

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2017

Finance Committee Members Present: President Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Walsh and Marc Morgan.

Other Participants: State Representative Jonathan Zlotnik; William Edson, Executive Director, Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center, Inc.; and, City Clerk Alan Agnelli.

The meeting was called to order by President Ronald Cormier at 6:45 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

President Cormier asked if anyone present planned to record the meeting, in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, as follows:

Any person may make a video or audio recording of the open session of this meeting so long as it does not interfere with the conduct of the meeting. All documents and exhibits used or referenced at this meeting shall be submitted in duplicate to the City Clerk, as they become part of the minutes of the meeting. Is there anyone present who will be recording this meeting?

No one responded.

President Cormier announced that several distinguished officials from the City of Fitchburg were present, including Mayor Stephen DiNatale's Chief of Staff, Mr. A.J. Tourigny; City Treasurer/Collector Calvin Brooks; Chief Procurement Officer Mary Delaney; and, Executive Intern Zach Davis.

1-1 Reading and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting(s).

On a motion by Councillor Marc Morgan and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of February 21, 2017, as printed.

2-1 An Order Appropriating \$19,133.00 from Solid Waste Available Enterprise Funds Account to Solid Waste New Equipment Expense.

President Cormier informed the Committee that he addressed the request with Public Health Director Jennifer Susen-Roy, who explained that the Order funds the purchase of only 48 gallon Toters®.

Councillor Walsh noted that the last time that Toters® were purchased was in 2010 and that the 96-Gallon Toters® will be purchased through a grant.

On a motion by Councillor Marc Morgan and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that the following ought to pass:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING A SUM OF MONEY FROM SOLID WASTE
AVAILABLE ENTERPRISE FUNDS ACCOUNT TO SOLID WASTE NEW
EQUIPMENT EXPENSE

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ORDER: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Nineteen Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars and No Cents (\$19,133.00) from Solid Waste Available Enterprise Funds Account to Solid Waste New Equipment Expense.

2-2 An Order Appropriating \$50,000.00 from Free Cash to Community Development & Planning, Zoning Code Update Account.

Councillor Walsh stated that he is unfamiliar with the Respondent, BSC Group, and its work in performing municipal zoning code updates. He noted that the City received only one proposal.

President Cormier said that the Gardner Redevelopment Authority has utilized the services of BSC Group in the City.

Councillor Walsh suggested that the Committee vote to recommend that the Order be referred to the Finance Committee for further study and report, since there are no officials present that could respond to the Committee's questions.

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Marc Morgan, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that the following Order be referred to the Finance Committee for further study and report:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING, ZONING CODE UPDATE ACCOUNT.

ORDER: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$50,000.00) from Free Cash to the Community Development and Planning, Zoning Code Update Account.

3-1 A Measure Confirming the Mayor's Appointment of Randall Heglin to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term expiring February 17, 2020 (Reappointment).

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Marc Morgan, it was voted to recommend that the Council confirm the Mayor's appointment of Randall Heglin to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term expiring February 17, 2020.

3-2 A Measure Confirming the Mayor's Appointment of Raymond LaFond to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term expiring February 17, 2020 (Reappointment).

On a motion by Councillor Marc Morgan and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted to recommend that the Council confirm the Mayor's appointment of Raymond LaFond to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term expiring February 17, 2020.

4-1 Review of Yearly Salaries for Various Positions (§171-66 of the City Code).

Councillor Walsh informed the Committee that the Clerk collected some Mayoral and Council salary data that he requested and that he would be seeking additional salary information from communities with comparable municipal operating budgets. He said that upon review of the salary ranges offered by the Mayor, he calculated that the raise that was granted to the Mayor two years ago amounted to an increase of 12¾% from the prior year. The low figure that the Mayor provided represents a 7.14% increase over the current salary, while the higher figure represents a 10% increase. He noted that if the Council approves a salary using the Mayor's higher figure, the increase would represent a 21% salary increase over four years. He closed his remarks by saying that lots of statistics have been thrown around and that "statistics are like lamp posts – they are used more for support than illumination."

The Committee agreed to postpone further discussion.

5-1 A Measure Authorizing an Exemption for Jessica Francis under G.L. c. 268A, § 20(b), Financial Interest in a Municipal Contract, Personal Services, Non-elected Intermittent, Part-time Swim Coach Position.

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Marc Morgan, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that it approve an Exemption pursuant to G.L. C. 268A, §20(b) in the Matter of a Financial Interest by Jessica Francis for a Contract for Non-Elected, Intermittent Part-time Swim Coach position.

5-2 A Measure Authorizing an Exemption for Joseph Goguen under G.L. c. 268A, § 20(b), Financial Interest in a Municipal Contract, Personal Services, Non-elected Intermittent, Part-time Substitute Teacher Position.

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Marc Morgan, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that it approve an Exemption pursuant to G.L. C. 268A, §20(b) in the Matter of a Financial Interest by Joseph Goguen for a Contract for Non-Elected, Intermittent Part-time Substitute Teacher position.

6-1 #9750 - A Measure Declaring Surplus for Purpose of Disposal Land and Buildings at Stump Pond.

Councillor James Walsh stated that the Committee received documentation from the proponents, as requested, as well as a correction to the parcel description.

State Representative Jonathan Zlotnik informed the Committee that the City Council Authorization will be incorporated into the legislation as part of the property exchange, adding that House Counsel has reviewed the matter and found no concerns.

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On a motion by Councillor Marc Morgan and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that it adopt the following Measure:

DECLARING SURPLUS FOR PURPOSE OF DISPOSAL
LAND AND BUILDINGS AT STUMP POND

VOTE: To declare surplus for the purpose of disposal, in accordance with prevailing General Laws, all land and any buildings at Stump Pond, further identified on the City of Gardner Assessor's Map as W27-11-2 to establish as a minimum amount of \$1.00 to be paid for any conveyance of said property, and to authorize the Mayor to convey said land, or part thereof, for such amount or a larger amount, and upon such other terms as the mayor shall consider proper in accordance with this Vote.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Marc Morgan, it was voted to adjourn at 6:58 p.m.