

City of Gardner, Massachusetts
City Council Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of October 17, 2016

Councillor Paul Tassone, Chairman, called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order on Monday, September 19, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. Also present were Committee members Councillors Karen Hardern and Matthew Vance.

Others Present: Mayor Mark Hawke, Fire Chief Richard Ares, Building Commissioner Jeffrey Cooke, Health Director Jennifer Susen-Roy, and Deputy Chief of Police John Bernard.

I. **Minutes of Prior Meeting(s).**

On a motion by Councillor Tassone and seconded by Councillor Karen Hardern, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the September 19, 2016 Public Safety Committee Meeting, as printed.

II. **Department Updates.**

Building Commissioner Jeff Cooke:

- Chestnut Street parking lot project almost completed.
- Been busy issuing permits.
- Fee schedule has not been adjusted for 10 years. Would like to add square footage fee when it comes to Solar and Wind Power that the system creates. Would like to set flat fee per-watt of power produced, rather than using the estimate provided by a contractor - some are more accurate than others.

Councillor Tassone questioned common practices for solar power permitting.

Mr. Cooke stated that he would provide information for the Committee at its next meeting outlining current practices.

Councillor Hardern questioned the rehab status of a recently-auctioned house on East Broadway, noting that the house was under reconstruction and the work suddenly ceased. She asked if the house is considered as “historical.”

Commissioner Cooke said that house is the oldest single family residence in the City and that the prior owners “did a number to the house,” so the City shut down the project. He stated that the owners attempted to add a dormer to the second floor, so a stop-work order was issued, since the house was not structurally sound. The owner was advised to hire a structural engineer. He added that the house will soon be in Tax Title and then the City will own it.

Board of Health Director Jennifer Susen-Roy:

- Donation box regulations have been approved by the Board of Health and will take effect on January 1, 2017. She said that both she and the Assistant Director will be meeting with businesses that presently host donation boxes, providing Regulations so that they are familiar with their responsibilities.

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- A Public Hearing will be held on October 24 regarding the proposed “flavored tobacco ban.” All local establishments were notified and provided with a draft of the regulations. She added that some stores have already removed flavored tobacco products on their own.
- Overgrown lawns on 12 bank-owned and other abandoned properties were mowed and maintained in order to reduce the number of ticks, mosquitos, vermin, and other insects.
- The Department is seeking to replace the Victorian-styled trash barrels with solar barrels in order to encourage recycling; however, the barrels cannot be purchased, but only rented on a monthly basis.
- Significant illegal dumping was occurring at the Transfer Station. The Department utilized “CAT” locks and anyone possessing “CAT” equipment with a “CAT” key could unlock the gate and obtain access to the Transfer Station. Since then, the locks have been changed. The Department will relocate one of the gates closer to the road, as both gates are situated away from the road and are not visible.
- Resident of 229 Brookside Drive, also owner of CK Circle Club in Templeton, has been transporting residential trash from home to dispose of at his private club in Templeton. Owner has sought trash abatement for 2 years, as he has been billed since law requires municipal curbside pick-up or a licensed private contractor for residential trash disposal. Owner advised that he will have the dumpster from the private social club removed and get municipal Toters only if the City abates his charges for the last 2½ years. The Health Director said that she plans to deny abatement request.

Fire Chief Ares:

- Regarding item #9688, Application by Paul L. Roy for and Amended License to Store 200,000 Gallons of Petroleum Products Above Ground Storage Tanks at 211 Colony Lane:
 - The Chief recommends that the City Council approve the license amendment and that the Fire Permit would contain several requirements.
 - The Chief noted that in the past, an addition to the facility was erected and neither the Building Department nor the Fire Department had received any filings for an addition.
 - The Chief reported that Mr. Roy appealed and received relief from installing a sprinkler system for the original building; however, is under the impression that the appeal covers the addition as well, but that it does not.

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- The Chief noted that this type of building containing certain hazardous materials requires a certain type of sprinkler system.
- The Chief will have a fire protection engineer investigate and evaluate the building and will notify the license holder of the sprinkler requirements.
- The Chief stated that the facility is well maintained, but that the Fire Department has no documentation with respect to the firewall between the original building and the addition, as well as the types of hazardous materials containers, and their listings.
- The Department will send someone to Canada to pick up new brush truck this week.
- The Chief will be requesting a new pick-up truck from the Mayor.

Deputy Chief Police John Bernard:

- Chief Police Erickson is away on business, so DC Bernard is representing the Department.
- DC Bernard questioned the status of Marco's Motorsports Class II MVD license.

Councillor Tassone said that Mr. Russell surrendered his license and that the City Council revoked it at an earlier meeting.

- DC Bernard mentioned that there still is a lot of activity at that location, so he will be sending someone to check on the business.

III. #9688 – An Application by Paul L. Roy for an Amended License to Store 200,000 Gallons of Petroleum Products in Aboveground Storage Tanks at 211 Colony Lane, Gardner.

Motion made by Councillor Tassone, seconded by Councillor Vance, to recommend that the City Council approve the amended license for the aboveground storage tanks at 211 Colony Drive.

IV. #9691 – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 600, Thereof, Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic," Article V. Parking Meters.

Motion made by Councillor Vance, seconded by Councillor Hardern, to recommend to the City Council to approve the Ordinance amendment.

Adjournment.

On a motion Councillor Vance and seconded by Councillor Hardern, it was voted to adjourn at 5:31 p.m.