

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor MacLean called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Richard Nickless, District 1
Richard Rambo, District 2
Philip Hart, District 4

Bryan Blanchard, At-Large
Martha Mentall, At-Large
Mayor Andrew MacLean
Jeffrey Kobrock, City Manager
Francis Grey, Council Clerk

Councilors Dellert and LeBlanc were absent at the time of roll call; Councilor LeBlanc arrived late as noted below.

Motion by Councilor Nickless and seconded by Councilor Mentall to go into executive session.

Vote: 6 in favor 0 – opposed Motion: passes

Councilor LeBlanc arrived at this time.

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION per MRSA, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6) (E)
Legal Advice**

The Council came out of executive session at 7:37 pm.

Motion by Councilor Nickless and seconded by Councilor Rambo to go into executive session.

Vote: 7 in favor 0 – opposed Motion: passes

**4. EXECUTIVE SESSION per MRSA, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6) (C)
Real Estate**

The Council came out of executive session at 8:23 pm.

Motion by Councilor Mentall and seconded by Councilor Nickless to Table the item before them.

Vote: 7 in favor 0 – opposed Motion: passes

5. PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, & PUBLIC HEARINGS

5.1 Public Hearing for Liquor License Renewal for Gardiner Lodge of Elks #1293.

Public Hearing opened at 8:26 pm, and closed with no public comment.

5.2 Public Hearing for Liquor License Renewal for Gardiner Sportsmen's Club.

Public Hearing opened at 8:26 pm, and closed with no public comment.

5.3 Public Hearing for Liquor License Renewal for Lucky Strike Lanes, Inc.

Public Hearing opened at 8:26 pm, and closed with no public comment.

5.4 Consideration of Comments from the Public on Issues that Do Not Appear Elsewhere on the Agenda (Please limit comments to five minutes.)

David Barlow said he recently had his vehicle towed, there were many others as well, he did not see a sign. Brian Bergy said he had his vehicle towed. Pam Dodge said the people who had their vehicles towed should be reimbursed by the City. Caitlin Hilliard said, they want reimbursement for the cost of towing. She said she may file suit.

Mayor MacLean said, the towing issue will be on the City Council agenda for February 7.

Bob Demers said, he is interested in the Community Cable Access television issue, he has done some research, he would like to see Gardiner take advantage of the same franchise agreements other communities have.

George Trask said, he has pictures of bunks installed in the Public Works garage, he does not think this is a good idea.

Jim Keenan of the Smith-Wiley Post of American Legion said, he would like to see a bench honoring veterans placed in Gardiner, it is a free project donated by the Cole Land Transportation Museum. Manager Kobrock said, if the Councilors like this idea, they can come back at a later meeting and take a formal vote on it.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Consideration of Liquor License Renewal for Gardiner Lodge of Elks #1293.

6.2 Consideration of Liquor License Renewal for Gardiner Sportsmen's Club.

6.3 Consideration of Liquor License Renewal for Lucky Strike Lanes, Inc.

Motion by Councilor Rambo and seconded by Councilor LeBlanc to Accept Consent Agenda Items 6.1-6.3.

Vote: 7 in favor 0 – opposed Motion: passes

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Discussion of Water District Improvement Projects.

Gardiner Waster District Superintendent Paul Gray said, because of decisions to do some very worthy projects, the Water District is facing a rate increase. Councilor Hart said, the same thing happened at the Gardiner Wastewater Plant, they put off spending money for too long and then they had to. Paul Gray said, the PUC sets strict parameters for setting Water Rates.

7.2 Consideration of Police Officer Candidate.

Police Chief Jim Toman said, in October an officer left. He is proposing Reserve Officer Eric Testerman to fill the full-time opening. He has 14 years as a reserve officer in Gardiner, and is fully trained and qualified. The Charter requires that all officers come before the Council for their approval.

Motion by Councilor Hart and seconded by Councilor Mentall to Accept the Police Officer Candidate as presented.

Vote: 7 in favor 0 – opposed Motion: passes

7.3 Consideration of Order 07-01, Purchase/Bidding Policy.

Manager Kobrock said, the Council approved the purchasing portion of the policy, now they will look at the Bid Portion as well.

Motion by Councilor Rambo and seconded by Councilor LeBlanc to Accept Order 07-01, Purchase/Bidding Policy, as presented.

Vote: 7 in favor 0 – opposed Motion: passes

7.4 Discussion of CDBG Housing Grant.

Community Development Associate Sarah Fritzhand said, she is seeking permission to submit an application for this \$250,000 grant to provide down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers in Gardiner. The program is very competitive, there is no guarantee we will get it. There will be no liability for the City, it requires \$50,000 for a cash match, but this requirement will be satisfied by the participants.

Councilor Rambo said, our last CDBG Housing grant was very strong and clean. This may give us some extra points with DECD.

Mayor MacLean said, is there any objection to adding an addendum item, there was no objection.

7.5 Discussion of Council Laptops/Packets.

Library and Information Services Director Anne Davis said, they are looking at changes with Councilor laptops and with the delivery of E-Packets. Packets will be able to be accessed from the Web Site wirelessly in the Council Room. It will be a secure connection, please keep the IP address confidential.

8. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Manager Kobrock said, the Council will meet February 7 and February 28 because of holidays and school vacations.

The City had some growing pains this past week with the new computer system, we believe we are past the worst of it.

If the new Councilors would like to tour the City facilities, let him know and he will arrange it.

With the new software, the City has an opportunity to explore joint sewer and water billing with the Water District, if they are interested. If the Councilors are interested in this, he would like to talk to the Water District about it. Council indicated an interest in exploring opportunities for more efficient operations and possible savings for each organization.

9. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilor Mentall said, she would like to see deed restrictions and covenants explored for the Libby Hill land.

Councilor LeBlanc said, he would like to return soon to the Pam Plumb items such as the Mission and the Bank Treaty.

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Councilor Nickless said, he would like an update on the Northwest Quadrant project, it is supposed to start up again May 1.

Councilor Rambo said, he would appreciate if the new Councilors would read the report of the Organizational Task Force, it is very important. He would like to see 6:00 workshops with 7:00 business meetings. Also, he is excited by opportunities for a Community College in Gardiner.

Councilor Blanchard said, there are good opportunities for an independent community college, he has some good expertise on this.

Mayor MacLean said, he would like to see meetings end at a reasonable time, a 6:00 start time may help with this.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor MacLean adjourned the meeting at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis Grey
Council Clerk