

**CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS  
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 2, 2019**

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Committee Chairman Councillor James Johnson called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall. Committee members Councillors Karen Hardern and Edward Gravel were present.

Other Officials present and/or participating were Chief of Police Richard Braks; Building Commissioner Roland Jean; Assistant Director of Public Health Lauren Saunders; and, City Clerk Alan Agnelli.

**I. Minutes of Prior Meeting(s).**

On a motion by Councillor Hardern and seconded by Councillor Gravel, it was voted to accept the Minutes of April 16, 2019 Public Safety Committee Meeting, as printed.

**II. Department Updates**

**Building Department**

- 375 permits have been issued to-date.
- New software about to be implemented allowing for online permit applications. A grant funded the first year and ½ of the second year. \$5,000 annual cost thereafter. Permit fees may cover the cost. Permit fees have not been increased since 2007.
- Search warrant served on owner of 50 Lennon Street. Multiple complaints and violations. Inspected jointly with Health Department.
- *Ninety Nine Restaurant* – Permits issued - foundation in place.
- City Hall sprinkler system – grant awarded to fund inspection. Awaiting plans for upgrade to the system. Partial system in Perry Auditorium inoperable.
- *Tractor Supply Co.* interested in portion of former TOPS/Stop & Shop at Timpany Plaza (20,000 s.f). Seeking outdoor display area which would consume about one-third of the 600 parking spaces. A Special Permit from the ZBA would be needed.

**Public Health Department**

- **Transfer Station** – New stickers were ordered for the new fiscal year.
- **Refuse & Recycling Information** – 2019-2020 Pamphlets to be mailed by the end of May. Recycling products guidelines changing. Recent postcard mailing to all Gardner households.
- **Earth Day Cleanup** – Two truckloads of trash transported to the Transfer Station.
- **Funeral Director Permits** – Four were recently issued.
- **Kendall Pond** – Water testing weekly - \$75/week paid by the Association. Kendall Pond to open May 17.
- **Sharps Containers** – Available from MOAPC (Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative). Only located at controlled public sites – Police Station and the Gardner Community Health Center.
- **Food Truck Festival** - Permitting underway for the June 8<sup>th</sup> Festival.
- BOH quarterly segment scheduled for GETV.

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**Police Department and Animal Control**

- **Lafayette Square** - Traffic pattern changes are working as the PD has monitored the traffic.
- **Road Projects** – Department has been meeting with contractors on local road projects to minimize traffic/business interruptions during construction and to establish safety measures for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- **Sidewalk Sale** – Cancelled due to the uncertainty of the Downtown construction schedule.
- **Pearl Street** – Department has been visible and enforcing speed. From January to April, 44 citations and 50-60 warnings were issued. Speed monitoring and warning devices planned for the street. Chairman Johnson asked if rumble strips would slow traffic. Chief Braks cited problems during winter snow plowing.
- **School Emergency Safety Plans** – All officers are trained in the event of an emergency at any school.
- **Senior Police Academy** – 40 people graduated recently – Academy held at 50 Pine Street.
- **19<sup>th</sup> Citizens Police Academy** – Just started - for all ages 18+.
- **Junior Police Academy** – Scheduled from July 29 to August 2 – for ages 14 to 17.
- **Explorers Program** – Department seeking to rebuild the program – The Explorer’s Charter requires a minimum of 5 to conduct a program.
- **Staffing** – One officer out on injured-on-duty (“IOD”) status – may return to duty within the next 2 months. One officer retiring this year and another will be leaving the Department.
- **Autism Awareness** – Patches being sold to raise money - \$10 each – money goes to local autism awareness programs.
- **Cancer Awareness** – Pink patches being sold to raise money for local programs (e.g. Cancer Walk).
- **Peace Officers Memorial** – May 15 is the 1<sup>st</sup> Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony.
- **Earth Day** – Police Department participated in the City’s Earth Day Cleanup.
- **Medication Disposal Programs** – Department has participated in local medication disposal programs.
- **Animal Control** – City will be advertising for a new ACO. ACOs cover Gardner and several towns.

**Fire Department and Ambulance – Fire Chief’s Report Submitted**

- **Staffing** – Three new Firefighters were hired to replace recently-resigned Firefighters. These new members will be going to the Fire Academy in September for their 10 week training.
- We are also in the process of hiring two more people, one to take the place of another Firefighter who resigned in April and one to take the place of one who is leaving on July 1. If we can get through the lengthy Civil Service hiring process quickly enough, I’m hoping to get these new members into the October class.

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- I have requested of the Mayor to replace Car 2 this calendar year. Car 2 is a 2010 Ford Expedition used by the Shift Commander. It responds to the second highest number of calls per year, only exceeded by the ambulance. When it's replaced, our mechanics will do some body work to repair rust through. We will use it to replace Car 6, a 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe that is used for members to attend classes, as well as other Department business. Car 6 has several major issues and is not worth repairing. It has been restricted to "in town" use only.
- Our new Engine 3 is in the beginning construction process. We are hoping to take delivery some time in December. I have requested funding from the Mayor for both the City's 10% match for the grant, and to purchase equipment for the new Engine. Some of the fittings and equipment on the current Engine 3 (1989) go back to the 1964 and 1937 models.

**III. License Renewals**

On a motion by Councillor Gravel and seconded by Councillor Hardern, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that the following licenses be granted, conditioned on all taxes, fees, and fines are paid:

- a) #10086 – An Application by ecoATM, LLC for a License to Deal in Second Hand Articles at 677 Timpany Boulevard.
- b) #10087 – An Application by GameStop, Inc. for a License to Deal in Second Hand Articles at 376 Timpany Boulevard.
- c) #10088 – An Application by Tanguay Jewelers for a License to Deal in Second Hand Articles at 19 Connors Street.
- d) #10089 – An Application by Gardner Coins & Cards, Inc. for a License to Deal in Second Hand Articles at 13 Pleasant Street.
- e) An Application by Brian's Bowlaway, Inc., 123 Main Street, for a Bowling Alley License.
- f) An Application by Gardner Ten Pins, Inc., 560 West Broadway, for a Bowling Alley License.

**IV. Other Business.**

None

**V. Adjournment.**

On a motion Councillor Gravel and seconded by Councillor Hardern, it was voted to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.