

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL  
Wednesday, March 4, 2009  
City Council Chambers**

**1. CALL TO ORDER by Mayor MacLean 6 p.m.**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION –Legal Advice 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E)**

Executive Session closed at 7 p.m. Mayor MacLean called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**4. Consideration of Comments from the Public on Issues that Do Not Appear Elsewhere on the Agenda**

Councilor Trask led a discussion of a petition by residents Ralph Clark and Greg Farris, to put the City Manager's position out for applicants. Councilor Trask spoke about what he felt are "things going on" within the city that he disagrees with. Mr. Clark spoke about personalities of city staff, particularly public works. Mr. Farris spoke about a different way of thinking for the City. He spoke about selling the City to get businesses and jobs to come to Gardiner. Councilor Hart asked if Mr. Farris doesn't feel comfortable coming to see Jason Simcock in the Economic Development office and Mr. Farris said he doesn't. Councilor Hart feels that Mr. Farris should be a spokesperson for the people that would want to come to our City and he doesn't understand why he wouldn't want to do that. Mr. Farris doesn't understand why the City isn't getting out to meet people and to understand the situations on the street. Mr. Farris stated that he has businesses and friends that he wants to invite to Gardiner but right now he would be embarrassed to do so. Councilor Rambo spoke about different committees that were constructed to help with the development of the City, and he wasn't aware of the problems that Mr. Farris spoke about. Mr. Farris spoke about the two things he asked for of the Main St. Board was to make the street clean and to have a liaison between the City and the downtown. He also spoke about painting Main St. and redoing the ground floors of Main St--windows, floors, doors, and AC. Councilor Trask agreed with Mr. Farris. Mr. Farris spoke about keeping a line of communication throughout the city. Dorothy Washburn disagreed with Mr. Farris she feels that Jason is very dedicated, bright resourceful young man. She does think that if someone has questions about a business coming to Gardiner that it would be Jason would be the person to see not Jeff. It's Jeff responsibility to keep up on laws and rule changes and coming up with ideas to present to the Council. She does agree with Mr. Farris about not doing a good job with marketing our Main St. Dorothy does think we are going to have an outstanding waterfront but downtown Gardiner has not be able to make it like it should. Tom Reeves spoke about how Gardiner has done an outstanding job. I don't think it's realistic to take what's going on in the State and put it on the shoulder of Gardiner. This community has done

greater things than Richmond and Hallowell. He feels Jeff's leadership has been outstanding. There are many reasons why downtown Gardiner is a challenge, and looking at one individual or group of individuals and saying that they are at fault for the national economic not right. Lynn Gerard spoke about her concerns with the Apostolic Ministry basement.

#### **4.2 Public Hearing for Liquor License Renewal for The Depot Sports Pub**

Council Trask commented about how nice the facility it is.

### **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **Consideration of Liquor License Renewal for The Depot Sports Pub**

Motion to accept Nickless, second from Councilor Trask, vote is unanimous

#### **6. Work Shop –FY10 Goal Statement**

Andy spoke about a workshop draft document of January 20, 2009 that Craig put out. The goal statement is intertwined with the budget and we will be returning to this down the road. Andy looked for Guidance from Jeff to see what he hopes to accomplish tonight by discussing the document. Jeff is looking to organize a proposal from this document to bring back for discussion. Jeff states that some of the goals are in the completion stage and others are to be worked on.

**6. Motion to go to EXECUTIVE SESSION** for legal advice by Councilor Johnston, seconded by Councilor Rambo Vote all in favor

### **RECONVENE BUSINESS MEETING**

Back on record on 9:18

Motion by Councilor Trask to accept proposal from City Manager of Settlement of Agreement and Release between the City of Gardiner and Mark Kimball, second by Johnston. Councilor Hart does not feel it is good for the City.

Vote: Seven in favor, one opposed. Councilor Hart not in favor

### **7. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Jeff has received only two of the freedom of information training certificates and it is a state law and we need these on file.

### **8. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Councilor Rambo was uncomfortable with the timing of Councilor Trask's comments in the public hearing but would like to continue the discussion. Councilor Holmes would like to take some time to understand the cities policies and his role as a councilor. Jeff explained that an employee handbook is currently developed. Councilor Nickless can't relate with what was brought up earlier because he has seen many projects in progress as a result of management. After listening to earlier comments made about the City Manager's position, he feels marketing Gardiner to businesses is the role of Economic Development. Councilor Hart spoke about the handbook that is in progress, and he feels that a draft should be reviewed by all the Councilors before a final draft is made. He

feels it is Economic Development's job to sell the City's real estate, and Jeff's role is on the Public Relations side. Councilor Giberson sees great progress on the City from a business standpoint. Councilor Trask feels that there is too many committees to conduct city business. He is concerned with a disconnect between the Council, Management, and taxpayers concerns--such as, drop-out rates, and not seeing where their tax dollars are going. Councilor Johnston was concerned about Mr. Farris' comments about owning a business on Water St. He has a neighboring building and agrees that the sidewalks are not clean or inviting. Mayor MacClean expressed his disappointment with Councilor Trask for initiating public discussion during the public hearing. Andy spoke about a breach of common courtesy to the Council, and he feels that it compromised the role as a Councilor. The public hearing section on the agenda is for public to speak about anything not on the agenda. Councilors have Council Discussion to speak about items not the agenda.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Unknown time.

Submitted by

E Carleton