

Mgr #3  
P.O. 4, 13

Brief words on three agenda items tonight; thanks for the opportunity...

Councilor Cheung wants to mandate infrastructure for electric car charging in new construction projects. If these coal burning turkeys are so good, why should we have to force people to accommodate them? Anecdotaly, last time I drove up from Florida, believe me, last time I'm doing it, it took 22 hours driving. If I did it today in an electric car, it could take more than a week. Think about it...

Moving on: Coke watches Pepsi. Pepsi watches Coke. McDonalds pays headcounters at the local Burger King. Likewise, government officials should keep an eye on what the neighbors are doing. Councilor Cheung advocates widespread use of credit cards and net applications for parking meter users' convenience, even suggesting that meter revenue will increase. Looking at Somerville's experience, meter money does indeed bump up a bit, but that gain is wholly overwhelmed by a much greater decline in ticket penalties. Penny wise but pound foolish. People get tickets because they don't have enough quarters. They'll gladly swipe for an extra buck. Overall, revenue takes a huge hit, maintenance costs skyrocket, and the turnover rate worsens to boot. Between Holyoke Center and Arrow Street we'll lose an easy \$100/hr. Consider the full consequences of all new technologies.

Does anybody else in this Chamber know that Somerville pays its Election Commissioners \$3600 a year? It's not a job, of course. So why do Cambridge taxpayers pay ten times as much for the same position? And we have more of them than our neighbors to the North. I ask the audience to check out the Commission's 2014 minutes without laughing- 22 meetings, the same number of hours for full time pay, benefits and pension. Oh yeah, they did have to verify that some addresses really do exist. This is the hands-down best patronage plum in the Commonwealth. It's a lifetime PayPal program for the connected. Can Councilors ask the City Manager to justify our largesse and advise him that occasional turnover might be a good thing?

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