

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2023

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Council President Elizabeth Kazinskas at 5:30 PM in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall.

Finance Committee Members Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and Ronald Cormier were also present.

Also participating was Mayor Michael Nicholson; DPW Business Manager Chris Coughlin; Fire Chief Greg Lagoy; City Assessor Christine Kumar; and City Clerk Titi Siriphan.

Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted viva voce, three (3) yeas President Elizabeth Kazinskas and Councillors Ronald Cormier and Aleksander Dernalowicz to waive the reading and to accept the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2022.

10894 An Order Appropriating \$60,000.00 from Free Cash to the Mayor's Department – Professional Services Account.

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that the Administration would like to contract a consultant whose sole job will be to research the available opportunities that could benefit the City, write the applications, and administer the projects. There are several grant opportunities for the City. Because there are so many, the City is missing the opportunities on some that fall under the radar.

DPW Business Manager, Chris Coughlin spoke in favor of the appropriation.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT the following ORDER:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO MAYOR'S DEPT – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$60,000.00) from Free Cash to Mayor's Dept. – Professional Services Account.

10895 An Order Appropriating \$150,000.00 from Free Cash to the Fire Department – New Equipment for Truck Account.

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that the City purchased a new Heavy Rescue Truck for the Gardner Fire Department utilizing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"). This free cash appropriation is to fully outfit the truck with new equipment.

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Fire Chief Greg Lagoy provided a list of items needed to equip the truck. He also spoke in favor of the appropriation.

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT the following ORDER:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT – NEW EQUIPMENT FOR TRUCK ACCOUNT.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$150,000.00) from Free Cash to the Fire Department – New Equipment for Truck Account.

10896 An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 22, entitled “Assessing Department.”

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that the Board of Assessors request that the attached amendment proposal be put forward to bring the existing operations of the Department in line with current departmental operations. The ordinance would make the City Assessor at department head level.

City Assessor Chris Kumar spoke in favor of the ordinance.

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT the following ORDINANCE:

AN ORDINACE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDER, CHAPTER 22, ENTITLED “ASSESSING DEPRTMENT”

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDNER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: That subsection A of Section 2 of Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled “Board of Assessors,” be stricken in its entirety and replaced by the following:

A. The Mayor shall appoint a City Assessor who will also serve on the Board of Assessors and two additional members of the Board of Assessors, each for a term of three years, subject to confirmation by the City Council. A vacancy occurring may be filed at any time for the unexpired term by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent the reappointment of any member upon the expiration of his term of office. Before

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entering upon the discharge of their duties, the members shall be sworn to the faithful discharge thereof.

Section 2: That subsection D of Section 2 of Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of Gardner, entitled "Board of Assessors," be stricken in its entirety and replaced by the following:

D. The City Assessor shall serve full time as an Assessor, while the other two members shall be part-time Assessors.

Section 3: This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

10897 An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 28 Central Street.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee that this appropriation and the following (8 temporary and 1 permanent easement) are related to the Uptown Rotary Project.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT *An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 28 Central Street*

10898 An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction –13 Elm Street.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT *An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction –13 Elm Street.*

10899 An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 22 Elm Street.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT *An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 22 Elm Street*

10900 An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 23 Elms Street.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT *An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 23 Elms Street*

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10901 An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 9 Green Street.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT *An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 9 Green Street*

10902 An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 15 Green Street.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT *An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 15 Green Street.*

10903 An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 12 Pearl Street.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT *An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 12 Pearl Street.*

10904 An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 16 Woodland Avenue

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT *An Order of Taking for Easements (temporary and/or permanent) by Eminent Domain for the Purpose of the Uptown Rotary Construction – 16 Woodland Avenue.*

New Business

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that due to the recent storms, they are \$384,000.00 in deficit in the snow and ice account. In April, he plans to request an appropriation from free cash.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to adjourn at 5:56 p.m.