

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 16, 2018

Finance Committee Members present were Council President Scott Graves and Councillors Ronald Cormier and James Walsh.

Other Officials Participating: Mayor Mark Hawke; City Auditor John Richard; and, City Clerk Alan Agnelli.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Scott Graves at 12:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall.

President Graves 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.

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

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to approve the Minutes of the May 2, 2018 Meeting, as printed.

2-1 An Order Appropriating \$157,875.00 from Free Cash to Waterford Street School Feasibility – Design and Engineering Account.

The Mayor informed the Committee that the appropriation represents the City's share of the cost of the feasibility study for a new elementary school, adding that the total cost is \$750,000, 78.95% of which is reimbursed by the State.

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted to recommend that the following Order ought to pass:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO WATERFORD STREET SCHOOL FEASIBILITY – DESIGN AND ENGINEERING ACCOUNT.

ORDER: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five Dollars and No Cents (\$157,875.00) from Free Cash to Waterford Street School Feasibility – Design and Engineering Account.

2-2 An Order Appropriating \$200,000.00 from Free Cash to Principal Inside Debt.

The Mayor informed the Committee that the \$200,000 appropriation represents a portion of the City's share of the cost of the new DPW facility, which is \$625,000.00.

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The remainder of the project's cost will be borne by the Sewer and Water Enterprise funds. He said that the remainder, \$425,000.00, is included in the Debt Service portion of the FY2019 City Budget.

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted to recommend that the following Order ought to pass:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO PRINCIPAL INSIDE DEBT.

ORDER: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$200,000.00) from Free Cash to Principal Inside Debt.

2-3 An Order Appropriating \$415,000.00 from Free Cash to Snow and Ice Removal.

The Mayor informed the Committee that the appropriation represents the amount needed to cover the deficit in the snow and ice removal account, as well as sufficient funds to cover any outstanding bills from contractors. He said that expenses for snow and ice removal for FY2018 could reach \$715,000.00, which is the third most expensive year.

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted to recommend that the following Order ought to pass:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL.

ORDER: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Four Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$415,000.00) from Free Cash to Snow and Ice Removal.

3-1 A Measure Authorizing an Exemption for Edward Tonet under G.L. c. 268A, § 20(b), Financial Interest in a Municipal Contract, Personal Services, Non-elected Compensated Municipal Employee, School Department Assistant Facilities Director.

The Mayor informed the Committee that Ed Tonet formerly served as the City's Plumbing Inspector, part-time, at which time, Mike Guida was hired to replace him. Since Mr. Guida recently announced his resignation, Building Commissioner Roland Jean requested that Mr. Tonet, who works full-time as the School Department's Assistant Facilities Director, fill in part-time until the position is filled. The Mayor said that by exempting Mr. Tonet, the City would save money by paying Mr. Tonet at the Plumbing Inspector's rate, thus avoiding paying him at the overtime rate.

Councillor Walsh asked if Mr. Guida's position is an appointed post.

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Mayor Hawke stated that the Plumbing Inspector is an appointed position and that the position has been advertised in the local newspaper and that he anticipates that it will take about 4 to 6 weeks before a new hire “comes aboard.”

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted to recommend that the City Council approve an Exemption pursuant to G.L. C. 268A, §20(b) in the Matter of a Financial Interest by Edward Tonet for a Contract for School Department Assistant Facilities Director.

3-2 A Measure Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Debra Pond to Member, Disability Commission, for term expiring May 8, 2021.

The Mayor informed the Committee that Debra Pond has served for many years on the Disability Commission in her role as HR Director, noting that she is the City’s ADA Coordinator and the two positions “go hand-in-hand.”

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted to recommend that the Council confirm the Mayor’s Appointment of Debra Pond to Member, Disability Commission, for term expiring May 8, 2021.

4-1 An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner by Adding New Chapter 295, to Be Entitled “Community Bandstand Committee.” (Continued from 5/2/2018).

Councillor Graves stated that the Committee is awaiting an opinion from the Law with respect to advising the Council as to the best way to handle the dilemma associated with donations being collected by the City without an authorized gift fund.

The Committee agreed to keep AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER BY ADDING NEW CHAPTER 295, TO BE ENTITLED “COMMUNITY BANDSTAND COMMITTEE,” on its Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted to adjourn at 12:18 p.m.