

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL



2010 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 2009, the City Council was served by Councillors at Large Alice P. Anderson, Henry P. Ares, Joshua L. Cormier, Ronald F. Cormier, Kim M. Dembrosky and Scott J. Graves, Esq. and Ward Councillors Neil W. Janssens, Ward 1; David T. Boudreau, Ward 2; Roger Jaillet, Ward 3; James J. Minns, Ward 4; and James J. Robinson, Jr., Ward 5.

In 2010, 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.

In 2009 and 2010, 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

2009

Neil W. Janssens, Chairman
Ronald F. Cormier
Kim M. Dembrosky

2010

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.

2009

James J. Minns, Chairman
David T. Boudreau
James J. Robinson, Jr.

2010

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

2009

Joshua L. Cormier, Chairman
Alice P. Anderson
Scott J. Graves, Esq.

2010

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

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.

2009

Roger Jaillet, Chairman
Alice P. Anderson
Henry P. Ares

2010

Joshua L. Cormier, Chairman
Scott J. Graves, Esq.
James J. Robinson, Jr.

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

DATE	TYPE	TIME	PURPOSE
7/6/2009	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
7/20/2009	Special	7:30 p.m.	Election of City Clerk
8/3/2009	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
8/17/2009	Hearing	6:00 p.m.	Joint Council-Planning Board - Zoning (Scientific/Research)
8/31/2009	Informal	6:00 p.m.	Clerk/Collector/Treasurer Dept Reorganization
8/31/2009	Special	6:30 p.m.	Dept Reorganization & Election Officers appointments
9/8/2009	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
9/21/2009	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/5/2009	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
10/19/2009	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/2/2009	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/2/2009	Hearing	7:15 p.m.	Property Tax Classification (FY2010)
11/16/2009	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
11/16/2009	Hearing	7:00 p.m.	Joint Council-Planning Board - Zoning (Political Signs)
12/7/2009	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/21/2009	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
12/21/2009	Special	6:30 p.m.	West Lynde Street Parking Lot License/Parking Ordinance
1/4/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
1/4/2010	Inaugural	10:00 a.m.	Inauguration of City Officials
1/19/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/1/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
2/16/2010	Joint Convention	7:00 p.m.	Joint City Council-School Committee - Election of Monty Tech School Committee Member.
2/16/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
3/1/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
3/9/2010	Special	6:30 p.m.	Trash Collection Program Discussion
3/15/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
3/15/2010	Special	6:45 p.m.	Urban Renewal Plan Discussion
4/5/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
4/20/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/3/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
5/17/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/7/2010	Regular	7:30 p.m.	Regular
6/15/2010	Special	6:00 p.m.	Budget
6/21/2010	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 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.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The City Council would be remiss if it did not take this opportunity to recognize the years of dedication and service given by our City Clerk & Collector of Taxes, Kathleen M. Lesneski.

In July 2009, Kathleen M. Lesneski retired. Kathleen served the City for 42 years, beginning in 1968 as a Junior Clerk in the City Clerk & Tax Collector's Office. The following year, City Clerk Genia Pacocha promoted her to Senior Clerk and on June 21, 1971, Miss Pacocha elevated her to Assistant City Clerk. On January 3, 1983 she was named City Clerk and Collector of Taxes by the City Council upon the retirement of Miss Pacocha. Kathleen, known as "Cookie" to her friends and many officials, was the "go to" person for Councillors and Mayors for many years, providing the City with constancy of service and selfless dedication. A loyal City employee who sought neither praise nor adulation, her many years of service will always be remembered and appreciated. The City Council wishes her many, many years of good health and happiness in her well-deserved retirement.