

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of October 1, 2020

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW 50 Manca Drive at 4:00 PM on October 1, 2020.

Members Present: Councilor Nathan Boudreau, Chairman; Councilor Judy Mack; Councilor Karen Hardern; Administrative Assistant Christine Harty

Attendees: Dane E. Arnold, DPW Director; Chris Coughlin, City Engineer; Rob Oliva Assistant Director; Lyndsy Butler, Conservation Agent

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Nathan Boudreau called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

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.

Dane announces Christine Harty will take minutes of meeting via recording device.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the August 24, 2020 meeting as written made by Councilor Judy Mack second by Councilor Karen Hardern, all in favor motion carries.

ABATEMENTS WATER/SEWER

64 Ken Drive: Resident, Mr. Michael Gronowicz present. States he received a high use card just prior to billing. Found to have been toilet leak. Has since been repaired and balance due paid. Was denied abatement by Assistant Director, chose to appeal to PSC. Water passed through water & sewer system. Motion made by Councilor Karen Hardern second by Councilor Judy Mack to deny appeal.

143 West Broadway: Resident, David Williams present. States he received high use card shortly before billing indicating excessive water use. Leak was found in irrigation system in location near or under pool making detection of leaking water difficult. Credit was received on sewer portion of bill from reading obtained on secondary meter. Customer appealing Assistant Director's denial of request for credit of water. Discussion regarding history of leak prior to sale (Williams is new homeowner) and issue of detecting leak. Motion made by Councilor Judy Mack second by Councilor Karen Hardern to approve water credit of metered irrigation use.

25 Wright Street: Resident contacted via conference call for appeal. States he received a high use card earlier in year, April 2020. Checked property for leaks, City was unable to come out initially due to Covid. States City later came out and replaced meter, possibly indicating had been city side issue. Is looking to appeal/plea for compromise on last portion of excessive billing amount currently unpaid. Committee discussion, property is

large multi-family, also water billing office did have knowledge of repairs to toilet flappers made prior to meter replacement. Water Dept. employees found replaced toilets on street of residence at time of appointment to check property. Motion made by Councilor Karen Hardern second by Councilor Judy Mack to deny appeal.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Lyndsy Butler: School is going out to bid beginning in November. Leo Park will also be wrapping up about that time. The project is looking great, ran into issue with deep large rocks but almost complete. Working on edits of the MVP report and out to public for response in next month or so. Councilor Judy Mack, no issue with conservation regarding school? Lyndsy, all is good to go, did have review and stipulations to come with much monitoring which is good.

Dane Arnold: The water, base coating and paving of binder coat is done downtown. In late spring-summer will raise structures and top entire downtown as last part of phase. Water main is in on Clark Street and service connections needed. Currently working on Acadia, hope to be wrapping up before snow. Looking at next phase, Parker/Main down to Jean St.

Water main project next year is Pearl Street running from Smith St., under Route 140 and up to Pearly Lane. Also few smaller projects depending on funding. Also looking at 600K from Chapter 90 this year to do Whitney, High and Lovewell Street. Gas Company is replacing a line in a portion of Lovewell from High to Metcalf Street. Will put off paving there until next year.

Looking to send a couple things to finance but no letter put together yet. 1. Larger city trees, maple & oak cut down are stored on backside of landfill along with large piles of brush from residents. Board of Health rents grinder, would like to ask finance to split with BOH, ask for 15K, majority is city trees. 2. Large city tree fell onto and through house on Abbott St. Hired emergency contractor with crane to remove at cost of \$9,975.00. Did not have money in budget for this, asking City to pay and possible reimbursement down the road from insurance.

Have a contractor ready to begin painting of elevated storage tank next month.

Any question? Councilor Hardern, progress on Pleasant St. Bridge? Dane, is state project but did hear could be done in 3 months, by January. Chris Coughlin, thinks will not finish roadway by then but will be open/passable.

Councilor Mack, regarding Pearl to Pearly Lane, are we draining water? Dane, we have been flushing. Will need to drain storage tank so keeping it open and fresh. Councilor Mack, is large city tree on Abbott Street deductible?? Dane, City is self-insured but would also think this considered act of Nature. Chris Coughlin, deductible 10K, crane cost \$9,975.00.

Chris Coughlin: Have no update, just brief overview of Stormwater Ordinances. City had received a letter from the EPA last December regarding these Ordinances, needed since May of 2008, previous Administration had not addressed. The City is currently doing everything in the requirements of the regulations but was never "regulated" to do so. The Ordinances provide the "teeth". The latest extension was to October 15th and City must complete.

First Ordinance covers development of projects in City and to ensure steps are taken .
Second Ordinance prevents illegal hookups to stormwater and the right to enforcement.
We are among one of the only MS4 communities to not have passed these Ordinances. These ordinances overlap much of the Wetland Protection Act, and fill in holes that are missed.

Councilor Judy Mack, the Ordinances will further enforce protection of the City Watershed?
Chris, yes. They are the final puzzle piece for every project to funnel through the same process.
Councilor Karen Hardern, does this change City right to access City residences? Chris Coughlin,
no extra authority is given, does not change existing powers of City in residences.

Motion made by Councilor Judy Mack second by Councilor Karen Hardern to favorably report to City Council for next regular meeting, Item #10327-An Ordinance Relative to Stormwater and Erosion Control; Item #10328-An Ordinance Relative to Illicit Connections and Discharges to the Storm Drain System. All in favor, motion carries.

REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM COUNCILOR'S

Councilor Judy Mack: No requests, would like to say thank you for email regarding wall on Cross St. Do you have a timeline? Dane, will not be happening in immediate, due to arrival of cold temperatures. Mack; would also like to commend DPW for stone repairs at Green Bower Cemetery.

Councilor Karen Hardern: Would like to request holes patched at Harvard St. .

Councilor Nathan Boudreau: New gate built at Parker's Pond looks nice.

Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Councilor Judy Mack second by Councilor Nathan Boudreau to adjourn meeting at 4:58 pm. Roll Call vote: Councilor Karen Hardern yes, Councilor Judy Mack yes, Councilor Nathan Boudreau yes. Motion passes.

Next meeting scheduled as needed.

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

Respectfully submitted:
Christine M. Harty, Administrative Assistant

PRESIDENT
Elizabeth J. Kazinskas

COUNCILLORS AT LARGE
James S. Boone
Craig R. Cormier
Ronald F. Cormier
Scott Joseph Graves, Esq.
Judy A. Mack
George C. Tyros

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CITY COUNCIL



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WARD 1 COUNCILLOR
James M. Walsh, Esq.

WARD 2 COUNCILLOR
Elizabeth J. Kazinskas

WARD 3 COUNCILLOR
Nathan R. Boudreau

WARD 4 COUNCILLOR
Karen G. Hardern

WARD 5 COUNCILLOR
Alek Dernalowicz, Esq.

September 29, 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2020
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: DPW Office, 50 Manca Drive

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AGENDA

- I. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the prior meeting.
- II. Department Updates:
 - Public Works/Sewer/Water – Dane Arnold, DPW Director
 - Survey/Engineering – Chris Coughlin, City Engineer
 - Conservation Commission – Lyndsy Butler, Conservation Agent
- III. Abatements Water/Sewer:
 - a. 64 Ken Drive
 - b. 143 West Broadway
 - c. 25 Wright Street
- IV. #10327-An Ordinance Relative to Stormwater and Erosion Control (In City Council and Referred to Public Service Committee, 9/8/2020).
- V. #10328-An Ordinance Relative to Illicit Connections and Discharges to the Storm Drain System (In City Council and Referred to Public Service Committee, 9/8/2020).
- VI. Councillor Requests.
- VII. Adjournment

NOTICE: The listing of Agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chairman which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

CITY COUNCIL OF GARDNER

Nathan R. Boudreau

Councilor Nathan R. Boudreau
Chairman, Public Service Committee