

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
Wednesday, December 12, 2007
City Council Room
7 p.m.
DRAFT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McLean calls meeting to order at 7:01 – He welcomes everyone.

2. ROLL CALL – all councilors are present

3. PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, & PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

Mayor McLean asked for comments from the public. No one spoke.

3.2. Public Hearing for Brown's Auto Graveyard License

Mayor McLean asked if anyone would like to speak. No one needed to speak. He closed the public hearing.

3.3 Consideration of Brown's Auto Graveyard. Dave Chicowski spoke and stated that the addendum was self-explanatory. He has been doing inspections 4 times a year. In July, Dave saw that we wouldn't get the lower field cleaned out. (See Addendum.) Dave stated a condition to renew would be to have it cleaned up by June, or the license will be revoked. Nickless asked if there would be at least two inspections before June. Dave said yes.

Councilor Dellert asked Darryl Brown if he would be able to remove the vehicles near the water soon due to the soft ground in the spring. Mr. Brown thought he could get this done. The best time to do this is when the ground is frozen. She asked how the market was for the junkyard. Brown stated it is stable.

Councilor Hart stated his concerns about the ground in the spring. He now understands that Brown will do this when the ground is frozen. Defer taxes & liability.

Councilor Nickless made a motion to consider the extension of inspection for Brown's Auto Graveyard. Councilor Dellert seconded the motion.

There was a unanimous vote.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Consideration Brown's Auto Graveyard License

Councilor Nickless made a motion to consider the extension of inspection for Brown's Auto Graveyard. Councilor Dellert seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote.

5.2. Presentation from Sidewalk Committee

Dennis Doiron, stated the Council should have a written report in their packet. He introduced the people on his committee. He mentioned Joe Grant came up with an inventory of the sidewalks. He mentioned that the committee has come up with criteria to help the council decide on how to spend the bond money. Dorion mentioned that there is quite a bit of work that needs to be done on the sidewalks. Chuck Applebee went through the attachments. Dennis mentioned that the committee thinks that a public hearing would be helpful to get some of the recommendations underway.

Councilor Rambo commented that there was a lot of detail in the recommendations. He thanked the committee. A discussion took place regarding how long it would take for the sidewalks to get worked on without the bond. It would take many years.

Councilor Blanchard asked if anyone had figured out how much it costs for sidewalk removal. Dennis Dorian stated that Public Works could work on this to save costs. Councilor Rambo asked Chuck Applebee if in some situations this can be done with the paving. Chuck stated it depends on the project. Dennis commented that the committee is very active and has worked hard on this project. He thanked members of the committee. Councilor Hart wanted to know more about the removal of sidewalks. Councilor Mentall mentioned that on her street the sidewalks only go halfway, but the committee needs to consider that the rainwater can wash away lawns if curbing and sidewalks are not in place. Councilor Nickless commented he thought the Public hearing would be helpful. Councilor Rambo commented that he's not so sure we should remove sidewalks. This needs to be carefully considered. Mayor McLean mentioned in addition to a public hearing, there may need to be a workshop.

5.3. Discussion of Public Works Best Practices

Chuck Applebee reviewed best management practices. He stated that there has been an evaluation of Public Works to make improvements. Storm Water Regulations have been reviewed. Public Works facility improvements will be made. Bids are due tomorrow for construction of the salt shed. He mentioned the expenses of using the snow removal equipment; spending more time to train staff. Cold storage facility should be seeing a roof very shortly. Rerouting of plow routes and creating snow and ice control plan. He mentioned the roads are prioritized. Councilor Rambo asked Chuck about comp. time, max of 240 hours individually. Councilor Hart asked if the State evaluate the road maintenance? Chuck stated only if asked, and he has asked occasionally. Chuck stated we need to have the new salt shed and truck. Chuck stated that recommendations are continuously made from the state on how the roads are being maintained.

5.4. Discussion of Public Works Equipment Inventory

Chuck Applebee – spoke of equipment purchases and problems with grader. He mentioned the best management practices. New truck coming Dec. 20th. New sweeper next year. The grader is up and running again. He said that a lot of the machinery is old and needs to be replaced. The grader should make it through the fiscal year. Come next fiscal year, public works will recommend rebuilding the grader. He has a couple of places in mind that can do this and get it in brand new condition. He also mentioned slowing down the grader use. He mentioned that they are also looking at sharing a truck and a generator with the Water District.

5.5. Discussion of Community Policing

Chief James Toman mentioned discussion about sex offenders in neighborhoods. Councilor Mentall asked if there is some way of containing these people; Jim said no. He explained the sex offender laws. Jim stated we have 7 sex offenders that physically live in Gardiner. He stated the unknown sex offenders are more of a threat. He explained the sex offender notification system. Councilor Leblanc mentioned maybe getting an ordinance together to keep the sex offenders so many miles from schools and daycares.

Councilor Nickless asked Jim if sex offenders have been a problem. Jim said he doesn't know of any of our sex offenders have committed crimes again. Councilor Mentall mentioned New York City posts signs on sex offender's residences to let people know who they are. Mayor MacLean redirected the Council to the Community Policing; he wants to know how to put together neighborhood watches. Jim stated that the Council has done well promoting community policing. He would like to hire a community liaison officer. This person will get communities to participate in helping Public Safety. He would gather volunteers to reduce the amount of time officers are being paid to come in on overtime to cover the following;

- Large events (i.e. parades, fairs, Halloween, sports events)
- Crossing guards during school hours
- Property Checks
- Disaster Recovery

This this liaison conduct a "Citizens Academy" to let the community know -what public safety does—such as, Sex offender tracking, Neighborhood Watches; Business liaison with downtown merchants – go over security measures, bad checks etc.

Councilor Leblanc – mentioned he likes all of these ideas, but wants to know how the community would utilize web cams. He mentioned the recent vandalism in the community. Jim stated that the technology is there. They may not be able to monitor it 24-7, but at least it could be recorded. Councilor Leblanc mentioned the lighting needs to be improved in the Commons and at the Boat Landing.

Councilor Dellert mentioned that probably the neighbors around the park would really like to see lighting, cameras and more policing. Jim mentioned that a lot of these residents will be getting "turtles." These turtles will be taken out in the morning and taken in at night.

Mayor MacLean said Chief's discussion was terrific, and hears enthusiasm in the Councilor's discussion.

5.6. Consideration of Awarding Ordinance Revision Contract

Jason Simcock spoke of the interview process to revise our land use ordinance. He put a summary together of what needs to be done, and got four proposals. Bill Najpower will be the best fit. He worked at KVCOG. Jason mentioned they are great listeners and have a lot of experience in this type of work. He mentioned this should really help our ordinance review committee.

Motion to Award contract by Councilor Dellert Second by Councilor Rambo
Mayor asks for any discussion. Mayor stated that he thought this was a great idea and should help tremendously with the land use ordinances.

The Vote was unanimous.

5.7. Consideration of Library Services- Anne Davis explained the way Library Services work. She asked the council to approve the fees.

Motion to accept by Councilor Dellert Second by Councilor Mentall

The Vote was unanimous

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION per MRSA, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6) (A) Labor Negotiations

7. CITY MANAGER REPORT- Anne Davis is taking place for Jeff out on bereavement leave. She mentioned the holiday party on December 21st. Anne mentioned that we will be replacing the laptops for the Councilors. Phil asked if it makes sense to replace XP with Vista, and Anne stated that there are too many problems with Vista. Anne mentioned that Vista would cause problems on the City server.

Ann said that Jeff wanted her to mention a seminar that she attended regarding the homeless in Kennebec Valley. She said that it was very eye-opening.

8. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilor Blanchard stated he is impressed with the background work that has been done on the presentations tonight. Councilor Dellert mentioned she was very impressed with the work that Chief Toman has done and hope that we can put his ideas in place.

Councilor Hart mentioned that we need to have all of the information on the screen in council meetings all of the time. It's very helpful.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor asked everyone to have a great holiday. Inauguration will be on January 2nd to swear in the new Council members. We will also be recognizing Jean Dellerts many years of service. He mentioned trying to recognize the football team. George Trask feels that we should buy a new grader. He highly objects to the action on the Water District billing consolidation. He has filed a complaint with the PUC.

Motion to move to Executive Session by Councilor Rambo Second by Councilor Nickless

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am