

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE OF MARCH 12, 2019

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the Office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive, at 4:30 p.m., March 12, 2019.

Members Present: Councillor Nathan Boudreau Chairman, Councillor Craig Cormier.

Member Absent: Councillor James Boone.

Attendees: Dane Arnold, Director; Christopher Coughlin City Engineer; Robert Oliva, Assistant DPW Director; Jeff Legros, Conservation Agent; and, Administrative Assistant Denise Merriam.

CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Nathan Boudreau called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

OPEN MEETING RECORDING

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 Secretary of the Committee, pursuant to the Open Meeting and Public Records Law. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting.

No one is recording the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting as written Councillor Craig Cormier second by Councillor Nathan Boudreau. All in favor. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE ISSUES

#10062 – A Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, for permission to Install 1 JO Pole on west Street beginning at a point approximately 100’ west of the centerline of the intersection of Bridge Street *(In City Council, referred to Public Service, and Ordered to Public Hearing 2/19/19; Public Hearing opened on 3/4/19 continued to 3/18/19 @ 7:30 pm)*

Chris Coughlin stated he has no objections.

Motion made by Councillor Craig Cormier second by Councillor Nathan Boudreau to recommended approval. All in favor. Motion carried.

#10053 – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 312 Thereof, Entitled “Animals,” by Deleting and Repealing S 312-2F *(In City Council and Referred to Public Safety, 2/4/2019; More time granted to public Safety and Referred to Public Service, 2/19/2019).*

It was brought to the City Council attention that City Code bans all dogs from all City property; i.e. parks, playground, cemeteries, etc. Now that we have a dog park at Pulaski Playground we need to adjust ban to exclude the dog park.

Dane Arnold is not in favor of removing the ban completely, we have a lot of issues with people who do not dispose of feces properly, makes it hard to mow grass and for other people to enjoy the City areas.

Councillor Craig Cormier offered an amendment for the designated area of the dog park.

Councillor Boudreau questioned whether there is a fine/arrestable nature?

Motion made by Councillor Craig Cormier seconded by Councillor Nathan Boudreau, to recommend adoption. All in favor. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Dane Arnold: Sent a letter to the Mayor and City Council regarding condition of City streets what it would cost to repair them. Asking them to contact State Reps and ask for more State money.

Updated Committee on water main replacement program that is going into effect this spring. Central Street down through the square down Main St. to Willow St. and Vernon Street, we will put temporary service to businesses, but street closings will impact their business. Pipes are old – installed in 1903. Jeff - get grant to do sidewalks and crosswalks before paving.

Had drain pipe televised in the Elm St., Temple St., Lawrence St. area found lots of roots plugging pipe, we will be replacing the pipe.

The Gas Company will be replacing their pipe on Main Street in April.

Chris Coughlin: Updated the Committee on the Asset Management Grant with DEP to help model water system and drainage, 75% grant. \$197,000 from the State.

Updated Committee on the Willis Road pump station, we have had two breaks on the 24” main needs replacing and we will do with City help to keep cost down.

In early April we will be putting meters in manholes throughout the City to monitor flow, hopefully we will be able to see where the bottle necks are.

Councilor Boudreau asked how many mains in the City are bad. Chris 20% are pre 1920.

Jeff LeGros: Updated Committee on Cedar Hills Solar.

Continuing with Complete Streets Project for Parker, Main, Central Streets.

Keeping an eye on the Sapphire Park project waiting for the next meeting in March if he does not show - will issue fines and back date to original offense.

Councillor Cormier asked about PARC Grants. Jeff said it was denied but we will apply again next year. That is a very competitive area, more applicants than money. We did received three grants two years in a row. The City Council committed money depending on grant funding I hope we can still get it. Council can reauthorize.

The City has received an electric car and installed two charging spaces behind City Hall. These spaces are open to the public. We are waiting for cord retractors to be installed before we go public with them. Councilor Boudreau asked if we knew how many electric cars were in the City. We do not know.

WATER ABATEMENT/REBATE APPEAL

91 Regan Street Homeowner stated bill just kept going up had a plumber come in found leak had it fixed and next bill was even higher not sure what is going on.

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE OF MARCH 12, 2019

Councillor Boudreau asked if he lived at 91 Regan and he said no, but he talked with the tenants and they didn't find anything. Rob stated readings have come back down to normal. Dane reading was only through February it could still be high. Homeowner will go back and change all toilets. Homeowner wanted to know if he could be notified more often if readings were high. Dane we only bill quarterly so we only get readings when it is billing time. We send out high use cards when we see readings above average. Jeff suggested contacting Mass Save have an energy audit done. Motion made by Councillor Craig Cormier second by Councillor Nathan Boudreau to abate \$200 on sewer portion only, all in favor motion passed.

63 Brook Lane: Bought a vacant house no realtor, no readings were taken, lien on property for water/sewer/trash bill \$2,300 bill previous owner. Councilor Boudreau asked if there was any previous issues like this, Dane no it's up to realtor or attorneys to ask for current balance on account then gets paid at closing. Councilor Cormier asked if he discussed this bill with the previous owner, homeowner stated he did and was told not their problem now. Rob did say there was a second meter for irrigation that is on this bill and we have a reading. Dane asked when it was last read. Rob over a year. Councilor Boudreau informed the homeowner they would take this under advisement and get back to him per letter. Motion made by Councillor Craig Cormier second by Councillor Nathan Boudreau abate irrigation amount on sewer portion of bill only. All in favor motion passed.

REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Cormier: Asked if there were any more discussions on Pearl Street. Jeff said he has not been included.

Councillor Boudreau: Any dates for cleaning the City. Jeff said Diane LeBlanc will be setting up the date should be soon. Easter Sunday is the same day as Earth Day may plan for the following weekend.

Motion made by Councillor Craig Cormier, seconded by Councillor Nathan Boudreau, to adjourn meeting at 5:20 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next meeting will schedule at later date. April 8, 2019 at 4:30 pm

All documents submitted at this meeting are stored in the office of the DPW 50 Manca Drive for any review.