



**COUNCILLOR RONALD F. CORMIER  
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 19, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

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A meeting of the **Councillor Ronald F. Cormier Memorial Committee** was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

Committee Chairman James M. Walsh called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Also in attendance were Committee members Marcelle S. Cormier, Neil W. Janssens, and Alan L. Agnelli.

**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.*

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Janssens and seconded by Mrs. Cormier, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the February 12, 2025 Meeting, as amended.

**RECAPITULATION**

Chairman Walsh restated 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, adding that at its January 27, 2025 meeting, the Committee voted to recommend to the City Council that a Memorial to the late Councillor Ronald Cormier be crafted in a bas-relief style bronze plaque.

**UNRESOLVED ISSUE**

Mr. Walsh stated that the unresolved issue before the Committee is whether to recommend to the City Council that an appropriate memorial plaque recognizing Councillor Cormier's public service be erected, or that the City Council Chamber be designated in his name with an appropriate plaque.

In response, Mrs. Cormier informed the Committee that she solicited the thoughts of her family and that they were comfortable with either approach, but that they recognize that there have been many Councillors in the City's history who have also served for many years and distinguished themselves. She added that a memorial plaque commemorating Ron's longevity and public service would be more appropriate.

Mr. Janssens expressed his opinion that the Chamber should be designated in Ron's name, citing Councillor Cormier's extensive community service and contributions, as well as his unprecedented tenure on the City Council.

Chair Walsh entertained a motion in order to debate the question at hand.



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For the purpose of discussion, Mr. Janssens moved that the Committee recommend to the City Council that a plaque memorializing Councillor Cormier's public service be erected in the Council Chamber. Mr. Agnelli seconded the motion.

On the motion, Mr. Janssens reiterated his opinion that the Chamber should be designated in Councillor Cormier's name, citing his unprecedented service on the City Council and his many contributions to the community.

Mr. Walsh remarked that the Cormier family is entitled to deference in the matter, adding that Ron was a humble man.

Mrs. Cormier reiterated her belief that a plaque recognizing Ron's longtime public service, as opposed to designating the Council Chamber in his name, is more appropriate.

Mr. Janssens concurred with Mrs. Cormier. He also noted Ron's humility and agreed that recognizing his years of service and contributions is more appropriate. Mr. Agnelli concurred.

On the motion, it was voted unanimously to recommend a 3D bas-relief bronze plaque with the following text:

**--Bas relief Image--**  
In Memory of  
Ronald F. Cormier  
"Dean of the City Council"  
1942 – 2024

Lifelong Educator - Devoted Public Servant - City Councillor for 36 years  
Longest-serving Councillor in the City's first 100 Years  
Council President  
Councillor at-Large  
Ward 3 Councillor  
Airport Commissioner  
Gardner Elementary School Advisory Board  
Gardner Redevelopment Authority Chairman  
Levi Heywood Memorial Library Board of Trustees Clerk

On a motion by Mr. Agnelli and seconded by Mr. Janssens, it was voted to authorize the Chair to convey the Committee's decision and actions, as well as the plaque format, to the City Council President.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Cormier and seconded by Mr. Janssens, it was voted to adjourn at 9:12 a.m.