

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL



### 2016 CITY GOVERNMENT

Seated: Alan L. Agnelli, City Clerk; James M. Walsh, Esq., Ward 1 Councillor, Council President; Mark P. Hawke, Mayor; John M. Flick, Esq., City Solicitor; Ronald F. Cormier, Councillor At Large

Standing: Craig R. Cormier, Councillor at Large; Karen G. Hardern, Ward 4 Councillor; Paul G. Tassone, Ward 2 Councillor; Nathan R. Boudreau, Ward 3 Councillor; Marc Morgan, Councillor at Large; James D. Johnson, Ward 5 Councillor; Matthew C.J. Vance, Councillor at Large; James S. Boone, Councillor at Large; Scott J. Graves, Esq., Councillor at Large

The City Council is pleased to present this report to the Citizens of Gardner.

The City Council, the legislative branch, derives its authority from the City Charter, City Code, and the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Comprised of eleven members elected every two years in odd-numbered years, six are elected at-large by the voters of all five wards, while the remaining five are elected by voters of the individual wards.

In 2016, the City Council was served by Councillors at Large James S. Boone, Craig R. Cormier, Ronald F. Cormier, Scott J. Graves, Esq., Marc Morgan, and Matthew C.J. Vance. Ward Councillors were James M. Walsh, Esq., Ward 1; Paul G. Tassone, Ward 2; Nathan R. Boudreau, Ward 3; Karen G. Hardern, Ward 4; and, James D. Johnson, Ward 5.

In 2016, the Council re-elected James M. Walsh as Council President. Following his election, President Walsh appointed members to four Standing Committees -- Finance, Service, Safety and Welfare, as well as to the Cable TV Commission, Capital Improvement Committee and Traffic Commission.

## STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**James M. Walsh, Esq., Chairman**  
**Ronald F. Cormier**  
**Marc Morgan**

The **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE** is charged with evaluating and reporting to the Council on matters referred to them by the full Council or on their own initiative concerning municipal functions defined generally as administrative and financial. The Committee serves as liaison to the Assessor, Auditor, Tax Collector & Treasurer, Information Technology, City Clerk, Registrars of Voters, Civil Code Enforcement, Purchasing, Contributory Retirement Board, Law Department, Human Resources, and Community Development & Planning. In addition, budgetary matters, salaries and compensation, appointments, position vacancies, Council Rules, and City Hall building fall within the Committee's purview.

The **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE** is charged with evaluating and reporting on matters referred to them by the full Council or on their own initiative concerning municipal functions relating to the Public Works Department and its divisions (Highway, Sewer, Water, Parks, Cemeteries, and Forestry), the Conservation Commission, Municipal Grounds Commission, Engineering and Survey Department, and the Flood Plain.

**Scott J. Graves, Esq, Chairman**  
**Nathan R. Boudreau**  
**Craig R. Cormier**

**Marc Morgan, Chairman**  
**James D. Johnson**  
**James S. Boone**

The **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WELFARE** is charged with evaluating and reporting to the Council on matters referred to them by the full Council or on their own initiative concerning municipal functions relating to the Gardner Municipal Airport, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, the Commission on Disability, Golf Course, the Greenwood Memorial Pool, Historical Commission, the Levi Heywood Memorial Library, Recreation, the Veterans Agent, Weights & Measures, the Youth Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, the Gardner School Department, and the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District.

The **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY** is charged with evaluating and reporting on matters referred to them by the full Council or on their own initiative concerning municipal functions relating to the Police and Fire Departments, Building and Health Departments, Animal Control and the licensing of automobile dealers, automobile junkyards, bowling alleys and pool halls, and dealers in second hand articles.

**Paul G. Tassone, Chairman**  
**Karen G. Hardern**  
**Matthew C.J. Vance**

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City Council meets regularly on the first and third Mondays of each month, except for July and August, when it meets only on the first Monday. Other meetings and hearings are scheduled as necessary. Meetings are open to the public and recorded live for broadcast on GETV. The Agenda and Minutes of every meeting are posted on the City's website.

DATE	TYPE	TIME	MEETING DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE
1/4/2016	Inaugural	10:00 a.m.	Inaugural Ceremonies
1/4/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
1/19/2016	Joint Convention	6:30 p.m.	To fill vacancies on the Gardner School Committee and the Monty Tech Regional School District Committee
1/19/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/1/2016	Informal	6:30 p.m.	Law Department Charter Review
2/1/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/16/2016	Informal	6:30 p.m.	Disposition of Woodland Avenue Parcel (Heywood Hospital)
2/16/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
3/7/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
3/21/2016	Informal	6:45 p.m.	Seven Point of Mass./Medical Marijuana
3/21/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
4/4/2016	Hearing	6:30 p.m.	Discontinuance of Public Ways
4/4/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
4/19/2016	Hearing	6:30 p.m.	Zoning/Mill Street COD, Perp. Signage/Historical
4/19/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/2/2016	Informal	6:30 p.m.	GFD-operated BLS Ambulance Service
5/2/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/16/2016	Informal	6:15 p.m.	Colonial Power Group Presentation
5/16/2016	Hearing	7:00 p.m.	Renaming Various Streets
5/16/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/6/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/20/2016	Informal	7:00 p.m.	Honeywell Energy Audit Presentation
6/20/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/21/2016	Informal	6:00 p.m.	FY2017 Budget Review
6/21/2016	Special	7:00 p.m.	FY2017 Budget Orders
7/5/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
8/1/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/6/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/19/2016	Informal	6:00 p.m.	Sludge Landfill Expansion Presentation
9/19/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/3/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/17/2016	Hearing	6:00 p.m.	Sludge Landfill Expansion
10/17/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/7/2016	Hearing	7:00 p.m.	FY2017 Property Tax Classification

DATE	TYPE	TIME	MEETING DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE
11/7/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/21/2016	Informal	7:00 p.m.	Law Department Charter Review
11/21/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/5/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/19/2016	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular

By State Law and City Ordinance, the Council is empowered to issue Licenses for Bowling Alleys and Billiard Tables; First, Second, and Third Class Motor Vehicle Dealers; Dealers in Second Hand Articles; and, the storage of petroleum products.

The City Council authorizes public improvements and expenditures through the Annual Budget and through short and long-term borrowings; determines the proportion of the annual tax levy borne by the four classes of property (residential, commercial, industrial, personal); adopts regulations, ordinances, and local acceptance provisions of Massachusetts General Law for the administration of the city government; adopts orders for the location of utility poles and the layout of public ways. The City Council also adopts resolutions for the pursuit of State and Federal Grants, the scheduling of elections and issuing election orders.

The City Council appoints four department heads, the City Clerk, City Treasurer, City Auditor and City Collector of Taxes. While the Mayor appoints all other department heads and members of municipal boards (except the School Committee), the Council is required to confirm the appointments. The positions of City Solicitor and Constable are also appointed by the Mayor; however, City Council confirmation is not required.