

**REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2021**

Regular Meeting of the City Council was held remotely on Monday evening, March 15, 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 Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Aleksander Dernalowicz, Scott Joseph Graves, Karen Hardern, Elizabeth Kazinskas, Judy Mack, George Tyros, and James Walsh. Councillor James Boone 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, Judy Mack, George Tyros, and James Walsh, to waive reading and to accept the Minutes of the March 1, 2021 and March 4, 2021 as printed.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS**#10399**

President Elizabeth Kazinskas opened the Public Hearing on the Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. to install 1 JO Pole on Temple Street beginning at a point approximately 70 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Temple Street and Hospital Hill Road and continuing approximately 60 feet in a northwest direction. Installing 1 new P15-50 between P15 & P16 on Temple Street with Lindsey Sensor, 4G Comm & Transformer. Removal of Existing transformer on P15.

The President announced that Steve Soucy, a representative of National Grid was available to speak at the public hearing in favor of the Petition.

Steve Soucy informed the committee that the reason they are installing this poll is because it is a step down area and the operations and engineering department wanted to put in a new sensor to measure the voltage and the load information for this section of wires in Gardner. He explained that the sensor measures the load and voltage and then sends it out to the engineering department with the information, so if there is low voltage or any problems with the line, national grid would be able to see that in real time.

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

There being none, President Kazinskas closed the hearing at 7:37 p.m.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE****#10399**

On a motion by Councillor Nathan Boudreau and seconded by Councillor Karen Hardern, on recommendation of the Public Service Committee, it was voted on call of the roll, ten (10) yeas, President Elizabeth Kazinskas and Councillors Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Aleksander Dernalowicz, Scott Joseph Graves, Karen Hardern, Judy Mack, George Tyros, and James Walsh, to adopt the following Order:

ORDER FOR JOINT OR IDENTICAL POLE LOCATIONS

By the City Council of the City of Gardner, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,



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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc. (formerly known as NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY) be and they are hereby granted joint or identical locations for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Companies may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said companies dated the 13th day of January 2021.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonably straight, and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked – Temple Street – Gardner, Massachusetts.

No. #30064740.....Dated: January 13, 2021 - filed with this order.

There may be attached to said poles by NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. such wires, cables and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referenced to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

Temple Street - Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England to install 1 JO Pole on Temple Street beginning at a point approximately 70 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Temple Street and Hospital Hill Road and continuing approximately 60 feet in a northwest direction. Installing 1 new P15-50 between P15 & P16 on Temple Street with Lindsey Sensor, 4G Comm & Transformer. Removal of Existing transformer on P15.

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

#10400

Councillor Craig Cormier informed the committee that after discussing with the Building Commissioner, he brought up the fact that this was a new application and not an application for renewal. Zoning approval is required and he has not been contacted by the business about getting application approval. If the council voted to approve this now, the business owner would be in zoning violation.

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There being no objections, the Committee was granted more time to report on *An Application by Blake Motors, for a License to Buy and Sell Second Hand Motor Vehicles, Class 2, on 412 Main Street.*

NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz wanted to mention what the Gardner Recreation Department is offering. Currently there are ongoing mini camps. Signups are out for baseball, soccer, field hockey, floor hockey, football, track and tennis. The program will last 4-5 weeks. There is still space for floor and field hockey. Summer recreation pre-registration has started and there's already 100 plus kids registered. This is available for Gardner residents and Gardner Public School children K through seventh grade. The program will be six weeks long from 4th of July to mid-August with full and half day options, early drop off, and lunch is provided. There are also offerings for scholarships that he wanted to highlight. Lynn Sayarath has raised money for the Gardner Recreation Department.

Councillor Judy Mack said that Dan Forte is doing a great job with the Recreation Department. She would like to commend Lynn Sayarath for raising over seven thousand dollars in one weekend.

Councillor Craig Cormier said that he has reached out to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation regarding the Pleasant Street Bridge. He was informed that they will be resuming operations today. They expect to reach full beneficial use by mid-April with full completion by the end of May. He hopes they will be able to resume travel on the Pleasant Street Bridge soon.

Councillor James Walsh wanted to mention the newly established level of communication that has begun between the executive department and the council over the last several months. He appreciates how they take the opportunity to communicate those things to the council and gives them follow ups as things go along. He is confident that things will continue.

CLOSING PRAYER

President Kazinskas led the Council in the Closing Prayer.



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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, Judy Mack, George Tyros, and James Walsh, to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

Accepted by the City Council: April 5, 2021