

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS  
CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 12, 2022

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The Appointment Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Council George C. Tyros at 4 p.m. Appointment Committee Members Councilor's James Walsh and Judy Mack were present. Also present was Mayor Nicholson, Roland Jean, Building Commissioner and Assistant City Clerk Faith Glover.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN MEETING RECORDINGS: 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 and exhibits used or referenced at the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the City Clerk, as they become part of the Meeting Minutes. This information is also posted on the wall by the door for review.

**I. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting.**

On a motion by Councilor James Walsh and Seconded by Councilor Judy Mack, it was voted to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 11, 2022, with some changes.

**II. Appointments:**

10631 Casey Bradshaw to the position of Alternate Plumbing & Gas Inspector, for a term expiring March 9, 2025. *(In the City council and referred to Appointments Committee 3/21/2022).*

**Casey Bradshaw: (New-Appointment)**

Casey Bradshaw was not able to appear. Building Commissioner, Roland Jean, has known Casey for 20 years and reported that Casey will work out very well.

**Mayor's Statement:**

Mr. Bradshaw is the current full time Plumbing Inspector for the Town of Orange. He has all his certifications from the Commonwealth and has been performing work in this field for quite some time. This is an as needed position but per the Commonwealth's Building Code, must still have an active appointment to have the authority to issue citations or inspection certifications. This came following the resignation of or previous Alternate Inspector Edward Tonet. This appointment comes at the recommendation of Commission Jean who would be the Department Head overseeing this work. This is an hourly paid, Unbenefited position.

**Councilor Walsh:** What is the frequency that Casey would fill in, just vacations and emergencies?

**Roland:** Yes, that is correct.

On a motion by Councilor James Walsh and Seconded by Councilor Judy Mack, it was voted to recommend that the City Council confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Casey Bradshaw to the position of Alternate Plumbing & Gas Inspector for a term expiring March 9, 2025.

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10664 - Robert Oliva to the position of city Engineer for a term expiring April 15, 2025.

*(In the City council and referred to Appointments Committee 5/2/2022).*

**Robert Oliva:** (new appointment)

Robert is a resident of Gardner and is very happy to be back working in Gardner. Civil Degree from UMAS Lowell University. Had been working in the private sector for about 24 years, he has worked on large and small projects and feels he brings experience with him.

**Mayor's statement:**

Mr. Robert Oliva has been doing an excellent job during his probationary period and I am very happy with his work. He has previously worked in the private sector in the Civil Engineering Field before he came to work for the city as the Assistant Director of Public Works some time ago. He left two years ago to become the Director of Public Works in the town of Lunenburg, and then when this position opened, he applied, interviewed, and was selected for the position. A great addition here at City Hall.

**Councilor James Walsh:** I am impressed with the experience and jobs that you have had Robert. However, it doesn't appear that you have a professional engineer licensure. Would the duties be diminished by reason of that lack of licensure?

**Robert:** I do not have a professional engineer license, but I believe that my experience will serve me well.

**Councilor James:** I am sure that your interaction with the prior engineer during your time as an Assistant Department Public Works Director gives you a sense of what the requirements are.

**Robert:** Yes, absolutely.

**Councilor James:** very good!

**Councilor Judy Mack:** Because regulations change all the time, as an engineer are you required to do certain professional development classes to keep up with regulations?

**Robert:** Keeping up with new regulation is part of the job.

**Mayor:** There is a line item in the budget for professional services.

**Robert:** There are seminars, and webinar series that I will look for.

**Motion on Recommendation:**

On a motion by Councilor James Walsh and seconded by Councilor Judy Mack, for the appointment, it was voted to recommend that the City Council confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Robert Oliva to the position of City Engineer, for a term expiring April 15, 2025.

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10665 Michael Zlotnik to the position of Bandstand Committee Member, for a term expiring April 15, 2025. (*In the City Council and Referred to Appointments Committee 5/2/2022*).

**Michael Zlotnik: (Re-Appointment)**

Michael was not able to attend the meeting.

**Mayor's statement:**

Mr. Zlotnik has been the chair of the Bandstand committee for several years working to put together the concerts in the park series on an annual basis. Michael helps in getting sponsorships from business to grow the program. He works with the Department of Public Works, and they are very happy working with him. He is looking to continue in this volunteer position.

**Councilors James and Judy:** Very happy with the work that Mr. Zlotnik is doing for concerts in the park program. Judy would like to thank Mike as well as the entire bandstand committee for the work they do.

**Motion on Recommendation:**

On a motion by Councilor James Walsh and seconded by Councilor Judy Mack, since this is a re-appointment, it was voted to recommend that the City Council confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Michael Zlotnik to the position of Bandstand Committee Member for a term expiring April 15, 2025.

10666 Nevonya Smith to the position of Youth Commission Member for a term expiring April 13, 2025. (*In the City Council and Referred to Appointments Committee 5/2/2022*).

**Nevonya (Von ) Smith: (New Appointment)**

Nevonya was not able to attend the meeting.

**Mayor's statement:**

Nevonya has been very involved in the soccer community in the North Central Mass Region. He has done a lot of work helping to recruit young players to live a healthy lifestyle and stay active. This is an uncompensated position. Nevonya is a coach in Athol Schools and is interested in getting involved with the Gardner youth since he moved to Gardner. This comes at the recommendation of Mr. Dan Fort as newly assigned chair of that committee. Nevonya seems to be interested in looking at other programs for the youth as well. The mayor said that there could be two more members added to the roster for a total of five.

**Councilor Walsh:** I am glad that Nevonya is interested in helping with other aspects of activities not just sports for the community at large.

**Councilor Mack:** I would like to thank the mayor for his commitment to keeping the youth program very active. I feel that it is important to have a full membership that are involved with the youth of the city, this is a great step forward.

**Motion on Recommendation**

On a motion by Councilor James Walsh and seconded by Councilor Judy Mack, it was voted to recommend that the City Council confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Nevonya (Von) Smith to the position of Youth Commission Member for a term expiring April 13, 2025.

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10667 Paul Leone to the position of Council on Aging Member for a term expiring April 13, 2025. *(In the City Council and Referred to Appointments Committee 5/2/2022).*

**Paul Leone: (Re-Appointment)**

Paul moved to Sapphire Park here in Gardner in 2015. Before that he was a reporter and lived in Washington and in New York. He was a teacher for college level students. Paul joined the Council on Aging Committee two years ago as an associate member to see how he could help.

**Mayor's statement:**

Mr. Leone has been a member of the Council on Aging for two terms now. He previously served as an associate member of the COA. Director Ellis has been very happy with interactions they have had while working with each other and has enthusiastically recommended his appointment.

**Councilor Walsh:** I am happy and want to welcome Paul to Gardner.

**Motion on Recommendation:**

On a motion by Councilor Judy Mack and seconded by Councilor James Walsh, since this is a re-appointment, it was voted to recommend that the City Council confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Paul Leone to the position of Council on Aging Member for a term expiring April 13, 2025.

**III. New Business:**

The mayor reported that Deputy Chief James Trifiro will be retiring on May 27, 2022. In the interim the Lieutenant will be overseeing until the Philip Kearns, is sworn in as acting Chief for a 60-day appointment. The lieutenant will maintain regular wages.

**Councilor James Walsh:** Will there be a temporary Deputy Chief?

**Mayor:** Not at this time, we will see how it goes.

On a motion by Councilor James Walsh and seconded by Councilor Judy Mack, all agree to adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:25 pm.