



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, December 7, 2022
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 Berry, Councilor Brown, Councilor Cusick, Councilor Frey, Councilor Greenleaf, and Councilor West

City Council Present via teleconference: Councilor Rines

City Council Absent:

Also present: City Manager Andrew Carlton, Deputy Clerk Michelle Snowden; John Cameron, Public Works Foreman; David Grover, Public Works Foreman; Denise Brown, Finance Director; Rick Sieberg, Fire Chief; Darryl Brown Jr.; Gay Grant; Kate Carnes; Tom Reeves; David Pierson, Esq.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3) PETITIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS / PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

a) Liquor License – The Bench

4) NEW BUSINESS

a) Approval of November 16, 2022 Council Minutes

Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve the November 16, 2022 meeting minutes. Councilor Cusick seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor West – yes; Mayor Hart – yes
The motion passed 8-0.

b) Certify the November 8, 2022 Election

Councilor Brown moved to certify the November 8, 2022 election. Councilor Greenleaf seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor West – yes; Mayor Hart – yes

The motion passed 8-0.

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- c) **Appointment of Simon West to the Cobbossee Trail Committee**
Councilor Brown made a motion to appoint Councilor West to the Cobbossee Trail Committee. Councilor Greenleaf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor West – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Mayor Hart – yes
The motion passed 8-0.
- d) **Approval of Forfeiture Acceptance**
Manager Carlton stated that the trial will begin soon, this is in the event that the judge awards Gardiner Police.
Councilor West moved to accept the forfeiture, Councilor Cusick seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor West – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Mayor Hart – yes
The motion passed 8-0.
- e) **Approval of Liquor License for The Bench**
Councilor Greenleaf mentioned that the church listed on the application is incorrect, it should be Winter Street Baptist Church, not Life Community.
Councilor Greenleaf moved to approve the liquor license for The Bench with the amended application. Councilor Frey seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor West – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Mayor Hart – yes
The motion passed 8-0.
- f) **Approval of a Junk Yard license for Browns Exit 27 Auto Salvage**
Chief Rick Seiberg reported that he and Code Enforcement Officer MacNeill completed a site visit. The facility looks in order – all roadways were open, pad was open and clear, many tires were removed. There is a culvert that needs replacing near the main road, owner is working on that. It was the opinion of Chief Seiberg and CEO MacNeill that Mr. Brown is keeping in compliance. The facility will be inspected annually.
Councilor Frey moved to approve the junk yard license for Browns Exit 27 Auto Salvage, Councilor Brown seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor West – yes; Mayor Hart – yes
The motion passed 8-0.
- g) **Update from Gay Grant regarding the Cobbossee Trail Committee**
Ms. Grant gave a concise update included timeline of events; some points of interest: the elbow near Water Street and Bridge Street is completed; next stages include plans to bring the trail

down Water St., along Winter St., left on Summer St., to the edge of the Cobbosee Stream. Phase two will bring a bridge over the Stream. The Committee is working with residents on bringing the trail out to Route 126. They will meet on Monday to set up upcoming meetings. She will provide a formal presentation in the spring as they continue to work with DOT engineers and planners.

Gay thanked Mayor Hart and City Manager Carlton for attending the meetings and assisting the Committee. Lastly, she mentioned that she is the Gardiner representative to the Rail Use Advisory Council, which held its kick off meeting last week. This council will discuss the portion of rail between Brunswick and Augusta; they expect the process to last approximately nine months. Please direct citizen questions to Gay.

5) CITY MANAGER REPORT

- City Manager Carlton announced that John Cameron has been promoted to Deputy Public Works Director, whom has worked for the City of Gardiner for five years.
- John Cameron introduced David Grover, who has been with the City for 25 years, as the Public Works Foreman. Manager Carlton stated that John and David will make a great team and thanked Dave for accepting the position. He stated that Eric Whitmore will begin on Monday, completing the Public Works plow routes. Heather MacMaster has been hired as City custodian, eliminated the cleaning service. The only vacancy remaining in Public Works is a mechanic.
- Manager Carlton mentioned that the solid waste committee has requested a facility study to look at a recycling facility in Public Works.
- Wednesday, December 15, 3:30 p.m. will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for Bintliff's Corner Brew.
- Manager Carlton thanked Denise Brown, Janet Slade, and Simon West for serving on the Economic Development Director / Public Information Officer interview committee. He hopes to bring the chosen candidate to the December 21 meeting.
- Manager Andy Carlton stated that the City recently completed a surplus property auction through Auctions International, which yielded over \$9,000. It was a very easy process and he was pleased with the outcome.
- DEP is working with Doug and John to complete a comprehensive survey due to the State. DEP will submit the report to the federal government on behalf of the City.
- The street light contractor should be onsite within the next couple of weeks to address the ones that are out.
- Lastly, Manager Carlton announced that the January 4, 2023 council meeting will be held in the Hazzard Room at the Gardiner City Library.

6) CITY COUNCIL REPORT

- Councilor West thanked all those involved in a great weekend filled with holiday events. A spectacular time was had by all.
- Councilor Cusick – nothing to report
- Councilor Berry announced that he has been named as an executive board member for First Park. A Zoom meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15; meeting information will be posted

on the City's website. If anyone would like to speak with Councilor Berry regarding Gardiner's involvement with First Park, please reach out to him.

- Councilor Frey – nothing to report
- Councilor Rines – nothing to report
- Councilor Greenleaf echoed Councilor West's sentiment about City-wide holiday events. The decorations look great, and he thanked the Buildings and Grounds department for their assistance with the Rotary tree sale.
- Councilor Greenleaf also thanked Chief Sieberg for the excellent job he's doing retaining EMS staff. The City is fortunate to have such a department.
- Councilor Brown – nothing to report
- Mayor Hart congratulated Chief Rick Sieberg and Public Works Foreman, David Grover, for 25 years of service with the City of Gardner and thanked them for their loyalty and commitment.
- Mayor Hart thanked City Councilors for supporting Katie Schide Day. Katie and her family appreciated the honor and enjoyed spending time with the community during the turkey trot. She encourages everyone to come out for the Christmas Parade on Saturday.

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Brown moved to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A)

Evaluation of the City Manager. Councilor Cusick seconded. A roll call vote was conducted:

Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor West – yes; Mayor Hart – yes

The motion passed 8-0.

The City Council moved into Executive Session at 6:39 p.m.

Councilor Brown moved to exit Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.S.R.A. §405(6)(A) at 6:49 p.m.

Councilor Cusick seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor West – yes; Mayor Hart – yes

The motion passed 8-0.

City Council moved out of Executive Session at 6:49 p.m.

Councilor Cusick moved to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(E)

Consultation with Legal Counsel. Councilor Greenleaf seconded. A roll call vote was conducted:

Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor West – yes; Mayor Hart – yes

The motion passed 8-0.

The City Council moved into Executive Session at 6:49 p.m.

Councilor Cusick moved to exit Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.S.R.A. §405(6)(E) at 6:49 p.m.

Councilor Greenleaf seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Greenleaf – yes;

Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor West – yes; Mayor Hart – yes

The motion passed 8-0.

The City Council moved out of Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

8) ADJOURN

Councilor Greenleaf moved to adjourn, Councilor Brown seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor West – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Mayor Hart – yes
The motion passed 8-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Snowden

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Deputy City Clerk