



**COUNCILLOR RONALD F. CORMIER
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 27, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

The inaugural meeting of the *Councillor Ronald F. Cormier Memorial Committee* was held on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Committee members Marcelle S. Cormier, Neil W. Janssens, James M. Walsh, Esq., and Alan Agnelli.

COMMITTEE FORMATION

The members noted a recent communication from City Council President George Tyros outlining the Council's purpose for the committee, extracted, as follows:

On September 4th, 2024 the City Council voted to form an informal committee to offer advice on the matter of an appropriate and fitting remembrance for Councillor Ron Cormier. As you know, Councillor Cormier is the longest serving Councillor in the City's history and his passing last year deeply saddened the Council. As such, the Council would like to honor his memory by commemorating his life and service with an appropriate remembrance in the Council Chamber. To the end, I seek your input and counsel as to the specific design and vision for such a tribute. The members of this informal committee shall be Alan Agnelli, Marcelle Cormier, Neil Janssens, and James Walsh.

COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Alan Agnelli nominated James Walsh to serve as Chairman. James Walsh nominated Alan Agnelli to serve as Clerk. On motion and second, it was voted to close nominations.

On unanimous vote, James Walsh was elected Chairman and Alan Agnelli was elected Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN MEETING RECORDINGS

The Chair announced that 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 Chair, as they become part of the Meeting Minutes. No person informed the Chair is the intention to record the meeting.

PURPOSE

The Chair announced that the Committee was established by vote of the City Council for the purpose of recommending a fitting memorial to the memory and service of the late Ronald F. Cormier, the longest serving City Councillor in the City's history.

Mr. Walsh noted that the Committee, established exclusively in an advisory capacity, is not constrained by Council action in its recommendation for a memorial.

In deference to Mrs. Cormier, wife of Councillor Cormier, Mr. Walsh pondered whether the late Councillor would have consented to such distinguished recognition, noting his humility and selfless devotion to the community.



**COUNCILLOR RONALD F. CORMIER
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 27, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

Mrs. Cormier, in reaction, also questioned whether Councillor Cormier would have embraced such a tribute.

Discussion ensued concerning the family's wishes in the decision to designate the City Council Chamber in his honor, or to simply recognize his service with the placement of a fitting plaque in the Chamber.

Directing the Committee's attention to the plaque in the Chamber honoring the late Ulric O. Fredette, former Mayor and City Councillor, Mr. Walsh suggested a similar memorial. He noted, however, that Councillor Cormier's service to the City and to the community was more expansive and any memorial should reflect such service.

The Committee was then provided with examples of bronze plaques for consideration.

The Committee evaluated eight examples and voted to recommend a cast bronze bas-relief plaque, with fitting text defining Councillor Cormier's service and lifelong dedication to the City of Gardner and to the community at-large.

On motion and second, it was voted unanimously to recommend the following example of bas-relief plaque style and to defer a decision as to whether to recommend that the City Council Chamber be titled in his name:



On motion and second, it was voted unanimously to instruct the Clerk to prepare fitting text for the plaque for the Committee's consideration at its next meeting.

The Committee voted unanimously to address the question of recommending Chamber Designation, as well as the text for the plaque, at its February meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee will next meet on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Chamber.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion and second, it was voted to adjourn at 9:23 a.m.