handicapped parking spaces are to be used by anyone who is handicapped.

Mayor Maher expressed his gratitude to the City Administration and the City departments for their work. He expressed his hope that at the end of this that the City takes the time to debrief and learn from this situation. He stated that there are streets in West Cambridge that are difficult to navigate, such as Lexington Avenue, Upper Lexington Avenue, Royal Avenue, Appleton Street and Park Avenue. These streets are too tight for two-way traffic. A mistake occurred when the emergency route was eliminated from Huron Avenue. He stated that Huron Avenue is a mess. He stated that the streets in the City were laid out well over 100 years ago. The City should probably look at more one-way streets in the City. He stated that on Highland Street there is no way two cars can get by. Mr. Rossi commented that with all the snow bound cars that have not been moved how much reliance is on the use of the cars.

CALENDAR

1 – 13 No action taken on February 20, 2015.

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1 Order adopted on a voice vote of eight members on a motion by Councillor Toomey.

CONSENT COMMUNICATIONS

1 – 37 Placed on file on motion of Councillor Toomey on February 20, 2015

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

1 – 24 All consent resolutions were adopted and made unanimously sponsored.

NON CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

#25 Here insert Resolution # 25 read by Mayor Maher. Councillor Cheung commented on the retirement of Bob Hurlbut from the Cambridge Community Foundation.
#25 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members and was unanimously sponsored.

CONSENT POLICY ORDERS

1 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
2 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
5 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

- # 6 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #12 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #13 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #14 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #16 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #17 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #22 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #23 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #28 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #30 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #31 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #32 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #33 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #34 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #35 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #38 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #39 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #41 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #42 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #43 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #44 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #45 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- #46 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- # 1 Report accepted and placed on file on motion of Vice Mayor Benzan.
- # 2 Report accepted and placed on file.
In connection with this matter Councillor Mazen submitted the following order, the question being on adoption, to wit:
(HERE COPY POLICY ORDER #47)
Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- # 3 Councillor Carlone stated that both the Ordinance Committee and Planning Board urged the parties to meet to resolve the issues. He stated that he and Councillor Cheung have attended design review and progress has been made.
Report accepted and placed on file.
In connection with this matter Councillor Mazen submitted the following order, the question being on adoption, to wit:
(HERE COPY POLICY ORDER #48)
Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
- # 4 Report accepted, placed on file and referred to the petition on motion of Vice Mayor Benzan.
- # 5 Report accepted and placed on file on motion of Councillor McGovern.
In connection with this matter Councillor McGovern submitted the following order, the question being on adoption, to wit:

(HERE INSERT POLICY ORDER #49)

Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

6

Here insert Committee Report # 6 read by Mayor Maher.

Councillor Kelley stated that there are more important matters to be considered than publicly funded elections. He commented that he failed to see what problem this would solve. He does not know why this is being discussed. He stated that there may be a reason for this but the reason was not made at the committee. He stated that "clean elections" is the wrong term. He felt that this is a distraction from substantive issues. He stated that he would be voting in the negative on this matter.

In connection with this matter Councillor McGovern submitted the following order, the question being on adoption, to wit:

(HERE COPY POLICY ORDER # 50)

Vice Mayor Benzan asked Councillor Toomey if during the hearing there was a discussion about any organizations.

Councillor McGovern responded that there were some organization present at the hearing. The committee did not want to name any organizations for the City to partner with, therefore no particular organization was named.

Councillor Kelley again stated that he did not understand that there was a problem in Cambridge that this Policy Order would solve. He stated that he would rather not send this to the City Manager to work on. He stated that he did not see the need for this. No evidence was presented that there are bad things happening in Cambridge because of the way that elections are financed. He did not want the City Manager spending time on this when the City Council is asked him to do many other things that are more important.

Councillor Carlone stated that he would encourage the City Council to vote in the affirmative on this largely because of perception and questioning by the public. He stated that nationally this is a big issue. He stated that if the City Council votes against this it seems that there is a fear of what it might indicate. He explained that a number of people have brought this issue up to him. He hopes that the City Council sees the wisdom in at least investigating this at a preliminary level.

Councillor McGovern stated that he has no objections to looking into this and seeing if there are things that can be done better. He stated that there is a perception in the community that City Councillors get money from some people. This allegation has almost been slander. He stated that publicly whether he disagrees with his colleagues on a particular issue in the nine years he has been in elected office he has never seen any elected official do anything that is corrupt. He stated that the City Council has to be very careful about feeding into the perception that City Councillors are being bought off. Every candidate gets donations from many people who feel that the candidate represent what they want. It does not hurt to look into the issue, but does not feel that there is corruption. It is unfortunate that there are people in the community who continue to perpetuate this.

Councillor Toomey stated that he is not afraid to have clean elections brought into Cambridge. He stated that he runs on his record as do his colleagues. He explained that anyone has the right to run for elected office. They need fifty signatures to run for City Council and identify 10% of the vote to be elected. This is not a wise investment of public funds where there are so many issues before us today. He stated that nowhere has it been identified how this will be funded or how much each potential candidate would receive. He stated that he still has a deficit in his campaign account. He believes in serving the public. It is hard work being out in the community. To play into this because there is perception that elected officials are beholden to special interest is wrong. He stated that there will be an astounding report coming out about the students who have graduated from the high school who have graduated from college. He suggested that the City Council prioritize what is needed to be accomplished.

Councillor Cheung stated that he is in favor of financed elections but felt that his colleagues brought up good points. He stated that he has not seen corruption that has been talked about in his time on the City Council. This maybe an acute problem in some cities and towns and at the federal level, but he does not see it as a problem in Cambridge. He commented that the City Council has not decided where the issue is going and are asking the City Manager to look into this. He supports publicly funded elections but felt that the City Council should get to a point where they will vote on this and we are asking the City Manager to implement this. If this is not passed by the City Council then the City Manager has been asked to do work that maybe unnecessary. He suggested that this matter be referred back to the committee for more discussion and to see if there is more consensus with the City Council before the City Manager is requested to work on this. This may need more work.

Councillor Carlone commented that the Policy Order does not say anything about corruption; it asks for investigation into what free elections mean. There is perception and this is a movement across the country that people in Cambridge have asked about. This is not a lot of extra work. There were two groups at the hearing who were offering their help on this. There is no request for a detailed report. It is to look into the subject.

Councillor Kelley took offense that he is afraid of big money. He stated that he spent \$5,000 on his campaign last time. He is not afraid of big money. He stated that if this something that requires a couple hours of good work then a City Council assistant could do this work; not City staff. He stated that the City Manager has a lot on his plate and the City is paying for research assistants so use them to do this research. Then come back to the City Council with ideas after this has been fleshed out. Then there can be a discussion on whether this is worth the City Manager's time.

Councillor Toomey stated that School Committee Member Fred Fantini spends \$100 on his campaign and he tops the ticket every election.

Councillor Cheung made a motion that the Mayor schedule a roundtable/working meeting on this matter because it is a larger discussion. No action was taken on this motion.

Mayor Maher stated that he agreed with Councillor Kelley on this. The City Council needs to be more selective of what it sends to the City Manager. The City staff is overburdened with requests from the City Council. He stated that he does see this as a big issue. He stated that that the Mayor of Boston, in a non-election year, raise \$1.6 million. He stated

that there are many people who think that the development that is happening in greater Boston is happening in Cambridge. The top fund raiser, in this non-election year, in Cambridge raised a little more than \$30,000. There is no comparison whatsoever. He stated that there is a tiny group of people who are feeding into this. He felt that the City Council should just say no to this issue today. This is a state-wide issue; not a City of Cambridge issue.

Vice Mayor Benzan moved to place the Policy Order on the table.

Councillor Toomey stated that he would vote against placing this on the table. He commented that there are many items that have been placed on the table. The City Council has to make a decision to either vote for or against an issue.

Vice Mayor Benzan withdrew his motion to place the matter on the table.

The question now came on adoption of Policy Order # 50 and the roll was called and resulted as follows:

YEAS:	Councillors Carlone, Mazen and McGovern	- 3
NAYS:	Councillors Cheung, Kelley, Toomey and Mayor Maher	- 4
ABSENT:	Councillor Simmons	- 1
PRESENT:	Vice Mayor Benzan	- 1

and the order –

Failed of adoption.

Reconsideration was filed by Councillor Mazen on this matter.

Report accepted and placed on file.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

- # 1 Referred to the petition.
- # 2 Placed on file.

NON CONSENT POLICY ORDERS

2 Here insert Policy Order # 2 read by Mayor Maher. Mayor Maher explained that there has been notification from the Cambridge Housing Authority of the shutdown of the housing list. This will be a shock and affect the most vulnerable people in the community. Previously there were people at the Multi Service Center who worked with people who were in a crisis on housing issues. These jobs were eliminated. He is asked that these jobs be reviewed as people have to look to other communities for housing to get on lists elsewhere.

2 Order adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

3 Removed by Councillor Mazen. No action taken on February 20, 2015.

4 Removed by Councillor Mazen. No action taken on February 20, 2015.

7 Removed by Councillor Mazen. No action taken on February 20, 2015.

8 Here insert Policy Order # 8 read by Mayor Maher. Councillor McGovern stated that this stemmed from an Ordinance Committee meeting where the City Council was presented with detailed information from the Community Development Department at the meeting. It was difficult to look at the information and to evaluate it for discussion. He felt that if there were going to be a discussion at a committee meeting or roundtable/working meeting that the information be presented to the City Council in advance of the meeting to allow the City Council to review the information and to have a more detailed discussion. It would be more effective if the information was received in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Carlone stated that he agreed with Councillor McGovern. He stated that zoning is complicated. He explained if the City Council get their books ahead of the City Council meeting it is assumed that zoning proposals and other information should be received at least three days ahead of the meeting. He explained that he had mentioned this to Community Development Department previously and it made no difference.

Councillor Cheung agreed with the sentiment but felt that this may not be feasible with the work load of the City Administration.

Councillor McGovern stated that he would refer this to the City Manager on the feasibility of the motion. Councillor Carlone agreed with the referral. He stated that if the City Council is voting on zoning and the petitioner wants to move as quickly as possible it is not efficient to say that the recommendations were just received and how can we possible vote on it. This is bad business and unprofessional.

8 Referred to the City Manager for feasibility on a voice vote on the motion by Councillor McGovern.

9 Here insert Policy Order # 9 read by Mayor Maher. Councillor Cheung stated that he has visited the Somerville Community Development Department. There are massive amounts of development going on in Somerville. The Cambridge and Somerville Community Development Department do meet and the way the order is crafted suggests that this is not the case. He suggested that this Policy Order be discussed on February 23, 2015 at the reconvened meeting.

Councillor McGovern stated that Policy Order #4 is similar and Councillor Mazon requested it be discussed on February 23, 2015. The Policy Orders are slightly different and could be brought up simultaneously on February 23, 2015.

Councillor Toomey requested that the makers of the motions present their thoughts on the regionalization issue. He does not understand what regionalization means. Councillor McGovern explained what was meant including affordable housing and environmental concerns. He spoke about all the communities that are affected by the MBTA. If these communities got together as group and all advocate for the same thing it is a better opportunity for the communities. Affordable housing is not just a Cambridge need. If all elected officials presented a unified front to the state representatives to receive services. Mayor Maher stated that it would be important to hear from the City Manager about the efforts that are being taken to meet with local communities. Councillor McGovern stated that if this is happening it is

not filtering down to elected officials. He wanted to ensure that this communication is happening and the information is being shared.

9 No action taken on February 20, 2015. Referred to February 23, 2015.

#10 Here insert Policy Order #10 read by Mayor Maher. Councillor Toomey stated that he would be voting against this. He stated that he did not understand how this position would work. He explained that for forty years the Community Development Department has provided help and guidance through the process to the East Cambridge Planning Team. This position will affect the City's budget for \$100,000 and there is more pressing needs that need attention. He would rather see this money go toward helping the Multi Service Center. This is geared toward one particular area of the City. He stated that there are talented City Council aides who should be working with these neighborhood groups and assisting in this process. This position will create conflict.

Councillor McGovern stated what he thought an ombudsman position was. This is not an advocate. This is for someone in the community who feels that they were mistreated. This is an impartial person who will help mediate a resolution. This raises questions about the boards and commissions and who is responsible for what. He stated that if his aide gets a complaint and calls the head of a commission and states she wants to mediate the dispute. The commission will not take this call; this is not the job of the City Council aide. He stated that there is a need for the conversation of where one goes when they have a complaint.

Councillor Mazen stated that there is a feeling that there is a need for a worthy discussion about this position. He stated that there are many win-win situation that may have been worked out. There is always the situation of trying to help people who cannot be helped. He did not see the interface with the position of an ombudsman with residents on one hand and the City on the other hand as a complex mediation. It is straight forward to understand the concerns of all.

Councillor Kelley moved that this be referred to Government Operations, Rules and Claims Committee because there are a variety of ideas on this issue.

Councillor Cheung stated that he is fine with having the discussion in the committee. He stated that he viewed this as an advocate or a mediator. He stated that he sends letters to the Board of Zoning Appeal and the Planning Board. He does not feel it appropriate for his aide to file these letters on his behalf because there is a separation of powers. He used a situation where a group of residents are concerned about a development and the petitioner is before the Board of Zoning Appeal or the Planning Board with legal representation and this position may help the residents speak with one voice. An advocate could present a cohesive argument to the permitting authority. He used the East Cambridge Planning Team as an example of what all neighborhood associations should be, but this is not the reality. He wanted to have a clear picture of both sides of an issue.

Councillor Toomey stated that he was hoping that there was no suggestion that the City pay \$400,000 to settle where loading zone are on Massachusetts Avenue. He had concerns with what would be the duties of this position. If residents have issues they go to the

City Council. He does not see the role of this position defined. He expressed his concerns for the money for this position being spent when there are so many other needs in this community.

Councillor Mazen commented that the City Council is dominated by development decision making. He stated that anything that the City Council could do to not be involved in places where they are not experts and to have someone to provide the needed help would be welcomed. He stated that the extra manpower and knowledge that this salaried position would provide is needed. He felt that this did not need to go to committee but rather that it be a conversation with the City Manager post voting on this. The City Manager can tell the City Council how he feels. He felt that there was no need for a discussion on whether to approve this.

Councillor Toomey stated that the combined benefits for a City Councillor and the Aides is about \$200,000. This work is the responsibility of the City Council and their staff with the amount of money that the taxpayers spend on these positions. This is sufficient to address the issues raised.

Vice Mayor Benzan commented that the City Council are duly elected to represent the neighborhoods. If there is a problem with not enough Cambridge residents being part of a process then the City Council needs to engage the community more in the process. He stated that this is not a spending priority of the City Council. He spoke about priorities such as affordable housing, clean streets and having the best schools in the Commonwealth. He raised the issue of how a resolution is made binding. He asked how you select a person with the scope of work unbiased that is in the best interest of the City. It is the job of the City Council to ensure that the residents of the City are properly represented. He felt that this is a huge waste of money. The priority of the City Council should be the number one issue facing the City which is housing and he does not see how voting on this takes us in that direction.

Councillor Carlone stated that he supported the policy order. There are people at Community Development Department now who could fill this role and it is currently done in an unofficial way. This could be a part time position. This is an attempt to take away frustration from residents and businesses.

Councillor Cheung urged voting on the matter.

Councillor Mazen agreed that it is the job of the City Council to reach out to the community. As a City Council community outreach could be better and the volume of need in today's world is incredible. He stated that the process of community outreach and engagement is necessary.

10 Charter right exercised by Councillor McGovern.

#11 Here insert Original Policy Order #11 read by Mayor Maher. Councillor Cheung wanted to know the impact on the staff workload before this information was requested. Mayor Maher suggested adding that the City Manager look into the feasibility of the report to the policy order.

The question now came on the amendment – and on a voice vote the

amendment –

Carried.

The question now came on the adoption of the order as amended which reads as follows:

(HERE COPY AMENDED ORDER # 11)

The order was –

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of eight members.

#15 Here insert Original Policy Order #15 read by Mayor Maher. Councillor Cheung Spoke about the number of boards and commissions and the disparity between the resources of some boards and commissions. There may be a rationale to consolidate some boards and commissions which in the aggregate would be more resources with less expenditure and staff overhead. At this time Councillor Cheung made the following amendment:

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council regarding the feasibility of consolidating the boards and commissions.

Councillor Mazen stated that the City Manager is thinking about consolidation of the boards and commissions. He stated that when the consolidations occur he wanted to discuss with his colleagues before the consolidations are executed.

The question now came on the amendment offered by Councillor Cheung – and on a voice vote the amendment –

Carried.

The question now came on adoption of the order as amended which reads as follows:

(HERE COPY AMENDED ORDER #15)

The order was –

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of eight members.

#18 Here insert Original Policy Order #18 read by Mayor Maher. Councillor Carlone spoke about Mothers Out Front who will attend a Transportation and Public Utilities meeting to present their presentation which is powerful. The cost for renewable energy is now \$6.00 more a month. The cost would be minimal if the whole City purchased renewable energy. The rate could be prorated for low income families. He stated that the policy order is asking that the City investigate this and not obtain electricity from TransCanada. There are more options.

Councillor Cheung commented that a previous committee meeting held by former City Councillor vanBeuzekom the report contained what a renewable mix was. At this meeting there was a discussion about doing a municipal purchasing agreement. It was stated that the most appropriate time to do this was when the municipal contract was coming up for renewal which is at the end of this year. He made a motion to amend the policy as follows:

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the feasibility of a municipal purchasing agreement.

The question now came on the amendment – and on a voice vote the amendment –

Carried.

The question now came on adoption of the order as amended, which reads as follows:

(HERE INSERT AMENDED ORDER #18)

The order was –

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of eight members.

#19 Here insert Policy Order #19 read by Mayor Maher. Councillor Carlone stated that the policy order stated facilities when it should say collection.

Councillor Cheung explained that compostable diaper collection may not be suitable at City Hall. Councillor Carlone stated that the policy order was for food waste. Councillor Cheung stated that he felt it would not be sanitary to have a composting collection inside City Hall. Councillor Carlone stated that this is the program presently operating in North Cambridge. He is expanding it to public buildings.

Councillor Mazen explained that the way a composting system works is like garbage processing. These are materials that would otherwise go into the trash. He stated that he felt the language of inside is not an issue. This is composting food waste. This is the bin next to the recycling bin. Councillor Carlone stated that this is replicating the North Cambridge program. Councillor Cheung asked if this is the waste generated by City employees or is the public going to come into City buildings to drop off waste. Mayor Maher commented that this is about the feasibility of this. The motion was amended for the third paragraph to read as follows:

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with all relevant City staff to explore the potential for replicating the City's food collection composting program which has been piloted in North Cambridge in City buildings.

The question now came on the amendment – and on a voice vote the amendment – Carried.

The question now came on adoption of the order as amended which reads as follows:

(HERE INSERT AMENDED ORDER #19)

The order was –

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of eight members.

#20 Here insert Original Policy Order #20 read by Mayor Maher. Councillor Cheung asked if the Smart Data was discussed with City departments. Councillor Carlone responded that major cities are doing this now. He stated that Boston is doing this now. This is another source of information. He felt that this would make sense for Cambridge. This may be confirmation of information that the City already has.

Vice Mayor Benzan suggested that this matter be referred to a joint committee of the Economic Development and University Relations Committee, the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebration Committee and the Transportation and Public Utilities Committee. He stated that the City Council needs to have this conversation to

understand these Ride Share services. He spoke of the fee disparity between the ride share entities and the taxi industry and the use of new technology. Councillor Carlone stated that this policy order was about using available information and look into the feasibility of this matter. The intent was for problem areas. He agreed with having a meeting on the regulation issues.

Councillor Mazen stated that Uber and Lyft are not ride share; they are livery services. He felt that there should be a standardization of the practices.

Mayor Maher commented that as policy makers the City Council has a responsibility to the taxi industry. Many people of moderate income have mortgaged their homes to purchase taxi medallions which can cost up to \$500,000. He explained that as a municipality there is a responsibility to help this industry retool. There are 250 medallions in the City with several hundred cab drivers with a changing industry. The City needs to help these individuals through an ever changing market. Uber and Lyft are unregulated companies and the cab industry is heavily regulated. He stated that 70% of taxi cabs accept credit cards. The remainder need help to get to this point. He noted that the industry needs to be regulated regionally.

Vice Mayor Benzan commented that the taxi cab industry is hurting. He felt that all experts need to be brought together to discuss this issue. He noted that because Uber drivers are not considered livery drivers they are not subject to fingerprinting. This is a gap how business is done in the City. We need to understand the nature of help that is needed by the taxi cab industry. He felt it would be more efficient to conduct a joint committee hearing to better understand the services provided and the impact on the taxi industry.

Councillor Carlone stated that it is two different issues. One is asking for information; the other is the industry.

Councillor Mazen stated that the policy order is asking for data from services of Uber and Lyft. It is important to create parity between livery services and the taxi cab industry. He stated that the position does not have to be antagonistic towards these new services. He stated that many taxi drivers are in a socio-economic disadvantaged position and are in financial peril with the purchase of a medallion. However, most medallion owners are wealthier and more privileged persons and have created an industry bubble with inflated prices. This is not due to Uber and Lyft. This system was not working.

The question now came on the amendment to refer this to the Economic Development and University Relations Committee, the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebration Committee and the Transportation and Public Utilities Committee to include a discussion on the regulations.

The question now came on the amendment – and on a voice vote the amendment – Carried on a voice vote of seven. Councillor Carlone was recorded in the negative.

The question now came on adoption of the order was amended which reads as follows:
(HERE COPY AMENDED ORDER #20)

The order was –

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of seven members.

Councillor Carlone was recorded in the negative on this matter.

- #21 Removed by Councillor Carlone. No action taken on February 20, 2015.
- #24 Removed by Councillor Mazen. No action taken on February 20, 2015.
- #25 Removed by Councillor Cheung. No action taken on February 20, 2015.
- #26 Removed by Councillor Mazen. No action taken on February 20, 2015.
- #27 Removed by Councillor Mazen. No action taken on February 20, 2015.
- #29 Removed by Councillor McGovern. No action taken on February 20, 2015.
- #36 Removed by Councillor Mazen. No action taken on February 20, 2015.
- #37 Removed by Councillor Mazen. No action taken on February 20, 2015.
- #40 Mayor Maher announced that Councillor Cheung notified him that he was withdrawing the Policy Order.

RECESS

At 12:17 PM Mayor Maher made a motion to recess the meeting until Monday, February 23, 2015 at 5:30.

The motion carried on a voice vote.

A list of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

City Manager's Agenda
City Council Agenda
CD of meeting