



CITY OF Gardiner

GARDINER CITY COUNCIL *Moving Forward*
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, May 31, 2023

Mayor Hart called the meeting to order at 6pm.

1. **ROLL CALL** - City Council Present: Mayor Hart, Councilor Greenleaf, Councilor Cusick, Councilor Berry, Councilor West, and Councilor Frey. City Council Not Present: Councilor Brown, Councilor Grant
Also present: Andrew Carlton- City Manager, Denise Brown- Finance Manager, Melissa Lindley- Economic Development and Public Information Officer, Todd Pilsbury- Chief of Police, Doug Clark- Director of Wastewater, Rick Sieberg- Fire Chief, John Cameron- Director of Public Works, Dawn Thistle- Library Director, Jessica Lowell- Kennebec Journal, Robert Abbey, Dorothy Washburn, Anne Cough, and Angelia Christopher.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**- Anne Cough thanked the volunteers who helped laying the flags at the cemeteries on May 25, 2023 at Oak Grove, New St. Joseph's and Old St. Joseph's cemeteries. Anne and Vicki laid flags at the Civil War Monument and the other war Monument in the common. The 2023 Flag volunteers are: Dave Beaulieu, Frank Cuff, Ed Grenier, John Hanley, Jeff Hanley, George Hopkins, Chris Hughes, Kerry Hughes, Johnna Jameson, Katie Labbe, Wesley Labbe, John Lavallee, Vicki Lawry, and Fred Thompson.
3. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**- None at this time.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**-
 - a. Bid Awarding for the Demolition of 235 Water Street- Two bids were received for this project. One for McGee construction for \$98,500.00 and one from a Concrete company based in Bangor for \$150,000. City Manager Carlton wants to have this taken care of before Swine and Stein.
Councilor Cusick moves to award the bid for Demolition of 235 Water St to McGee Construction for \$98,500.00. Seconded by Councilor West. No further discussion. Councilor Berry abstained from the vote. Five Councilors in favor.
 - b. Discussion and possible action regarding the Bid for the Palmer Fountain- Two bids were received for this project. A bid from Berube Landscaping was received for \$185,000 and one from Anderson Landscaping for \$199,000. \$150,000 has been raised from fundraising efforts, leaving a gap in funding. There is \$15,000 in the Coombs and Robinson trusts that can be used as well as another \$5000.00 from other trust funds within the City. That leaves about \$15,000 that needs to be raised. City Manager Carlton recommends that we award the bid to Berube Landscaping for \$185,000 and take some funds out of the Downtown TIF to complete the project. This will leave some time for more fundraising efforts. Robert Abbey points out that this project has a grant that has a timeline of October on it, so it needs to get started. Mayor Hart and Councilor Berry support using funds from

the Downtown TIF to get this project going. Berube's Landscaping did McKay park, and did a very good job.

Councilor Greenleaf moves to instruct City Manager Carlton to award the bid to Berube Landscaping for \$185,000. Councilor Frye seconded the motion. All in favor.

5. OLD BUSINESS-

a. FY24 Proposed Budget Continued- Finance Manager Denise Brown and City Manager Carlton gave an overview of the proposed budget. Due to an early lease on a firetruck purchase, there needs to be \$92,500 back into the budget due the payment needing to be made within this budget year. Rather than adding this to the tax burden they are proposing to take this \$92,500 out of TIF funds. The TIF is projected to grow in the next few years, and the funds need to be used.

Councilor Berry moves that for the FY24 budget we take \$92,500 from the TIF account to pay for the first payment on the firetruck and also use \$45,000 from Libby Hill TIF to add to the funding for the Reeval. Seconded by Councilor Cusick. No further discussion. All in favor.

Councilor Berry moves to amend the FY24 proposed budget as updated on the May 31, 2023 by incorporating the council directed changes, and move the FY24 Budget to First Read on June 7, 2023. Councilor Cusick seconded the motion. No further discussion. All in favor.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT-

a. A time for Public Comment regarding the FY24 proposed Budget-

Mayor Hart opened the public hearing at 6:23 p.m. and asked for any comments from the public. Mayor Hart closed the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS-

a. Set Dates for the First 6/7 and Second Reads 6/14 of the FY24 City of Gardiner Budget- **City Councilors agreed to have the First Read of the FY24 City of Gardiner Budget on June 7, 2023 and Second Read on 5/17/23.**

b. Approval of Council Minutes from 5/10/23 and 5/17/23.

Councilor Frey moves to approve the minutes from 5/10/23 and 5/17/23. Councilor Greenleaf seconded the motion. No further discussion. All in favor.

8. CITY MANAGER REPORT- City Manager Carlton thanks the Finance Director and

Department heads for all their work on this budget. He was able to enjoy his vacation last week due to the competence of the Dept. Heads. Harrison Ave. is still a concern. Public Works Director John Cameron and Fire Chief Rick Sieburg met with FEMA and they expressed that there are concerns. There will be a meeting with FEMA and NEMA to make a plan, and hopefully obtain some funding to fix this issue. This project needs to be taken care of soon, but more importantly, correctly. There is



sewer infrastructure in this section of road and we need to be cognizant of that. In regards to the sewer issue on Church St. There was one BID response to the RFP, that was rejected. They were hoping for a more competitive process and have redrafted the RFP which will go out by the end of the week. Spring cleanup is winding down. Deputy City Clerk Hailee Lovely started Tuesday and is waiting on customers, doing well. City hall will be closed on 6/19 due to the Juneteenth holiday and on 7/4, for the Fourth of July.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORT-

-Councilor West- No updates week.

-Councilor Cusick asks Chief Sieburg if Engine One is back in service. After some investigating, it seemed that the truck went into Regen from idling too long and after a long ride, is fine now.

Councilor Cusick asks if the City is moving towards battery operated extraction tools. Yes, some vehicles have been outfitted. What is the status of the ambulances? One is supposed to be delivered in November and the other in April. Councilor Cusick thanks everyone that participated in the parade. It was nice to see this event back after a few years.

-Councilor Berry thanks the City and the Elks for getting the parade back up and running again.

-Councilor Frey- Thanks everyone for the work on the budget. He would like to see a TIF workshop sometime in the future. Councilors Grant and West have not had this training yet.

-Councilor Greenleaf thanks city staff, for all the budget work, for the group that placed the flags at the cemetery, and for Robert Abbey, and Dorothy Washburn for keeping the fountain project on task and moving.

-Mayor Hart- Thanks City staff, the American Legion, and Elks for all the work on the parade. She would like to schedule a meeting with the Harrison Ave residents affected by the repairs that need to happen there soon. Spring cleanup has gone well and the flood cleanup is just great. Thank you councilors and staff for back to back meetings to get the budget wrapped up.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION-

- a) 1 MRSA 405(6)(A)-Evaluation of the City Manager- **Mayor Hart expressed that there would not be an executive session at this time and this would be revisited later.**

11. **ADJOURN-** Councilor Cusick moved to adjourn at 6:40pm. Councilor Berry seconded the motion. No further discussion. All in favor.

2023 MEETING DATES

6/7/23

6/14/23

7/19/23

8/2/23

8/16/23

9/6/23

9/20/23

10/4/23

10/18/23

11/1/23

11/15/23

12/6/23

12/20/23