

**REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

Regular Meeting of the City Council was held remotely on Monday evening, February 16, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Kazinskas called the meeting to order at 7:30 o'clock p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

City Clerk Titi Siriphan called the Roll of Members. Ten (10) Councillors were present including Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Aleksander Dernalowicz, Scott Joseph Graves, Karen Hardern, Elizabeth Kazinskas, George Tyros, and James Walsh. Councillor Judy Mack was absent.

OPENING PRAYER

President Kazinskas led the Council in reciting the Opening Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Kazinskas led the Council in reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance".

OPEN MEETING RECORDING & PUBLIC RECORDS ANNOUNCEMENT

President Kazinskas announced that pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Gardner City Council will be conducted via remote participation and broadcast live on Gardner Educational Television, Channel 8, and on the City's YouTube Channel. The audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings will be posted on the City's website as soon as possible after the meeting. She added that since the meeting is being conducted via **Zoom**, that all votes taken would be by roll call and asked Councillors to raise their hands to be recognized.

READING & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, on call of the roll, it was voted ten (10) yeas, President Elizabeth Kazinskas and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Aleksander Dernalowicz, Scott Joseph Graves, Karen Hardern, George Tyros, and James Walsh, to waive reading and to accept the Minutes of the February 1, 2021 as printed.

REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2021

PUBLIC HEARINGS**#10394**

President Elizabeth Kazinskas opened the Public Hearing on the Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. to install one (1) JO Pole on Manca Drive beginning at a point approximately 485 feet south of the centerline of the intersection of West Broadway and Manca Drive and continuing approximately 17 feet in an east direction. Installing one (1) JO Pole in the public way of Manca Drive for commercial service of 440 West Broadway.

The President announced that a representative of National Grid was not available for the hearing due to “storm-related duties.” She did read an email statement for the record from Vinny LoGuidice, a representative from National Grid, of what would have been said at tonight’s Public Hearing.

The President thrice called for persons wishing to testify in favor of the Petition.

There being none, the President thrice called for persons wishing to testify in opposition.

There being none, President Kazinskas closed the Hearing at 7:51 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYORORDERS**#10395**

Councillor Walsh informed the Council that this money order was previously on the calendar and later removed at the request by the Mayor to leave to withdraw for various reasons. It is now back on the calendar with new information.

Councillor Scott Graves stated that the city did not use the procurement statute to get bids. The reason why they have a procurement statute is so that the tax payers get the best price possible for the services that the city is obtaining. Since this will cost a lot, he would like to see that the city follow chapter 30B of Massachusetts General Law.

Councillor Karen Hardern mentioned some concerns she has about the property. She believes it is a health and safety issue and wanted to know if the city can cordon off the building in case it falls. If the building falls, it could be a catastrophe because on one side of the building there is a home, on the other, there is a business, and then you have the road.

Councillor James Boone mentioned that the area is a state highway.

Mayor Nicholson stated that he is fine with the item being referred back to the Finance Committee. He did reach out to DOT with Councillor Boone’s concern, they did let them

**REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

know that it was a state owned road but maintained by the city. Also, Mass General Law does not allow the city to go through the formal bidding process until an appropriation has been made by the appropriation authority (the City Council). Until the appropriation is made they are not legally allowed to go through the formal procurement process. The bids were based on quotes received.

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted viva voce, ten (10) yeas, President James Walsh and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Aleksander Dernalowicz, Scott Joseph Graves, Karen Hardern, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and George Tyros, to refer the following Order to the Finance Committee and Law Department for further discussion and report:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO MAYOR'S UNCLASSIFIED BUILDING DEMO ACCOUNT.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Two Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$265,000.00) from Free Cash to Mayor's Unclassified Building Demo Account.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE****#10394**

Councillor Nathan Boudreau respectfully requests more time. It was a request by the DPW Director to postpone the meeting due to the winter weather storm they had that day. The previous Public Service Committee Meeting had to be cancelled. It will be rescheduled prior to the next City Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Nathan Boudreau would like to thank the DPW for their work related to the few storms the city has had. He mentioned that he enjoys living next to the PACC and watch the community come together for the COVID 19 vaccination site. He thanks the people involved in the process.

Councillor James Boone appreciates the PACC for allowing the city to use their club for the COVID 19 vaccine clinic.

**REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

Councillor James Walsh would also like to thank all those involved in the vaccination program. It was a very successful process. He commends Mayor Nicholson for his efforts with keeping everyone notified with services and when vaccines will be available.

President Elizabeth Kazinskas would also like to say thank you to Heywood Healthcare, Gardner City Hall, the Gardner Health Department and Community Volunteer Vaccination Teams for managing the COVID 19 vaccination clinic that was held in Gardner at the Polish American Citizens Club.

- She has received a lot of positive feedback from the constituents. This has been managed extremely well
- She shared some information on how to register for an appointment and vaccine availability

CLOSING PRAYER

President Kazinskas led the Council in the Closing Prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Nathan Boudreau and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, on call of the roll, it was voted ten (10) yeas, President Elizabeth Kazinskas and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Aleksander Dernalowicz, Scott Joseph Graves, Karen Hardern, George Tyros, and James Walsh, to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Accepted by the City Council: March 1, 2021