

Mayor Hart called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

## **1. ROLL CALL**

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

Also in attendance: City Manager, Christine Landes; City Clerk, Kelly Gooldrup; Librarian, Anne Davis; Finance Director, Denise Brown; Public Works Director, Tony LaPlante; Fire Chief, Al Nelson;

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT (anything not on the Agenda)**

Brad Folta, owner of Honey Badger Analytics reported that a neighbor watched someone break in to a car and stole her grooming supplies in the parking lot behind Water Street.

Mr. Folta is also on the Tax-payer's advocacy panel. If anyone has any questions in regards to taxes and understanding the language surrounding taxes, feel free to send them to Mr. Folta.

Mr. Folta also announced that there is a "smarter communities" grant out right now from the National Science foundation which gives town money, approximately 1.5 million to make their communities "smarter". EX: GIS systems, etc.

Mr. Folta put a word out about public transit. He would like to see the rail line get re-established with a regional plan.

## **3. PETITIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **a. FY20 Budget Proposal**

This agenda item is the Public Hearing to hear comment from the public regarding the proposed FY20 budget.

The City Council had a preliminary review of the budget in April. In May, there were two Public Hearings conducted where the public was invited to give comment. At the May 22, 2019 meeting, the City Council gave guidance to the city staff as to what line items needed adjustment. The proposed FY20 budget First Read under 4.1 (all attachments are located there also).

The Public Hearing was advertised on May 15, 2019.

City Manager Landes gave a brief overview of the Updated Proposed FY20 Budget.

Mayor Hart opened the public hearing at 6:13pm and asked for any comment from the public.

Debby Willis stated that she appreciates the contract planner money being fully funded in the budget. Also glad to see the Economic Development Director position is still in the budget.

Phyllis Gardiner commended the Council for sharpening the pencils and doing the best possible. The compromises made in the last meeting made sense. Getting the planner and Gardiner Main Street back to the level of funding they had last year is important. Thank you all for your hard work.

Mayor Hart asked for any further discussion. Seeing none, the public hearing was closed at 6:16pm.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1) First Read of FY20 Budget**

At the May 22, 2019 Council meeting, the City Council reviewed the proposed FY20 budget. During that meeting there were several proposed changes that the City Council asked to have adjusted. Attached is the new FY20 proposed budget that is a 5.52% total increase (5.08% city, 6.21% school, and 4.10% county tax increase).

Councilor Rees moved to approve the first read of the FY20 General Fund, TIF Funds, and Enterprise Funds budgets and to hold a second reading on June 19, 2019.

Councilor Dolley seconded.

Councilor Cusick asked if the tax rate increased by \$.80? Is the City about \$.20 of that? City Manager Landes stated that she had a discussion with Mayor Hart about the proposed revenue sharing; it may increase from the proposed governor's rate of 2.5% to 3% which would mean about 106, 000 more for Gardiner. The first and second year will be approximately 160,000 more than that for a total of \$266,000 increase. We have a couple options moving forward. You could use it as revenue sharing on the tax commitment, which would leave to mil rate similar to what it already is or you could vote to put it in designated funds for next year's tax commitment. You could let it lapse to fund balance.

Finance Director Brown replied that the cities portion is about 15 cents, the school department is 62 cents and the county is 3cents.

Councilor Cusick asked if the school budget passed last night.

Mayor Hart responded that she was in attendance and it did pass. It will now go to the voters on Tuesday.

Councilor Rees thanked City Manager Landes and department heads for sharpening the pencils and coming up with some thoughtful and difficult cuts.

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

##### **2) Consider Sidewalk Committees List for Improvements**

The Sidewalk Committee continues to meet, discuss, and evaluate the sidewalk improvements that will be occurring in the city. On May 23, 2019, the sidewalk committee met and decided that Church Street and Brunswick Avenue, from the Common to LER on the South side of the street (left side going out) to High Holborn and then the North side to school, will need to be prioritized. This project will be funded from the existing sidewalk funds. The committee will continue to meet and prioritize the sidewalks to be constructed under the current plans, and with available funding.

Tony LaPlante, Public Works Director, described briefly the history of the Sidewalk Committee and the upcoming projects.

Councilor Berry asked if this exhausts all the funds we currently have available.

Tony LaPlante responded that it is a pretty good chance of that.

Councilor Cusick moved to approve a reconstruction of the Church Street sidewalk, and the sidewalk on Brunswick Avenue from the Common to Laura E. Richards School on the South side of the street (left side going out) to High Holborn and then the North side to school. Councilor White seconded.  
Mayor Hart asked for any discussion from the Councilors. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

### **3) Consider and Appoint New Members for Boards and Committees**

In an effort to continue to fill numerous Boards and Committees, the City Council is being asked to consider the appointment of Bradford Folta to the Wastewater Advisory Committee and Logan McNeill to the Housing Committee.

Each of their statements of interest are attached.

Please note: the Mayor and City Manager are actively seeking new applicants to various committees and boards within the City. The City Council is encouraged to ask any interested applicants to fill out a statement of interest or speak to someone at city hall regarding volunteering.

Councilor Berry moved to appoint Bradford Folta to the Wastewater Advisory Committee and Logan McNeill to the Housing Committee.

Councilor Rines seconded.

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

### **▪ CITY MANAGER REPORT**

New employees: Angie Sencabaugh is our new Planning Assistant, Cindy Burnham is our new Front Counter Clerk, Clayton Snelling is our new First Responder and Alonzo Connor is our new Police Officer.

Marcus Neidner from the Police Department has given his notice and is leaving June 12 to move south.

I met with MDOT today and it appears they will be partnering with KVCOG to conduct a parking study for us in the near future. As of now, there will be no cost to that. The Mayor and I talked about getting a parking committee together to analyze results and work with MDOT and KVCOG.

LED lights are almost installed around the Downtown.

The ads for Maine Biz regarding Libby Hill Park will be printed as we are trying to do some more marketing. I did meet with a potential buyer for a lot in the Libby Hill Business Park. There is a plan for a new restaurant in the Park as well.

Last Thursday there was a Crossing the Cobb meeting. There were about thirty attendees.

### **• CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

Councilor Cusick: Thanks to the Department Heads and City Manager Landes for bringing the budget down to a very minimal increase.

Councilor White: Echoed Councilor Cusick's thanks. The cities increase to the 80 cents on the mil rate is 18.75%, so well done.

Councilor Berry: Ditto. Is the city paying the cost for the Maine Biz ad?

City Manager Landes: responded yes.

Councilor Berry: Was there any conversation with the real estate agent towards sharing that cost?

City Manager Landes replied that she did not ask for that, but can certainly run that by them during the next round.

Councilor Rees: all set

Councilor Dolley: farmers market up and running, please check it out.

Councilor Rines: all set

Mayor Hart: Appreciates the hard work that went into the budget. Welcome to the new employees. Thanks to the American Legion for another great Memorial Day Celebration. The founder of the World Fish Migration Foundation came to Gardiner on Wednesday from the Netherlands for World Fish Migration Day and worked with students. School budget meeting was not very well attended. Voting on Tuesday, please go vote.

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

- **ADJOURN**

Councilor Berry moved to adjourn.

Councilor Dolley seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous 6:39pm

*(Approved during the June 19, 2019 Council Meeting)*