

**CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 25, 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 present were Councillors Karen Hardern and Edward Gravel.

Other Officials present and/or participating were Public Health Director Jennifer Susen-Roy; Building Commissioner Roland Jean; Fire Chief Richard Ares; Police Chief Neil Erickson; Deputy Chief of Police Richard Braks; and, Assistant City Clerks John Olivari and Faith Glover.

I. 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 May 31, 2018 and June 11, 2018 Public Safety Committee Meetings, as printed.

II. Department Head Reports

Health Director -Jennifer Susen-Roy provided the following information:

- Effective August 3, Seaman Paper will terminate the contract for gas at the Landfill and that "flares will go online full-time."
All the buildings that were built by Seamans will be staying for the Transfer Station's usage. Because of the pitch of the mound from the old dump and the fear that the covering over the mound would be punctured, that space could not be used as "green space" for solar panels, for example.
- 142 Pleasant Street – The Judge has granted receivership of this property. The owner will no longer have access to the property without permission from the Court or from the Receiver.
- "National Night Out" will be held on Tuesday evening, August 7, 2018.
- Asst. Director Lauren Saunders is very busy with housing inspections.

Fire Chief Richard Ares (Fire/Ambulance) provided the following information:

- Two firefighters will be graduating from the Fire Academy on August 3, 2018 and will be ready for regular shift duties. Another two firefighters will be entering the Academy mid-October 2018.
- On July 6, the new ambulance arrived and should be in-service around the second week of August -- just awaiting State inspection.
- A FEMA Grant for a new fire truck is pending. The City should hear something by next month.
- The new software has been installed for training the Police Dispatchers to also dispatch Fire services. The Dispatchers have been training with firefighters for 8 hours at a time.
- A Policy has been implemented to help protect Firefighters from the risk of cancer – all "turn out gear" must be washed after every fire. It would cost

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\$19,000.00 to outfit every firefighter with a second set of gear, which would provide on-duty firefighters with another set of gear to wear in the event of another fire.

Building Commissioner Roland Jean provided the following information.

- 445 building permits have been issued so far this year and it is expected that up to 900 permits would be issued by end of the year.
- The GFA Credit Union and Fidelity Bank are undergoing major renovations.
- 750 West Broadway will be an electrical supply building.
- The DPW building was issued an occupancy permit.
- The City Hall Auditorium is almost completed, but needs a sprinkler system at an additional cost to the City.
- Two new inspectors started in the Building Department – Plumbing & Gas Inspector and a Local Inspector.
- The two new City Hall Building Custodians are working out well.
- Sapphire Park issues are all set, so that they should be able to build again.
- 183 Main Street is a vacant three family house. The ZBA denied a permit because the owner had no plans to fix the outside of the building.
- In 2014, the Court ordered the removal of big cement blocks from the side of the road on Riverside Drive. Roland Jean has no plans at this time to remove the blocks until the bridge is fixed, as the bridge will not withstand the additional weight required to remove the cement blocks from the bridge.

Police Chief Neil Erickson and Deputy Chief Braks provided the following information.

- 3 new Police Officers graduated from the Academy and are now on duty.
- Another 3 new Police Officers will enter the Academy at the end of July and will graduate in December.
- The Police Department now has a drone to assist with area surveying; to search for missing persons; or, to track someone “on the run.” The drone “was rolled-out” and will be available for use in a couple of months.
- D.C. Braks to undergo Deputy Chief training.
- Sgt. Nick Maroni will appointed to the position of permanent Lieutenant.
- Officer Matthew Arsenault will be appointed to the position of permanent Sergeant.
- On October 1, 2018, Dispatch will assume Fire dispatching, as “the technical piece is in place.”

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III. **Motor Vehicle Dealer and MV Junk License Applications.**

#9962 – An Application by Folgar Salvage and Export Company for a License to Buy and Sell Second Hand Motor Vehicles, Class 2, at Rear 27 Hill Street (In City Council and Referred to Public Safety, 7/2/2018).

The deal fell through as Mr. Lajoie does not have a purchase and sales agreement.

#9963 – An Application by Folgar Salvage and Export Company for a License to Deal in Motor Vehicle Junk, Class 3, at Rear 27 Hill Street (In City Council, Ordered to Public Hearing, and Referred to Public Safety, 7/2/2018).

The deal fell through, as Mr. Lajoie does not have a purchase and sales agreement. Mr. Rahaim is looking to buy Lajoie's business.

Councillor Gravel moved to postpone action on #9962 and #9963. Councillor Hardern seconded the motion. Approved.

#9964 – An Application by Rob's Dyno Service, LLC for a License to Buy and Sell Second Hand Motor Vehicles (Motorcycles), Class 1, at 268 Coleman Street (In City Council and Referred to Public Safety 7/2/2018).

All concerns from Fire Dept., Police Dept., and Building Dept. have been addressed. Councillor Gravel moved to recommend that the City Council grant the License. Councillor Hardern seconded the motion. Approved.

#9980 – An Application by Salvadore Auto Exchange, Inc. for a Permit to amend the Motor Vehicle Dealer License, Class 1, from Salvadore Chrysler-Dodge, 442 W. Broadway, to Salvadore Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram.

Councillor Gravel moved to recommend that the City Council grant the Permit. Councillor Hardern seconded the motion. Approved.

IV. **Traffic Issues**

Deputy Chief Braks reported the following.

- DPW trimmed the shrubs that interfered with the Stop sign on Leamy and Baker Streets. There is a parking restriction - no one is to park within 20' of the Stop sign. Residents do have a driveway, so this should not be a problem for them.
- The D.C was informed that there has been speeding on South Main Street.

V. **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDNER, CHAPTER 600, ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC," ARTICLE VI: STOPPING, STANDING, AND PARKING, SECTION 23: ALL-NIGHT PARKING.**

The Police Chief and Fire Chief reported that they are not in favor of changing the overnight parking ban to an "as-needed" call.

Motion made by Councillor Gravel to not recommend a change to the winter season overnight parking ban. Councillor Hardern seconded the motion. Approved.

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VI. Other Business

Parking Meters: Remove 5 parking meters on Connors Street between City Hall Avenue and Parker Street (Fire Station side) and remove 4 parking meters on Connors Street between City Hall Avenue and Parker Street (City Hall side).

- The reason for recommending that the meters be removed is that the maintenance costs are greater than the revenues generated. The meters then would become available to replace broken/damaged meters. Chief Erickson agreed.
- The Mayor would like to institute Two-Hour Parking restrictions on Connors Street in place of the existing meters, near adjacent businesses.
- The Police Chief expressed concern regarding the cost and availability of Police staffing, which such an arrangement would require frequent observation by Police Officers of the designated areas.

Councillor Gravel made a motion to refer the issue to the City Council without a recommendation. Councillor Hardern seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VII. Adjournment.

On a motion Councillor Edward Gravel and seconded by Karen Hardern, it was voted to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.