



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA • APRIL 27, 2026

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Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30 PM

Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

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## I. ROLL CALL

## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## III. SUBMISSION OF THE RECORD

## IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

## HEARING SCHEDULE

Hearing Schedule

## V. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to submission of the FY2027 budget and appropriation orders for the General Fund, Water Fund, and Public Investment Fund.

**CMA 2026-93**

2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$10,000,000.00 to provide funds for the design and construction of improvements along Massachusetts Avenue and vicinity between Bigelow Street and Sinden Street

**CMA 2026-95**

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$13,000,000 to provide funds for the reconstruction of various City streets and sidewalks.

**CMA 2026-96**

4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$12,000,000 to provide funds to replace and modernize the City's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

**CMA 2026-98**

5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$14,000,000 to provide funds for remediation and improvements at Gold Star Mothers Park.

**CMA 2026-99**

6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$28,500,000 to provide funds for the Municipal Facilities Improvement Plan.

**CMA 2026-100**

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$12,795,000 to provide funds for financing school building upgrades.

**CMA 2026-101**

8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$8,375,000 to provide funds for the design and construction of surface enhancements and sewer and drainage infrastructure improvements in the Baldwin neighborhood.

**CMA 2026-102**

9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$500,000 to provide funds for the City's Climate Change Program to improve protection against flooding and extreme heat.

**CMA 2026-103**

10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$7,500,000 to provide funds for the sewer Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program.

**CMA 2026-104**

11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$1,000,000 to provide funds for design and construction of the Harvard Square sewer separation and stormwater management program.

**CMA 2026-105**

12. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$310,000 to provide funds for the replacement of Ozone generators at the Water Department.

**CMA 2026-106**

13. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$2,000,000 to provide funds for water works construction projects for repairs and replacement of water distribution infrastructure.

**CMA 2026-107**

14. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 26-20 regarding a report on major capital initiatives at or above \$15,000,000 for the period from FY21 to FY26.

**CMA 2026-91**

15. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a response to Awaiting Report Item Number 26-23 regarding the Cambridge Preschool Program.

**CMA 2026-92**

16. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the re-appointments for the Cambridge Library Board of Trustees.

**CMA 2026-94**

17. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Family Policy Council appointment and reappointment.

**CMA 2026-97**

18. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of Fiqir Worku to the Human Rights Commission.

**CMA 2026-114**

19. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Peace Commission Appointments.

**CMA 2026-117**

20. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the FY26 Mass Cultural Council Cultural Investment Portfolio grant made by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) in the amount of \$1,100 to the Grant Fund Arts Council salaries and wages account.

**CMA 2026-108**

21. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$5,000 to the Grant Fund Arts Council Other Ordinary Maintenance account.

**CMA 2026-109**

22. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Shannon Grant received from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition/Shannon Community Safety Initiative through the Executive Office of Public Safety in the amount of \$29,376.89 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$28,800.00) and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$576.89).

**CMA 2026-110**

23. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Mass Ave Active Use zoning petition.

**CMA 2026-112**

24. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Cambridge Street Active Use zoning petition.

**CMA 2026-113**

25. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Surveillance Technology Impact Report (STIR) for SMS Non-Emergency Alert Notifications requested by the Cambridge Police Department.

**CMA 2026-111**

**VI. POLICY ORDERS**

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1. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council within ninety (90) with a brief written update describing: (a) the updates made to succession-planning and employee-ownership materials; (b) the status of the worker-cooperative technical-assistance referral pipeline; (c) any guidance issued or planned regarding below-threshold quote-seeking from worker-owned cooperatives and related vendor-outreach steps; and (d) any additional low-cost, staff-feasible next steps the City Manager recommends for expanding support for worker-owned cooperatives in Cambridge.

**COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI  
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER  
MAYOR SIDDIQUI  
COUNCILLOR NOLAN**

**POR 2026-78**

2. That the City Council go on record endorsing the May Day Strong national day of action on May 1, 2026, as an expression of Cambridge’s support for workers’ rights, economic justice, and the tradition of peaceful civic engagement.

**COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI  
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER  
MAYOR SIDDIQUI  
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN**

**POR 2026-79**

3. That the City Council encourage MassDOT to implement infrastructure improvements to the Museum Way and Charles River Dam Road intersection.

**COUNCILLOR ZUSY  
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER  
COUNCILLOR NOLAN  
VICE MAYOR AZEEM**

**POR 2026-80**

4. That the City Manager is requested to direct appropriate departments to develop an accessible “Neighbors’ Guide to the MFH Ordinance.”

**COUNCILLOR ZUSY  
COUNCILLOR NOLAN  
MAYOR SIDDIQUI  
COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY**

**POR 2026-81**

5. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant staff to explore options for commissioning a housing needs study through a qualified research institution, to establish a clear evidence-based understanding of existing housing conditions, resident needs, and measurable housing goals to guide future decision-making.

**COUNCILLOR ZUSY  
MAYOR SIDDIQUI  
COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY**

**POR 2026-82**

## **VII. CALENDAR**

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### **CHARTER RIGHT**

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Cambridge Department of Transportation (CDOT) and any other relevant departments to halt any further design, engineering, procurement, or construction activities related to implementing a reconfiguration of Garden Street to restore two-way motor-vehicle traffic.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY  
IN COUNCIL APRIL 13, 2026**

**POR 2026-76**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Chapter 2.129 Welcoming Community Ordinance  
PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MARCH 30, 2026  
ELIGIBLE TO BE ORDAINED APRIL 20, 2026  
**ORD 2026-03**

## **VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

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1. Communications for April 27, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting.

**COM 2026-18**

## **IX. RESOLUTIONS**

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1. Resolution on the retirement of Mary Greene from the City of Cambridge.

**MAYOR SIDDIQUI**

**RES 2026-65**

2. Resolution for National Library Week

**RES 2026-67**

## **X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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1. The Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee held a public hearing on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 to discuss the 2026 City Manager's Annual Goals and Review Process.

**CC 2026-45**

2. The Ordinance Committee held a public hearing on Monday, March 30, 2026 to review the Community Benefits Ordinance and discuss potential updates including allowing the allocation of funding to community organizations for capital projects. The Ordinance Committee voted favorably to forward the proposed amendments to the Community Benefits Ordinance to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.

**CC 2026-46**

- A. Chapter 2.127 Community Benefits Advisory Committee Ordinance.

**ORD 2026-04**

## **XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS**

1. A communication was received from Interim City Clerk Paula Crane, regarding an update regarding legislative activity.

**COF 2026-62**

## **XII. APPENDED INFORMATION**

1. Awaiting Report Status Update 4.27.26

### **AWAITING REPORT LIST**

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with the School Department, the Department of Public Works, and other relevant departments to ensure that all city owned parking lots, with a focus on school complexes, including the still under construction parking at Tobin/Darby Vassal school complex, could be made available for after-hours use by residents. Original Awaiting Report Item AR-25-29  
Councillor Nolan  
**AR 2026-02**
2. The City Manager is requested to work with all relevant departments to seek input from the community as well as direct outreach to condo owners and short-term rental operators and develop additional recommendations based on the discussion in the Ordinance Committee. Original Awaiting Report Item AR-25-51  
Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui  
**AR 2026-04**
3. Review the previous home rule petition and prepare a new petition that would allow Cambridge to enact a Real Estate Transfer Fee to be sent to the state legislature. Original Awaiting Report AR-25-69  
Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern  
**AR 2026-06**

4. Restricting Eligibility for On-Street Resident Parking Permits in New Transit-Oriented Developments. Original Awaiting Report 31839  
Councillor Zusy, Vice Mayor Azeem, Councillor Nolan  
**AR 2026-07**
5. That the City Manager conduct a comprehensive review of existing safety and security measures at Cambridge City Hall, including an assessment of physical access controls, visitor screening practices, on-site security staffing and training, emergency response and evacuation protocols, and the use of security technologies such as surveillance systems and alarm monitoring.  
Councillor Flaherty, Councillor Simmons  
**AR 2026-14**
6. The City Manager is requested to direct the Community Development Department (CDD) to examine the feasibility, legal considerations, and administrative requirements of permitting qualified third-party guarantors or co-signers for applicants to Inclusionary Housing units and provide recommendations as to whether such a policy could responsibly expand access to these units.  
Vice Mayor Azeem, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Simmons  
**AR 2026-16**
7. The City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate departments to review the city's digital equity work to date, including the study's recommendations and all steps taken since the study conclusion in order to update the evaluation of existing internet access programs, assessing whether residents' digital needs are or could be better provided for and to propose how we can better meet their needs and to report back to the Council by June 2026 on internet access programs.  
Councillor Zusy, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Azeem  
**AR 2026-18**
8. That the City Manager is requested to assess opportunities to improve the consistency of how meeting information is posted and accessed on the City's website.  
Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler  
**AR 2026-19**
9. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to produce and deliver to the City Council, prior to the adoption of the FY27 Capital Budget, a consolidated capital lifecycle reconciliation for all major capital initiatives.  
Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Flaherty  
**AR 2026-20**
10. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments as well as the Election Commissioners to review guidance from the IRS and consult with other municipalities in order to simplify our processes for paying election workers.  
Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zusy  
**AR 2026-22**
11. That the City Manager is requested to work with the City Council and relevant City departments on the process by which Cambridge can expand free early child care offerings, including models for means-tested programming, and exploration of non-City funding sources, from the state or foundations.  
Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui  
**AR 2026-23**

12. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct all City departments, boards, commissions, and offices to discontinue all official posting and engagement on X within 60 days; and to include an explanation of why the City will no longer use X.  
Councillor Al-Zubi, Councillor Nolan  
**AR 2026-25**
13. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Community Development Department and the Transportation Department to meet with Harvard's Office of Community Relations and the Longwood Collective (MASCO) to harmonize institutional bus protocols with public-facing commitments.  
Councillor Al-Zubi, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan  
**AR 2026-26**
14. That the City Manager is requested to direct relevant City departments and staff to examine and report back on whether the city can require single-stall public bathrooms to be gender-neutral.  
Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Al-Zubi, Councillor Flaherty, Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Azeem  
**AR 2026-27**
15. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant departments to review the current legal landscape and provide recommendations for how to regulate construction of large data centers in Cambridge.  
Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zusy  
**AR 2026-28**
16. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to raise the fee of the parking permit program for all residents to \$75, consider how to include a self-identified check off option so as not to increase administrative costs for a subsidized fee of \$25 for residents who live in affordable housing, are enrolled in a program such as SNAP or are low income, remove the senior exemption for the residential parking permit program and lower the number of cars that individual residents are allowed to get a residential parking permit for from four to two.  
Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern  
**AR 2026-29**
17. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested work with relevant City departments to provide a report on how the decision to install artificial turf was made, the rationale for artificial turf, and what process was taken to ensure community concerns and public health considerations were fully addressed, and to ensure that construction will not move forward until a report is delivered.  
Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern  
**AR 2026-30**

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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