

## REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of AUGUST 20, 2018

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Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive, at 4:20 pm, August 20, 2018.

**Members Present:** Councilor Nathan Boudreau Chairman, Councilor Craig Cormier, Councilor James Boone, Administrative Assistant Denise Merriam

**Attendees:** Dane Arnold DPW Director; Alan Zhong, 244 E. Broadway, PACC Board Members (Vern, Dennis, Shawn)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Councilor Nathan Boudreau called the meeting to order at 4:20 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 June 7, 2018 meeting as written Councilor Craig Cormier second by Councilor James Boone, all in favor motion carries.

### **ORDINANCE ISSUES**

#### **#9905 – An Ordinance to Amend the code of the City of Gardner by Adding a New Chapter to Be Entitled “Scenic Roads.” (In City Council and Referred jointly to Public Service Committee and Public Welfare Committee, 3/19/2018).**

Director Arnold stated that State Law already exists for tree cutting. As Public Works Director, my duty is to protect people regarding dead limbs or dead trees on public streets or walks that could do harm. Councilor Cormier Mass. State Law is written that way, do not need a public hearing for every tree. Dean posts trees that need to be removed just not in the newspaper, Public Hearings are not needed for every tree if we find a dead tree from looking down into the center from the bucket truck and we are paving a road the tree comes down. Trees to just take come down, stone walls, driveways (covered through City Engineer with driveway permit) are cover in State Law. Councilor Boone do everything you can to have public hearing on trees. Give people an option to speak. Councilor Boudreau seems he is going out of his way on these issues; a public hearing is not needed for public safety. Councilor Cormier appreciate request but redundant with State Law. Motion made by Councilor James Boone second by Councilor Craig Cormier to place Scenic Ordinance on file with Council.

**An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 600 Thereof, Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic,” Section 23, All Night Parking.**

Motion made by Councilor James Boone to send this to the City Council as written. No second. Dane: We need to change all vehicles have to be off the street between 11:00pm to 7:00 am. How are residents going to be notified, we are putting a burden on the Police Dept. Councilor Cormier is in favor if we can communicate with the public. Councilor Boudreau asked if Dane knew how many DPW’s have this type of parking ban. Dane inside of 495 I feel there are quite a few. Dane does not feel this will work this year. Discussion between Dane and the Committee on how to notify residents. Police Dept. and Public Safety Committee are not in favor of this change. Motion made by Councilor James Boone second by Councilor Craig Cormier to send to the City Council in favor of ordinance with recommendation to discuss again at City Council meeting. All in favor motion passes.

**REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Dane Arnold: The High School parking lot is torn apart, Keating is way behind on paving as they lost 47 days due to rain, and they are prioritizing their work we will not be able to get all our roads done this season.

After the public hearing the residents on Oak Street want concrete sidewalks on both sides. Councilor Boone asked why the sidewalk on both sides. Dane because they are already there. Councilor James Boone why not go back to one sidewalk, your doubling cost. Dane would like to eliminate one but residents are not happy.

Rob Oliva: We are looking at early stage of meter replacement program; meters can be read by driving by.

Suez Contract for fall working with the Mayor and Personnel on job descriptions. Clark Street water main replacement on track depending on weather.

**WATER ABATEMENT/REBATE APPEAL**

244 East Broadway: Owner received a notice of tampering with meter, \$500 fine plus cost for a new meter. Mr. Zhong stated they had a leak and the handyman may have taken meter out to do repairs did not know it was not allowed, not done intentionally. I called Suez the next day to check for bad meter. Dane meter breaks if frozen, maybe tighten too hard could break it, that is why we put them in and out not homeowners. Mr. Zhong stated he paid for the meter should not be charged again. Dane homeowners only pay for second meters if the originally has been damaged and needs to be replaced, the City pays for the original. Dane asked Mr. Zhong if he used a licensed plumber, Mr. Zhong only handyman. Dane asked if he had a receipt for the work that was done. Mr. Zhong said no paid cash. Councilor Boudreau told Mr. Zhong that the Committee would take this under advisement and let him know their decision by letter. Committee and Dane had brief discussion and Dane does not feel he intentionally tampered with the meter but should pay for the replacement meter. Motion made by Councilor Craig Cormier second by Councilor James Boone to waive tampering fee but charge Mr. Zhong for the replacement meter. All in favor motion carries.

PACC: In 2014 a meter was installed in the Pavilion Building and was never included in billing. They are looking for a payment plan. Dennis stated building is shut down six months of the year. Vern the main building is open all year. Brief discussion of the payment PACC could afford. Dennis also stated they had a leak that was repaired so that would not be a normal amount of water used. A reading was taken in April when they opened and a reading will be taken in October when they close then a history will show what could be billed. Motion made by Councilor Craig Cormier second by Councilor James Boone to get reading for the season so we have something to go by and create a bill from there. All in favor motion carries.

### **REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM COUNCILORS**

Councilor Boudreau: Resident received a letter on Leamy Street regarding trimming bushes, why did other residents not receive one. Dane said it is a public safety issue hedges over walk. We received a complaint from a resident. We sent out 3-4 letters on Leamy St. to trim bushes.

Can a handicap spot be put on Parker St. at Rock St. in front of the hair salon? Dane stated we do not put handicap on street for commercial use.

Put in request with Traffic Committee.

Sink hole at 3 Chatham Street.

Pot hole on Rte 2A near bowling alley. Dane that is the State.

17 Guild Road over flow sewer in bathroom when flush toilets. Dane they should have a trap, we flush the main every three years could be internal plumbing.

Councilor Cormier: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Boone: Nothing at this time.

Motion made by Councilor Craig Cormier second by Councilor James Boone to adjourn meeting at 5:23 pm. All in favor motion passes.

Next meeting will schedule at later date.

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

Minutes approved at the September 13, 2018 meeting as written