

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF JULY 3, 2023

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Council President Elizabeth Kazinskas at 7:15 PM in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall.

Finance Committee Members Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, and Ronald Cormier were also present.

I. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to waive the reading and to accept the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of

- April 26, 2023
- May 10, 2023
- May 31, 2023

II. Open Meeting Law Complaint Filed by Paul DeMeo Regarding the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz informed the Committee that the complaint states “City of Gardner, City Council Finance Committee, has failed to post meeting minutes for April 26th, May 10th and May 31st.” Those minutes were recently approved. He stated that there is no actual requirement for the city to post the meeting minutes online under open meeting law. After speaking with the City Clerk, the complainant never requested any unapproved minutes from the City Clerk. They would have been available at the time of the request, but not approved by the Committee. Mr. DeMeo’s other complaint is that the meeting is not “in detail so that the public may completely understand what took place at the meeting.” Councillor Dernalowicz informed the public that the meetings are recorded and published on the city’s YouTube channel within a few days. For Mr. DeMeo to imply that there’s something nefarious is occurring, or that something is being hidden by this committee, or any other body in the City, it is disingenuous and misleading on the complainant’s behalf.

President Elizabeth Kazinskas mentioned that all the committee meetings have been recorded and published on the City’s YouTube channel since 2020.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to allow the Council President Elizabeth Kazinskas to respond to the open meeting law complaint filed by Paul DeMeo.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier it was voted to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.