

**City of Gardner, Massachusetts
City Council Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of May 31, 2018**

Committee Chairman Councillor James Johnson called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall. Committee members Councillors Karen Hardern and Edward Gravel were present.

Other officials present and/or participating were Building Commissioner Roland Jean; Fire Chief Richard Ares; and, City Clerk Alan Agnelli.

Minutes of Prior Meeting(s).

On a motion by Councillor Edward Gravel and seconded by Councillor Karen Hardern, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the April 17, 2018 Meeting, as printed.

Building Department Budget – Building Commissioner Roland Jean

Department is in staffing transition – Ed Tonet is filling in while the search is conducted for new Plumbing & Gas Inspector. The Department is also interviewing for a new night building custodian for City Hall. A second Local Inspector's position (part-time) is included in the Budget, but that the City is having a difficult time finding someone to take the position. The position would be handling R-2 Inspections (multi-family units).

Fire/Ambulance Budget – Fire Chief Richard Ares

- Fire Dept. Repairs & Maintenance - \$70k budgeted, covers repairs to all vehicles and apparatus and for tires, oil, grease, etc. Additional expenses for the Ladder, and buildings and facilities were addressed in the current year's budget.
- Ambulance Dept. Professional Services – Provides payments to Coastal for Ambulance billing services and the account also serves as “a pass through” for ALS intercepts. Coastal charges 3½% of the amount collected for collection fees (\$44,000 paid to-date).

Other Matters

- The new Ambulance is coming off the assembly line next week and will be delivered to the dealer in Attleboro for outfitting. Expected to be delivered to the Department in July.
- Working to implement combined Fire-Police Dispatching, anticipating August or September to “go online.” Dispatchers will undergo 8 hours of training in Fire Department protocols.
- Ambulance service is doing well, averaging 4.4 transports per day. Since March 1, 2017, \$546,891 in fees have been collected through the end of April, 2018 (includes the period when the Ambulance was out-of-service for repairs).
- Current Ambulance could be outfitted with a new chassis to extend its useful life since the box is in good shape. Potential for more revenue for the City.
- When the Fire Department is fully-staffed, no OT is paid for EMT coverage.

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#9923 – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 600 Thereof, Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic,” to Prohibit Parking on Sawyer Street from Dyer Street Westerly for a Distance of 665’, both sides.

Committee Chairman Councillor James Johnson stated that the proposed Ordinance was recommended by the Traffic Commission, which cited the narrowness of the street and the inability of public safety vehicles, particularly Fire apparatus, from traversing through Sawyer Street due to cars parked along both sides near the gated rear entrance to OEV.

On a motion Councillor Edward Gravel and seconded by Karen Hardern, it was voted to recommend that the City Council pass the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, CHAPTER 600 THEREOF, ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC.”

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

Section 1. Section 600-24 of Chapter 600, Vehicles and Traffic, Parking Prohibited on certain streets, is amended by adding the following:

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sawyer Street	Both	From Dyer Street westerly for a distance of 665 feet

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

Adjournment.

On a motion Councillor Edward Gravel and seconded by Karen Hardern, it was voted to adjourn at 6:39 p.m.