

**JANUARY 6, 2020 INAUGURAL EXERCISES**

In accordance with the provisions of the *Charter of the City of Gardner* and Chapter 43 of the General Laws, the Mayor-Elect, Councillors at-Large-Elect, Ward Councillors-Elect, and School Committee Members-Elect, assembled in the Honorable Cyrille P. Landry Auditorium, Gardner High School, 200 Catherine Street, on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, to be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties.

WELCOME

State Representative Jonathan D. Zlotnik, the Master of Ceremonies, opened the Inaugural Exercises by welcoming those in attendance.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

The National and City Colors were presented by the Gardner American Legion Post 129 Honor Guard.

OFFICIAL PROCESSION

Led by His Honor Mark P. Hawke, Mayor of the City of Gardner, Officials proceeded to the stage accompanied by "America," as sung by the Gardner High School Select Choir.

POSTING OF THE COLORS

In salute, the National and City Colors were posted by the Gardner American Legion Post 129 Honor Guard.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was offered by the Reverend David R. Cote, Chaplain of the Gardner Fire and Police Departments.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Master of Ceremonies Jonathan D. Zlotnik led the Assembly in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

"THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

Miss Haylee Girouard sang "The Star Spangled Banner."



JANUARY 6, 2020 INAUGURAL EXERCISES

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION & RESULTS OF VOTES CAST

The **CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION** and **RESULTS OF THE VOTES CAST** were declared by City Clerk Alan L. Agnelli and entered into the journals of the City Council, as follows:

As a result of the votes cast at the City Election held on November 5, 2019, the following persons were declared elected:

MAYOR	Mark P. Hawke
COUNCILLORS AT-LARGE	James S. Boone Craig R. Cormier Ronald F. Cormier Scott Joseph Graves, Esq. Judy A. Mack George C. Tyros
WARD COUNCILLORS	James M. Walsh, Esq. (Ward 1) Elizabeth J. Kazinskas, (Ward 2) Nathan R. Boudreau (Ward 3) Karen G. Hardern (Ward 4) Aleksander H. Dernalowicz, Esq. (Ward 5)
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Rachel A. Cormier John M. LaFreniere Robert J. Swartz

City Clerk Alan L. Agnelli called the Roll of Members-Elect:

PRESENT:	
MAYOR	Mark P. Hawke
COUNCILLORS AT-LARGE	James S. Boone Ronald F. Cormier Scott Joseph Graves, Esq. Judy A. Mack George C. Tyros
WARD COUNCILLORS	James M. Walsh, Esq. (1) Elizabeth J. Kazinskas, (2) Nathan R. Boudreau (3) Karen G. Hardern (4) Aleksander H. Dernalowicz, Esq. (5)



JANUARY 6, 2020 INAUGURAL EXERCISES

ABSENT: Craig R. Cormier

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS Rachel A. Cormier
Robert J. Swartz

ABSENT: John M. LaFreniere

OATHS OF OFFICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester, ss. Gardner, Massachusetts January 6, 2020

I, ALAN L. AGNELLI, City Clerk of the City of Gardner, hereby certify that on the 6th day of January, 2020 at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at a meeting of the Mayor-Elect, Councillors-at-Large-elect, Ward Councillors-elect, and School Committee Members at Large-Elect, I administered the oath required by the City Charter to the following:

MAYOR-ELECT For Two Years	Mark P. Hawke
COUNCILLORS AT-LARGE-ELECT For Two Years	James S. Boone Ronald F. Cormier Scott Joseph Graves, Esq. Judy A. Mack George C. Tyros
WARD COUNCILLORS-ELECT For Two Years	James M. Walsh, Esq. (1) Elizabeth J. Kazinskas (2) Nathan R. Boudreau (3) Karen G. Hardern (4) Aleksander H. Dernalowicz, Esq. (5)
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT-LARGE-ELECT For Four Years	Rachel A. Cormier Robert J. Swartz



JANUARY 6, 2020 INAUGURAL EXERCISES

Who severally solemnly swore that they would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office for which they have been elected in the City of Gardner according to the best of their ability and in conformity with law.

In testimony of all of which is required by the City Charter, I make this certificate to be entered on the journals of the meetings of the City Council.

/s/ Alan L. Agnelli, City Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester, ss.

Gardner, Massachusetts

January 6, 2020

I, ALAN L. AGNELLI, City Clerk of the City of Gardner, hereby certify that on the 6th day of January 2020 at 3:38 o'clock in the afternoon at City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts, I administered the oath required by the City Charter to **JOHN M. LAFRENIERE**.

Then personally appeared **JOHN M. LAFRENIERE** and made oath that he would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER** according to law and the best of his abilities.

Before me,

/s/ Alan L. Agnelli, City Clerk

In testimony of which as required by the City Charter, I make this certificate to be entered on the journals of the meetings of the City Council.

/s/ Alan L. Agnelli, City Clerk

“SEIZE THE DAY”

The Gardner High School Select Choir sang “Seize the Day”.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAYOR

Master of Ceremonies Representative Jonathan Zlotnik introduced Mark P. Hawke, Mayor of the City of Gardner, to deliver his Inaugural Remarks.

JANUARY 6, 2020 INAUGURAL EXERCISES

INAUGURAL REMARKS

The Honorable Mark P. Hawke, Mayor of the City of Gardner, delivered the following Inaugural Remarks.

“Good morning and welcome to history. Forever, there will be footnote in the history of the City of Gardner denoting the fact that the oath of office I just took, will likely be the shortest term of office for any Mayor in Gardner, or even maybe the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, history.

Thank you to Representative Zlotnik for serving as today’s Master of Ceremonies and for your steadfast support of North Central Massachusetts in your work in the Legislature. I take comfort knowing that we will still be working together in the coming months and years.

Thank you also must be extended to the Gardner American Legion Post 129 Color Guard for always being willing to lend your services at countless events throughout the City.

And of course thank you to the Gardner High School Select Choir for again lending your talents to today’s events.

Congratulations to newly elected Councilors and School Committee Members, I wish you nothing but success over the next two years.

This is normally the part of the remarks where I would mention the successes the City has achieved over that past several years such as:

The highest level of school funding in the history of the City.

Achieving the largest stabilization fund in the history of the City despite the efforts of some.

Having the largest Free Cash Certifications which sounds impressive, but is only actually at recommended amounts, but that’s still good for Gardner.

I should also be speaking about the Watkins Field renovation project, despite the efforts of some.

The removal of vacant, blighted abandoned buildings.

The growing commercial base in the City including Tractor Supply, 99’s, and the others that will be announced in the coming months.

We should be talking about the best financial position the City has ever been in while not increasing taxes the full 2 ½% allowed by law.

The new elementary school that will be opening in a few short years.

JANUARY 6, 2020 INAUGURAL EXERCISES

We should be talking about the coming years and the efforts the City will be making to improve our quality of life, municipal services and burgeoning economy.

But that will have to wait for the next Mayor.

Instead, I'd like to speak briefly about an important topic that has been swept aside, again.

In *The Gardner News* of Friday, January 28, 1921, the front page of the paper ran an article entitled "Voters Discuss City Charter." The article discusses whether the Mayor had too much power in appointing Department Heads, what the salary of the Mayor should be, whether enough publicity was given to the Charter discussion, how previous committees had done investigatory work, and it mentioned that Patrick H. Murray, Town Counsel, who was tasked with drafting the Charter to become a City, had simply copied it from other Charters and Mass General Laws.

This is a document from 100 years ago, that despite many efforts, has not changed in any substantive way. This is a document that references telephone operators and stenographers in the Mayor's office. This is a document we simply ignore because it conflicts with Mass General Law.

All of this has been pointed out. Not only by me, but by a several Charter Review Committees selected almost entirely by the City Council who all came back with a recommendation that the Charter was deficient and needed to be reviewed. The City Council also unanimously agreed and supported hiring a consultant to assist in the Charter review.

A final document was presented and after unscrupulous politics were played, the hard work of this committee was unceremoniously dismissed.

This is not in the best interest of the City. When I ran for office in 2007, I spoke of a Charter Review and even mentioned the City should consider a Council – Manager-form of government. I still believe this is the best way forward.

I encourage my elected officials to take this matter seriously. Any member of the City Council can bring the work of the Charter Review Committee back up at any time. If you truly are here for the greater good of the City, this work should be done.

Change is not always easy and is rarely greeted with open arms. However, the one constant in this world, is change. I hope and pray that our leaders seated here before you and the one that will be chosen in a few months, will be an agent of change. Opposition to change is opposition to improving ourselves and the City of Gardner. I can think of no worse enemy of the City than those that resist change because it is different and/or difficult.

Thank all of you for your service to the City and I wish you nothing but success in the coming days, months and years."



JANUARY 6, 2020 INAUGURAL EXERCISES

“AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL”

The Gardner High School Select Choir sang “America the Beautiful”.

BENEDICTION

The Benediction was offered by the Reverend David R. Cote, Chaplain of the Gardner Fire and Police Departments.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Master of Ceremonies concluded the Inaugural Exercises by thanking the Inaugural Committee; Reverend Clergy; the Honor Guard of the Gardner American Legion Post 129; the Gardner High School Select Choir under the direction of Joanne Landry; and, the Principal and staff at Gardner High School for hosting the Inaugural Exercises.

RECESSIONAL

The Gardner High School Select Choir sang "America" as officials and guests departed from the Auditorium.

Accepted by the City Council: *January 21, 2020*