

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2023

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Council President Elizabeth Kazinskas at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall.

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

Also participating were Mayor Michael Nicholson (via telephone conference); Retirement Board Admin, Cheryl Bosse; 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 March 20, 2023

FIRST TIME ON THE AGENDA

10956 Gardner Contributory Retirement Board Notice of FY2024 COLA.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee that the Gardner Retirement Board has voted to request that the Administration put forward a proposal to the City Council to increase the Cost of Living Adjustments (“COLA”) that they provide each year from \$13,000 to \$14,000. The last time this increase was voted on by the City Council was in 2012.

Retirement Board Admin 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 that the following ORDER ought to pass:

ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT BOARD’S COLA INCREASE

VOTE: To accept the recommendation of the Retirement Board in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 103(i) for a 3% COLA increase effective July 1, 2023, from \$13,000.00 to \$14,000.00.

10957 A Measure Authorizing Acceptance of Donations and Gifts for Use by Gardner Council on Aging.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee there is an attached list of donations received by the Gardner Senior Center. The General Laws of the Commonwealth require that the City Council vote to accept these donations on behalf of the City.

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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 that the following ORDER ought to pass:

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS AND GIFTS
TO THE COUNCIL ON AGING

VOTED: That the City of Gardner is authorized to accept certain donations and gifts for use by the Council on Aging, said acceptance in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53A ½ of the General Laws.

10958 An Order Authorizing \$5,109.19 Payment of Prior Year Operating Expenditure for Various Departments – Energy and Utility.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee that this request to pay a bill that was received for services in the previous fiscal year. The bill relates to energy and utility costs associated with the City's Solar credits and metering credits.

Councillor Dernalowicz request more time and would like to know where this amount came from.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to refer this item back to the Finance Committee:

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF PRIOR YEAR OPERATING EXPENDITURE

ORDERED: To authorize payment of prior year VARIOUS DEPTS operating expenditure account for prior year, as follows:

FY2022	VARIOUS DEPT ENERGY&UTILITY ACCTS	\$5,109.19
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10959 An Order Transferring \$3,530.00 from Building Inspector Department, Department Head Salaries to Professional Services Expenditures.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee that this appropriation to be transferred from the Building Commissioner Salary Line Item to the Building Department Expense appropriation, in order to pay the compensation for the Acting Building Commissioner.

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

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AN ORDER TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM BUILDING INSPECTOR DEPT, DEPT HEAD SALARIES TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES EXPENDITURES.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby transferred the appropriations sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Dollars and No Cents (\$3,530.00) from Building Inspector Department, Department Head Salaries to Professional Services Expenditures.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz it was voted to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.