

**REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2017**

Regular Meeting of the City Council was held in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, on Monday evening, April 3, 2017.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Ronald Cormier 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 Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Scott Graves, Karen Hardern, James Johnson, Matthew Vance, and James Walsh. Councillors Marc Morgan and Paul Tassone were absent.

OPENING PRAYER

President Cormier led the Council in reciting the Opening Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

OPEN MEETING RECORDING & PUBLIC RECORDS ANNOUNCEMENT

President Cormier 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 James Walsh and seconded by Councillor James Boone, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Karen Hardern, James Johnson, Matthew Vance, and James Walsh, to waive reading and to accept the Minutes of the March 20, 2017 Regular Meeting, as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**#9763**

Reporting for the Finance Committee, Councillor James Walsh informed the Council that all of the appointments before the Council are persons being reappointed by the Mayor and that the Committee voted favorably for Council confirmation.

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On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Karen Hardern, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was voted viva voce, to confirm the following appointment received from the Mayor:

DARRELL SWEENEY to the Position of **INSPECTOR OF WIRES** for the term expiring March 20, 2020.

Worcester, ss.

April 4, 2017

Then personally appeared **DARRELL SWEENEY** and made oath that he would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of **INSPECTOR OF WIRES** according to law and the best of his abilities.

Before me,

/s/ Titi Siriphan, Assistant City Clerk

#9764

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor James Johnson, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Karen Hardern, James Johnson, Matthew Vance, and James Walsh, to confirm the following appointment received from the Mayor:

PATRICIA DARBY to the position of **MEMBER, BOARD OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**, for the term expiring March 9, 2020.

Worcester, ss.

April 3, 2017

Then personally appeared **PATRICIA DARBY** and made oath that she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of **MEMBER, BOARD OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**, according to law and the best of her abilities.

Before me,

/s/ Alan L. Agnelli, City Clerk

#9765

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor James Johnson, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Karen Hardern, James Johnson, Matthew Vance, and James Walsh, to confirm the following appointment received from the Mayor:

MARIO GUAY to the position of **MEMBER, BOARD OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**, for the term expiring March 9, 2020.

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#9766

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor James Boone, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Karen Hardern, James Johnson, Matthew Vance, and James Walsh, to confirm the following appointment received from the Mayor:

GEORGE OUELLET to the position of **MEMBER, HOUSING AUTHORITY**, for the term expiring March 24, 2022.

Worcester, ss.

April 3, 2017

Then personally appeared **GEORGE OUELLET** and made oath that he would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of **MEMBER, HOUSING AUTHORITY**, according to law and the best of his abilities.

Before me,

/s/ Alan L. Agnelli, City Clerk

#9767

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Karen Hardern, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Karen Hardern, James Johnson, Matthew Vance, and James Walsh, to confirm the following appointment received from the Mayor:

STEPHEN HANCOCK to the position of **MEMBER, HOUSING AUTHORITY**, for the term expiring March 24, 2022.

Worcester, ss.

April 3, 2017

Then personally appeared **STEPHEN HANCOCK** and made oath that he would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of **MEMBER, HOUSING AUTHORITY**, according to law and the best of his abilities.

Before me,

/s/ Alan L. Agnelli, City Clerk

PETITIONS, APPLICATIONS, ETC.**#9768**

Reporting for the Public Safety Committee, Councillor Matthew Vance informed the Council that correspondence was received from Deputy Chief of Police John Bernard requesting that a Stop Sign be erected on Heywood Street at Woodland Avenue. He cited a recent serious car accident that occurred at the intersection as the reason for making the request for a temporary sign. He said that Deputy Chief Bernard wrote [in his e-mail] that over the years, a number of area residents reportedly recommended that a Stop sign should



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have been erected at that intersection. Councillor Vance said that the adoption of a temporary measure would afford the Traffic Commission and Public Safety Committee with ample time to study the matter in greater detail.

Councillor Matthew Vance then moved to authorize obedience to isolated STOP signs (§600-54 of the Code of the City of Gardner) for 120 days, as follows:

Stop Street	Direction of Travel	For Traffic Entering
Heywood Street	Westbound	Woodland Avenue

And further, to refer to the Public Safety Committee for further study the question of installing a Stop sign permanently.

Councillor Karen Hardern seconded the motion.

Councillor James Walsh suggested that the language in the body of the Vote document reflect the 120-Day period, as stated in the Title of the Measure.

President Cormier asked Councillor Vance, as the maker of the motion, if he would incorporate the amendment, as offered.

Councillor Vance agreed.

On the motion, as amended, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Karen Hardern, James Johnson, Matthew Vance, and James Walsh, to adopt the following Measure and to refer the question of a permanent Stop sign to the Public Safety Committee for further study and report:

ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY RULES FOR THE REGULATION OF TRAFFIC
OBEDIENCE TO ISOLATED STOP SIGNS
HEYWOOD STREET
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY DAY TRIAL PERIOD
COMMENCING APRIL 4, 2017

VOTED: To authorize obedience to isolated STOP signs (§600-54 of the Code of the City of Gardner), for a One Hundred and Twenty Day Trial Period commencing April 4, 2017, as follows:

Stop Street	Direction of Travel	For Traffic Entering
Heywood Street	Westbound	Woodland Avenue

Presented to Mayor for Approval – April 4, 2017

Approved – April 4, 2017

MARK P. HAWKE, Mayor

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REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**FINANCE COMMITTEE****#9741**

Reporting for the Finance Committee, Councillor James Walsh informed the Council that he submitted a request for an opinion to the City Solicitor on the issue of whether it is lawful to index the Mayor's and Councillors salaries based on an identified index such as the Consumer Price Index. He added that the Committee is awaiting the City Solicitor's reply; therefore, the Committee requests more time. There being no objections, the Finance Committee was granted more time to report on the Review of Yearly Salaries for Various Positions (§171-66 of the City Code).

#9755

Reporting for the Finance Committee, Councillor James Walsh informed the Council that, as he reported at the prior meeting, only one proposal was received for the work, so the Committee requested that the Community Development & Planning Director go out to bid in a more formal manner in order to obtain more bids. He added that the Mayor has been requested to submit a letter to the Council asking for leave to withdraw the Order, but that he has not yet responded, either verbally or in writing. There being no objections, the Finance Committee was granted more time to report on AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING, ZONING CODE UPDATE ACCOUNT.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**#9758**

President Ronald Cormier informed the Council that he spoke briefly with the City Solicitor and plans to address the issue with him in more detail. There being no objections, the Committee of the Whole was granted more time to report on a RESOLUTION CREATING AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE OF THE GARDNER CITY COUNCIL TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CITY CHARTER.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**#9762**

On a motion by Councillor Matthew Vance and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Karen Hardern, James Johnson, Matthew Vance, and James Walsh, to pass the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, CHAPTER 600 THEREOF, ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC," OBEDIENCE TO ISOLATED STOP SIGNS AND ISOLATED YIELD SIGNS.



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Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Gardner as follows:

Section 1. The Code of the City of Gardner is hereby amended by adding to Section 600-54, Obedience to Isolated Stop Signs, the following:

<u>Stop Street</u>	<u>Direction of Travel</u>	<u>For Traffic Entering</u>
South Main Street	Southbound	Kendall Street
South Main Street	Westbound	Travers Street

Section 2. The Code of the City of Gardner is further amended by striking from Section 600-55, Obedience to Isolated Yield Signs, the following:

<u>Yield Street</u>	<u>Direction of Travel</u>	<u>At Intersection of</u>
South Main Street	Southbound	Kendall Street

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

In City Council – March 20, 2017

Ordered Printed – March 20, 2017

First Printing – March 24, 2017

Ordinance Passed – April 3, 2017

Presented to Mayor for Approval – April 4, 2017

Approved – April 4, 2017

MARK P. HAWKE, Mayor

FINAL PRINTING – April 10, 2017

NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Councillor Nathan Boudreau and seconded by Councillor James Johnson, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Karen Hardern, James Johnson, Matthew Vance, and James Walsh, to consider New Business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Councillor Craig Cormier expressed his appreciation to the Department of Public Works for its fine work clearing the streets during the April Fool's Day blizzard.

North Central Pathway Bike Trail Progress

Councillor Scott Graves informed the Council that at the recent Public Service Committee meeting, the City Engineer is "off and running." He said that the bridge over Route 140 will serve to connect the Bike Path and eliminate the need to site the bike path through people's yards.

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Richard Graves Remembrance

President Ronald Cormier expressed the sympathies of the entire City Council to Councillor Scott Graves and his entire family on the recent passing of his father, Richard.

Councillor Graves expressed his appreciation and that of his family for the many gestures of kindness that were bestowed on him and his family by the Council and many others on the occasion of his father's passing.

Winter Parking Ban

Councillor Nathan Boudreau expressed displeasure with the City's winter parking ban, citing other communities that do not have six-month parking bans. He said that he will seek to change it. "I am listening and will try to do something about it."

Tri-City Council Dinner

President Ronald Cormier reminded Councillors to notify the City Clerk if they plan to attend the Tri-City Council Dinner on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at The Fay Club in Fitchburg.

CLOSING PRAYER

President Cormier led the Council in the Closing Prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Matthew Vance and seconded by Councillor Nathan Boudreau, it was voted viva voce, nine (9) yeas, President Ronald Cormier and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Karen Hardern, James Johnson, Matthew Vance, and James Walsh, to adjourn at 7:50 o'clock p.m.

Accepted by the City Council: *April 18, 2017*