**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, February 1, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

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

**1) ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

 City Council Present: Councilor Berry, Councilor Brown, Councilor Cusick, Councilor Frey, and Councilor Greenleaf

 City Council Present Remotely: Councilor Rines

 City Council Absent: Councilor West

 Also present: Andy Carlton, City Manager; Michelle Snowden, Deputy City Clerk; Kathy Cutler, City Clerk

**2)** **PUBLIC COMMENT**

 None

**3)** **PETITIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

None

**4) NEW BUSINESS**

 **a)** Approval of Council Minutes

 **Action**: **Councilor Berry moved to approve City Council minutes from December 21, 2022, January 4, 2023, and January 18, 2023. Councilor Cusick seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Cusick – yes, Councilor Berry – yes, Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Mayor Hart – yes. The motion passed 7-0.**

 **b)** Awarding of the Spirit of America Award

 City Manager had one nomination: Gardiner’s Gardeners. Mayor Hart had several people suggest the Gardener’s, as well.

 **Action:** **Councilor Cusick moved to award the 2023 Spirit of America Award to Gardiner’s Gardeners. Councilor Berry seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Mayor Hart – yes. The motion passed 7-0.**

 **c)** Advise and Consent to single sourcing consultation services regarding Department Assessment and Police Chief Search

 Manager Carlton stated that he would like to work with an outside firm to assess the police department and assist with the search for a chief.

 **Action: Councilor Frey moved to approve single sourcing consultation services regarding department assessment and police chief search. Councilor Berry seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Mayor Hart – yes. The motion passed 7-0.**

1. **CITY MANAGER REPORT**
* City Manager Carlton thanked Denise Brown and City Hall staff for a seamless transition to upgraded software for City services. Overall, there were a few hiccups, but staff was patient and our technology department was very helpful.
* Manager Carlton announced some new employees who will be on board soon: Kyle Burns, Public Works Equipment Operator; Michael Moody, Police Officer; and Scott MacMaster, Police Officer, both officers have previously been employed by the City and we’re looking forward to their return.
* Tucker Fitzmaurice, Buildings and Grounds Foreman who accepted the Public Works mechanic position, has begun in his new full time position today, February 1. Manager Carlton and John Cameron will assume the role of B&G Foreman until someone is hired. Tucker will begin training for his CDL soon.
* Manager Carlton addressed the recent snowstorms – they had to delay clean up downtown and on Arcade Street due to allow crews time to rest.
* City Manager Carlton reported that the library will be open Friday and Saturday, 2/4 & 2/5 as a warming center. Also, the Boys and Girls Club will serve as a warming center on Saturday, 2/4, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The gym will be open for walking and basketball. Visitors must bring their own food, if they plan on staying for a length of time.
* Lastly, Manager Carlton mentioned that he attended the 2023 Kenney Awards in Augusta on January 27. It was wonderful to see two Gardiner residents take home prestigious awards. Carrie Arsenault won the Community Service Award and Ingrid Stanchfield was the Business Person of the Year. Congratulations to Carrie and Ingrid.
1. **CITY COUNCIL REPORT**
* Councilor Cusick would like to have a conversation about the downtown snow removal process at an upcoming meeting.
* Councilor Berry reported that the City of Gardiner gained approximately $3,000 last year from First Park.
* Councilor Greenleaf thanked City staff for their work during the snowstorms and technology upgrades.
* Mayor Hart thanked City staff for the wonderful retirement celebrations for Jim Toman. She also mentioned that she attended a party honoring Commissioner Rines hosted by the County Commissioners.
1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**a)** Councilor Greenleaf moved to enter into executive session at 6:23 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A.§405(6)(C) Discussion of the Acquisition or Condition of Real Property, Councilor Frey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Mayor Hart – yes. The motion passed 7-0.

 The City Council moved into executive session at 6:23 p.m.

 Councilor Greenleaf moved to exit executive session at 6:33 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C) Discussion of the Acquisition or Condition of Real Property, Councilor Frey seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor Berry – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Mayor Hart – yes. The motion passed 7-0.

 The City Council moved out of executive session at 6:33 p.m.

 Councilor Berry left the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

**b)** Councilor Greenleaf moved to enter into executive session at 6:36 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A.§405(6)(C) Discussion of the Acquisition or Condition of Real Property, Councilor Frey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Mayor Hart – yes. The motion passed 6-0.

 The City Council moved into executive session at 6:36 p.m.

 Councilor Greenleaf moved to exit executive session at 7:14 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C) Discussion of the Acquisition or Condition of Real Property. Councilor Frey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Cusick – yes; Councilor Frey – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Brown – yes; Mayor Hart – yes. The motion passed 6-0.

 The City Council moved out of executive session at 7:14 p.m.

**8) ADJORN**

 **Councilor Greenleaf moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m., Councilor Frey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Councilor Brown – yes; Councilor Greenleaf – yes; Councilor Rines – yes; Councilor Cusick – yes; Mayor Hart – yes. The motion passed 6-0.**

 City Council adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Michelle Snowden, Deputy Clerk