

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2023

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Council President Elizabeth Kazinskas at 8:00 AM 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; Community Development Director Trevor Beauregard; City Assessor John Richard; Board of Health Director Lauren Saunders; Purchasing Agent Joshua Cormier; 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 September 15, 2022.

10910 An Order Appropriating \$33,139.00 from Free Cash to Health Department Vehicle Expense Account.

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that this appropriation is to purchase a vehicle for the housing inspector.

Health Director Lauren Saunders spoke in favor of the appropriation. This position would require the inspector to be on the road more than in the office. With the growing number of housing and food establishments, the inspector is needed to inspect these units. Inspections need to be done every 6 months, but they can only do once a year due to the current staff shortage.

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 HEALTH DEPARTMENT VEHICLE EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Twenty Eight Thousand Thirty-Nine Dollars and No Cents (\$28,039.00) from Free Cash to the Health Department Vehicle Expense Account.

10911 An Order Appropriating \$3,690.00 from Free Cash to City Clerk Professional Services Account.

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that this was a request from the City Clerk for the Dog Licensing Applications. The application would go onto the

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City's current online software OpenGov, were other permits and applications are on there.

Clerk Siriphan informed the committee that the current software is not user friendly. The staff are on the phone with the vendor at least once a week to fix several issues.

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 THE CLERK'S PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Three Thousand Six Dollars and No Cents (\$3,690.00) from Free Cash to the Clerk's Professional Services Account.

10912 An Order Appropriating \$8,900 from Free Cash to FAA Airport Master Plan Professional Services Account- City Portion.

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that The Gardner Municipal Airport recently received a \$150,000 Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA"). These grants require a match from the City of \$8,900.

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 FAA AIRPORT MASTER PLAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES- CITY PORTION.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$8,900.00) from Free Cash to the FAA Airport Master Plan Professional Services - City Portion.

10913 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to Elm Street School Repairs.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee that this appropriation and next several are loan orders that are still on our books for debt that was authorized, but not issued or loans that have been utilized up. This is recommendation from the Auditor to help clear up the books and free up some of our bonding capacity. There are about 15 million dollars of loans taken off the books.

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Auditor John Richard mentioned that there is a debt schedule that they submit to DOR every year and they are basically cleaning that up.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO ELM STREET SCHOOL REPAIRS.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on May 20, 2015, under Calendar Item #9411, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Four Million One Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Six and 00/100 cents (\$4,158,176.00) to fund repairs to the Elm Street School building and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10914 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to the Replacement of Pall Filter at The Crystal Lake Water Treatment Facility.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO REPLACEMENT PALL FILTERS AT CRYSTAL LAKE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on September 21, 2020, under Calendar Item #10334, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Four Hundred Fifty Thousand and 00/100 cents (\$450,000.00) to fund repairs to the pall filters at the Water Treatment Facility and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20

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of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10915 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to Watkins Field Renovations.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO THE WATKINS FIELD RENOVATIONS.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on May 25, 2018, under Calendar Item #9921, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Three Million Four Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty and 00/100 cents (\$3,497,380.00) to fund renovations of Watkins Field at Gardner High School and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10916 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to The DPW Storage Building Construction.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO THE DPW STORAGE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on August 10, 2015, under Calendar Item #9470, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and 00/100 cents (\$2,500,000.00) to fund construction of the cold storage building and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7),

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or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10917 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to The Waterford Street School Feasibility Study.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO THE WATERFORD FEASIBILITY STUDY.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on January 6, 2017, under Calendar Item #9801, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and 00/100 cents (\$750,000.00) to fund a feasibility study regarding future uses of Waterford Street School and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10918 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to Snake Pond Well Repairs.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER No. 12849 SNAKE POND WELL REPAIRS.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on August 6, 2018, under Calendar Item #9982, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and 00/100 cents (\$100,000.00) to pay repair costs of

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Snake Pond well repair and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10919 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to The Acquisition of the Omealia Property.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION OF THE OMEALIA PROPERTY.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on June 19, 2018, under Calendar Item #9950, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and 00/100 cents (\$174,162.00) to fund the acquisition of land at the former Omealia Property for open space purposes and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10920 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to Various Capital Expenditures.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO VARIOUS CAPITAL EXPENDITURES.

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ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on July 5, 2017, under Calendar Item #9819, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Two Million Sixty Thousand and 00/100 cents (\$2,060,000.00) to fund various capital expenses and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10921 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to Water Infrastructure Paving Work.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PAVING WORK.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on April 19, 2022, under Calendar Item #10662, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of One Million Eight Hundred Thousand and 00/100 cents (\$1,800,000.00) to fund paving work related to the water infrastructure improvement project and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10922 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to the Acquisition of The Omealia Property Off of Leo Drive For Open Space.

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:

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AN ORDER RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO ACQUISITION OF OMEALIA PROPERTY OFF LEO DRIVE FOR OPEN SPACE.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on July 6, 2017, under Calendar Item #9821, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Three Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 cents (\$320,000.00) to fund the acquisition of land on Leo Drive for open space purposes paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10923 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to the Complete Streets Downtown Improvement 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 the following ORDER:

AN ORDER RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO COMPLETE STREETS DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on September 7, 2021, under Calendar Item #10525, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Thirty Three Thousand One Hundred Forty-Eight 16/100 cents (\$33,148.16) to fund the City's share of the Complete Streets Grant and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10924 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to GHS Lab And Boiler Upgrades.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by

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Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to ADOPT the following ORDER:

AN ORDER RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO GHS LAB AND BOILER UPGRADES.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on December 18, 2012, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Three Million Five Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Two and 00/100 cents (\$3,545,682.00) to fund improvements to the Gardner High School science labs and boilers and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10925 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to Water Treatment Facility Upgrades.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO WATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADES.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on June 16, 2015, under Calendar Item #9438, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Fourteen Million and 00/100 cents (\$14,000,000.00) to fund upgrades to the water treatment facility and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary

or convenient to carry out this vote.

10926 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to the Water Infrastructure Improvement 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 the following ORDER:

AN ORDER RESCINDING LOAN ORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on June 11, 2019, under Calendar Item #10113, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Eleven Million and 00/100 cents (\$11,000,000.00) to fund repairs to the replacement of various water mains throughout the City and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10927 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to Water Storage Tank Repairs

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO WATER STORAGE TANK REPAIRS.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on August 10, 2015, under Calendar Item #10333, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand and 00/100 cents (\$250,000.00) to fund repairs to the above ground water storage tank on Route 140 and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the

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payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10928 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to Sewer Main Installation And Pump Station Upgrades.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO SEWER MAIN INSTALLATION AND PUMP STATION UPGRADES.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on June 4, 2019, under Calendar Item #10114, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand and 00/100 cents (\$1,750,000.00) to fund the installation of new sewer mains and pump station upgrades and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10929 An Order Rescinding the Loan Order Relating to Gardner Middle School Improvements.

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 RESCINDING LOAN ORDER RELATING TO GARDNER MIDDLE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS.

ORDERED: To rescind the vote taken on June 18, 2012, ordering that the City of Gardner appropriates the sum of Four Hundred Thousand and 00/100 cents (\$400,000.00) to fund improvements to the Gardner Middle School and paying other costs incidental or related thereto; to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7(7), or any other enabling authority. Any

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premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

10930 A Measure Authorizing a five-year Contract Period for School Food Services.

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that under Section 12 of Chapter 30B of the General Laws of the Commonwealth requires that the City Council vote to authorize the Administration to enter into contracts that have a duration of longer than three years. This contract is for five years for school food services.

Purchasing Agent Joshua Cormier spoke in favor of the authorization and stated that this is a better rate when they go out to bid.

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

AUTHORIZING FIVE YEAR CONTRACT PERIOD SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES

VOTED: To authorize the City to enter into contracts not to exceed five (5) years for School Food Services, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30B, section 12 and under the terms outlined in the Purchasing Agent's February 21, 2023, Memorandum.

10931 A Measure Authorizing a five-year Contract Period for School Custodial Services.

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

AUTHORIZING FIVE YEAR CONTRACT PERIOD SCHOOL CUSTODIAL SERVICES

VOTED: To authorize the City to enter into contracts not to exceed five (5) years for School Custodial Services, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30B, section 12 and under the terms outlined in the Purchasing Agent's February 21, 2023, Memorandum.

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- 10932** **A Measure Authorizing a five-year Contract Period for Golf Cart Rentals.**
On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to APPROVE the following MEASURE:

AUTHORIZING FIVE YEAR CONTRACT PERIOD GOLF CART RENTALS

VOTED: To authorize the City to enter into contracts not to exceed five (5) years for Golf Cart Rental, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30B, section 12 and under the terms outlined in the Purchasing Agent's February 21, 2023, Memorandum.

- 10933** **Notification of City Involvement in Opioid Lawsuit Settlement – Allegran \$60,547.58.**

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that there have been a series of class action lawsuit settlements done through the Attorney General's Office that the City had signed onto as co-plaintiffs against different opioid manufacturers and distributors. As a result, communities are eligible to receive a portion of the settlement. The funds can only be used towards initiatives meant to combat the opioid epidemic.

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to *place the notification file.*

- 10934** **Notification of City Involvement in Opioid Lawsuit Settlement – CVS \$134,435.79.**

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to *place the notification file.*

- 10935** **Notification of City Involvement in Opioid Lawsuit Settlement – Walgreens \$146,184.84.**

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to *place the notification file.*

- 10936** **Notification of City Involvement in Opioid Lawsuit Settlement – Teva \$101,632.12.**

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to *place the notification file.*

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10937 **Notification of City Involvement in Opioid Lawsuit Settlement – Walmart \$76,128.90.**

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to *place the notification file.*

10938 **Notification Regarding The Status of Opioid Manufacturer Settlement Funds.**

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to *place the notification file.*

10939 **Notification Regarding The Status of Authorized Unissued Debt.**

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to *place the notification file.*

10940 **A Measure Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Subordination for case number #10-283 for Purpose of the Community Development Housing Rehabilitation Program.**

Community Development Director Trevor Beauregard informed the committee that the homeowners are in the Rehab Loan and that they are refinancing their house. The owners are requesting the City to subordinate to allow them to refinance their home.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the City Council of the City of Gardner that the intent and purpose of the Community Development Housing Rehabilitation Program is to maintain safe, affordable housing units for low to moderate income families by financially assisting owners of such properties, it is therefore resolved that:

The Mayor is duly authorized to execute the Subordination for case #10-283 in the amount of \$14,785.00 subject to review and approval as to form by the City Solicitor. The term of the loan is 15 years expiring on October 26, 2026.

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10941 A Measure Authorizing Acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 41, §110A - Closing Public Office Operations on Saturdays.

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that due to recent passage of the VOTES Act in Massachusetts, it requires municipalities to have City Hall opened on a certain number of Saturday throughout the year for the purpose of voter registration, unless municipalities adopt the provisions of section 110A of Chapter 41 of the General Law. At the request of the City Clerk, he is requesting the City Council vote to accept this provision, which would end voter registration window at 5:00 PM on Fridays instead of having to be open for the minimum of hours of four hours on a Saturday.

City Clerk Siriphan mentioned that no one came in to register to vote on Saturday during last year's elections.

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 MEASURE:

ACCEPTANCE OF M.G.L. CHAPTER 41, SECTION 110A CLOSING PUBLIC OFFICE OPERATIONS ON SATURDAYS

VOTE: To accept the provisions of Section 110A of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, closing all public office operations on Saturdays, unless for such purposes as required by law.

10942 A Measure to Elect John Richard to City Auditor, for term expiring February 23, 2026.

President Kazinskas informed the committee that the Auditor is under the purview of the Finance Committee with approval by the City Council.

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council the ELECTION of City Auditor John Richard.

Items Referred to the Finance Committee

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

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that this item was on the last City Council Agenda and Councillor James Walsh requested a full scope of services and contracts that provide in the packet.

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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.

10885 An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 171, Thereof, Entitled "Personnel," to Change Compensation Schedule 1, Yearly Salaries, Mayor, City Councillors and School Committee.

President Kazinskas informed the committee that she put in consideration Councillor Judy Mack's proposal by giving a 2% raise and Councillor James Walsh's proposal of 75% for Acting Mayor's salary.

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 ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 68 OF THE CHAPTER 171 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, ENTITLED PERSONNEL COMPENSATION SCHEDULE, EXHIBITS A, B, AND D

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

SECTION 1: Exhibits A, B, and D, of Section 68 of Chapter 171 of the Code of the City of Gardner entitled Personnel Compensation Schedule, be amended by deleting the current Exhibits A, B, and D, and inserting the following in place thereof:

Exhibit A
Mayor

Position	Annual Salary (Effective 1/1/2024)	Annual Salary (Effective 1/1/2025)	Weekly Salary (Effective 1/1/2024)	Weekly Salary (Effective 1/1/2025)
Mayor	\$105,904.22	\$108,022.31		

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Acting Mayor in the event of a Mayoral Vacancy (Based on 75% of Mayor's Salary)			\$1,527.47	\$1,558.01
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Exhibit B
City Council

Position	Annual Salary (Effective 1/1/2024)	Annual Salary (Effective 1/1/2025)
City Council President	\$12,298.98	\$12,544.96
City Councilor	\$8,415.27	\$8,583.58

Exhibit D
School Committee

Position	Annual Salary (Effective 1/1/2024)	Annual Salary (Effective 1/1/2025)
School committee members (excluding Chairperson)	\$5,743.43	\$5,858.30

SECTION 2: This ordinance shall become effective on January 1, 2024 following passage and publication as required by law.

New Business

Mayor Nicholson informed the committee that the City will be receiving a grant for the wastewater treatment facility in the amount of \$1.3 million dollars from Environmental Protection Agency to purchase equipment to remove nitrogen from the City's wastewater.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to adjourn at 9:11 a.m.