

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL



## 2014 - 2015 CITY GOVERNMENT

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

Standing: Karen G. Hardern     Scott J. Graves, Esq.     Matthew C.J. Vance     Jeffrey M. Palmieri     Marc Morgan     Nathan R. Boudreau     James D. Johnson     Paul G. Tassone     Patrick M. Gerry  
                  Ward 4 Councillor     Councillor at Large     Councillor at Large     Councillor at Large     Councillor at Large     Ward 3 Councillor     Ward 5 Councillor     Ward 2 Councillor     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 Ordinances, 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 2014, the City Council was served by Councillors at Large Ronald F. Cormier, Patrick M. Gerry, Scott J. Graves, Esq., Marc Morgan, Jeffrey M. Palmieri, 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 2014, the Council elected James M. Walsh as President. Following his election, the President appointed members to four Standing Committees -- Finance, Service, Safety and Welfare, as well as to the Cable TV Commission, Capital Improvement Committee and Traffic Commission.

## STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**2014**

**James M. Walsh, Esq., Chairman**  
**Ronald F. Cormier**  
**Scott J. Graves, Esq.**

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.

**2014**

**Marc Morgan, Chairman**  
**Karen G. Hardern**  
**Nathan R. Boudreau**

**2014**

**Paul G. Tassone, Chairman**  
**Patrick M. Gerry**  
**Jeffrey M. Palmieri**

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.

**2014**

**Scott J. Graves, Esq., Chairman**  
**James D. Johnson**  
**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
1/6/2014	Inaugural	10:00 a.m.	Inauguration of City Government
1/6/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
1/21/2014	Joint Convention	7:00 p.m.	Joint Convention of the Council and School Committee to Appoint a Monty Tech School Committee member.
1/21/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/3/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/18/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
3/3/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
3/17/2014	Hearing	7:00 p.m.	Zoning - "Drive-Throughs"
3/17/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
4/7/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
4/22/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/5/2014	Hearing	7:00 p.m.	Zoning - Medical Marijuana Siting Ordinance
5/5/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/19/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/2/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/16/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/16/2014	Informal	7:00 p.m.	Calendar #9147 - Fire Department Ordinance
6/23/2014	Informal	6:00 p.m.	FY2015 Budget
6/23/2014	Special	7:30 p.m.	FY2015 Budget
7/7/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
8/4/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
8/25/2014	Informal	6:30 p.m.	#9308 - Williams-Rockwell Educational Fund Legislation
9/2/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/8/2014	Special	6:30 p.m.	Greenwood Spray Park
9/15/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/6/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/20/2014	Informal	6:30 p.m.	#9234, Special Act Charter; #9308, Williams-Rockwell Educational Fund Legislation.
10/20/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/3/2014	Hearing	7:00 p.m.	Zoning - Reclassification of 7 Elm Street Parcels
11/3/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/17/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/1/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/15/2014	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular

By State Law and City Ordinance, the Council is empowered to issue Licenses for Bowling Alleys and Billiard Tables; First, Second, and Third Class Motor Vehicle Dealers; Dealers in Second Hand Articles; and, the storage of petroleum 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 the School Committee), the 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.