



**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, September 6, 2023
6:00 PM PUBLIC MEETING**

- 1. ROLL CALL-** City Council present: Mayor Hart, Councilor Frey, Councilor Cusick, Councilor Berry, Councilor Greenleaf, Councilor Brown, Councilor Grant.
City Staff: Andrew Carlton- City Manager, Angelia Christopher- Planning and Development Assistant/ General Assistance Director, Kris McNeill- Code Enforcement Officer.
Others present: Jessica Lowell- Kennebec Journal.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** There are no comments. Mayor Hart wishes Councilor Cusick a happy birthday!
- 3. PETITIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS**
 - a. Public Hearing regarding a Cannabis Retail Dispensary License Renewal for The Bud Bar. Mayor Hart opened the public hearing at 6:03pm. There being no comment, she closed the public hearing at 6:04pm.
 - b. Public Hearing regarding a Liquor License renewal for the Smith Wiley Post #4 American Legion- Mayor Hart opened the public hearing at 6:05pm. There being no comment, she closed the public hearing at 6:06pm.
- 4. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2023. Councilor Grant presented changes for item 4g. Councilor Grant moved to accept the minutes with requested amendments. Seconded by Councilor Cusick. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
 - b. Approval of a Cannabis Retail Dispensary License Renewal for The Bud Bar- Councilor West moved to approve the license renewal for a Cannabis Retail Dispensary for the Bud Bar. Seconded by Councilor Berry. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
 - c. Approval of a Liquor License Renewal for the Smith Wiley Post #4 American Legion. Councilor Brown moved to approve the liquor license renewal for Smith Wiley Post #4. Seconded by Councilor Greenleaf. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
 - d. Approval of a Victualers License for G Town Teas and Shakes. Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve a Victualers License for G Town Teas and Shakes. Seconded by Councilor Frey. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

- e. Request to move the October 4, 2023, regular City Council Meeting to October 11, 2023. Councilor Brown moved to approve the move of the October 4 meeting to October 11. Councilor West seconded. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- f. Request to send the use of Conex Storage Boxes to Ordinance Review Committee- Kris McNeill reports that this seems to be a new trend and some people do not like the way they look. Council agrees to send this to ORC for review.
- g. Request to send the licensing of Vacant Buildings to Ordinance Review Committee The purpose of this is to encourage vacant building owners to do something with their property. Council agrees to send this to ORC for review.
- h. Committee Appointments- Councilor Berry moves to approve the following- Chris Leake as a member of the Economic Development Committee, Kathy Galgano as an Alternate to Planning Board, Dorothy Washburne, and Tamara Whitmore as members to the Downtown Sidewalk Committee. Seconded by Councilor Cusick. No further discussion. Unanimously approved.
- i. Cannabis Presentation by Code Enforcement Officer Kris McNeil- Kris gave an overview of how the process works, where retailers are located in the city and discussed rules and regulations to Council members.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORT- Starting September 18th, there will construction on Church St to fix the sewer line. This project went out to bid a couple of times and it was decided that public works staff could complete the work. They will be replacing 700+' of sewer line. There will be detour routes set up and the work will include the whole street. A sewer issue on Dresden Ave was addressed quickly. City Manager Carlton thanks Robert Abby and his crew for getting the gazebo painted and that area spruced up. Paving projects around the city will be starting soon. Contract negotiations for Public Works and the Police Dept. will be starting soon.

6. CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilor West- no report at this time. He will be closing on his new home, in another town in early October. His last City Council meeting will be September 20th. He states that he has enjoyed his time as a councilor and is thankful for the opportunity. Mayor Hart wishes him well and thanks him for his service.

Councilor Cusick wishes Councilor West good luck.

Councilor Berry wishes Councilor West the best.

Councilor Frey- Good luck Simon.

Councilor Greenleaf – Wishes Councilor West good luck. He asks about an empty home on Church St. and if there are any updates. It has been found that the owner passed away and



left the home to a family member but there is an issue with a bank, so that needs to be worked out.

Councilor Brown-Thanks Councilor West and also thanks staff at Public Works for their hard work.

Councilor Grant –Thanks Councilor West and wishes him well and also thanks Public Works for all that they do.

Mayor Hart–The art walk was a great event. Johnson Hall wrapped up summer concert series and showcased talented area students. The Great Race is coming back to Gardiner in June of 2024. The race will end on a Sunday in Gardiner. This will be an important event for the City. She asks if a reminder can be sent out or posted on the website that fireworks are not allowed in Gardiner unless it is a commercial contractor.

On Wednesday September 27th there will be an Economic Development Community Resilience Plan public meeting.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION- Councilor West voted to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)C-Consideration of the Acquisition or Disposition of Real Property at 6:42 pm. Councilor Cusick seconded the motion. Councilor Berry exited the meeting.

In at 6:42

Out at 7:06

8. Adjourn

12/6/23

12/20/23

2023 MEETING DATES

9/20/23

10/4/23

10/18/23

11/1/23

11/15/23

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