

## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

### GARDINER CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

City Council Chambers

7 p.m. Business Meeting

**1. CALL TO ORDER 7:05**

**2. ROLL CALL**

All members of the council present expect for councilor Rambo

**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.)**

No public present

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**4.1 Consideration of Mayoral Appointments**

Mayor MacClean made a recommendation for Tammy Tompsham for the Historic Preservation committee.

Councilor Trask made a motion to appoint Tammy to the Historic Preservation with a second from Councilor Nickless. Unanimous vote.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1. Demonstration/Training of Council Room Technology**

Ann spoke about the procedures with the new the new technology and the benefits of it. Andy asked about using different types of microphones. Brad spoke about the proximity of the microphones and receiving too much outside noise.

**5.2. Discussion of FY10 [Budget Gap Solutions](#)**

City Manager Jeff Kobrock recapped on the discussion that the Council had last week. Jeff felt it was important to view the whole story of the presentation and hold the questions until the end. Jeff spoke about the process for the budget gap solution. Jeff thought that the policy changes were what we should concentrate on and need guidance from the Council. Jeff spoke about acquired property and three pieces of property to consider surplus. He also spoke about a couple of different pieces of land--one on Orchard St., and the Usdan property to be used for recreation. Another piece of land that was reviewed was a 53-acre parcel of land with no right of ways, but unsure if we have exhausted all options to find a right of way, we might have to spend some funds in legal fees to find a right of way. All other properties that are city owned have value to the City. Jeff spoke about police business and how it's been busier than 2008, and a we

have a higher rate of felonies. He also spoke about police cooperation with new projects around the city and protecting what we have invested time and money into. There was a look at fire chief wages and director of public safety. If we leave positions open in public safety we will lose revenue, confidence and have higher costs. Having a call crew is much more difficult now than it was a while ago, people now work out of town and have busy lives. The FY10 undesignated fund has \$60,000 in contingency and \$35,000 for overlay, overlay is for tax abatements and is legally required. Jeff stated with a TIF we have \$219,902 available to us and with out a TIF we have \$39,905 available to us. Councilor Hart spoke about how much each employee is actually making and wanted to see actual wages. Councilor Hart asked if it would make sense to cover one area of service instead of having partners, and become a regional center. Councilor Robert Johnston spoke about the presentation and how much better and how much more meat was on the bone this time. Councilor Trask asked if there is a city owned piece of property next to Lee's Garage Doors and didn't see it on the map. Jeff stated he believes it is state owned and that it is a contaminated piece of property. Councilor Trask asked if we have to have a full time welfare director or can it be part time. Jeff stated that general assistance is part time. Councilor Trask asked if any of the girls in the front office can do the job and get rid of a secretary in public safety. Jeff stated that they did look at the administrative side of things, and we didn't find that it was worth it. Councilor Trask asked why are we looking at not having a plow driver and keeping a secretary, the public would rather have a plow driver than a secretary. Chuck Applebee Director of Public Works and Wastewater spoke about procedures in plowing snow, and what the suggestion would be to plow with one truck instead of the grader and a sand truck. Councilor Nickless asked if we can still clean up the sidewalks like before without the grader. Chuck stated that the grader would be used after storms for removal of snow. Chuck and Councilor Trask had a discussion about the use of the grader and equipment at PW. Councilor Johnston asked about the replacement of the boiler. Jeff stated we have stimulus money out there but with the stimulus money they all are looking for a match of funds. Councilor Holmes asked if we can bond the boiler replacement over five or ten years, and then look at giving some of the money back for energy efficient improvements. Jeff stated that we absolutely could, but we have to do the boiler now. Councilor Holmes asked if we have looked into incentives for the boilers. Finance Director Sandy Runyon explained about a website with stimulus information, and stated we have \$35,000 in budget for the boiler. We have to get the bid back and then go for funding. Councilor Johnston spoke about fall clean and the number of people participating, the tipping fees, and the amount per ton. Councilor Holmes asked if participation has gone down with the rising of fees. Jeff explained that participation has gone down because we do it every year and not every other year. Councilor Trask spoke about how it costs a lot more for a clean up than it's worth. Councilor Hart thinks it is worth while to the city to have the clean up; the streets become a dump if we don't. Councilor Holmes would like to cut fee costs. Councilor Nickless thinks it's a wonderful idea to have a clean up. Councilor Trask wants to know if we are having an increase in hydrant fees. Jeff stated that the water district isn't going to this year, but we are paying 250,000 for fees now. Councilor Trask asked about the increase in dispatch? Jeff stated we have had a discussion with Augusta about dispatch and it's time to get serious about the discussions. The service would improve

quite significantly if we were to use Augusta. Councilor Holmes asked for explanation from Jeff on the public safety director position. Jeff explained that instead of having a fire chief and a police chief we could hire a public safety director to do both jobs, with a savings of \$14,400. Councilor Trask feels that service and public wise, we should give the new fire chief a chance to pull things back together and staff it right and work with the other towns and everything is going to come together. Mayor MacClearn stated that he whole-heartedly supports Jeff on not pursuing the idea of director if public safety. Councilor Nickless feels that we need to be careful about overtime and how much we spend on it when we look at filling the open positions. Acting Fire Chief Rick Cody spoke about staffing and the open positions. Rick stated they are able to cover two calls at once right now but if one man goes on vacation we will be short handed, and we have to have another service cover our calls which means lost revenue. With staffing of fourteen, we won't lose revenue. Jeff explained to Councilor Holmes that if we have a short staff, we have to give away calls and we lose revenue. Jeff stated that it's more efficient to have a staff of 14 and a slight savings to the ambulance service business with a 12 man crew but when you look at the over time you incur and the revenue you lose doesn't seem worth it. A discussion continued about ISO ratings, hydrants and overtime.

Chief Toman spoke about the police opening and how important this position is to the city. This opening is taking time away from other employees and focus on high crime. Chief Toman also spoke about police crime stats and how they are on the rise. Council discussion about overtime and open positions.

Councilor Hart would like to go forth with what the council proposed, and go through different department and analyze the lines and look for change. Councilor Trask agreed with Councilor Hart and start putting the budget together and make it happen.

Councilor Nickless thinks we should move forward and is very impressed with everything. Councilor Hart asked if there is a way to show what an employee makes before they are split up into lines. Library Director Ann Davis spoke about her library budget and wanting to have her high school students back. The Mayor explained that the budget will be published and on April 17, then on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> at the old EJP building there will be a retreat, then a budget workshop April 29.

#### **6. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Richmond is looking to find an ambulance provider, and looking at Northeast. Jason had found time to start a process for the playground on the common, we have received a grant for the playground. We got noticed with arbitration with schedule changes in the fire department. We are pursuing a municipal harvest for alewives in the Cobbesee for revenue.

#### **7. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Councilor Johnston wants to thank the department in getting the street cleaned and thinks we need to concentrate on getting the down town clean. Councilor Trask would like to thank the department heads. Councilor Giberson would like to thank all department heads. Councilor Hart asked if any one has taken on the school department yet? Jeff stated we have asked for a meeting in the past but they have not wanted to have a meeting until they are further along in their budget process. Councilor Hart asked should we relay our message to the Gardiner school members what our plan is. Jeff stated he will do some talking and see what will happen. Councilor Holmes has a word of appreciation to mother nature and the Coast Guard for this week's ice breaking

efforts. Councilor Holmes has found it frustrating not to receive a printed detailed budget. Councilor Nickless was impressed with the new down town director. Mayor MacLean states that the primary agenda for next weeks meeting is the City Manger's contract. Councilor Johnston asked for the benefit of the new councilors are you going to include the last performance review. Mayor MacLean stated that this is a contract negotiation and not an evaluation, and for the new people he thinks you should meet with Jeff and he can show you his personnel file. This council will do an evaluation for the city manager of the end of year 2009.

8. ADJOURNMENT

10:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cutler

DRAFT