

Mayor Hart called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

1. ROLL CALL & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Patricia Hart, Mayor at large; Councilors: Terry Berry, District 1; Colin Frey, District 3; Tim Cusick, At large; Amy Rees, District 2; Marc Rines, District 4; Maryann White, At large; Jon Ault, At large;

Also in attendance: City Manager, Christine Landes; Economic Development Director, Tracey Desjardins; Police Chief, James Toman; Fire Chief, Al Nelson; Library Director, Anne Davis; Finance Director, Denise Brown

Mayor Hart opened the meeting by reflecting on recent events.

At the beginning of the pandemic and disease outbreak in the spring, we all stayed home to join together to keep each other safe. In doing so, we knowingly paused the economy to save lives. During that time, we quickly learned of the weaknesses in our social systems, and our social fabric. When many lost jobs – people became food insecure in our community. We were fortunate to have neighbors, food banks, and other people step up to fill the gap and meet the needs to feed neighbors. We learned about our many other weaknesses. Caring about our older and youngest community members has been a challenge. We have known that we have had a lack of space to care for children in the community. But when everything closed, we realized how dependent we are on our caretakers of our children.

Moreover, we have learned how the public health and economic crises have impacted some populations more than others. Specifically, we saw that the health and economic crisis impacted our Black Americans and People of Color much more than others.

On May 25, we learned of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis– a man that likely none of us had ever met. But when we saw the horrific death at the hands of police officers, we were shocked and outraged. Since his death, the nation has witnessed protests and outcries at the injustice. These recent events remind us that many people have been and continue to feel the pain and suffering of structural racism in our institutions and communities.

Many have asked me what Gardiner is going to do to address these injustices in our community. So, I have assembled a group of interested residents, along with Library Director Anne Davis, and Police Chief Toman, to organize community conversations on structural racism. We will share that information as plans come together.

There have been many losses and sacrifices over these last few months, but at the same time, many stepped up to help, share what they have, and restore hope.

The Mayor called for a moment of silence to remember all those who are suffering and to pray for hope and peace and healing.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (anything not on the Agenda)

None

3. PETITIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

Those choosing to join the meeting may participate via Zoom meeting ID: 821 4003 3238
Password: **997723**. **All participants will be asked to disable their video and audio and to message/notify the moderator when they would like to speak.**

Council agreed to add item #5 and an executive session to the agenda.

1) Discuss and Review, With Public Input Proposed FY21 Proposed Budget/Set First Read

The City Manager and Department Heads met and cut some of the proposed budget items.

City Manager Landes gave a summary of the amended proposed FY21 budget.

Logan Johnston expressed concerns with reducing funds to the non-profits budget.

Councilor Rees stated that she is in support of properly staffing the fire Department after meeting with Fire Chief Al Nelson. Council agreed.

Councilor White moved to send the FY21 budget option B with the amendment to remove the line that reduces funding for non-profits, to a first and second read on June 10, 2020 and June 24, 2020, respectively.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

2) Confirmation of Public Works Director Michael Vella

The City Council was to confirm the appointment of Michael Vella, as Public Works Director. Mr. Vella has been offered a salary of \$63,000, 1.25 vacation days per month (available for use after 6 months), and a couple of other miscellaneous items. Mr. Vella yields from Parishville, New York and is an agronomist and has extensive experience building golf courses. His experience with soils, snow removal, and drainage will be put to great use in the Public Works Department. Mr. Vella will be reporting to work no later than July 6, 2020.

Mr. Vella's application was withdrawn. No action needed.

3) Governor's Executive Order Regarding Vehicle Registration

On May 26, 2020, Governor Mills issued Executive Order 53-AFY 19/20. This Executive Order addresses vehicle registrations in the State of Maine. Section I,A, states that a vehicle is required to be registered in the State within a deadline established by the municipal officers or no later than 30 days after the termination of the state of civil emergency due to the COVID virus, or whichever is sooner, provided: 2. The municipal officers give reasonable notice to the public of the start date of the ability to collect tax and process registrations, the methods by which tax collection and registrations may be processed, and the deadline for compliance by vehicle owners. Chief Toman has reviewed the materials and feels that July 1, 2020 would be a fair date

to require all Gardiner vehicles, that have expired or been purchased during this time frame, will need to be registered.

Councilor Rees moved to give notice to the public that June 1, 2020 was the public start date of Gardiner's ability to collect tax and process registrations in person, on Informe, and via drop box, therefore the deadline for Gardiner vehicles to be registered is July 1, 2020.

Councilor Berry seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

4) Review and Accept Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2020 and May 27, 2020

Councilor Berry moved to approve the minutes of May 13, 2020 and May 27, 2020 as presented.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for the May 27, 2020 executive session by placed in chronological order.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

5) Report decision of the Monday, June 1, 2020 Executive Session: Pursuant to M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A): Personnel Issue Regarding Employees' Participation in Emergency Response and Providing Essential Services.

Councilor Rees moved to accept the decision agreed upon by the City Council in executive session on Monday, June 1, 2020 to provide a Local Gardiner Stimulus in the form of Gift of Gardiner that will be given to City employees as discussed.

Councilor Ault seconded.

Councilor Rines asked what the amount of the Stimulus was that Council agreed upon.

Mayor Hart responded that it was a total of \$3,900.00.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORT

- The front of City Hall has been re-sided.
- City Hall is now open with limited public hours.
- Thanks to Annie Cough and her staff for all the hard work putting flags on the Veterans graves (Annie Cough, David Beaulieu, Susan Emmett, Juanita Fish, Riley Fish, Pat Greenleaf, Rick Greenleaf, Ed Griner, Cynthia Hartofelis, George Hopkins, Patricia Hopkins, George Hunt, Johnna Jamison, Vicky Lawry, Christine Shay, Roland Shay and Mike Wing)

6. CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilor Ault

- Thanks to City Staff and City Manager Landes for the hard work on the budget.
- Would like to consider resuming City Council meetings at City Hall
- Thanks to Councilor Frey for the comments regarding the importance of non-profits
- Thanks to Councilor Rees for the comments regarding the importance of the Fire Department.

Councilor Cusick

- Thanks to Mayor Hart for the opening statement tonight.
- Thanks to Chief Toman for his social media post.
- Thanks to City Staff for the dedication and hard work every day.
- Thanks to Finance Director Brown, City Manager Landes and Department Heads for submitting a respectful budget.
- Asked what the status is for Public Works
City Manager Landes responded that the PW Director application was just withdrawn yesterday and we are looking to address the position.

Councilor White

- Would like to consider resuming City Council meetings at City Hall
- Thanks to Mayor Hart for the opening statement tonight.
- Thanks to Chief Toman for his social media post.

Councilor Berry

- Would like the City Manager to consider opening City Hall with more hours for citizen's convenience.
- When can we resume meeting at City Hall
- Thanks to City Staff and City Council

Councilor Rees

- Thanks to City Manager Landes and the Department Heads for all the work on the budget.
- It is nice to see the street sweeper out sweeping again.

Councilor Frey

- Thanks to Mayor Hart for the opening statement tonight.
- Thanks to Chief Toman for his social media post.

Councilor Rines

- Received complaints about areas needing mowing. Kudos to Public Works for mowing around the City before I could even mention it to them.

Mayor Hart

- Thanks to City Manager Landes and Department Heads for working with the Council on the budget.
- Wants the consideration for executive sessions to be held on the second Wednesday of each month instead of combined with regular Council Meetings.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(D): Discussion of Union Contracts and Proposals; The City of Gardiner and Gardiner Professional Firefighter's Local 2303

Councilor Cusick moved to enter into executive session pursuant to M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(D): Discussion of Union Contracts and Proposals; The City of Gardiner and Gardiner Professional Firefighter's Local 2303.

Councilor White seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous. 7:43pm.

Councilor Cusick moved to exit out of executive session pursuant to M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(D): Discussion of Union Contracts and Proposals; The City of Gardiner and Gardiner Professional Firefighter's Local 2303.

Councilor Frey seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous. 8:05pm.

City Council provided direction to staff in executive session.

8. ADJOURN

Councilor Cusick moved to adjourn.

Councilor Ault seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous. 8:09pm.

01:22:44 robertjohnston: I'm ready

01:33:24 Tracey: Terry McGuire We should be cutting the non-profits and staff the Fire department

01:35:53 Ingrid: Thank you for your support1

01:58:56 Robert Abbey: Gardiner Main Street appreciates all of you!

This document is in draft form and will be reviewed and possibly approved during the June 10, 2020 City Council Meeting.