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CITY OF GARDNER
MASSACHUSETTS 01440-2630

OFFICE OF THE
CITY COUNCIL



September 14, 2022

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL MEETING

Date: Monday, October 3, 2022
Time: 6:45 P.M.
Location: City Council Chambers, Room 219, City Hall

AGENDA

10781 – An Act Relative to Establish a Special Act Charter Drafting Committee.
(*In the City Council and Referred to Committee of the Whole 9/7/2022*)

CITY COUNCIL OF GARDNER

Elizabeth J. Kazinskas

ELIZABETH J. KAZINSKAS

Council President

NOTICE: Items listed on the Council Calendar are those reasonably anticipated by the Council President to 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 of Gardner - Executive Department
Mayor Michael J. Nicholson

RECEIVED

2022 SEP -1 PM 2:15

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
 GARDNER, MA

August 23, 2022

Hon. Elizabeth J. Kazinskas, Council President
 And City Councilors
 Gardner City Hall, Rm 121
 95 Pleasant St
 Gardner, MA 01440

RE: An Act to Establish a Special Act Charter Drafting Committee

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

The current City Charter was originally drafted ninety-nine (99) years ago, and aside from a few small changes, has remained largely the same over the course of the last century.

In both a spirit of collaboration between the branches of the City's government and a spirit of looking forward, I am asking that the City Council vote to establish a Special Act Charter Drafting Committee to review our City Charter and submit proposed amendments in order to keep the business of the City's government up to date in modern times.

As we approach the document's 100th anniversary on January 1st of this year, I believe it would be prudent to update the Charter to ensure the operations of the City's government are meeting the needs of a modern municipality.

While I fully believe the structure of the City's Mayor-Council form of government works well and fits what this City needs, I do believe that some of the systems and operational aspects of the existing charter could be updated.

Over the past 100 years, our world as a whole has gone through a Great Depression, two World Wars, the Cold War, and a global pandemic. Since the current document was enacted, man has landed on the moon, the airplane was invented, the Berlin Wall was constructed and torn down, the Civil Rights Act was adopted, citizens between the ages of 18 and 21 were given the right to vote, and eighteen (18) individuals have held the office of President of the United States.

In all of the aforementioned events, the world changed and adapted to meet the times - as we as a City must also do. A lot has changed over the past century, and as we move forward to a stronger tomorrow, we must make sure this City has all of the tools and processes it needs to be successful in dealing with the obstacles, issues, and opportunities that were not yet even dreamt of when the current Charter was penned in 1921 and enacted in 1923.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Nicholson
 Mayor, City of Gardner

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A
SPECIAL ACT CHARTER DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

BE IT VOTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1: That there be established a Special Act Charter Drafting Committee consisting of three members to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by two-thirds vote of the City Council. Said Committee shall draft a Special Act Charter for the City for submission to the General Court and placement on the municipal general election ballot.
- Section 2: The Committee shall meet in open session, hold public hearings, and shall submit its draft Special Act to the City Council for its consideration.
- Section 3: Upon final action on the draft Special Act Charter by the City Council, the Special Act Charter Drafting Committee shall be dissolved.