

**REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

Regular Meeting of the City Council was held in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, on Tuesday evening, February 20, 2018.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Scott J. Graves called the meeting to order at 7:30 o'clock p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

City Clerk Alan Agnelli called the Roll of Members. Nine (9) Councillors were present including President Scott Graves and Councillors Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Edward Gravel, Karen Hardern, Christine Johnson, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and James Walsh. Councillors James Boone and James Johnson were absent.

OPENING PRAYER

President Graves led the Council in reciting the Opening Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Graves led the Council in reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance".

OPEN MEETING RECORDING & PUBLIC RECORDS ANNOUNCEMENT

President Graves announced to the assembly that the Open Meeting Recording and Public Records Announcement is posted at the entrance to the Chamber, and that any person planning to record the meeting by any means should identify themselves.

READING & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Christine Johnson, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Scott Graves and Councillors Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Edward Gravel, Karen Hardern, Christine Johnson, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and James Walsh, to waive reading and to accept the Minutes of the February 5, 2018 Informal Meeting, Joint Convention, and Regular Meeting, as printed.

PETITIONS, APPLICATIONS, ETC.**#9897**

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Nathan Boudreau, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Scott Graves and Councillors Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Edward Gravel, Karen Hardern, Christine Johnson, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and James Walsh, to refer *A Petition by Verizon New England, Inc. for Permission to Install one (1) SO Pole on the easterly side of Graham Street at a point*

REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2018

approximately 97' southerly from the centerline of Richmond Street to the Public Service Committee for study and report and to Order that a Public Hearing be scheduled at the next Regular Meeting.

#9898

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Christine Johnson, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Scott Graves and Councillors Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Edward Gravel, Karen Hardern, Christine Johnson, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and James Walsh, to refer *A Petition by Zero Point Development, Inc. to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 675 Thereof, Entitled "Zoning," by Adding a Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District off Lovewell Street* to the Public Welfare Committee for study and report and to the Planning Board for review.

NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Councillor Nathan Boudreau and seconded by Councillor Edward Gravel, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Scott Graves and Councillors Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Edward Gravel, Karen Hardern, Christine Johnson, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and James Walsh, to consider New Business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTARY**Monty Tech School Committee Meeting**

Commenting on her attendance at a recent meeting of the Monty Tech School Committee, Councillor Christine Johnson informed the Council that the Committee voted to update the Regional Agreement. She said that during a discussion concerning recording of School Committee meetings, Holden Committee member James Cournoyer repeatedly lashed out at Gardner's Representatives, but that Gardner member Matthew Vance spoke up for himself and "kept his cool." She added that Mr. Cournoyer's behavior, in her opinion, was uncalled for and unprofessional, and that he should be censured by the Committee.

President Graves remarked that he, too, attended the meeting and noted the belligerence directed toward the City of Gardner, adding that he "knows what the Mayor is up against."

Survey

Councillor Christine Johnson informed the Council that she reached out to the public to see three things that they would like for Gardner. She cited an indoor farmers, vendors, or crafters market; Dog Park; keyboarding; reopening the Greenwood Pool; more clothing stores; youth center; sporting arena; and upgrade to City Hall Plaza to serve as a Veterans' memorial and to close Pleasant Street in front of City Hall for a gathering area.

REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2018

“Concerts in the Park” and “Movies in the Park”

Councillor Edward Gravel informed the Council that the 2018 Series of “Movies in the Park” and “Concerts in the Park” have been posted on the City’s website.

Potholes and Road Conditions

Councillors Nathan Boudreau and Edward Gravel commented on the City’s efforts to maintain the roads in light of severe potholes during the winter season.

Councillor James Walsh noted that the long-term solution would be to invest more money into repaving the City’s streets. He cited the City’s Free Cash commitment of \$980,000.00 for road repaving in the prior Fiscal Year and added that it is his hope that the City will again commit at least the same amount of Free Cash in the current Fiscal Year, which should be a priority. “The need is even greater due to the current road conditions,” he added.

Executive Sessions

Commenting on his recent decision to cancel an Executive Session concerning “the Coil Litigation,” Council President Graves informed the Council that it was suggested to him by the City Solicitor to conduct an executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. He said that after looking into the issue more closely, he concluded that the City Council should rarely, if ever, enter into Executive Session for litigation purposes since the City Council has no say in the City’s litigation strategy. He added that the City Council “can either open its doors or close its doors and talk behind closed doors,” and that he’d “rather err on the side of the open meeting law and [in the open meeting] spirit.”

Adult Use Marijuana Ordinance

Council President Graves informed the Council that he anticipated that the Adult Use Marijuana Ordinance is expected in the near future and said that the Community Development and Planning Department is working on it. He added that the State’s Cannabis Control Commission has until March 15 to finalize its Regulations and that they expect that retail stores will be open by July 1, 2018; therefore, the Council “will have some work to do pretty quickly.”

Informal Meeting

Council President Graves informed the Council that he will call an Informal Meeting of the City Council for Monday, March 5 at 6:45 p.m. for iPad training.



REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2018

CLOSING PRAYER

President Graves led the Council in the Closing Prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Christine Johnson and seconded by Councillor Edward Gravel, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Scott Graves and Councillors Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Edward Gravel, Karen Hardern, Christine Johnson, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and James Walsh, to adjourn at 7:45 o'clock p.m.

Accepted by the City Council: *March 5, 2018*