**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL**

**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**WEDNESDAY, March 6, 2024**

1. **ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**City Council present:** Mayor Hart, Councilor Cusick, Councilor Brown, Councilor Greenleaf, Councilor Berry, Councilor Babcock, Councilor Dolley, Councilor Grant.

**City Employees present:** Andrew Carlton- City Manager, Hailee Lovely- Deputy City Clerk, Dawn Thistle- Library Director, Kris McNeill- Code Enforcement Officer, Melissa Lindley- Economic Development Director.

**Other Present:** Judith Dorsey, Helen Stevens.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT (anything not on the Agenda):** There were no comments.
2. **PETITIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS PETITIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS**
3. Public Hearing regarding a Liquor License for the A1 Diner

Mayor Hart opened the public hearing at 6:03pm. There being no discussion she closed the public hearing at 6:03pm.

1. **NEW BUSINESS:** 
   1. Approval of Council minutes from February 21, 2024

**Action: Councilor Grant moved to approve the City Council minutes from February 21, 2024. Councilor Greenleaf seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.**

* 1. Awarding of the Spirit of America Award

**Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve awarding Karen Adrien and Kathy Cutler, the Spirit of America Award. Councilor Cusick seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.**

* 1. Approval of a Large Event “American Legion Memorial Day Parade”

**Action: Councilor Cusick moved to approve the large event “American Legion Memorial Day Parade.” Councilor Berry seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.**

* 1. Advise and consent to the naming of a Private Road at 134 Spring Street

*Kris McNeill- Code enforcement stated, this is a subdivision that was approved. One of the units is done and the other seven are getting close. They want to name the road Magnolia Lane.*

**Action: Councilor Cusick moved to approve the naming of a private road at 134 Spring Street. Councilor Brown seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.**

* 1. Discussion and approval of Library Fees regarding non-member town Library Card fees.

*Dawn Thistle- Library Director stated that she looked at other options and local libraries and we are above the fold on what we charge. Councilor Brown asked if a town decides to leave the library, the citizens in that town won’t be able to get books from us. Dawn answered yes. Please see the attached memo from Library Director Thistle.*

**Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve the setting of the library card fee for patrons from non-member towns at $65.00. Councilor Babcock seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.**

**Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve that if a member Town pulls out of the library there will be a three-year moratorium for residents from that town to be able to obtain a library card from now on. Councilor Babcock seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.**

* 1. Approval of The Designation of a Municipal Tax Increment Financing District known as the “Commonwealth Omnibus Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District.”

*City Manager Carlton read a memo with questions from the councilors, as well as an emailed memo from city resident George Trask.*

**Action: Councilor Grant moved to approve the designation of a Municipal Tax Increment Financing district known as the “Commonwealth Omnibus Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District.” Councilor Dolley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.**

* 1. Liquor License renewal for Three Bridge LLC DBA A-1 Diner

**Action: Councilor Berry moved to approve the Liquor license renewal for A1 Diner. Councilor Babcock seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.**

* 1. Request from the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee

*Judith Dorsey- Chairman of the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee submitted a testimony from the Committee and spoke about the request put before council. Councilor Grant asked what the total amounts are going to be. J. Dorsey stated they will come up with an average amount they will apply to everyone, but the fund will not be established for another two years. It is important to note that these funds only be given to communities that have an established recycling program.*

**Action: Councilor Brown moved to direct the City Manager to submit a letter of testimony on behalf of the Gardiner City Council to the Maine Board of Environmental Protection regarding proposed rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 28: Stewardship Program for Packaging. Councilor Grant seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.**

1. **CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

Just returned from some time away. I am always thankful for our Department Heads as it is good to go away and know that the city is in good hands. We are knee deep in budgets. I plan to meet with the budget committee in early April with a plan to bring the full budget to Council at the end of April. We have had a run of bad luck at the plant; we lost a pump, a worm gear in a clarifier, and the bar rack at Main Ave. Between Chuck Applebee, John Cameron, and the crew, they have done an amazing job. We are going to get some rain over the course of the next four days. As we get information, we will be putting it out. Public Meeting at Johnson Hall to discuss improvements at Dearborn Park on March 13th at 5:30. Part of the CDBG Grant Process. Memo regarding the process for City Council.

1. **COUNCIL REPORT:**

Mayor Hart: *History was made at Johnson Hall. Thank you to the city staff for working at the election and the volunteers. There will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Munzing family that was affected by a house fire, held on Sunday March 10, 2024, 12pm-2pm located at the Boys and Girls Club. The clocks change this weekend.*

Councilor Brown: *Nothing to report.*

Councilor Greenleaf: *The ad for the bridge work has been out, I have heard a lot, and they are not happy. Thank you to the fire department for their response to the three recent fires. And thank you to city staff for the election work. Congratulations to Johnson Hall.*

Councilor Cusick: *Thank you to the council for approving the new fire members we recently gained.*

Councilor Berry: *Dito to Councilor Greenleaf and Councilor Cusick.*

Councilor Babcock: *Did the School Resource Officer get moved from the school. City Manager Carlton answered Yes, we are short staffed, hopeful to get another one in there soon.*

Councilor Dolley: *Councilor Babcock and I went to the Parks committee, very exciting energy, discussion on the floods, and making things more resilient.*

Councilor Grant: *Thank you to the members of the council for the discussion on the TIF proposal. I appreciate the city Manager for allowing us to ask those technical questions. Next Downtown Sidewalk Committee meeting is March 11, 2024, at 10am.*

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Action: Councilor Cusick moved to enter into executive session Pursuant 405(6)(C)-Economic Development in the interest of publicly held property at 6:52pm. Councilor Greenleaf seconded the motion. No further discussion. Councilor Berry recused himself from the discussion. Unanimously approved.**

* 1. Motion to enter into Executive Session Pursuant 405(6)(C)-Economic Development in the interest of publicly held property

1. **ADJOURN:**

**Action: Councilor Berry moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm. Councilor Brown seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.**