



INFORMAL MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2022

Informal Meeting of the City Council was held in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, on Monday, March 7, 2022.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Elizabeth Kazinskas called the meeting to order at 6:30 o'clock p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Eleven (11) Councillors were present including President Elizabeth Kazinskas and Councillors James Boone, Nathan Boudreau, Craig Cormier, Ronald Cormier, Aleksander Dernalowicz, Karen Hardern, Dana Heath, Judy Mack, George Tyros and James Walsh.

Others attending were Mayor Michael Nicholson; Fire Chief Greg Lagoy; Building Commissioner Roland Jean.

OPEN MEETING RECORDING & PUBLIC RECORDS ANNOUNCEMENT

President Kazinskas announced to the assembly that the Open Meeting Recording and Public Records Announcement. 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 recordings shall notify the Chair forthwith. All documents and exhibits used or referenced at the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the chair as they become part of the meeting minutes pursuant to General Law Chapter 38 Section 20.

President Kazinskas announced that the Informal Meeting was called regarding agenda items:

10602 – An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Gardner, Section 8, Chapter 390, Entitled “Fire Department Fee Schedule.” (*In City Council and referred to Committee of the Whole 2/7/2022; More Time 2/22/2022*)

10603 – An Ordinance to Amend Sections of the Code of the City of Gardner, Chapter 390, Entitled “Fees.” (*In City Council and referred to Committee of the Whole 2/7/2022; More Time 2/22/2022*)

These items were posted publicly in the Finance Committee packet and City Council Regular Meeting packet one month ago on February 7, 2022 where the City council voted to meet as a Committee of the Whole on these items, which is our purpose for meeting this evening. City

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Councillors and the public have had the opportunity to review, ask questions, and gather information regarding these items since they were posted on February 7th. A regular meeting will follow this meeting at 7:30 pm this evening which will give the Council the opportunity to vote on the items. Mayor Nicholson Fire Chief Greg Lagoy and Building Commissioner Roland Jean are here this evening and will be able to offer information and answer questions.

The following presentation was presented to the Council by Mayor Nicholson.

Building and Fire Department Fees:

- The last time Building Department fees were addressed was 2007
- Fire Department fees have not been addressed since 2008
- Since then, there has been a 35.6% increase in inflation nationwide
- According to the Department of Labor Statistics at the Federal Government level, this is something we are trying to keep up to date with
- User based fees
- Fees are capped by state law (Division of Local Services)
- Increase in solar activity
- Seeing a lot of growth and development in the city
- It's good practice to review fees every five years

The Informal Meeting concluded at 6:52 p.m.

Accepted by the City Council: April 19, 2022