

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Committee Chairman Councillor Craig Cormier called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, Room 219, City Hall. Committee members Councillor James Boone and Karen Hardern were also present

Also present were Lieutenant Eric McAvene; Health Director Lauren Saunders; Building Commissioner Roland Jean; and City Clerk Titi Siriphan.

I. Review and Approval of the Minutes Meeting.

On a motion by Councillor Karen Hardern and seconded by Councillor James Boone, it was voted viva voce to accept the Minutes of the October 26, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting, as printed. Councillor James Boone abstained from the vote.

II. Department Updates

Building Department

- Currently have 108 building permits right now. Last year at this time, there were only 68.
- Busy in the department. Each permit requires a minimum of two inspections. On average it's about 15 per week.
- Zoning Board of Appeal approved a special permit for 163-165 Pine Street. After the appeal process, it is expected that the property will be inhabited again. It has been vacant for the past 10 years.
- Relocation of the offices are complete. Next is sprucing up the Clerk's Office, Mayor's Conference room and the hallway connection between city hall and the annex.
- Received a grant from MIA for \$6,500.00 for building maintenance software to keep track of all the things maintenance department does. People can submit requests when they have a problem in the building, and someone will respond.
- Working with the electrical contractor and DPW to get the electrical services turned back on at the Oliva Case playground.

Public Health

- Escape the vape is happening at the middle schools. It is an interactive escape room program to teach students about the stages of vaping.
- There is still a part time position available at the transfer station
- A new administrative coordinator has been hired
- Looking to replace the Victorian barrels downtown. They are not easy for the trash company to dispose. The barrels are opened to the elements, they get full of water, and are challenging to empty.
- Working on a recycling grant that is due Monday.
- COVID update. At the last meeting, Gardner positivity rate was 20.72 and the state was 21.52.

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2022

- Currently the stat is at 6.48 and Gardner is 16.64. There is definitely a downward trend and the numbers are decreasing.
- COVID test kits are given out through her office, so anyone can come into the office, show proof of residency, and they will receive up to 3 boxes.
- The Mayor is planning another mass distribution for Gardner and Westminster residents.

Police Department

- Recently received a \$32,000.00 state grant to restart the canine program and also includes outfitting of the cruiser, academy training, equipment for selected officers.
- Going through letters of intent for new officers and interviews with the respected officers.
- The Boston Police Academy will be on March 28th which is the finest in the country.
- It's a 14-week academy that the grant will help supplement overtime.
- Last year, Lieutenant Maroni created a Junior Academy that was well received by the kids who participated.

III. #10609 – An Application by The Witches Wardrobe, for a License to Deal in Second Hand Articles

On a motion by Councillor Karen Hardern and seconded by Councillor James Boone, it was voted viva voce to recommend to the Council to grant the following Application by The Witches Wardrobe, for a License to Deal in Second Hand Articles located at 314 Central Street.

IV. #10610 – An Application by The Witches Wardrobe, for a Fortune Teller License

On a motion by Councillor Karen Hardern and seconded by Councillor James Boone, it was voted viva voce to recommend to the Council to grant the following Application by The Witches Wardrobe, for a License to Deal in Second Hand Articles located at 314 Central Street.

IV. New Business

No new business

Adjournment.

On a motion Councillor James Boone and seconded by Councillor Karen Hardern, on call of the roll, it was voted to adjourn at 9:16 a.m.