

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 2020

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Council President James Walsh at 12:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall. Finance Committee Members Councillors Ronald Cormier and Elizabeth Kazinskas were also present.

Others participating were City Assessor Susan Byrne, City Treasurer/Collector Jennifer Dymek, Assessing Data Collector Bradley Fucile, and, City Clerk Alan Agnelli.

President Walsh asked if anyone present planned to record the meeting, in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, as follows:

Any person may make a video or audio recording of the open session of this meeting so long as it does not interfere with the conduct of the meeting. All documents and exhibits used or referenced at this meeting shall be submitted in duplicate to the City Clerk, as they become part of the minutes of the meeting. Is there anyone present who will be recording this meeting?

No one responded.

1-1 Reading and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting.

On a motion by Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2020 Regular Meeting, as printed.

3-1 A Measure Relative to the City Council's Election of the City Auditor.

Noting that City Auditor John Richard's term of office expires on February 3, 2020, Councillor Ronald Cormier recommended that the Election of the City Auditor be placed on the February 3, 2020 Council Calendar. He said that Mr. Richard is completing his three-year certification program this year and will be taking his exam. In addition, he said that Mr. Richard has done a fine job in the position and that his experience will prove invaluable during the upcoming budget cycle and the transition to a new Mayor.

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to re-elect John Richard to the position of City Auditor for term expiring February 3, 2023.

3-2 A Measure Confirming the Mayor's Appointment of Eric Knudsen to the position of Member, Disability Commission, for term expiring 1/15/2023.

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Eric Knudsen to the position of Member, Disability Commission, for term expiring 1/15/2023.

The Committee noted that Mr. Knudsen has served on the Commission since 2014.

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3-3 A Measure Relative to a Financial Interest under G.L. Chapter 268A, § 20(b) in the Matter of Bradley J. Fucile, Data Collector, for a Contract for Parking Meter Clerk Services.

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to approve an *Exemption pursuant to G.L. C. 268A, §20(b) in the Matter of a Financial Interest by Bradley J. Fucile for a Contract for Parking Meter Clerk Services.*

4-2 An Ordinance Amending the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 171 Thereof, Entitled “Personnel” to change Article IX. Vacations for City Officers and Employees, Section 171-36, Other full-time officers and employees; and, by adding new Section 171-37 (a) Conservation/Planning Agent, providing for additional vacation leave.

The Committee postponed action since the HR Director is formulating a comprehensive plan for vacation leave, as well as a Compensation Plan with steps.

4-3 An Ordinance Amending the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 171 Thereof, Entitled “Personnel” to change Article XIII. Department Head Benefit Time and Longevity Pay, Section 171-53, Vacation, providing for additional vacation leave.

The Committee postponed action since the HR Director is formulating a comprehensive plan for vacation leave, as well as a Compensation Plan with steps.

6-1 A Measure Authorizing an Eighth Amendment to the April 9, 1968 Lease Between the City and Henry Heywood Memorial Hospital (Ref: Council Calendar No. 10119).

The Committee postponed further action on the Lease until Attorney Phillips completes additional research.

6-2 A Measure Authorizing an Easement Relocation Agreement Between the City of Gardner and Massachusetts Electric Company (Ref: Finance Committee Agenda No. 6-1).

President Walsh noted that Atty. Phillips, with the Committee’s authorization, will contact National Grid and Heywood Hospital in order to work out the details of the Easement. He added that the Hospital will pay National Grid directly or reimburse the City for all legal work. He added that a piece of the Hospital’s facilities was constructed across the Easement.

The Committee postponed further action on the Easement until Attorney Phillips completes additional legal research.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas, it was voted to adjourn at 12:08 p.m.