

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL



### 2010 - 2011 CITY GOVERNMENT

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

Standing: Alice P. Anderson Councillor at Large    James J. Minns Ward 4 Councillor    David T. Boudreau Ward 2 Councillor    Henry P. Ares Councillor at Large    Joshua L. Cormier Councillor at Large    Edward A. Gravel Ward 3 Councillor    James J. Robinson, Jr. Ward 5 Councillor    Patrick M. Gerry 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 Ordinances, and the Constitution and Laws 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 2010 and 2011, the City Council was served by Councillors at Large Alice P. Anderson, Henry P. Ares, Joshua L. Cormier, Ronald F. Cormier, Patrick M. Gerry, Scott J. Graves, Esq., and Ward Councillors Neil W. Janssens, Ward 1; David T. Boudreau, Ward 2; Edward A. Gravel, Ward 3; James J. Minns, Ward 4; and James J. Robinson, Jr., Ward 5 (until June 2, 2011). On July 5<sup>th</sup>, James D. Johnson was elected by the City Council to fill the remainder of Mr. Robinson's term.

In 2010 and 2011, the Council elected Neil W. Janssens as President. Following his election, the President appointed members to four Standing Committees -- Finance, Service, Safety and Welfare -- and to the Cable TV Commission, Capital Improvement Committee and Traffic Commission.

## STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

### 2010 - 2011

**Neil W. Janssens, Chairman**  
**Ronald F. Cormier**  
**Alice P. Anderson**

The **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE** meets with the Mayor before every regular Council meeting. The Committee evaluates and reports 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. Oversight encompasses the Assessor, Auditor, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Information Technology, City Clerk, Registrars of Voters, Civil Code Enforcement, Purchasing, and the Commission on Disability, Contributory Retirement Board, Law Department, Personnel and Community Development & Planning. In addition, budgetary matters, salaries and compensation, appointments, position vacancies, Council Rules, and City Hall all fall within the Committee's purview.

The **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE** is charged with evaluating and reporting on matters referred to them relating to the Public Works Department and its divisions (Highway, Sewer, and Water); the Conservation Commission, Engineering and Survey Department, and the Flood Plain.

### 2010 - 2011

**James J. Minns, Chairman**  
**Henry P. Ares**  
**David T. Boudreau**

### 2010

**Patrick M. Gerry, Chairman**  
**Joshua L. Cormier**  
**Edward A. Gravel**

### 2011

**Patrick M. Gerry, Chairman**  
**Edward A. Gravel**  
**Neil W. Janssens (to July 5)**  
**James D. Johnson (Eff. July 6)**

The **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WELFARE** is charged with evaluating and reporting to the Council on matters concerning the Council on Aging, Golf Course, the Greenwood Memorial Pool, municipally-owned Cemeteries and Parks, Recreation, the Veterans Agent, Weights & Measures, the City Forester & Pest Control, Youth Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, the School Department, Montachusett Regional Vocational School, and the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce.

The **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY** is charged with the study and report of matters referred to them that concern the Police and Fire Departments, Building and Health Departments, the Municipal Airport, the Citizens Committee on Prison Security (NCCI) and the licensing of automobile dealers, automobile junkyards, bowling alleys and pool halls, and dealers in second hand articles.

### 2010 - 2011

**Joshua L. Cormier, Chairman**  
**Scott J. Graves, Esq.**  
**James J. Robinson, Jr. (to June 2, 2011)**

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.

### **CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
7/6/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
8/2/2010	Special	7:00 p.m.	Brownfields Covenant/Garbose Land Purchase
8/2/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/7/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/20/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/20/2010	Special	6:45 p.m.	State Stretch Energy Code Discussion
10/4/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/18/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/18/2010	Special	7:00 p.m.	Brownfields Covenant/Garbose Land Purchase
10/26/2010	Special	7:00 p.m.	Informational Forum/Snow Removal Ballot Question
11/1/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/15/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/15/2010	Hearing	6:45 p.m.	Urban Renewal Plan
11/15/2010	Special	6:30 p.m.	Election of Council President Pro-Tempore
12/6/2010	Hearing	7:00 p.m.	Public Way Acceptance/Brookside Drive & Laitinen Drive
12/6/2010	Hearing	7:15 p.m.	Property Tax Classification (FY2011)
12/6/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/20/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
1/3/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
1/18/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/7/2011	Hearing	7:15 p.m.	Urban Renewal Plan
2/7/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/22/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/22/2011	Hearing	6:45 p.m.	Joint Council-Planning Board - Zoning (Subsection 1110; GWPOD & SWPOD)
2/28/2011	Hearing	6:00 p.m.	Joint Council-Planning Board - Zoning (Abortion Referral Services)
3/7/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
3/21/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
4/4/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
4/19/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/2/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/16/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/16/2011	Special	6:30 p.m.	Review Precinct Boundaries Based on 2010 Census Data

DATE	TYPE	TIME	PURPOSE
6/6/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/15/2011	Special	6:00 p.m.	Budget
6/20/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
7/5/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
8/1/2011	Hearing	6:00 p.m.	Joint Council-Planning Board - Zoning (Abortion Provider Locations)
8/1/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/6/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/19/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/3/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/17/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/7/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/21/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/5/2011	Hearing	7:15 p.m.	Property Tax Classification (FY2012)
12/5/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/19/2011	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/27/2011	Hearing	6:00 p.m.	Property Tax Classification (FY2012) - Continuance

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 Hand Articles and Storage of petroleum products.

The City Council authorizes public improvements and expenditures through the Annual Budget and 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. It also adopts resolutions for the pursuit of State and Federal Grants, the scheduling of elections and issuing election warrants.

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.