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Nathan R. Boudreau

WARD 4 COUNCILLOR
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James D. Johnson

CITY OF GARDNER
MASSACHUSETTS 01440-2630

OFFICE OF THE
CITY COUNCIL



January 24, 2017

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: DPW Office, 416 West Broadway

ANNOUNCEMENT - Any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such recording shall notify the Chair forthwith. All Documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the Clerk of the Committee, pursuant to the Open Meeting and Public Records Law. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the December 1, 2016 Meeting.
2. Department Updates:
 - Conservation Commission – Jeffrey Legros, Conservation Agent
 - Survey/Engineering – Chris Coughlin, City Engineer.
 - Public Works/Sewer/Water - Dane Arnold, DPW Director.
3. Other Matters.
4. Adjournment.

NOTICE: The listing of Agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chairman which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

CITY COUNCIL OF GARDNER

Scott J. Graves Esq.

Councillor Scott J. Graves, Esq.

Chairman, Public Service Committee

REGULAR MEETING of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 1, 2016

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the DPW Office, 416 West Broadway, on Thursday, December 1, 2016.

Members Present: Councillor Scott Graves, Chairman; Councillor Nathan Boudreau; and Councilor Craig Cormier.

Attendees: Director Dane Arnold, City Engineer Robert Hankinson, Assistant City Engineer Chris Coughlin, Conservation Agent Jeff Legros; Principal Clerk and Committee Secretary Denise Merriam.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Scott Graves called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

OPEN MEETING RECORDING

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ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

On a motion by Councillor Boudreau and seconded by Councillor Craig Cormier, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the September 29, 2016 Service Committee meeting, as printed.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

NEW DPW BUILDINGS

Mr. Arnold reported that the plans for the new DPW building are 90% final and that he is seeking cost estimates.

Councilor Graves remarked that the Council voted to fund the building project and that it makes sense to have the DPW and the Engineering co-located.

Mr. Arnold added that the Contractor will soon be going to the City Council.

Mr. Hankinson added that the water and sewer divisions will be co-located, which will streamline both operations.

REGULAR MEETING of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 1, 2016

Mr. Arnold stated that for the new building, about 20 more people will be hired and that the facility will be able to accommodate 50 people. He remarked that the second floor will provide a larger room for signs and sign making, as well as for storage, and that the mechanic's bay will be larger for more equipment and repairs.

Mr. Arnold informed the Committee that the Cemetery Division will be relocated to the existing DPW office and that the Crystal Lake Cemetery building will be razed and there are plans to erect cremation vaults within the next 5 years. He added that a portion of the proposed Cold Storage building will accommodate storage for City Hall needs and that the remainder of the building will house department vehicles.

Mr. Arnold and Mr. Coughlin said that the DPW will perform interior work (painting, floors) to save money and will excavate utility trenches and similar on-site work that will save about one-half million dollars.

STREET PAVING

Mr. Arnold informed the Committee that street paving was completed for the season.

PLEASANT STREET BRIDGE PROJECT

Mr. Hankinson informed the Committee that the City will soon meet with Mass. DOT to discuss the Pleasant Street Bridge Project and noted that the City will have to provide the necessary easements for the project.

Councillor Graves questioned the Project's timeline.

Mr. Arnold responded, saying that the project will be ongoing from 2017 through 2019, at which time it may completely close out.

LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROJECT

Mr. Legros updated the Committee about the Landscape Partnership Grant Project, which will conserve 900 acres of land between Winchendon and Gardner. He said that the Alisaukas property documents are being revised and then will going before the Finance Committee and the City Council. The Title and appraisal must move forward in this fiscal year, he added.

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WATER ABATEMENT/REBATE APPEALS

Mrs. Nancy Rolle, 181 Dyer Street/ Water & Sewer Bill Appeal.

Mr. Arnold informed the Committee that Mrs. Rolle had a toilet leak and the water passed through the sewer system.

Councillor Graves asked that Mrs. Rolle provide the Committee with the facts.

Mrs. Rolle stated that she did not realize that the toilet was leaking until she received a notice from the Water Department informing her of “high water usage.”

Councillor Graves asked Mrs. Rolle if the pipe was broken.

Mrs. Rolle stated that the pipe was not broken, but that a leak continued through two water-billing cycles. The toilet has since been fixed, she added.

Councillor Boudreau questioned if the current bill is back to normal.

Mrs. Rolle replied that it is.

Councillor Graves stated that Mrs. Rolle made every effort to rectify the problem and asked Mr. Arnold for the amount of the “overage.”

Mr. Arnold replied, “About \$700.”

Councillor Graves asked if Mrs. Rolle’s payments are up-to-date.

Mrs. Rolle said that they are, except for the current bill.

On a motion by Councillor Boudreau and seconded by Councillor Craig Cormier, it was voted to abate the sewer usage portion of the bill for \$650.00.

Joan Mellanson, 126 Peabody Street/Water & Sewer Bill Appeal.

Ms. Mellanson informed the Committee that she was unaware that she could have had the water meter removed and thus, not be required to make minimum water/sewer payments after the water pipes broke in her house in March 2015. The break was due to the gas shut-off and consequent lack of heat. She said that she is obtaining water from neighbors for the toilet and other needs and is working with a local agency for assistance in repairs to the pipes.

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Mr. Arnold noted that Ms. Mellanson's appeal dates back to December 2015 when she still had water service to her home. He suggested that \$232.00 could be abated, representing the difference had the water been shut off.

Councilor Graves questioned if her water/sewer payments were up-to-date.

Mr. Arnold replied that she paid the amount that was overdue (one year).

On a motion by Councillor Craig Cormier and seconded by Councillor Boudreau, it was voted to approve an abatement for \$232.00, representing the last four quarters (less trash fees).

Mr. Hankinson questioned if the water meter was removed.

Mr. Arnold responded, "No."

Ms. Mellanson said that she would have the meter checked to make sure that it is not frozen.

REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councilor Graves reported that the traffic signals at the intersection of Willow Street and Main Street are broken.

Councillors Boudreau and Cormier reported no issues.

On a motion by Councillor Boudreau and seconded by Councillor Cormier, it was voted to adjourn at 5:07 p.m.

The next Committee meeting will be scheduled after the New Year and after the Council President announces assignments.

All documents submitted during meetings are filed in the DPW Office, 416 West Broadway.