



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, August 4, 2021
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hart at 6:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Council Present: Mayor Hart, Councilor Cusick, Councilor Berry, Councilor Rees, and Councilor Frey, Councilor Sergeant, and Councilor Rines.

City Council Absent: None.

Also present: Finance Director Denise Brown, Planning and Development Administrative Assistant Angie Christopher, Public Works Director Jerry Douglass, Economic Development Director Tracey Desjardins, Bill Barron, Johan Brown, Cheryl Clark, Rusty Greenleaf, Kristen Premby, Sally Shepard, Rob Duplisea, Fire Chef Rick Sieberg, Michael Miclon, Annalee Morris- Polley, and Chair Debby Willis.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Johan Brown spoke and asked for Aid for the golden age Four Leaf Glover Club for the greater Gardiner area.

Mayor Hart explained that when someone speaks during public comment they schedule the action item to be put on a future agenda so they can talk in full depth.

Cheryl Clark spoke briefly in regards to Bill Harvey day that was declared on August 19th. Cheryl stated she would like to be this a very special day for him, they had a guest book at the store for people to sign until August 19th.

3. PETITIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

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None

4. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Vote to fill a vacant At-Large Council seat

Mayor Hart spoke briefly.

Bill Barron spoke briefly.

Councilor Rees asked Bill what would be his top three challenges facing the city currently, in his opinion.

Bill stated; filling the storefronts downtown, attract more people into town, and continue doing what we are doing.

Councilor Sergent asked Bill if he has ever volunteered at Chrystilis Place and if he knows where it is located.

Mr. Barron stated he has not volunteered there but knows where it is.

Rusty Greenleaf spoke briefly.

Councilor Sergent asked what was the biggest change he has seen.

Rusty stated the downtown is the biggest change he has seen.

Councilor Rees asked Rusty what he would say the top three challenges are for the City of Gardiner.

Rusty stated; keeping business in town and bringing business to town, the gazebo, the water fountain, the water front, Rotary has adopted some gardens downtown to help the city due to not being able to take care of them and the signs coming into the city could use some improvements.

Kristen Premby spoke briefly. She stated the three biggest challenges she believes the City faces are; keeping the businesses down town, trying to figure out how we can help everyone who asks for help and how do increase volunteers in Gardiner.

Mayor Hart stated Scott Williams was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor Hart explained the secret ballot process.

Angie Christopher counted the ballots and provided the council the information on who the vote.

Mayor Hart announced Rusty Greenleaf won the vote.

b.) Request from AngleZ Behavioral Health Services for installation of a Kiosk

Sally Shepard spoke briefly.

Councilor Sergent asked if she was going to put them on trees.

Sally stated that is correct.

Councilor Rees asked if there was any charge for the people who want to use the services.

Sally stated that if the individuals do not have insurance the program does have a sliding scale.

Mayor Hart stated this is wonderful work AngleZ is doing. Mayor Hart stated there is a tree committee and will need to ask before putting screws into the trees, and asked if there is an alternative.

Sally stated there is an alternative of possibly using a 2 by 4 piece of wood or something to put into the ground instead of a tree.

Councilor Berry stated they could use zip ties.

Sally stated the kit does come with zip ties.

Action: Councilor Cusick moved to allow AngleZ Behavioral Health Services to place an informational kiosk on Gardiner City property.

Councilor Rines seconded.

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

c.) Second Read and possible approval of the amendments to the Demolition Ordinance

Action: Councilor Frey moved to approve the amendments to the Land Use Ordinance as proposed.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

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

d.) Consideration of an extension of agreement – 38 Partridge Drive

Rob Duplisea spoke briefly.

Mayor Hart explained the importance of talking into the mic. She asked Finance Director Denise Brown if we have received word back from the city solicitor for wording.

Finance Director Brown stated we have not heard back from them as of yet.

Councilor Rees suggested we would push this agenda to the next meeting after we hear back from the city solicitor.

Mayor Hart asked if Mr. Duplisea could return on August 16th for another meeting.

Rob asked if he could attend via zoom due to being away.

Mayor Hart stated that he could call in for the meeting.

Finance Director Denise Brown confirmed his contact information for Acting City Manager to reach him.

Rob confirmed.

e.) Consideration of a contract with Gardiner Ambulance

Fire Chef Rick Sieberg spoke briefly.

Action: Councilor Rees moved to approve the 2021-22 Gardiner Ambulance contract and wished to thank the employees of that service for their dedication. Councilor Berry seconded.

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

f.) Consideration of renewing the Plummer Street lease

Action: Councilor Rines moved to extend the lease for an additional five years. Councilor Sergent seconded.

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

g.) Consideration of renewing a Victualer's license for 3 Bridges LLC

Action: Councilor Cusick moved to approve the Victualer's License for 3 Bridges LLC, DBA A-1 Diner.

Councilor Rines seconded.

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

h.) Consideration of accepting the June reports from Department Heads

Councilor Rees mentioned there was not a Wastewater Report and was wondering if this was missed.

Wastewater Director Douglas Clark stated he just did not have time to write one.

Councilor Cusick stated we need to have further discussion on the Fire Chiefs concerns of the space issues at the central station, this remains a challenge.

Action: Councilor Rines moved to accept the June Department Heads report. Councilor Frey seconded. Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. None. All those in favor. Unanimous.

i.) Consideration of a major event from Johnson Hall

Michael Miclon spoke briefly.

Councilor Rines asked if the musicians are donating their time as well.

Michael stated that is correct.

Action: Councilor Rines moved approve a conditional permit to Johnson Hall when the following conditions are met. Johnson Hall must get the required approvals from all pertinent Department Heads and they will work with the Superintendent of the Wastewater Department to meet all of their weight standards. Councilor Frey seconded. Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. None. All those in favor. Unanimous.

j.) Advise and consent to the Mayor's appointment to the Board of Appeals

Action: Councilor Berry moved to advise and consent Of the Mayor, to appoint Lester Young to the Board of Appeals. Councilor Cusick seconded. Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. None. All those in favor. Unanimous.

k.) Update on the search for a city manager

Mayor Hart spoke briefly.

l.) Consideration of approving council meeting minutes

Action: Councilor Rees moved accept the Council Minutes from 6/2/2021, 6/9/2021, 06/16/2021, 7/7/2021 and 07/14/2021. Councilor Cusick seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. None. All those in favor. 6 yes, 1 abstention (Councilor Sergent).

5. CITY MANAGER REPORT

None.

6. CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilor Sergent spoke briefly about mental health awareness.

Councilor Frey stated the new road work has been wonderful but the arrows are causing some confusion.

Mayor Hart stated she has also heard the same.

Public works Director Jerry Douglass stated he could speak with the project manager about this concern.

Councilor Berry stated it is nice to be back and to see everyone.

Councilor Cusick requested an update on Brunswick Ave.

Public Works Director Jerry Douglass stated that this is a State/City project and the work will most likely not get done until spring/summer of next year but we could spend approximately \$10K to shim the road.

Councilor Cusick stated we should look into doing something with the hill before winter due to people driving on the wrong side of the road.

Mayor Hart asked that this could be put on an upcoming agenda. Mayor Hart asked Public Works Director Douglass if they are putting in the gas line at the business park.

Public Works Director Douglass stated that is correct and that Summit is doing the paving.

Councilor Frey asked if Summit did the work in Farmingdale.

Public Works Director Douglass stated he was not here last year to speak to this.

Councilor Frey stated they did not do a good job last year.

Public Works Director Douglass stated he will keep an eye on things.

Councilor Rees asked for an update on the “red house” on Central Street from Code Enforcement Officer Kris McNeill.

Mayor Hart stated they had their annual High Holborn yard sale and was fun to see neighbors and friends.

Mayor Hart reminded everyone that Bill Harvey day is on August 19th and encourages everyone to sign the book.

Mayor Hart mentioned the free waterfront concerts sponsored by Johnson Hall.

Mayor Hart stated the bridge project is winding down and will be finished in the next week or so.

Mayor Hart mentioned the sendoff for Scott Handville last Friday, it was a bittersweet day.

Fire Chef Rick Sieberg spoke in regards to the Covid vaccine clinic in the fire bay on August 13th from 8 – a.m. and September 10th for the second shot.

Councilor Greenleaf asked if people need to sign up ahead.

Fire Chef Rick Sieberg stated this is a walk in event and no cost.

7. ADJOURN

Action: Councilor Cusick motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Councilor Berry seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none, a roll call was conducted. Unanimous. The City Council adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alisha Ballard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alisha Ballard

City Clerk