

The Appointment Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Council George C. Tyros at 4:01 p.m. Appointment Committee Members Councilor's James Walsh and Judy Mack were present. Also present was Mayor Nicholson, Christine Kumar, City Assessor Lt Eric McAvene, and Assistant City Clerk Faith Glover.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN MEETING RECORDINGS: 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 recording shall notify the Chair forthwith. All documents and exhibits used or referenced at the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the City Clerk, as they become part of the Meeting Minutes. This information is also posted on the wall by the door for review.

I. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting.

On a motion by Councilor James Walsh and Seconded by Councilor Judy Mack, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes and acceptance of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 12, 2022.

Councilor Tyros: motion passed.

II. Appointments:

10735 Lorin Walter to the position of Sergeant, for permanent.

(In the City council and referred to Appointments Committee 7/5/2022).

Lorin Walter:

Lorin Walter was not able to appear. Lorin worked a double shift today, per union contract was not able to appear today. Lieutenant Eric McAvene will address any questions the committee has regarding Lorin Walter.

Mayor's Statement:

I hereby submit the appointment of Mr. Lorin Walter for the position of Police Sergeant. Sgt. Walter was first hired by the city as a patrol officer on March 12, 2012 and was originally promoted to the position of sergeant on January 20, 2019 by former Mayor Mark Hawke. Sgt. Walter had resigned from this position in the Summer of 2021 but is now looking to return to working for the Gardner Police Department.

Whereas this is currently still as Civil Service Position, Sgt. Walter still can return to his previous position, as it was only filled with an Acting Sergeant and no permanent replacement was appointed.

As required by the General Laws of the Commonwealth, since this appointment is for an officer who is protected through a collective bargaining arrangement, this is a permanent appointment and not one that expires.

Therefore, as required by Section 7 of the Charter of the City of Gardner, I appoint Lorin Walter to the position of Police Sergeant, and I certify that in my opinion he is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the city.

Mayor updated the committee on the Civil Service bill on the state level.

Councilor Walsh: I am disappointed that Lorin Walter was not able to come before this committee, but I understand, I had questions that I wanted to talk with Mr. Walter about. I motion that the appointment committee request for more time.

Mayor: Mr. Walter, is on a 60-day temporary appointment, so we have some time.

Councilor Mack: Based on the Civil Service process, whether we approve or not Mr. Walter will be allowed to return to his position, correct?

Mayor: Mr. Walter has the right to the position but would still be subject to council confirmation. If the council does not confirm the mayor's appointment by making him a permanent appointment, Mr. Walker will be come an employee at will rather than employee who's reserved for x number of years. If approved by the council, Mr. Walter would be a permanent appointment until he retires.

Councilor Mack: I Know that the city is trying to get away from Civil Service, would the city still have to follow those procedures?

Mayor updated the committee on the Civil Service removal bill that is at the state level right now.

Councilor Mack: The motion on the table by Councilor Walsh, that the Appointment Committee request for more time. Councilor Mack, second.

Councilor Tyros: motion to request for more time, passed.

10736 – Paulette Burns Reappointment to the position of Board of Assessors, for a term expiring July 1, 2025. *(In the City council and referred to Appointments Committee 7/5/2022).*

Paulette Burns (Re-appointment)

Paulette Burns was not able to attend. Christine Kumar, the City Assessor is here to answer any questions the board may have.

Mayor's statement:

I hereby submit the re-appointment of Mrs. Paulette Burns as a member of the Board of Assessors.

Mrs. Burns has served on the Board of assessors since March 1, 2004 and has served the City quite well in her time as a member.

She also comes at the recommendation of the City's Assessor, Christine Kumar, who also serves as the board's Chair.

Therefore, as required by section 7 of the Charter of the city of Gardner, I appoint Paulette Burns to the position of Member, Board of Assessors and I certify that in my opinion she is a person specially fitted by education, training, or experience to perform the duties of said office, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the city.

Christine Kumar: I have known Paulette for close to 4 years, if Paulette would like to stay, I would like to have her. I am in full support for her reappointment.

Councilor Walsh: I find Paulette very professional and knowledgeable I have no reason to feel other support her reappointment.

Councilor Walsh: I make a motion to recommend Paulette Burns reappointment to the Board of Assessors to the council.

Councilor Mack: I second the motion to reappoint Paulette Burns to the Board of Assessors.

Councilor Tyros: Motion made by Councilor Walsh second by Councilor Mack to recommend reappointing Passed.

III. New Business:

Councilor Tyros: New Business?

Councilor Walsh: Nothing.

Councilor Mack: Nothing.

Mayor: would like to share with the committee:

Attorney Kolodny has resigned from his position of Assistant City Solicitor. He was offered a job at a different law firm and be leaving the area. With that, we will be looking to fill this position soon. Ms. Donna Lehtinen has resigned from a position on the Conservation Commission, we will be looking to fill through the regular process that all appointees go through.

There were 10 applicants for the position of Police Chief, the search committee will be reviewing the initial applications later this week. The search committee will make a recommendation as to who to interview, they will do the first round of interviews sometime next week. The search committee will send me the final top two candidates to make an official appointment.

Councilor Walsh: Do you have a sense of when the committee will be making a recommendation?

Mayor: Prior to the September meeting for sure.

Councilor Tyros: Thank you for the update on Civil Service bill and its progress in the House. I will be reconnecting on item 10735 in August and any other appointments that come in.

I will entertain a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Councilor Mack and seconded by Councilor Walsh to adjourn, any discussion, all those in favor aye, those oppose? None.

Meeting adjourns @ 4:14 pm