

2017 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL



2017 CITY GOVERNMENT

Seated: Alan L. Agnelli, City Clerk; James M. Walsh, Esq., Ward 1 Councillor; Mark P. Hawke, Mayor; John M. Flick, Esq., City Solicitor; Ronald F. Cormier, Councillor At Large, Council President

Standing: Craig R. Cormier, Councillor at Large; Karen G. Hardern, Ward 4 Councillor; Paul G. Tassone, Ward 2 Councillor; Nathan R. Boudreau, Ward 3 Councillor; Marc Morgan, Councillor at Large; James D. Johnson, Ward 5 Councillor; Matthew C.J. Vance, Councillor at Large; James S. Boone, Councillor at Large; Scott J. Graves, Esq., Councillor at Large

The City Council is pleased to present this report to the Citizens of Gardner.

The City Council, the legislative branch, derives its authority from the City Charter, City Code, and the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Comprised of eleven members elected every two years in odd-numbered years, six are elected at-large by the voters of all five wards, while the remaining five are elected by voters of the individual wards.

In 2017, the City Council was served by Councillors at-Large James S. Boone, Craig R. Cormier, Ronald F. Cormier, Scott J. Graves, Esq., Marc Morgan, and Matthew C.J. Vance. Ward Councillors were James M. Walsh, Esq., Ward 1; Paul G. Tassone, Ward 2; Nathan R. Boudreau, Ward 3; Karen G. Hardern, Ward 4; and, James D. Johnson, Ward 5.

In 2017, the City Council elected Ronald F. Cormier as Council President. Following his election, President Cormier appointed Councillors to the four Standing Committees – Finance, Service, Safety and Welfare. In addition, he named Councillor James Walsh to the Board of Trustees of the Williams-Rockwell Educational Gift Fund; President Cormier to the Cable Advisory Committee; President Cormier and Councillor James Walsh to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee; Councillor Matthew Vance to the Traffic Commission; and, Councillor Nathan Boudreau to the Youth Commission.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Ronald F. Cormier, Chairman
James M. Walsh, Esq.
Marc Morgan

The **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE** is charged with evaluating and reporting to the Council on matters referred to them by the full Council or on their own initiative concerning municipal functions defined generally as administrative and financial. The Committee serves as liaison to the Assessor, Auditor, Tax Collector & Treasurer, Information Technology, City Clerk, Registrars of Voters, Civil Code Enforcement, Purchasing, Contributory Retirement Board, Law Department, Human Resources, and Community Development & Planning. In addition, budgetary matters, salaries and compensation, appointments, position vacancies, Council Rules, and City Hall building fall within the Committee's purview.

The **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE** is charged with evaluating and reporting on matters referred to them by the full Council or on their own initiative concerning municipal functions relating to the Public Works Department and its divisions (Highway, Sewer, Water, Parks, Cemeteries, and Forestry), the Conservation Commission, Municipal Grounds Commission, Engineering and Survey Department, and the Flood Plain.

Scott J. Graves, Esq., Chairman
Nathan R. Boudreau
Craig R. Cormier

Marc Morgan, Chairman
James D. Johnson
James S. Boone

The **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WELFARE** is charged with evaluating and reporting to the Council on matters referred to them by the full Council or on their own initiative concerning municipal functions relating to the 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.

The **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY** is charged with evaluating and reporting on matters referred to them by the full Council or on their own initiative concerning municipal functions relating to the Police and Fire Departments, Building and Health Departments, Animal Control and the licensing of automobile dealers, automobile junkyards, bowling alleys and pool halls, and dealers in second hand articles.

Paul G. Tassone, Chairman
Karen G. Hardern
Matthew C.J. Vance

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City Council meets regularly on the first and third Mondays of each month, except for July and August, when it meets only on the first Monday. Other meetings and hearings are scheduled as necessary. Meetings are open to the public and recorded live for broadcast on GETV. The Agenda and Minutes of every meeting are posted on the City's website.

DATE	TYPE	TIME	MEETING DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE
1/3/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
1/17/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/6/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/21/2017	Hearing	7:00 p.m.	#9722, Zoning Reclassification of 229 Parker Street
2/21/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
3/6/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
3/20/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
4/3/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
4/18/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/1/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/15/2017	Informal	6:30 p.m.	FY2018 School Budget Presentation
5/15/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/5/2017	Informal	7:00 p.m.	Colonial Power Group Presentation
6/5/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/19/2017	Informal	6:00 p.m.	FY2018 Budget Review
6/19/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
7/3/2017	Informal	7:00 p.m.	#9808, FY2018 Compensation Schedule 2
7/3/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
8/7/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/5/2017	Hearing	7:00 p.m.	#9827, Zoning Reclassification of 6 Parcels along West Broadway and Williams Street.
9/5/2017	Hearing	7:15 p.m.	Pearly Lane & Myles Circle Layouts
9/5/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/18/2017	Informal	7:00 p.m.	#9832, Local Option Tax on Marijuana Products
9/18/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/25/2017	Special	7:00 p.m.	FY2018 Compensation Schedules
9/28/2017	Special	7:00 p.m.	FY2018 Compensation Schedules
10/2/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/16/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/6/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/20/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/4/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/18/2017	Informal	7:00 p.m.	Waterford Street School Project Update
12/18/2017	Executive Session	7:15 p.m.	Pending Litigation
12/18/2017	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular

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By State Law and City Code, the Council is empowered to issue Licenses for Bowling Alleys and Billiard Tables; First and Second Class Motor Vehicle Dealers; Class 3 Motor Vehicle Junkyard Dealers; Dealers in Second Hand Articles; and, storage of flammable and explosive products.

The City Council authorizes public improvements and expenditures through the Annual Budget and through short and long-term borrowings; determines the proportion of the annual tax levy borne by the four classes of property (residential, commercial, industrial, personal); adopts regulations, ordinances, and local acceptance provisions of Massachusetts General Law for the administration of the city government; adopts orders for the location of utility poles and the layout of public ways. The City Council also adopts resolutions for the pursuit of State and Federal Grants, the scheduling of elections and issuing election orders.

The City Council appoints four department heads, the City Clerk, City Treasurer, City Auditor and City Collector of Taxes. While the Mayor appoints all other department heads and members of municipal boards (except School Committee), the City Council is required to confirm the appointments. The positions of City Solicitor and Constable are also appointed by the Mayor; however, City Council confirmation is not required.