

GARDNER CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2020

Councillor Scott Joseph Graves, Chairman of the Public Welfare Committee, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, Room 219. Other Committee members present were Councillors James Boone and Judy Mack.

Community Development and Planning Director Trevor Beauregard and City Clerk Alan Agnelli were also present.

Chairman Graves outlined the departments and offices within the Public Welfare Committee's purview, as follows: Gardner Municipal Airport, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, the Commission on Disability, Golf Course, the Greenwood Memorial Pool, Historical Commission, the Levi Heywood Memorial Library, Recreation, the Veterans Agent, Weights & Measures, the Youth Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, the Gardner School Department, and the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

On a motion by Chairman Scott Joseph Graves and seconded by Councillor Judy Mack, it was voted to accept the September 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes, as printed.

#10207, An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 Thereof, Entitled "Zoning," to Amend Section 675-610, General Requirements, Sec. F and Section 675-1050, Fences and Hedgerows (In City Council and Referred to Public Welfare, 11/18/2019; Joint Public Hearing scheduled January 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.)

Community Development and Planning Director Trevor Beauregard informed the Committee that the proposed amendment would clear up inconsistencies with two sections of the Zoning Code. He said that Building Commissioner Roland Jean identified a provision where the sketch states a distance of 30 feet for corner clearance while the text of the Code states 15 feet, so the sketch should also reflect 30 feet. Also, under Chapter 675-1050, Fences and hedgerows, Mr. Jean pointed out that the Code currently states that at corners, no fence or hedgerow shall be allowed to block vision over 2½ feet above street grade. He recommended that the distance be increased to 3 feet.

Chairman Graves questioned the reason that the word "unclimbable" is included with the description of fences, as it seems unnecessary to him.

Mr. Beauregard stated that the word is included in the text of the current Code.

On a motion by Councillor James Boone and seconded by Councillor Judy Mack, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that the following Ordinance Amendment be ordered to First Printing:

**GARDNER CITY COUNCIL
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AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, CHAPTER 675 THEREOF, ENTITLED "ZONING," TO REVISE ARTICLE VI, DENSITY AND DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS, AND ARTICLE X, SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Gardner, as follows:

Section 1. Section 675–610. General Requirements, Section F, of the Code of the City of Gardner, is amended by deleting and repealing Section F in its entirety and inserting in place thereof, the following:

Within an area formed by the side lines of intersecting streets and a line joining points on such lines 30 feet distant from their point of intersection or, in case of a rounded corner, from the point of intersection of their tangents, no structure shall be erected and no foliage maintained between a height of 3 feet and a height of eight feet above the plane through their street grades.

Section 2. Section 675–1050. Fences and hedgerows, is hereby amended by deleting and repealing Section 675-1050 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof, the following:

Fences dividing property or facing the street shall have the smooth or unclimbable side facing out. At corners, no fence or hedgerow shall be allowed to block vision over 3 feet above the street grade within an area formed by the intersecting street lines and straight line joining the point of said street line 30 feet back from their points of intersection. Fencing and hedgerows running perpendicular to the streets shall not be allowed to block vision over 3 feet above the street grade for a distance of 15 feet along driveways immediate in location.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication as required by law. Any claims of invalidity by reason of any defect in the procedure of adoption may only be made ninety days after the posting or the second publication.

Adjournment

On a motion Councillor James Boone and seconded by Councillor Judy Mack, it was voted to adjourn at 4:18 p.m.