

GARDINER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, January 4, 2017
Gardiner City Hall

Mayor Thomas Harnett called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mayor Thomas Harnett and Councilors Terry Berry, Timothy Cusick, Shawn Dolley, Phil Hart, Maryann White, Jon Ault & Patricia Hart. Also present were City Manager Scott Morelli and City Clerk Lisa Gilliam.

PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS (Public comment for anything not on agenda):

Mayor Harnett opened up the meeting for public comment; hearing none the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

Consent Agenda:

Mayoral & Councilor Inauguration:

City Clerk Lisa Gilliam swore in Mayor Thomas Harnett who won re-election in November. The City Clerk then sworn in Jonathan Ault who won re-election, and Maryann White & Timothy Cusick who were both newly elected in November.

Mayor Harnett presented Resolutions to outgoing Councilors Maureen Blanchard (who was not present) and Scott Williams. Mr. Williams expressed his thanks to the Council and to the community for their support during his term as City Councilor.

Councilors Ault, Cusick & White each addressed the audience, thanking the residents for their support. Mayor Harnett also expressed his gratitude for the support of the community and for how much Gardiner personally means to him.

Discussion Regarding Broadband with Technology Committee:

Technology Committee Member Rich Rambo and Malcolm Harris presented a video on global technology; then each spoke on the importance of broadband in the community. Discussion followed. No motions were made or necessary.

Consideration of FY18 Library Partner Community Fees:

Librarian Anne Davis briefed the Council on the fees and changes they would like to make with the partnering towns. The Library Board of Trustees has recommended a 1% increase for the partnering towns, which included the following communities: Farmingdale, Litchfield, Pittston, Randolph & West Gardiner. A brief discussion followed. Councilor Patricia Hart moved to set the FY18 Library Partner Community Fees at the amount recommended by the Library Board; motion seconded by Councilor Ault. Discussion continued. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Consideration of Repealing Existing Moratorium on Non-Resident Library Cards:

Librarian Anne Davis also reviewed this agenda item with the Council. There is a current moratorium that has halted the sale of non-resident family cards to families that do not live in a partner town. The Gardiner Public Library Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to lift the current moratorium and they are recommending the City Council approve this action. A brief discussion followed. Motion by Councilor Ault to repeal the existing moratorium on the sale of non-resident family cards to families that do not live in a partner town of the library and set the rate at \$60; motion seconded by Councilor Cusick. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Consideration of Enacting a Five-Year Moratorium on Issuing Library Cards to Residents from Towns that Leave the Library:

Librarian Anne Davis said the Gardiner Library Board of Trustees has recommended the City Council enact a five-year moratorium on issuing library cards to residents from any partner community (current or future), that leaves the library partnership. Discussion followed. Motion by Councilor Patricia Hart to enact a five-year moratorium on issuing library cards to residents from current and/or future partner towns that leave the library partnership; motion seconded by Councilor Dolley. Discussion continued. Motion carried 7-1 with Councilor Phil Hart opposed.

Consideration of Waiving Marijuana Moratorium Publication:

At the last City Council meeting, the Council approved a moratorium on recreational marijuana as it relates to the recently passed statewide referendum question. The City Staff erred in not requesting the Council authorize the City to NOT publish the moratorium ordinance in a local paper, which is normal protocol with the City Charter. A brief discussion followed. Motion by Councilor Phil Hart to waive the publication requirement for the recreational marijuana moratorium that was approved at the December 21, 2016 meeting, as provided for in the City Charter; motion seconded by Councilor Patricia Hart. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Consideration of Creating a Recreational Marijuana Task Force:

Motion by Councilor Ault to create the Recreational Marijuana Task Force, as recommended by the City Manager, and charge them with reporting back to the City Council with a recommendation no later than May 3, 2017; motion seconded by Councilor White. Discussion followed. Councilor Ault amended the motion to include Councilor Terry Berry as the Chair of the Marijuana Task Force. Discussion continued. Councilor Berry said he would be happy to chair this committee. Councilor Berry said he would abstain from voting on this item. Councilor Patricia Hart and Mayor Harnett said they would both be in support of Councilor Berry serving as chair for this committee. Motion carried 6-1 with Councilor Phil Hart opposed and Councilor Berry abstaining from the vote.

Motion by Mayor Harnett to expand the committee from 5 to 7 members; motion seconded by Councilor Patricia Hart. Motion carried 7-0 with Councilor Berry abstaining.

Motion by Councilor Ault to set the quorum for this committee at five with two members on each side (pro and con) plus the chair; motion seconded by Patricia Hart. Motion carried 7-0 with Councilor Berry abstaining. Motion carried 6-1 with Councilor Phil Hart opposed and Councilor Berry abstaining.

Consideration of Order 17-01: Delegation of Authority to City Staff:

Manager Morelli said this item is voted on annually by the City Council. The Delegation of Authority helps limit ministerial tasks that come before the City Council which makes things more efficient for residents and business owners. Motion by Councilor Phil Hart to approve the Delegation of Authority as presented in Order 17-01; motion seconded by Councilor Berry. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Consideration of 2017 Council Meeting Dates:

Manager Morelli presented a list of Council Meeting dates that cover from January 18, 2017 to January 3, 2018. Motion by Councilor Phil Hart to accept the City Council meeting dates for 2017 as proposed by the City Manager; motion seconded by Councilor Berry. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Consideration of Appointments to Boards & Committees:

Manager Morelli presented the one appointment for Louis Sigel to the Board of Appeals. Motion by Councilor Phil Hart to appoint Louis Sigel to the Board of Appeals; motion seconded by Councilor Ault. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The Kennebec Valley Chamber will be hosting the Kenney Awards; please RSVP Robin if you will be attending.
- All Councilors have been presented with updated inserts for their City Council Manuals; a new book has been given to Councilor Cusick and a book will be ready for Councilor White as soon as former Councilor Williams returns his copy.

CITY COUNCIL'S REPORT:

- Councilor Patricia Hart extended a thank you to the Public Works Department for their work through the snowstorms over the holidays; they did a wonderful job keeping the city safe for those traveling. She announced that her business has moved from Gardiner to Portland; her office space has already been filled by a local attorney.
- Councilor Ault also commented on the great job and hard work by the Public Works Department. He thanked Manager Morelli for the inserts for the City Council books and asked if in the future it could be an electronic file to save on paper. He also said he looks forward to working with the new Councilors.
- Councilor White – Said she was very happy to be a part of the City Council and working for the residents in Gardiner.
- Councilor Phil Hart – Thanked Public Works for their efforts during the holiday with the snowstorms. He would also like to see some sort of help or tax breaks extended to seniors to help with their property taxes.
- Councilor Dolley – Said he is looking forward to this year working with this group of Councilors.
- Councilor Cusick – Said the Public Works Department did a great job on the local roads during the snowstorms over the holidays. He also said he is looking forward to working with the Council and representing the residents.
- Councilor Berry – No report.
- Mayor Harnett – Thanked Councilor Phil Hart for filling in for him at the last City Council Meeting. The Mayor said he attended FaceTime and there was a great turnout of people for that event. He also said that after speaking with several of the local merchants, they told him they had a very good holiday season.

ADJOURN:

Councilor Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting; second by Councilor Dolley. Motion carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Gilliam, City Clerk