



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, January 5, 2022
6:00 PM

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

1) INAUGURATION

City Clerk Alisha Ballard swore in, Councilor Kerstin Gilg, Councilor Terry Berry, Councilor Colin Frey, Councilor Mark Rines and Councilor Rusty Greenleaf.

2) ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Council Present: Mayor Hart, Councilor Cusick, Councilor Gilg, Councilor Berry, Councilor Rees, and Councilor Frey, Councilor Greenleaf, Councilor Brown and Councilor Rines.

City Council Absent: None.

Also present: Acting City Manager Anne Davis, City Clerk Alisha Ballard, Debby Willis, Jerry Willis, Kent Howard, Former Councilor Amy Rees and Robert Lash.

3) PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Hart said a few remarks about the past year.

4) PETITIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

a) Marijuana Renewal application from NPG, LLC dba Wellness Connection (retail)

Mayor Hart opened the public hearing at 6:17 p.m. and asked for any comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Hart closed the public hearing at 6:17 p.m.

**b) Marijuana Renewal application from NPG, LLC dba Wellness Connection
(manufacturing)**

Mayor Hart opened the public hearing at 6:17 p.m. and asked for any comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Hart closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

5) PROCLAMATIONS

a) Proclamation celebrating Debby Willis as the City of Gardiner's 2021 Spirit of America Award recipient

Mayor Hart read aloud the Proclamation for Debby Willis.

Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to endorse the Mayoral proclamation as read.

Councilor Frey seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion.

Debby Willis spoke briefly.

All those in favor. Unanimous.

b) Proclamation honoring past City Councilor Amy Rees

Mayor Hart read aloud the Proclamation for Amy Rees.

Action: Councilor Cusick moved to endorse the Mayoral proclamation as read.

Councilor Greenleaf seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion.

Amy Rees spoke briefly.

All those in favor. Unanimous.

6) NEW BUSINESS

a) Consideration of approving the delegation of authority

Acting City Manager Anne Davis spoke briefly.

Action: Councilor Brown moved to accept the attached Delegation of Authority Order 2022-01.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion.

Councilor Brown pointed out an error.

City Clerk Ballard corrected the error.

All those in favor. Unanimous.

b) Consideration of a dedication for the 2021 Annual Report

Mayor Hart nominated Anne Davis.

Action: Councilor Greenleaf moved to dedicate the 2021 Annual City Report to Anne Davis.

Councilor Gilg seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion.

City Clerk Alisha Ballard asked Mayor Hart if she would write the dedication page.

Mayor Hart stated, "Yes."

All those in favor. Unanimous.

c) Discussion of nominating a dedicated volunteer to the 2022 Spirit of America Award

Mayor Hart spoke briefly.

Councilor Berry suggested Robert Abbey.

Mayor Hart mentioned it cannot be someone whom has passed away.

City Clerk Alisha Ballard nominated Raye Anne Desoto on the behalf of Kathleen Cutler.

Mayor Hart moved this agenda item to another meeting.

d) Consideration of approving a marijuana renewal application – NPG, LLC dba as Wellness Connection (retail)

Action: Councilor Berry moved to approve a marijuana renewal application (retail) to NPG, LLC dba as Wellness Connection located at 31 Maine Ave.

Councilor Frey seconded.

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

e) Consideration of approving a marijuana renewal application – NPG, LLC dba as Wellness Connection (manufacturing)

Action: Councilor Rines moved to approve a marijuana renewal application (manufacturing) from NPG, LLC dba as the Wellness Connection.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

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

f) Consideration of a minimum bid for 0 Marks Lane

Acting City Manager spoke briefly and thanked Tax Collector Kathy Cutler for all of her hard work with the TAP's.

Action: Councilor Berry moved to instruct city staff to put 0 Marks Lane out to a minimum bid of \$28,700.

Councilor Greenleaf seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion.

Councilor Berry asked if this is the property, they cannot find the previous owner for.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis stated she does not believe this is that property.

Councilor Berry asked more in-depth questions.

Acting City Manager Davis stated she will need to get back to them answers.

All those in favor. Unanimous.

g) Consideration of approving the 2022 election staff list

Action: Councilor Brown moved to approve the attached list of election workers for a period of two years.

Councilor Gilg seconded.

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

h) Discussion and possible consideration of a mask mandate for all City of Gardiner public meetings

Acting City Manager Anne Davis spoke briefly and updated council with the status of COVID positive staff members.

Action: Councilor Berry moved to require masks for all City Meetings, Library for people coming in to be masked and to have this topic as an agenda item for every meeting going forward.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion.

Councilor Gilg asked if they could revisit this topic every month instead of every meeting.

Councilor Berry stated they are together every two weeks, covid changes so much.

Councilor Greenleaf agrees with Councilor Berry.

Councilor Rines states he is fine with it.

Mayor Hart states she would like the updates to be monthly.

Councilor Gilg stated even though they will have updated monthly does not mean they cannot have this as an agenda item, this would be set as a reminder monthly.

Councilor Brown stated she is fine either way and asked what the practice is within city offices.

Mayor Hart asked Councilor Berry and Councilor Gilg to update their motion.

Action: Councilor Berry moved to require masks for all City Meetings, people coming into city hall, Library for people coming in to be masked and to have this topic as an agenda item monthly.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis spoke briefly.

Mayor Hart spoke briefly.

All those in favor. Unanimous.

i.) Consideration to advice and consent the Mayor on some committee appointments

Action: Councilor Frey moved to approve the reappointment of the members of the Ordinance Review Committee and confirm the terms of the members of the Historic Preservation Committee as listed herein.

Councilor Berry seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. None. All those in favor. 7 vote yes, 1 abstention.

j) Discussion and consideration of scheduling a goal-setting City Councilors' workshop

Mayor Hart spoke briefly. She asked if they would like to schedule the first meeting for January 26, 2022.

Council Agreed.

7) CITY MANAGER REPORT

Acting City Manager Anne Davis mentioned that Public Works and Building and Grounds jumped into action to handle the weather conditions today.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis stated the police department reported to many accidents.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis thanked all other City staff who helped with keeping the city hall walk ways walkable.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis stated the fire department was called to a fatal fire in Chelsea on New Year's day.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis mentioned that while people were home with their families during the holidays our staff worked through them.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis stated the Department heads are helping her with a new councilors workshop on January 12th from 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis stated she would be working on the FY2023 budget.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis mentioned to council to consider adding a new member to the building and grounds.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis stated that Library Director Justin Hoenke is postponing Anne Davis's retirement party.

Acting City Manager Anne Davis said happy New Year to everyone.

8) CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilor Frey stated happy New Year.

Councilor Rines wished everyone a fabulous 2022.

Councilor Greenleaf wished everyone a Happy New Year and Welcomed Councilor Gilg to the council. Councilor Greenleaf mentioned a man whole cover located between Central street and Water street that appears to be sinking.

Councilor Brown wished everyone a Happy New Year and she looks forward to working with everyone.

Councilor Gilg wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated he is looking forward to serving on the council.

Councilor Cusick wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilor Berry wish everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Councilor Gilg.

Mayor Hart congratulated all of the members who ran for council and whom was inaugurated today, she is happy to serve with them.

Mayor Hart mentioned she and City Clerk Ballard are working on the board and committees; she will then talk to councilors on being on a committee.

Mayor Hart stated next meeting there will be a presentation from Economic Development Committee on their thoughts on how to spend ARPA money.

9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Action: Councilor Frey motioned to move into executive session

Councilor Greenleaf seconded.

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

The City Council moved into executive session at 6:58 p.m.

a) Per 1 M.R.S. §405 (6)(a): Discussion or consideration of employment

Action: Councilor Cusick moved to authorize spending \$1200 to advertise City Manager Search Re-opening.

Councilor Frey seconded.

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

Council took a break from 7:27 p.m. to 7:44 p.m.

a.) Per 1 M.R.S. §405 (6)(c): Economic Development issue – Libby Hill Business Park

None.

b.) Per 1 M.R.S. §405 (6)(c):: Real estate discussion

None.

10) ADJOURN

Action: Councilor Berry motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none, a roll call was conducted. Unanimous.

The City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alisha Ballard". The script is cursive and fluid.

Alisha Ballard

City Clerk